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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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# Schedule Overview

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNE 8</th>
<th>DAY ONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am–11:00am</td>
<td>CHECK IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am–11:00am</td>
<td>WELCOME &amp; OPEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15am–12:15pm</td>
<td>SESSION TIME BLOCK 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm–1:45pm</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm–2:45pm</td>
<td>SESSION TIME BLOCK 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm–4:00pm</td>
<td>SESSION TIME BLOCK 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15pm–5:15pm</td>
<td>SESSION TIME BLOCK 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30pm–7:30pm</td>
<td>ARTIST BAZAAR &amp; NETWORKING EVENT</td>
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<tr>
<th>JUNE 9</th>
<th>DAY TWO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am–10:00am</td>
<td>BREAKFAST HOUR: COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL, LIVE!</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am–11:00am</td>
<td>SESSION TIME BLOCK 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15am–12:15pm</td>
<td>SESSION TIME BLOCK 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm–1:15pm</td>
<td>LUNCH &amp; ARTIST BAZAAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15pm–2:15pm</td>
<td>CLOSING REMARKS &amp; PERFORMANCE</td>
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</table>
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**JUNE 8**

<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>9:30am - 11:00am</strong></th>
<th><strong>WELCOME &amp; OPEN</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Room: PT 103</strong></td>
<td>CHAMPIONING THE ARTS: ADVOCACY AND POLICY INSIGHTS FROM MARYLAND’S LEADERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presenters:</strong> Comptroller Brooke Lierman, Senator Sarah Elfreth, Delegate Stephanie Smith, Nicholas Cohen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kicking off the Maryland Arts Summit, join us for an insightful and engaging panel discussion featuring esteemed Maryland policymakers. This special opening session, hosted by Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director of Maryland Citizens for the Arts, brings together Comptroller Brooke Lierman, State Senator Sarah Elfreth, and State Delegate Stephanie Smith. These influential leaders will discuss the importance of the arts in Maryland and share their expertise on effectively approaching lawmakers, developing strategic advocacy initiatives, and understanding the role of policy in fostering a vibrant arts community. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn from Maryland’s top policymakers and elevate your advocacy efforts for the arts and the role of policy in supporting and enhancing our community.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>11:15am–12:15pm</strong></th>
<th><strong>SESSION TIME BLOCK 1</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Room: PAHB 107</strong></td>
<td>OASIS FOR THE ARTS: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH CREATIVE PLACEMAKING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format: Case Study</strong></td>
<td>Presenters: Eileen Cave and Caryl Henry Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching artists share a community event to create collaborative public art that mobilized arts leadership while promoting environmental preservation and arts education. Learn about the essential components for hosting a successful event, using a local historic site, and obtaining sponsorship from an arts agency. Explore how a public art installation can become a gathering spot for ongoing community engagement, then create your maquette to apply acquired knowledge. Participants will fabricate a maquette sculpture. Art supplies and a variety of craft items will be provided, applying your own environmental or social justice issue.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Room: PT103</strong></th>
<th>READY TO ACT: YOUTH-LED PANEL ON ARTS ADVOCACY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format: Panel</strong></td>
<td>Presenters: Amari Davenport, Myra Hicks, Kourtney McCleary, Ky'mera Paulings, Carrie Snowden, Troy Stull, Thelma Williams, Chloe Zheng, Sheena Morrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are members of the B’More Youth Arts Advocacy Council (BYAAC), a program of Arts Every Day. We are a group of eight youth creatives dedicated to fighting for the Arts in Baltimore City Public Schools because equitable opportunities for college and careers in the arts begin with equitable access to a high quality k-12 arts education. If youth are to join the ranks of arts professionals and continue to create art that makes society a better place, we must take part today in calls for equity, action and raising awareness of our right as students to learn an instrument, act in a theater production, express ourselves through dance, and to paint and draw— no matter where we attend school in the state of Maryland. Join us for a youth-led panel discussion on arts advocacy that will highlight the efforts of students themselves to impact arts education policy.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Room: PAHB 108</strong></th>
<th>PLAN IT AND LIVE IT: A FRAMEWORK FOR FACING A CHALLENGING FUTURE</th>
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<td><strong>Format: Case Study</strong></td>
<td>Presenters: Kibibi Ajanku, Jeannie Howe, Kevette Kane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following months of effort to develop, strategic plans have a reputation for losing momentum and “collecting dust” on a shelf. This case study examines the 2020-2025 GBCA strategic plan as a framework for staying on course and continuing to thrive in a changing and challenging time. We will examine several features of the plan and, critically, tools and workplace practices that have supported successful implementation and strengthened Board and Staff engagement. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss ways to actively manage strategic goals.</td>
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SESSION TIME BLOCK 1  cont’d

Room: PAHB 132
Format: Case Study
*This session is also a virtual offering

ILLUMINATED HISTORIES OF THE PEALE MUSEUM
Presenters: Alexandra Garove and Dr. Diane Kuthy

This presentation will share our arts-based research of the Baltimore Peale Museum, its place in the broader context of natural history collections, related curricular resources designed through a critical museology lens, and our insights and enduring understandings due to this process. Our image-based presentation will begin with a storied history of the Peale Museum, its significance in museology history, and its current innovative mission, including inclusive programming and accessible design. We will then present our arts-based research, which began as an assignment for the graduate-level course Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Issues in Art Education and culminated in the exhibition Spark: New Light, commemorating the grand reopening of The Peale. For this exhibition, we created Illuminated Histories of the Peale Museum for this exhibition, an interactive artwork incorporating mixed media and natural displayed on a hand-crafted light table. The installation “illuminates” the history of the museum and aims to promote a critical discourse about how aesthetic objects are perceived, collected, and categorized. Like many facets of the Western historical canon, our understanding of museums is intrinsically connected to the history of colonialism and racism. Our research reexamines this history, amplifying previously unheard narratives. The session will culminate with a discussion of ideas and implications for museum gallery teaching and K-16 art classrooms. Participant goals include accessing local and natural history for artistic and pedagogical inspiration, gaining ideas for fusing new technology with traditional exhibition practices, and best practices in accessible design and critical museology. Participants will also have access to curricular resources we developed as part of the project. Participants can evaluate their achievement of these goals through their understanding and use of curricular resources, incorporation of accessible technologies into their personal practices or classrooms, and deeper appreciation of museology. Knowing the history and understanding the origins of museology practices can enrich the experiences of teachers and students alike.

Room: PAHB 201
Format: Case Study

ARTS ED OVERVIEW: ARTS ED ACCESS AND ADVOCACY
Presenters: Peter Dayton and Rachel McGrain

Essential Content: This introductory session of the Arts Education Advocacy Track will provide an overview of arts education advocacy, geared towards audiences at all levels of involvement in arts education. The presentation clarifies the direct connection between arts education access and the future of Maryland’s creative sector. The session will educate attendees on 1) what Maryland public school students should have access to under Maryland law, 2) what they currently have access to, and 3) ways that their voices as constituents can be mobilized to help increase arts education access in their education communities. Participants will be made aware of Maryland students’ rights to arts education access and the current inequities in the state. Participants will understand that there is a key role that they, as part of a community’s broader constituency, have to play in ensuring Maryland’s creative future.

12:15pm - 1:45pm
Room: TRS 102 & PAHB Atrium

LUNCH TIME
**SESSION TIME BLOCK 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room: ADS 105</th>
<th>Format: Campfire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MSAC OFFICE HOURS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenter: MSAC Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Based on feedback from the 2022 Summit and success with Regional Office Hours, the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) staff propose holding Office Hours Thursday afternoon and throughout the day on Friday during the Summit where staff will be available for conversations with artists and arts organization leaders and staff. Participant goals include: 1) building relationships with individual MSAC staff members; 2) better understanding MSAC programs and opportunities; and 3) gaining skills navigating MSAC’s grants platform. MSAC will schedule staff members to be on hand throughout the afternoon on Thursday and during the day on Friday, providing a sign up sheet for Summit participants to schedule appointments with individual staff members as well as being available for walk-in appointments. During the Office Hours, Summit attendees can talk with staff about their needs, learn what MSAC programs offer, discuss application strategies, learn about professional development offerings, and discuss feedback from previous applications. Grants office staff will also be on hand to provide individualized technical support with Chromebooks available so that constituents can navigate MSAC’s website and SmartSimple with personalized assistance from a member of MSAC’s staff who can assist with setting up accounts and starting grant applications. The session will be successful if participants leave with stronger connections to MSAC, knowledge of its programs, and ideas of State resources available for supporting their work. \n</td>
<td>Office Hours will be offered throughout the Maryland Arts Summit. A complete listing of times can be found below:</td>
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<td>Session Time Block 2: June 8 1:45pm - 2:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Time Block 4: June 8 4:15pm - 5:15pm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Time Block 5: June 8 9:15am - 10:15am</td>
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<tr>
<th>Room: PT103</th>
<th>Format: Creative Keynote</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RACE AND #REALTALK: COMMUNITY MUSIC THERAPY ADDRESSING RACISM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenter: HALO, Inc—Shana Oshiro, Ashley Conway, Portia Pitts and Niambi Powell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race and #RealTalk is a unique program using the listening and singing experience of barbershop music led by HALO quartet in a Community Music Therapy framework facilitated by the program’s creators, Niambi Powell, LSCW-C and Shana Oshiro, MT-BC. Attendees will experience a new way to engage in fruitful dialogue about racism in their work and community life spaces that fosters intentional communication, awareness of self and others, centering the lived experiences of BIPOC, inviting everyone to hold space for these intersecting perspectives into a shared reality. As in the vulnerable and completely human experience of singing the tight harmonies of barbershop, we can learn to experience the tension in our conversations about racism as a beautiful opportunity to build the reality we’d like to share. We embrace the tension, and we sing the truth.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room: PAHB 108</th>
<th>Format: Campfire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE UNIVERSALITY OF SPECIFICITY: EMBRACING MARGINALIZED LITERARY SPACES TO ENHANCE REGIONAL READERSHIP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenter: Aditya Desai</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do new voices become part of a regional literary identity? For regionally-defined literary organizations, programming for “diverse” or marginalized voices risks a broadened scope to include all, or the check-box effect. In an open forum style, this session is designed for writers, editors, and literary organizers and programmers of marginalized ethnic, religious, or LGBTQ+ backgrounds to connect over how to foster stronger communities and platforms for a more diverse range of voices in Maryland. As their communities grow, they create cultural institutions and networks such as restaurants, markets, faith houses, community resource/wellness centers, and so on. These spaces then become a bridge between these communities to the mainstream Maryland public. In a state as diverse as Maryland, there is an imperative to give writers within marginalized communities the tools and opportunities to build literary groups, collectives, and organizations. A homegrown literary group allows these writers to take more control of how their work is developed and received in an inclusive environment, while also acting as a bridge community space, to grow into the mainstream literary space. Using models such as the Asian American Writer’s Workshop, Cave Canem, CantoMundo, and Lambda Literary, we invite participants to join a discussion where they can share, reflect, and connect 1) what would help create more supportive literary groups and networks within their communities, 2) what would help generate more literary readership and engagement within their communities, and 3) what challenges, hurdles, or desires they have in putting their work out to a mainstream audience?</td>
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SESSION TIME BLOCK 2, CONT’D

SEVEN PRINCIPLES TO PRIORITIZE AND VALUE THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING ARTIST

Presenters: Denise Jones, Jennifer Ridgway, Khaleshia Thorpe-Price, Devin Walker

Since the summer of 2020, when Maryland Teaching Artists joined the national call for the arts and culture sector, the philanthropic community, policymakers, schools, libraries, retirement homes, detention centers, and all community entities to recognize the importance and value of Teaching Artists as paid professionals, they along with their colleagues from across the mid-Atlantic began deliberating over individual past and present experiences. They examined their understanding of a professional and how identifying as one might shape and transform their collective future. They arrived at seven principles for Professional Teaching Artists. Achieving an equitable, sustainable, and vibrant arts ecosystem for Teaching Artists requires employees and independent professionals to seek fair and livable wages and compensation consistent with other fields and all stakeholders (Teaching Artists and those that hire, train, and support TAs) to adopt the 7 principles. With WEE Nation Podcast as our host, Maryland TAMA members will share personal stories to illustrate the principles of excellence, professional respect, autonomy/choice, fair pay, self-worth, control, and prepared and responsible - sharing how the principles will advance solidarity and justice in the field of teaching artistry so that Teaching Artists can remain contributors to the vibrancy and rebuilding of Maryland communities and beyond with art learning and making at the heart of healing and transformation.

KEEP ON KEEPIN’ ON: MAKING ART AGAINST ALL ODDS

Presenters: Kitty Clark and Ray C. Shaw

In this session, Kitty Clark and Ray C. Shaw of MAD Dance lead a discussion about creative process and being performing dance artists in an area where dance art is not a widely practiced or understood form of expression. Kitty and Ray share their approach to creating work, the successes they have had in collaborating with other artists and with community spaces, and the challenges they have encountered making work in non-urban places. Kitty and Ray will facilitate a conversation amongst attendees who feel challenged by their own circumstances and foster discussion about positive ways to face those challenges. Additionally, conversation will be encouraged so that those in support roles (arts administrators, funders, presenters, rehearsal/performance venues) can ask themselves the important question of how they can better support trend-setting artists. For all, the conversation will center risk-taking, passion, and art.

Some Points of Discussion:

- What will you do tomorrow to keep making art in the face of adversity?
- Who can you contact to help you bring your vision to fruition?
- Who can you add to your network so you have people with whom to share the burden?
- What will you do tomorrow to support an artist outside of your community’s norm?
- What can you do next fiscal year to actively support artists outside of your norm?

Session Goals:

- Cultivating a renewed purpose to go forth and make art, even in situations where it seems implausible;
- Identifying ways to better support artists who are working outside the norms of artistic expression in their communities;
- Contemplating the notion that dance and other art forms can begin to thrive outside of their traditional ecosystems.

WHAT’S ON THE BOOKS: LEGISLATION AND THE ARTS

Presenters: Amy Hairston and Amanda Karhuse

Essential Content: This deep dive will cover the promise and entitlements of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) for Maryland’s students and the practical issues of an unfunded mandate. The presentation will also discuss the transformational Blueprint for Maryland’s Future legislation and the impact of this education reform bill on arts education access. The presentation will explore both the perils and potential in these education reforms for arts education access and offer ways that advocates can ensure that the Blueprint elevates arts education. Co-presenters Amy Hairston and Amanda Karhuse will bring insights on federal and state policy and funding that underpins arts education access in public schools.
**SESSION TIME BLOCK 3**

### MSAC OFFICE HOURS
**Presenter:** MSAC Staff

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**Session Time Block 5:** June 9 11:15am - 12:15pm

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### A CRASH COURSE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING SO ARTISTS CAN ASK FOR WHAT THEY NEED
**Presenter:** Amy Bernstein

Artists and advocates are frequently required to ask for money, space, collaborators, permission, ticket-buyers, vendors, and so much more. There is an art to asking—and one of the most challenging aspects is asking out loud, in real time, in front of a live audience. In this hands-on workshop, artists will practice honing a Shark Tank-style pitch in front of everyone. They will practice making an “ask” that reflects their real current and future needs. Some call this an elevator speech. But there is more to this than memorizing a few sentences. All participants will be treated sensitively and with respect, and all feedback will be positive and constructive. Participants will come away with greater confidence in their ability to ask clearly for what they need and to feel somewhat more comfortable asking in person, in public. They will also understand what to work on in their oral pitch, and their strengths and weaknesses as public speakers.

### THE AUDIO DESCRIBER AS CAST MEMBER: AUDIO DESCRIPTION AT EVERY PERFORMANCE
**Presenter:** Joel Snyder, PhD

This presentation will demonstrate how audio description (AD) provides access to the arts for people who are blind and can most effectively be offered at “every performance” in the run of a performance. AD makes visual images accessible for people who are blind or have low vision. Using words that are succinct, vivid, and imaginative, describers observe, select, and then succinctly and vividly use language to convey the visual image that is not fully accessible to a segment of the population—the American Foundation for the Blind notes that 31 million Americans are blind or “have difficulty seeing even with correction.” In 1981, a formal audio description service—the world’s first—was begun under the leadership of a blind woman at The Metropolitan Washington Ear, a radio-reading service based in Washington, DC. Radio reading services are heavily dependent on volunteers and The Ear’s audio description service was also structured around voluntary contributions of time and effort. With support from the D.C. Aid Association for the Blind, the Audio Description Project of the American Council of the Blind proposed a more expansive audio description arrangement for two productions again at Arena Stage: an audio describer attended rehearsals for each production, met with the stage director, actors, the designers (scenic, costumes, lighting, sound) and developed an audio description script throughout the three-week rehearsal period. The script was then available for that same describer to voice at every performance beginning with opening night and with, of course, an eye on stage action as minor changes in action could occur from performance to performance.
### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### SESSION TIME BLOCK 3, CONT’D

**Room:** PAHB 108  
**Format:** Panel

**Sustainability for Artists and the Organizations that Support Them: A Conversation**  
**Presenters:** Lauren Latessa and Sofia Hailu

How can we best nurture our artistic integrity and creative passion while navigating the challenges of our industry? Sofia Hailu and Lauren Latessa, two mid-career artists/arts managers, invite you to join them in a conversation around sustainability in the fields of music and art. The two will discuss the challenges of creating a purpose-driven and financially viable life using insights from their own experiences. Sofia’s career has led her across various sectors of the industry, from full-time performer with the Army Band to non-profit arts management and entrepreneurship, with the intention of following her authentic voice as an artist, despite the challenges presented by the industry. Lauren, in 2019 after recognizing that no existing institutions fit the vision of her life in music, founded Iris Music Project, a non-profit organization that reimagines retirement and healthcare communities as spaces of creative exchange through community-embedded musicianship. Sharing insights from their own experiences, while creating entry points for participants to do the same, Sofia and Lauren aim to brainstorm ways that our industry might better nurture and empower artists to build creative career pathways. By embracing diversity and nurturing rather than siloing artistic pathways, the Maryland arts sector can position artists as thought leaders capable of solving many of the challenges facing society today and influence individual and organizational sustainability in our industry and beyond.

#### SESSION TIME BLOCK 4

**Room:** ADS 105  
**Format:** Campfire

**MSAC Office Hours**  
**Presenters:** MSAC Staff

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<td>June 8</td>
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### Room: PT 103  
**Format: Hands-On**

**THE ART OF EQUITY: A CONVERSATION TO INSPIRE CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR EQUITABLE PROGRAMMING, RESOURCE PIPELINES, AND COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY EFFORTS**

**Presenter:** Cydni Stewart

Evidence of active tools and systemic structures that balance access to opportunity for those who start out with an impediment or oppression. This session will include:

- Understanding the gap (difference) between Equity and Equality (GAME)
- Perspective: Exploring Equity Through Community Design (Reimagining Resource Pipelines)
- Equity Through Creative Collaborations (Equitable Programming /Collaborative Community Efforts)
- Dreamer’s Journey: Discussing OUR Future in Equitable Practices

### Room: PAHB 132  
**Format: Panel**  
*This session is also a virtual offering*

**DIGITAL BRANDING AND CAREER SUSTAINABILITY**

**Presenters:** Ceylon Mitchell, Ruby Lopez Harper and Joshua Jenkins

This workshop is designed to teach best practices and innovative approaches for individual artists to enhance their personal brand, grow their audiences with values-driven content, and leverage revenue streams in a 21st-century landscape. Takeaways include the essential elements of an artist statement, composing a visual identity for owned media, serving your community, diving into the nuts and bolts of a social media strategy, and exploring other digital strategies.

### Room: PAHB 108  
**Format: Hands-On**

**TEACHING SELF-REGULATION AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING THROUGH PUPPET MAKING**

**Presenters:** Dr. Julie Dietrich-Eisler and Laura Numsen

Learning about emotions is vital to student success in school. Puppetry is a medium that allows individuals who may or may not have great art skills express themselves in a non threatening and meaningful way. Ms Numsen and Dr. Dietrich-Eisler will demonstrate how teachers can use puppet making in order to teach students social emotional learning and self-regulation. Art teachers will learn a variety of puppet making techniques they can use with students through a hands-on workshop in which teachers can make their own puppet examples.

### Room: PAHB 201  
**Format: Panel**

**EDUCATION POWER STRUCTURES**

**Presenters:** Rachel McCusker and Rachel McGrain

Essential Content: This deep dive will explore what local education power structures look like; the various roles and powers of Maryland’s school districts and whom to advocate to in order to increase arts education access in your community. The discussion will be led by AEMS Executive Director Rachel McGrain with current music educator and State Board of Education member Rachel McCusker. This session will have an interactive component in which participants will be invited to discuss with other participants about the people and power structures of their school district. Participants will gain an understanding of the different agencies and officials involved in key arts education policy decisions. Participants will have an opportunity to network with each other to begin the process of advocacy organizing for their own communities.

### Room: PAHB 337  
**5:30pm-7:00pm**

**ARTIST BAZAAR & NETWORKING EVENT**

We invite you to visit the Dance Cube which is located within the scenic PAHB at UMBC. Here you will find twelve native Maryland artists showcasing and selling their artwork alongside a cocktail reception. The music is provided by Grammy board member and nominee DJ Thommy Davis. Mr. Davis is one of the founding members of the Basement Boys who brought us club classics such as the Grammy nominated song Gypsy Woman by Crystal Waters, the top 100 ranking song Git the Hole and Mass Order’s Lift Every Voice. Come to network, support local artists and celebrate the arts.

### Room: TRS 102  
**5:30pm-7:00pm**

**MAIRJ ALUMNI EVENT**

The event welcomes all members of the Maryland Arts Institute of Racial Justice cohort. Participants are invited to join facilitators Alysia Lee and Quanice Floyd for an engaging conversation focused on sustaining racial justice efforts within their organizations and across the arts sector.
**BREAKFAST HOUR**

**COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL, LIVE!**

**Presenter: MSAC Staff**

Join the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) staff and councilors for a live edition of Coffee with the Council, the current iteration of the popular series of virtual conversations that MSAC began offering at the beginning of the pandemic as a way for the arts community to connect and share. This hour-long facilitated conversation will be participant-driven, so attendees are encouraged to bring questions and ideas for MSAC as well as questions and examples of inspiring work to share. Participant goals include: 1) sharing, hearing, and giving input on ideas for MSAC staff and council; 2) removing barriers to accessing public funds and resources by getting answers to questions about MSAC opportunities; 3) making connections with artists, arts leaders, and community members with similar aims for the arts sector; 4) gaining inspiration from fellow artists and arts leaders. The session will be successful if participants leave with connections, information, and inspiration to inform and energize their work.

**SESSION TIME BLOCK 5**

**MARKETING YOUR ART LIKE “THE REAL HOUSEWIVES”!**

**Presenter: Derek Pentz aka Zenobia Darling**

Visual Artist and famed Drag performer Derek Pentz AKA Zenobia Darling hosts an informative lecture on how to utilize social media to promote the arts using branding and marketing theatrics employed on reality tv shows such as Bravo’s The Real Housewives as well as applying artist Allan Kaprow’s theater theories on Happenings to combine visual and performing art to great fine art marketing success.

**PARADIGM SHIFTS IN ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**

**Presenter: Ariel Cavalcante Foster**

Paradigm Shifts in Arts Organizations creates a shared workspace to elaborate and exchanges ideas on the integration of paradigm shifts through community building for art organizations. This round table discussion with facilitator, Ariel Foster, provides an open and vulnerable space for arts administrators, artists and community members to bring their questions, limitations and doubts about how to integrate inclusion and equity into their value systems. This is a space of admitting the unknown with support from the facilitator into opening new possibilities, new perspectives and moderating an open discussion to receive feedback from the group. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of what paradigm shifts are within the arts ecosystem and community engagement.

**BLINK TO SEE”; UNLOCKING CREATIVITY WITH PAREIDOLIA**

**Presenters: Pat Bernstein and Laura Parkhurst**

Have you ever seen images in the clouds or in nature? Do you subscribe to Thingface on Instagram? Our ability to see familiar shapes in unusual places is a scientific phenomenon called pareidolia. During this hands-on learning session participants will discover how to “turn on” this instinct, while brainstorming connections and ways to use the power of pareidolia with students. Participants will receive ready-made lesson plans that integrate pareidolia with Visual Art, English Language Arts, Social Studies, health & wellness practices and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). You will also walk away with your own photographic evidence of this exciting phenomenon! Access to a camera phone is required.

Session activities will include but are not limited to:

- Introduction to the pareidolia instinct through photographs taken by staff of the Baltimore Lab School while on a nature walk. Participants will then identify alternative images they may see.
- Pat Bernstein will share her experience of suddenly discovering this instinct and the expanded opportunities that followed.
- Hands-on experiential learning activity during which participants will be given time to explore the building and the grounds to discover and photograph images. As participants return to the teaching space volunteers will have the opportunity to cast their photos on the screen for group discussion and discovery.
- Brainstorming session in which Laura & Pat will share some examples of how pareidolia has been used in educational settings. Participants will then be asked to discuss and generate ideas/connections they see to their own artistic practice, schools, careers, etc.
- Exploration of ready-made lesson plans that participants will have digital access to after the session.
| Room: PAHB 108 | BUILDING YOUR BRAND WITH PURPOSE AND CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY  
Presenter: Kellyn Mahan-Naing  
This session will explain the behind-the-scenes process in creating a brand strategy to help guide you or your organization to build a strong brand that you can leverage to connect to your community. In this session, we will walk through the strategic and creative process to finding your unique position and how to communicate that visually and through your marketing platforms such as social media, website, client success stories and more. The goal is for each participant to understand how to think critically about their artistry as a business or as an art organization and be able to feel confident in building a brand with purpose. |
|---|---|
| Room: PT 103 | THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS & POSSIBILITIES FOR GOVERNANCE & HR PRACTICES: A GUIDED CONVERSATION FOR ARTISTS & ARTS ORGANIZATIONS  
Presenters: Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Staff  
Join MdVLA for an interactive inquiry around key legal requirements that affect artists and arts organizations: board governance, employment and staffing. This audience-led conversation may delve into structures of a nonprofit board, nonprofit bylaws, employment classifications, employee handbooks, and more. By dissecting what is legally required, we can work towards a collective understanding of what is possible for the arts sector. Takeaways are valuable for anyone in the arts ecosystem: from employers to workers, those associated with a for-profit or non-profit, and more. |
| Room: PAHB 201 | KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: USING DATA TO INFORM ARTS ED ADVOCACY  
Presenters: Justin Caithaml, Rachel McGrain and Sheena Morrison  
Essential Content: This deep dive will showcase the possibilities for using data presented through the National Arts Education Data Project, developed by Quadrant Research. The presentation will walk through how to navigate the platform (including seeing the amount and what kinds of arts education students around the state have access to) and how advocates can use this data in their advocacy. The presentation will also include anecdotal accounts by Baltimore City-based arts education advocacy organization Arts Every Day, demonstrating how school arts education data they have access to has been leveraged to push for increased arts education access. |
| Room: ADS 105 | MSAC OFFICE HOURS  
Presenters: MSAC Staff  
Based on feedback from the 2022 Summit and success with Regional Office Hours, the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) staff propose holding Office Hours Thursday afternoon and throughout the day on Friday during the Summit where staff will be available for conversations with artists and arts organization leaders and staff. Participant goals include: 1) building relationships with individual MSAC staff members; 2) better understanding MSAC programs and opportunities; and 3) gaining skills navigating MSAC’s grants platform. MSAC will schedule staff members to be on hand throughout the afternoon on Thursday and during the day on Friday, providing a sign up sheet for Summit participants to schedule appointments with individual staff members as well as being available for walk-in appointments. During the Office Hours, Summit attendees can talk with staff about their needs, learn what MSAC programs offer, discuss application strategies, learn about professional development offerings, and discuss feedback from previous applications. Grants office staff will also be on hand to provide individualized technical support with Chromebooks available so that constituents can navigate MSAC’s website and SmartSimple with personalized assistance from a member of MSAC’s staff who can assist with setting up accounts and starting grant applications. The session will be successful if participants leave with stronger connections to MSAC, knowledge of its programs, and ideas of State resources available for supporting their work. Office Hours will be offered throughout the Maryland Arts Summit. A complete listing of times can be found below:  
**MSAC staff are available for virtual appointments beyond the Summit’s timeframe and happily engage with Maryland’s art sector consulting throughout the year. We highly encourage attendees to visit https://msac.org/about/msac-staff of MSAC’s website to contact and schedule an appointment.**

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**SESSION TIME BLOCK 6**  
| Room: ADS 105 | MSAC OFFICE HOURS  
Presenters: MSAC Staff  
Based on feedback from the 2022 Summit and success with Regional Office Hours, the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) staff propose holding Office Hours Thursday afternoon and throughout the day on Friday during the Summit where staff will be available for conversations with artists and arts organization leaders and staff. Participant goals include: 1) building relationships with individual MSAC staff members; 2) better understanding MSAC programs and opportunities; and 3) gaining skills navigating MSAC’s grants platform. MSAC will schedule staff members to be on hand throughout the afternoon on Thursday and during the day on Friday, providing a sign up sheet for Summit participants to schedule appointments with individual staff members as well as being available for walk-in appointments. During the Office Hours, Summit attendees can talk with staff about their needs, learn what MSAC programs offer, discuss application strategies, learn about professional development offerings, and discuss feedback from previous applications. Grants office staff will also be on hand to provide individualized technical support with Chromebooks available so that constituents can navigate MSAC’s website and SmartSimple with personalized assistance from a member of MSAC’s staff who can assist with setting up accounts and starting grant applications. The session will be successful if participants leave with stronger connections to MSAC, knowledge of its programs, and ideas of State resources available for supporting their work. Office Hours will be offered throughout the Maryland Arts Summit. A complete listing of times can be found below:  
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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

| Room: PAHB 132 | Format: Case Study | **HOW TO PROTECT BLACK HAIR IN DANCE**  
**Presenter:** Anastasia Johnson  
This session is meant to bring awareness to the complexity and beauty of black hair to educators, studio owners, and artistic directors etc. Meanwhile sharing the necessity of having projection over black hair for their black students within the art form of dance. This Case Study presentation will challenge the societal definitions of “neatness” and “professionalism.” The goal of this interactive informational session is for participants to leave with better knowledge about black hair and to accumulate tips on how to dismantle micro-aggressions and discrimination against black students in the dance community surrounding them. This session serves as an extension of an initiative called, Color Me (___), which is centered around allowing black folks to show up as they are without subscribing to whiteness while simultaneously upholding a positive representation of blackness. |

| Room: PAHB 108 | Format: Creative Keynote | **OPERATION ARTS: INSPIRING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PUBLIC ART**  
**Presenters:** Daniel Collins, Chyna Fries, and Renee Taylor  
During this session, participants will have the opportunity to learn about Operation ARTS Foundation, how they collaborate with the community, and how they bring art to the public while amplifying community voices through storytelling. The organization will discuss how they developed their programming and how they manage their organization with the help of volunteers and interns. Their goal is to establish a connection with the community and provide resources to help with their projects. Following the presentation, participants are welcome to ask any questions and express interest in potential collaborations. In addition to the presentation, there will be an opportunity for participants to create 2 pieces of tiny art together. This artwork will be shared with the community through their Free Little Art Gallery program, and participants will also have the option to take their artwork home. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to share their artwork and story in their documentary film about public art. |

| Room: PT 103 | Format: Campfire | **MUTUAL AID: CONSTRUCTING A SUSTAINABLE AND REPLICABLE MODEL TO SUPPORT OURSELVES**  
**Presenters:** Abdul Ali, Christina Delgado and Camille Kashaka  
This is a crowd-sourced session facilitated by arts sector professionals including Abdul Ali (Arts Consultant), Christina Delgado (Community Organizer), and Camille Kashaka (Arts Manager) to discuss the merits, challenges, and feasibility of mutual aid funds to support artists in needs. Facilitators will provide an overview of current mutual aid trends. Participants will scrutinize current models and identify some of the unique needs of artists in Maryland. Together, we will build a framework that can be implemented immediately. Participants will be able to connect following the working group with additional ideas. A survey will be sent out following the working group with the content of any additional ideas and the steps for moving the mutual aid fund forward. |

| Room: PAHB 201 | Format: Case Study | **RALLYING PARENTS TO YOUR CAUSE**  
**Presenters:** Nichole Guinan and Marla Posey-Moss  
Essential Content: This deep dive will offer insights and the experience of organized parent groups. The presentation will provide strategies for parents who are passionate about a cause that serves their children and need guidance on how to navigate the challenges of rallying other parents to a cause on top of handling a full parental schedule. Participants will learn from the experience of a successful parent organizer about key tactics and strategies in mobilizing parents in their own communities. Participants will gain confidence in their own potential to become parent organizers through information and strategies provided. |

| Room: PAHB 337 | **LUNCH** |

| Room: PT 103 | **ARTIST BAZAAR** |

| Room: PT 103 | **CLOSING REMARKS & PERFORMANCE**  
Closing remarks by Amanda Morell, Deputy Director of Maryland Citizens for the Arts will be followed by a special performance by Maryland Arts Summit presenter and Director of HALO, Inc, Shana Oshiro accompanied by Dr. Brian Bartoldus, pianist. Their set will include Adolphus Hailstork’s song cycle, Songs of Love and Justice, art songs set to text from sermons and speeches by Dr. King. She will also share some words and reflections on the subject of radical community connection and inclusion. The performance will conclude with an audience participatory experience of Sweet Honey in the Rock’s rendition of “Dream Variations” by Langston Hughes. |
Kibibi Ajanku
Kibibi Ajanku believes that when presented properly, art is the perfect vehicle to move forward into greater intercultural awareness for the global community. To that end, Kibibi Ajanku curates and guides the elements of the Urban Arts Leadership Initiative for the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, where she serves as Equity and Inclusion Director. Under her leadership, the Fellowship has increased racial inclusion within arts sector leadership and has positively altered workplace best practices through active training, placing, and referring an annual cohort of emerging professionals of Color. Additionally, she holds space as the Resident Curator for a small gallery in the Fells Point area of Baltimore, Maryland. Ajanku is also the Urban Arts Professor for a rotating cohort of students at Coppin State University. Furthermore, Ajanku is excited to administer the evolution of a new Urban Arts Field School project with UAL fellows and community folklorists, recently funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Caryl Henry Alexander
For more than 40 years, Caryl Henry Alexander’s work has harnessed the power of creative collaboration with multigenerational, multicultural, and interfaith communities to conceive, design, and implement community art projects in diverse public settings around the globe.

Abdul Ali

Amy L. Bernstein
Amy L. Bernstein writes stories that let readers feel while making them think. Her novels include The Potrero Complex, finalist for the 2020 Petrichor Prize; the award-winning The Nighthawks; Dreams of Song Times; and Fran, The Second Time Around. She is an award-winning journalist, speechwriter, playwright, and certified nonfiction book coach. Amy also teaches workshops on various aspects of the craft of writing. She is a frequent guest on podcasts to discuss writing, publishing, and creativity. Amy’s poetry has appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies and she is a regular contributor on Medium.

Pat Bernstein
Recovering from a major operation, Pat Bernstein began photographing newly observed pareidolia images while hiking in the woods. She developed the Blink to See website introducing the public to these alternative sightings. Her photographs are on exhibit at Baltimore’s American Visionary Art Museum. Responses shown at multiple pareidolia presentations suggest value in applying this instinct for therapeutic and educational applications. Now underway are studies at Johns Hopkins Neurological Departments, the Irvine Nature Center, and Baltimore Lab School. Previously, Pat initiated and directed nonprofit organizations: Stocks in the Future, a program that introduces the stock market to middle school students with financial incentives for grade improvement; and Cycle Across Maryland, producer of yearly cycling tours across the State. She was also Press Secretary to Mayor W. D. Schaefer (Baltimore), Director of Public Relations for VanSant Dugdale Advertising, and had two books published by Simon & Schuster.

Justin Caihalm
Justin Caihalm is currently a music education PhD student and Graduate Assistant at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he serves as instructor for student teaching seminars and teaching assistant for undergraduate choral music education courses. He served as chair director at Midview Local Schools outside of Cleveland, Ohio for six years and recently completed his Master of Arts degree from Teachers College, Columbia University studying music and music education.

Ariel Cavalcante Foster
Ariel Cavalcante Foster is a millennial Brazilian-American artist, inclusion strategist and embodiment guide based in Maryland with a BA from Goucher College (2016) in Studio Art and Arts Administration. Ariel’s art practice includes printmaking, installation, painting, sound, video and performance. She has exhibited work throughout the East Coast and in São Paulo, Brazil via the Casa Na Ilha artist residency (2017) and travel research (2022-2023). Her work is part of Goucher College Library and Special Collections and is a recipient of the Rosenberg Travel scholarship. Ariel co-directed The Parlour (2018-2020), an art gallery in Baltimore and has been an active member of several artist-run collective initiatives. In 2018, Foster participated in the Baltimore Artist Retreat and joined the Urban Arts Leadership Fellowship Cohort. In 2019, she worked as an Inclusion Strategist, Co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion (DEAI)
Board Committee and Community Arts Program Associate for Baltimore Clayworks. They are the founding consultant and facilitator for F.I.E.L.D. (to foster freedom), a platform established in 2020 for businesses, organizations and individuals to decolonize our internal and external systems to create personal and social transformations and restorative practices. In 2021, Ariel co-created Orgasmic Guidance, an online immersion of cultivating creator energy for transformative worldview shifts and life changes that center embodiment and value our collective existence and co-creation. Ariel is a trained practitioner in holistic therapies including Frequencies of Brilliance and Amanae.

Eileen Cave
Eileen Cave is a visual artist and a community-based arts education consultant residing in the Gateway Arts District of Prince George's County, MD. She is retiring from teaching and also serves as the arts in education coordinator for the Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council. She has an M.Ed. in teacher leadership from the UMD, College Park and an AB in visual arts from Dartmouth College. Eileen is president of the Hyattsville Community Artists’ Alliance and is the past chair of the Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council. She is a committed advocate for arts education and was the recipient of the Creatively Alive! Crayola Grant in 2018 and in 2013, leading a team of teachers who established a training program for building arts integration instruction at her elementary school. She was awarded an NEA research grant in 2015 to implement a best practices study in school-based professional learning communities (PLC’s), conducted at six, Pre-K through high school facilities in Prince George's County, MD. Her integration of the arts and the social justice curriculum has served as topics for art education conferences and adult workshops at Arts’tination, the PGAHC gallery at National Harbor, Oxon Hill, MD.

Kitty Clark
Kitty Clark, MFA, is a contemporary dance artist, movement instructor, and arts administrator and has long been committed to spearheading performance projects that make contemporary dance and performance accessible to a broader audience. For 15 years, she directed a successful experiment in non-urban dance making in West Virginia with her dance company, kittyclarkmoves, and as Founder/Director of Goose Route Arts Collaborative. In 2014-15, she was part of the creative and performing team of HorsePower Live, a Toronto, Ontario-based show that combined horses, dance, and original music into a lively, artistic, and informative presentation for people of all ages. As an arts administrator, she has worked for Ice Theatre of New York, Guelph Dance (Ontario), the City of Hagerstown, and the Weinberg Center for the Arts, in addition to her own projects. Kitty holds an MFA in dance from Smith College (Massachusetts). She is a Registered Yoga Teacher through Yoga Alliance, having completed her 200-hour training through Ananda Shala in Frederick, MD, and an additional 300-hour training in Embodyoga with Patty Townsend in Amherst, MA.

Daniel Collins
Daniel James Collins is co-founder of the Prince George's County Based nonprofit organization Operation Arts Foundation. A nonprofit whose mission is to develop a creative economy. Their organization encourages better business practices & economic growth for all. They lay the foundation for profitable, collaborative relationships between artists, businesses & the community by streamlining opportunities. They also create financial stability for artists by providing them with the resources to help them succeed. Their vision is to create a foundational infrastructure to support artists, businesses, and the community as a united voice. By assisting artists and students in gaining the skills necessary to earn a sustainable living, they hope to improve the lives of hundreds of people every year through their creative professional development programming. Daniel James Collins is the current Treasurer & Development Director for Operation Arts Foundation and has been an active board member since the organization's inception. Daniel is an artist and business owner with a passion for sustainable technologies, public art installations, permaculture, and interactive education.

Ashley Conway
Ashley Conway (Bass II) is a professional musician and passionate performer. The Washington-born singer has an impressive and extensive musical theater background and works as a vocal coach and professional performer. Ashley is an alumnus of various prestigious learning institutions, including the Patapsco High School & Center for the Arts, where she studied Jazz, Classical, Chamber, Gospel, Show Choir, and Musical Theatre. She also attended Morgan State University, where she studied vocal performance & sociology. Driven by the desire to create a company that includes all musical elements and ventures that she enjoys, Ashley started her own business, Ashley Denay Music Entertainment, where she offers live music for weddings, corporate events, festivals and other special occasions.

Amari Davenport
Amari Davenport is currently a senior at Baltimore City College High School. He is a visual artist and photographer with aspirations to expand into fashion and instrumental music. Amari joined the B'more Youth Arts Advocacy Council (BYAAC) at the recommendation of a fellow council member as a way to build community. He knew immediately that it was a team he wanted to be a part of because they were doing good work on behalf of youth interested in the arts. After high school he plans to attend Bowie State University as a visual communication digital media arts major with a minor in business.
**PRESENTERS**

**Peter Dayton**

Peter Dayton currently serves as Director of Operations for Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS), where he has worked since 2018. Coming from an education background that was academically privileged but lacking in arts experiences, Peter’s biography attests to the pivotal power of the arts to transform lives and learning. In his various positions and capacities (including Interim Executive Director), he has publicly presented on arts education advocacy, written and presented testimony before the Maryland General Assembly, organized large-scale convenings, and successfully facilitated a partnership between the Maryland State Department of Education and Quadrant Research to initiate the Maryland Arts Education Data Project. An Ohioan happily transplanted to Maryland, Peter earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Vanderbilt University majoring in Composition/Theory and minoring in English. He received his Master’s Degree in Composition from The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and has lived in Baltimore ever since. Peter is a trained composer and pianist and a fledgling illustrator. Opera News praises Peter for “continually creating] fresh and interesting sounds,” while American Record Guide cites him as “a composer whose heart and care are palpable.” In recent years, Peter released multiple albums of his vocal chamber music: “Stories Out of Cherry Stems” (2022) and “All in the Sound” (2023), both of which can be heard on all major streaming platforms. Peter’s first visual art exhibition “Hello, BIRDS” took place in Spring 2023 in coordination with Stillpointe Theatre’s production of “Nevermore.” Music: peterdaytonmusic.com | Illustration: hoodleooos.com

**Christina Delgado**

Christina Delgado is a Baltimore based photographer, designer, and curator. Her work revolves around a sense of self and identity as a Nuyorican born and raised in New York City who migrated to Baltimore as a young adult. Delgado’s work displays a passion and pride for identity in family and homepage. It connects ways in which home, place, and family can be sights of pain & trauma but ultimately sights of healing, freedom, and self-love. She is the founder and owner of Tola’s Room, an immersive Puerto Rican home museum and culture space located in Northeast Baltimore. Tola’s Room named after her daughter, Omotola serves, as the only Puerto Rican culture hub in Baltimore City. She is currently on the Maryland State Arts Council Artist-in-Resident Roster and works with Arts for Learning Maryland as an arts equity advisor, creativity mentor, and teaching artist. She also sits on various city and art related advisory groups, committees, and boards.

**Aditya Desai**

Aditya Desai is a South Asian American writer, editor, teacher, and literary programmer living in Baltimore City. He is currently Literature Programs Officer with Maryland Humanities and has worked with several organizations in the region that use art towards racial justice including the CityLit Project, Baltimore Youth Arts, and the Asian Pasifika Arts Collective. He also serves as Associate Editor for the South Asian Avant-Garde, and has served on the mastheads of Guernica, Hypphen Magazine, and Alticus Review. His stories and essays appear in Tropics of Meta, Taco Bell Quarterly, Barre/house Magazine, The Rumpus, The Millions, and other publications. He is also co-host and producer of the podcast Diasporastan. You can find more of his writing at adityadesaiwriter.com.

**Julie Dietrich-Eisler**

Dr. Julie Dietrich-Eisler has been making and teaching art in Baltimore County, for over twenty years. She recently received a Doctorate degree at Notre Dame University in the tLeadership for Changing Populations” program. Julie resides in Baltimore with her husband Charlie, son Eb and their dog Bertha.

**Senator Sarah Elfreth**

First elected in 2018 to represent Annapolis and southern Anne Arundel County, Senator Sarah Elfreth is the youngest woman ever elected to the Maryland Senate. She has earned a reputation as being one of the most effective legislators in Annapolis, working with colleagues across the aisle and around the State to pass 74 bills - all with bipartisan votes—during her time in office. These new laws range from implementing the largest investment in Maryland’s State Parks, creating Maryland’s first Office of Statewide Broadband, providing treatment to veterans living with PTSD, expanding critical prenatal care for healthy Maryland mothers, and protecting forests, oysters, and clean water. Sarah serves on the Budget & Taxation Committee where she Chairs the Subcommittee on Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee and is responsible for balancing and overseeing the budgets of over 40 departments and agencies. As one of two senators representing Maryland on the multi-state Chesapeake Bay Commission, Sarah works with colleagues in Pennsylvania and Virginia to build regional consensus and implement policy solutions to protect and restore the Bay. As a member of the Budget committee, Sarah fights to secure tens of millions in funding every year to support local projects and nonprofit organizations serving District 30. These include investments in the Thomas Point Lighthouse, the historic Stanton Center, the Woodland Beach Fire Department, Annapolis Maritime Museum, both the Annapolis and Mayo American Legions, and the YWCA. Sarah graduated, magna cum laude, from Towson University and holds a master’s degree in Public Policy from The Johns Hopkins University. Outside of the Senate, Sarah teaches public policy at Towson University’s Honors College. Despite receiving the “Baby Senator” trophy in 2019 for joining the chamber as its youngest
Amy T. Hairston is in her 17th year as a choral/general music and theatre teacher in Maryland (Springbrook HS, Montgomery County). She’s a proud alumna of Oakland Mills HS and the University of Maryland. She is the Advocacy Chair on the Maryland Music Educators Association executive board, and continues activities to support the MMEA choral component, Maryland Choral Educators Association. In 2020, she conducted the virtual All-County High School Chorus for Calvert County, MD. She has been a music clinician and adjudicator for four Maryland counties, and has presented at multiple in-service conferences hosted by MMEA. She has also facilitated anti-racism and cultural proficiency sessions, including a session at the first HCPSS Student Voice Conference in June 2016. In October 2015, Mrs. Hairston presented “Beyond ‘Pitch Perfect’: Incorporating A Cappella Into Your Choral Program” in Nashville, Tennessee for the NAfME Fall In-Service Conference. Her other session topics have included SEL in the music classroom, choral music reading sessions with teaching and rehearsal strategies, cultural awareness practices in the classroom, bringing equity to advanced (AP) Music Theory courses, and classroom strategies for anti-racism. She also enjoys vocal coaching for musicals and is coaching Springbrook’s JV Girls Soccer team. Mrs. Hairston lives in Columbia, MD with her husband and two sons.

Chyna Fries
Chyna has been a competitive artist since the age of 5, and she was selling custom paintings to her community by the age of 10. Throughout high school, she continued to develop her skills through lessons from professional artist mentorship, and workshops; and even enrolled in a pre-college program at the prestigious Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). At just 16 years old, Chyna taught herself digital design and quickly secured a job as a graphic designer at Damon Foreman’s Music Academy, where she honed her craft and created her first professional advertisements. Her impressive portfolio has been recognized by many organizations, including the Maryland Higher Education Commission, former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, MICA, and Savannah College of Art and Design. After college, Chyna felt a calling to use her art to help others, leading her to create her own brand, “Your Destiny’s Dream,” in 2015. Through her work, she has helped countless local business owners and artists follow their dreams by guiding them in creating their own brands. She continues to run her business “Your Destiny’s Dream LLC” and offers services for art, marketing, and consulting. Consistent freelancing gigs were hard to come by so she juggled multiple jobs including event coordination, bartending, and assisting her grandmother Barbra Fries (the founder of The Hollywood Ballroom). She later became an event coordinator and worked with a variety of local and notable clients in the entertainment industry. Through collaboration, she has helped throw numerous events throughout Maryland to support local artists. In 2016, Chyna served as curator and showcases the work of talented local artists through alternative art spaces in local businesses. Some of the notable locations she worked with are Launch Workplaces in Gaithersburg, MD, and Mount Vernon Marketplace in Baltimore, MD.

Alex Garove
Alex Garove is an artist/educator based in Baltimore, Maryland. She teaches digital arts and photography at a Baltimore County Public School and is an adjunct professor at Towson University. Her work explores interdisciplinary connections between science, art, history, technology, interactivity, and sound, taking great inspiration from nature and natural materials. Her arts-based research projects fuse media and techniques including photography, digital arts, animation, and traditional materials. Alex has presented at numerous conventions, led art and nature workshops, and synthesizes her artistic practices with her role as an educator. Her visual essay will be included in an InSEA publication this fall.

Sofia Hailu
Sofia Hailu is a performing artist and arts manager dedicated to continual self-discovery and creative development in her work and in the industry at large. Formerly a flutist with the United States Army Europe Band and Chorus, and later the United States Army 3d Infantry Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, Sofia now invests herself in an array of individual and collaborative projects from performing to presenting, critiquing and coaching. Sofia has toured across the United States and in over 12 countries throughout Europe, and her path has taken her from performing presidential arrival ceremonies to collaborating with local pop icons in Chisinau to producing genre-bending productions with hip hop artists in DC. In addition to her individual practice, Sofia works to support and uplift the role of artists in our society, with a particular interest in projects that introduce new creative pathways or address systemic failures in the current professional landscape. She serves on the board of the Iris Music Project, a 501c3 organization that cultivates collaborative relationships with musicians and residents of long-term care facilities, reimagining community, creating nontraditional career opportunities, and expanding the artist identity from entertainer to thought leader. Sofia holds an MM in Flute Performance from Indiana University and an MA in Arts Management from American University. She is grateful for her formal studies as well as her ongoing education as a student of situations, surroundings, mentors, colleagues and collaborators.

#Mdartssummit2023
PRESENTERS

Ruby Lopez Harper
Ruby Lopez Harper brings a wealth of expertise in arts and disaster management. She fulfilled several roles at Americans for the Arts (AFTA) over the past six years, most recently as Vice President of Equity and Local Arts Engagement. Prior to AFTA, she served as Grants and Services Director of the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Lenora Henry
Before being named the Executive Director of the Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce, Lenora Henry served in several leadership roles and spent over 20 years developing and cultivating relationships with external stakeholders, city and state agencies, corporations, and faith-based and neighborhood organizations. Most recently, as the former Director of Strategic Initiatives and Sr. Development Officer for Corporate Relations at the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA), she was a leader in educating community residents on advocacy efforts and program resources.

Myra Hicks
Myra Hicks is a senior at City Neighbors High School in Baltimore, Maryland. She is a visual abstract artist, musician, and writer. She loves to read and cook. Myra loves to make a difference in any way that she can. As a member of the B’more Youth Arts Advocacy Council (BYAAC), she is reminded that change is possible.

Jeannie Howe
Jeannie Howe is executive director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, a leading nonprofit provider of services to artists and cultural organizations in the region. Whether they are emerging or established, mainstream or underground, grassroots or institutional, GBCA believes in unifying and strengthening all members of the creative community.

Joshua Henry Jenkins
Jenkins (he/him/his) is an interactive media strategist & organizer of community based out of Washington, D.C. by way of rural North Carolina. He has worked extensively with independent artists and arts organizations to develop brand identity, design, and communications strategy. He is currently the the Director of Marketing at Theatre Communications Group. He was previously the Director of Web and New Media Strategies at Americans for the Arts. In service of the communities to which he belongs, he focuses his efforts on creating and supporting projects that uplift BIPOC-identifying folks, LGBTQIA+ individuals, citizens of rural areas, and most importantly those who exist at the intersections.

Anastasia Johnson
Anastasia Johnson is a dance artist, educator, curator, and choreographer born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. After receiving her B.A in Dance along with a PreK-12 Virginia Teaching Licensure in Dance Arts from James Madison University in 2017, Johnson relocated to Maryland to further her artistry in the OMV area. Currently, she holds the title as Energizers Creative Arts After School Manager, Summer Camp Director, and Teaching Artist at Dance Place in Washington, DC. Since relocating, Johnson has performed with companies and artists such as, Choreographers Collaboration Project, VT Dance Company, Extreme Lengths Production, Rachel Luebbert, Juanita Maria Dance Company, Contra-Tiempo, and Coyaba Dance Company, Liz Miller, Jamison Curcio& Shanice Mason, ReVision Dance Company and New Growth Collective. Johnson has been developing her own dance company called A.J. Collabs (AJC), who has had the opportunity to perform at the 2019 Small Plates Festival, Works In Progress Showing, Ascending Choreographer’s Festival, National Choreography Month DC, Black Choreographer Festival, Layers V.3, Dance in the OMV Festival, Richmond Dance Festival and Coalescence: A Visual and Performing Arts Showing.

Denise M. Jones
Denise M. Jones, Founder, and Principal of Brass Ring Company, is a cultural teaching artist, youth development practitioner, certified teen life coach, instructional designer, and facilitator of capacity-building and art engagement programs for youth, teens, adults, and parents. Using her artistic craft to help people reach for their brass rings, Jones supports student success, social-emotional wellness, and parent advocacy, especially in support of BIPOC, for the K12 school journey and beyond. Denise has presented with the Maryland Arts Summit, MOST and MENTOR,
Kevette M. Kane

Kevette Kane believes in the empowerment of entrepreneurship. It is strong small businesses that create better big businesses and serve as the foundation for creating healthy communities. Whether you are a founder or an employee of a growing business, taking ownership of your position and the responsibilities assigned to you is what “doing good business” to accomplish your goals is all about. Kevette is the Director of Membership with the Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce. She took on this role after having been a member of the Chamber since 2020 when she founded her current business with a focus on Financial Education and Advice. As an entrepreneur herself for the past 25 years she knows firsthand the successes and the challenges of business development. She understands that in every business two pillars support healthy growth; continuing education and strong relationships. Her goal is to support the Chamber, in this role, to be recognized as the leading center for business in Baltimore City. She is working to ensure that members are aware of and taking full advantage of the many existing member benefits while continuing to increase the opportunities available for their continued growth and success. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the illustrious Morgan State University, certification as an Emotional Intelligence Practitioner and certification as a Financial Education Instructor. She grew up in Baltimore from elementary school through college and raised her two boys in the city. So, her roots are in Baltimore and her heart is with the community.

Amanda Karhuse

Amanda Karhuse is the assistant executive director for advocacy and public policy at NAfME where she works with policymakers and other national organizations to promote music as an integral and core component of a well-rounded education. In this role, she coordinates all federal and state policy and advocacy efforts for NAfME, which includes lobbying, coalition-building activities, and strengthening the capacity of music education advocates. Prior to her tenure at NAfME, Amanda was the director of policy & advocacy for the National Association of Secondary School Principals, served as a legislative assistant for former Congresswoman Karen L. Thurman of Florida, and worked for the Women’s Congressional Policy Institute. She has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, and a master’s degree from the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. Amanda was a proud member of the Yorktown High School marching band in Arlington, VA, and she now resides in Leesburg, VA, with her husband, an avid guitarist, and her son who plays piano and sings in the all-county chorus.

Camille Kashaka

Camille Kashaka (she/her) currently serves as Executive Director of Motor House in Baltimore. Prior to joining Motor House, Camille served as the Interim Managing Director at Hattiloo Theatre in Memphis, TN, where she oversaw the day to day operations of the company. She also was proud to serve as the Director of the Anacostia Arts Center in Southeast Washington, DC. There, she was privileged to curate visual arts exhibitions, music series, and a performing arts season. Camille’s proudest moments in Anacostia include curating the All The Way Live Tuesdays Hip Hop Series, creating the Resident Performing Arts Incubator, and curating “Black Gold,” an exhibition that celebrated Afrofuturistic aesthetics in both abstract and figurative work. Camille received her BFA from Howard University in Theatre Administration and her Masters from American University in Arts Management. In addition to her work as an arts manager, Camille is also a lighting designer. She has been privileged to design for a number of organizations including Freshh Inc Theatre Company, Astro Pop Events, and JAMtheRevue. Originally from Atlanta, GA and born to a Trini mother and Black American father, she brings a spicy southern sensibility to every aspect of her life. It is also important to note that she is a hardcore Trekkie and Octavia E. Butler stan so much of her philosophy on life itself comes from Jean-Luc Picard’s monologues and Earthseed (spiritual belief system outlined in Parable of the Sower). It is with this specific blend of cultural, artistic, and professional experience that she hopes to add to the eclectic cultural ecosystem of Baltimore.

Diane Kuthy

Dr. Diane Kuthy is the Coordinator of Art Education at Towson University. She has organized curricular, social, and artistic provocations for educators in museum, virtual, community, and school contexts. Her arts-based research focuses on preparing pre-service art teachers and their students to critically understand the historic role of visual and material culture in creating, maintaining, and resisting white supremacy. Diane is a recipient of an Open Society Institute Community Fellowship and two Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Awards. She was a 2016-2017 Diversity Fellow at Towson University and is a member of Baltimore Racial Justice Action. Her research has recently been published in the journal of Art Education and the Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education.
**PRESENTERS**

**Lauren Latessa**
Lauren Latessa, founder and Executive Director of Iris Music Project, has dedicated her career to exploring the ways music can infuse and transform communities. Her innovative work as the Manager of Music Enrichment at the Charles E. Smith Life Communities (CESLCP), where she worked from 2015-2019, earned her awards and recognition from the Tarisio Trust, the Association of Jewish Aging Services and the National Arts Strategies. As the Executive Director of Iris Music Project, she has created unique music programs for Weinberg Villages (CHAI Baltimore), Charles E. Smith Life Communities, Mather, Howard County 55+ Centers and Bender Jewish Community Center. In 2023 the organization was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America grant to support their partnership with Weinberg Villages. Lauren has presented Iris Music Project’s ground-breaking model at Carnegie Mellon University, Peabody Institute, University of Maryland, Fudan University (Shanghai, China), LifeSpan Network and in the Journal of Applied Arts and Health. She holds degrees from Peabody Conservatory, Johns Hopkins University (Phi Beta Kappa) & Northwestern University.

**Nina Lattimore**
Ms. Nina Lattimore is energized and deeply committed to making a positive difference in the lives of children, families, and teachers. While education was what fueled her drive to learn, Ms. Lattimore educational experiences were not as gleaming as one would think. As an early learner Ms. Lattimore heard from teachers what she “couldn’t do” (cut correctly, score advanced in testing, read on the appropriate level, etc.) but her parents were strong advocates that knew she could and would succeed. In the 10th grade Ms. Lattimore was blessed with a teacher who understood her learning needs (art, movement, hands on tasks, etc) and sparked her love of the Spanish language. Ms. Lattimore majored in Spanish and Mass Communication while studying at Towson University. She went to earn her Master’s degree in Spanish from Howard University and a Master’s degree in English as a Second Language from American University. She is currently pursuing her doctorate at Walden University. Ms. Lattimore served as an ESOL teacher, general education teacher and was awarded National Board Teacher Certification.

**Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman**
Brooke Lierman is the 34th Comptroller of the state of Maryland and the first woman to be independently elected to one of our state’s constitutional offices. After running a strong, policy-focused and grassroots-led two-year campaign, she was elected with over 60% of the vote in November 2022. She is an attorney by training, practicing as a civil rights and disability rights lawyer for many years, and prior to her election as Comptroller, she served for 8 years a member of the House of Delegates representing part of Baltimore City. While in the House, she spent time in leadership roles on both the Appropriations Committee and the Environment and Transportation Committee. Additionally, she was the House Chair for the Joint Committee on Pensions, sat on the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness, and founded the Maryland Transit Caucus. Brooke successfully passed landmark legislation to invest in and improve public transit and public schools; end suspension and expulsion of young students; fund evidence-based gun violence prevention programs; aid sex trafficking victims; close loopholes in affordable housing laws, and create the office of statewide broadband. As Comptroller, she is dedicated to creating a Maryland that is more equitable, more resilient, and more prosperous so that all Marylanders can reach their full potential. She and her husband and two school-age children live in Baltimore City.

**MAD Dance**
MAD Dance is Kitty Clark (Washington County) and Ray C. Shaw (Frederick County). Drawing on improvisational and somatic practices, the duo manifests deeply intimate work. Whether dancing on the stage, in parks, in parking lots, or in art galleries, they consider dance from the perspective of being older, experienced artists. MAD Dance was awarded an Independent Artist Award from the Maryland State Arts Council in 2020, and has received several MSAC Creativity Grants and a CAN grant from the Frederick Arts Council which have supported the development and performance of “Time Travelers Alight,” “Portal,” and “Whale Wall.” Clark and Shaw thrive in collaboration and love the unexpected happenings that transpire when creative minds play together.

**Marc Martin**
After working in Baltimore City Public Schools as a teacher, instructional support coach and principal over two decades, Marc Martin became Principal of the Commodore John Rodgers (CJR) School in 2010. CJR is a community school serving more than 900 students in PreK-8th grade. Under Martin’s leadership, the former turnaround school transformed its declining scores, safety issues, and poor attendance into improved student achievement, increased enrollment numbers, and soaring parent satisfaction. In addition to being principal, Marc is also the founder/director of The 100% Project, an initiative started in 2017 to support failing schools in turnaround status. There are currently 5 schools that comprise The 100% Project, with each school making measurable gains based on a 4-pronged approach that focuses on strong school culture, a student-centered mindset, parent engagement, and collaborative professional development opportunities. The 100% Project Work serves to inspire staff to collaborate, share resources, and motivate one another to help create more great schools in Baltimore City. Martin’s commitment to creating and sustaining a culture of excellence at CJR is felt, seen, and heard throughout the school. CJR’s mantra, “Commodore to College,” pledges that students have a path to college, promotes rigorous academics and helps prepare students...
for the 21st century workforce. CJR students benefit from opportunities that enhance the curriculum, including guest speakers, music, robotics, team sports, and overnight camping trips. Marc has seen first-hand the importance of extracurricular activities and how the arts can engage and transform a school community.

Kourtney McCleary
Kourtney McCleary is a rising senior at Bard High School Early College in Baltimore, MD. She is a visual artist and her primary medium is oil painting. Kourtney joined the B’more Youth Art Advocacy Council (BYAAC) to make certain that students have more access to art classes in the Baltimore City Public School System. Her plan for the future is to study environmental sciences.

Rachel L. McCusker
Rachel L. McCusker is a Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) teacher. She earned her B.S. in Music Education in 1993 from Towson State and her M.S. in School Administration from McDaniel College in 2004. During her career as a music teacher, she has served on Instructional Leadership Teams, Instructional Support Teams, ETM Committee, CCPS Teacher Advisory Council, CCPS District Assessment Committee, CCPS Meaningful Professional Development Committee, CCPS Curriculum Writing, and MSDE Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel. She has served on community fine arts boards, been a community theater musical director and performer, was an active member of the Century Instrumental Music Boosters, served as a volleyball team mom, and volunteered with 4H Therapeutic Riding. She was the 2015-16 CCPS Teacher of the Year and currently serves teachers across the state of Maryland as the teacher member of the Maryland State Board of Education. Her passion is building relationships with students and families through arts education, and fostering opportunities for students to perform and grow as musicians.

Rachel McGrain
Rachel McGrain (she/her) is the Executive Director for Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) and a life-long Marylander, educator, and musician. Rachel’s current roles include shaping the organization’s priorities and advocacy efforts, serving as a member of the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative, convening the AEMS Higher Education in the Arts Task (HEAT) Force, and coordinating with collaborators to further our collective work towards educational equity for Maryland’s students. Rachel began her career as a Teach for America Baltimore corps member in 2013 after graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Music/Trumpet Performance and History. In addition to teaching 7th and 8th grade math at KASA in West Baltimore, she served as the middle school track coach and 8th grade team leader while earning her Master of Science in Educational Studies from Johns Hopkins University in 2015. In response to the lack of consistent arts programming available to her students, Rachel started an instrumental music program in 2016 at Green Street Academy.

Sheena M. Morrison
Sheena M. Morrison is an independent curator with a background in public health policy. She segued naturally to a curatorial practice from her work in public health where one of the primary tenets is effective community engagement. Her practice is informed by decades long experience as a public historian and her interest in the intersection of politics, social activism and contemporary art. She currently works on behalf of the next generation of artists as the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative Manager at Arts Every Day where in tandem with youth, parents, community partners and the Baltimore City Public School System, she champions equitable access to the arts for all students attending school in the district. Sheena holds an MFA in curatorial practice from Maryland Institute College of Art, an MPhil in sociomedical sciences from Columbia University and an MPH in community health education from Hunter College.

Maryland State Arts Council
Founded in 1967, MSAC is an agency of the State of Maryland Department of Commerce that plays an essential role, ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts. MSAC advances the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland. To do this, the agency awards grants to not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations for ongoing arts programming and projects, awards grants to individual artists, and provides technical and advisory assistance to individuals and groups. Find more information at msac.org.

Kelllyn Mahan
Kelllyn Mahan has over 10 years of experience in strategic brand development, research, and reporting. Additionally, Kelllyn has produced over 600 branded events that help businesses maximize the experience the audience has with a brand both digitally and in-person. Kelllyn has experience in brand and content production in the commercial real estate industry, boutique retail brands, wellness industry, hospitality and food products, and the creative economy. Kelllyn holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology from Elon University and a Master of Arts degree in Social Innovation and Sustainability from Goddard College. Her MA thesis “The Innovation of SPACEmaking” explores the framework
that public art plays to enhance and transform public health and community development. Her cultural experiences includes aboriginal studies in Australia, tropical ecosystem management in Central America and preservation/restoration efforts in the redwood forests of Northern California.

Laura Numsen
Laura Numsen is a graduate of Maryland Institute, College of Art, and has taught grades K-12. She also created a one woman show called Travel Talk, sharing art, music, and trivia from around the world. She has worked with both children and elders as an activity’s director, and has a special interest in Intergenerational Dynamics.

Shana Oshiro
Shana Oshiro (Tenor) earned her Vocal performance degree from Morgan State University. She is the bass of Harmony, Inc’s 2012 International Harmony Queen quartet, Epic. Her other claim to queenly fame, she served as Miss Maryland 2007 and competed on stage at Miss America 2008. She holds her Masters in Music Therapy from Shenandoah University, and is a licensed board-certified music therapist with experience working with children, adolescents, adults and the elderly with a wide range of abilities. Shana’s passion for classical singing, and performing local concerts continues throughout the DMV region and beyond sourced communities.

Laura Parkhurst
Laura Parkhurst is an arts administrator at Baltimore Lab School. She supports staff and faculty in designing arts integrated lessons and facilitates school-wide programming and professional learning in arts integration and arts enhanced instruction. She holds a Masters Degree in Special Education and Advanced Professional Certificates in art education, special education and elementary education. Laura has presented at the Maryland Art Education Association Conference, and was a guest speaker for undergraduate education students at Loyola University, Maryland and for teaching artists at Baltimore Center Stage.

Ky’Mera Pauling
Ky’Mera Pauling is currently a senior at Baltimore City College High School. She is a visual artist who works primarily in ink and markers on paper, but has done some work in ceramics, painting and digital drawing. She is also teaching herself how to play the electric guitar. Ky’Mera joined the B’more Youth Arts Advocacy Council (BYAAC) to connect with other creatives with whom she could grow with. Being surrounded by peers who seek to uplift one another, and the communities around them is a rare privilege to experience. She plans to continue her academic journey at the University of Maryland College Park in the fall, as a psychology major.

Derek Pentz
Derek Pentz is the visual and performing artist behind the nationally-ranked, award-winning drag persona Zenobia Darling. Derek is a graduate of Towson University’s theater program, where he studied comedic solo performing while theatrically studying reality TV, writing his undergraduate theater thesis, “Was Oscar Wilde a Nineteenth Century Pumphead? The Wilde Aspirational Comedy of Vanderpump Rules” about Bravo’s reality TV masterpieces Vanderpump Rules and The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. Starting in the Summer of 2022, Derek started Zenobia Darling Creative, his media and fine art brand which houses his Neo-Expressionist fine art and editorial photography, his #RockStarLife book series, along with an art blog where each month Derek does innovative explorations into various artists and art movements out of his Havre de Grace, MD studio. This summer Derek is branching into podcasting, titled #RockStarLife: Coffee Break, Derek as Zenobia Darling will be comedically diving into all the messy reality TV and iconic pop culture moments with a strong emphasis on The Real Housewives. For more information on Derek, Zenobia Darling, and his #RockStarLife ... go to ZenobiaDarlingCreative.com!

Portia Pitts
Portia Pitts (Lead) is also a graduate of Morgan State University, where she received her BFA in Vocal Music studying classical voice and performing multiple genres worldwide with the Morgan State University choir. She is a proud and happy mother of three and her voice serves as the centerpiece of the ensemble and our social media presence as HALO moves forward as an organization with a mission to change the world with music therapy and barbershop.
Marla Posey-Moss
The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been in existence in Maryland since 1915. Marla Posey-Moss is the president of Free State PTA, the largest child advocacy association in Maryland with over 60,000 plus members and over 500 constituent units in schools and communities. The PTA has been long involved in the arts especially as a steward of the Reflections Program, a National PTA arts program that provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life. It is a program for students from Pre-K through Grade 12 who create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. While the arts categories for this program include dance, choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts, local PTA leaders, mainly parents, promote advocate for the arts in an equal array of ways. Parents as well as teachers and students advocate for the arts by appealing before boards of education to maintain full-time employment of educators in the arts, including band instructors and visual artists, in addition to preserving music programs. Furthermore, parents within the PTA advocate for arts via the promotion of performing arts as well as arts literacy. PTAs have been vigilant in parent advocacy given their leadership positions as cultural arts chairs and organization of events at their schools. As the arts is a pillar of strength within PTA, President Posey-Moss looks forward to sharing how the PTA implements effective parent advocacy in the arts.

Niambi Powell
Niambi Powell (Baritone) has been singing her whole life, in the car and on the stage with her Motown band, “The Regressions” in a girl group with her mother and sister, Shana. Cut from the same cloth, Niambi set the stage for their sisterhood of beauty queendom as Miss Maryland Teen USA 2000. With music and beauty always in the forefront of her livelihood, Niambi holds a Master’s degree in Family and Social Sciences and is a social worker for the region of Montgomery County, leading groundbreaking programs to promote financial literacy for under resourced communities.

Jennifer Ridgway
Jennifer Ridgway is a teaching artist and imagineer consultant who activates artistry, amplifies ordinary stories, increases empathy, agitates change, and creates joy. Since receiving her MFA (UNG-Greensboro), she earned a certificate in Arts/Culture Strategy (University of Pennsylvania). She is an inaugural cohort member of the Anti-Racist Educators of the Arts Learning Lab (A-REALL). Jennifer co-founded the Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic to support, empower and advocate for TAs. In 2020 she launched Yard Dramas to bridge connections, increase learning and grow new ideas, pathways, and solutions to challenges!

Ray C. Shaw
Ray C. Shaw is a Frederick County-based movement artist, actor, director, and acupuncturist. He has an MFA in Dance from Arizona State University and a Master of Acupuncture from Maryland University of Integrative Health. Ray has served on the faculties at Arizona State University, Maricopa Community College, and at Maryland University of Integrative Health. Ray got his start in theatre and dance in Cleveland, where he directed, choreographed, and performed in numerous productions at theatres throughout the area. In Arizona, he toured the greater Phoenix area as a primary dancer with A Ludwig Dance Theatre and Schupp/Shaw. He has worked as a guest artist across the nation, teaching dance and theatre, and he has served as guest artist for several seasons at University of Texas-Pan Am. As an Acupuncturist, his private practice has helped people rid their lives of stress, reduce medications, and conquer fear and illness. Ray is also active with Endangered Species Theater Project in Frederick, MD.

Delegate Stephanie M. Smith
Stephanie M. Smith was just re-elected to serve her second term in the Maryland House of Delegates where she represents Baltimore City’s 45th State Legislative District. She also chairs the Baltimore City House Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly. A Member of the House Appropriations Committee, Stephanie Chairs the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee and sits on the Capital Subcommittee. During the 2023 session, Stephanie was also appointed the role as the Parliamentarian for the Maryland House of Delegates. Stephanie has successfully passed over two dozen laws addressing public safety, economic justice and education. Stephanie served as the primary sponsor of the CROWN Act which prohibits discrimination of natural and protective hairstyles. By day, Stephanie serves as an Assistant Director for Equity, Engagement and Communications in the City of Baltimore’s Department of Planning. Prior to joining the General Assembly, Stephanie worked in the federal policy arena as a staffer and lobbyist advancing public health, voting rights, affordable housing and environmental justice for the most vulnerable communities. Active in the Baltimore community, Stephanie has served on a host of Baltimore nonprofit boards and currently serves on the board for the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB). Stephanie is a proud graduate of Hampton University (BA), University of Delaware (MA), and Howard University School of Law (JD). She is a Member of the Maryland bar. Stephanie lives with her husband, two young sons, and mother in East Baltimore.
Renee Taylor

Renee Taylor, a multifaceted artist, healer, and entrepreneur who co-founded the Prince George’s County-based nonprofit, Operation Arts Foundation. With a vision to develop a creative economy, the foundation aims to lay the foundation for profitable, collaborative relationships between artists, businesses, and the community, streamlining opportunities and creating financial stability for artists. As an accomplished visual/performing artist who combines Afrocentric and pop art with a street art flair, Renee’s success is a testament to her natural talent and hard work. Despite having received very little formal training in the visual arts, she has regularly exhibited her work at a professional level, demonstrating the power of dedication and commitment to one’s craft. Driven by her passion for giving back to the community, Renee is pursuing a nursing degree at Bowie State University, preparing to become a full-time RN in the community. Meanwhile, she dedicates much of her time to creating public artworks, creative professional development events, and community engagement opportunities with the Operation Arts Foundation. Growing up in the streets of South Baltimore, Renee knows firsthand the positive impact that organizations such as the Mayor O’Malley PAL centers and City Year AmeriCorps can have on inner-city youth. Having been exposed to new and different opportunities in the arts and sciences through these programs, she is determined to pay it forward by helping other artists young and old achieve their goals. With her diverse skill set and deep love for the arts and sciences, Renee aspires to heal the world around her, be it through mind, body, or soul. Her inspiring story proves that investing in our inner-city youth can make a lasting and exponential impact on local communities. Join her and the Operation Arts Foundation in creating a more vibrant, equitable, and prosperous future for all.

MaryLand arts suMmit 2023

Renee Taylor, a multifaceted artist, healer, and entrepreneur who co-founded the Prince George’s County-based nonprofit, Operation Arts Foundation. With a vision to develop a creative economy, the foundation aims to lay the foundation for profitable, collaborative relationships between artists, businesses, and the community, streamlining opportunities and creating financial stability for artists. As an accomplished visual/performing artist who combines Afrocentric and pop art with a street art flair, Renee’s success is a testament to her natural talent and hard work. Despite having received very little formal training in the visual arts, she has regularly exhibited her work at a professional level, demonstrating the power of dedication and commitment to one’s craft. Driven by her passion for giving back to the community, Renee is pursuing a nursing degree at Bowie State University, preparing to become a full-time RN in the community. Meanwhile, she dedicates much of her time to creating public artworks, creative professional development events, and community engagement opportunities with the Operation Arts Foundation. Growing up in the streets of South Baltimore, Renee knows firsthand the positive impact that organizations such as the Mayor O’Malley PAL centers and City Year AmeriCorps can have on inner-city youth. Having been exposed to new and different opportunities in the arts and sciences through these programs, she is determined to pay it forward by helping other artists young and old achieve their goals. With her diverse skill set and deep love for the arts and sciences, Renee aspires to heal the world around her, be it through mind, body, or soul. Her inspiring story proves that investing in our inner-city youth can make a lasting and exponential impact on local communities. Join her and the Operation Arts Foundation in creating a more vibrant, equitable, and prosperous future for all.
Khaleshia Thorpe-Price
Khaleshia Thorpe-Price is the Owner and Master Teaching Artist of Dramatic-Play. She has worked in the field of arts education for over 20 years. She is a versatile creator and educator. She aims to dazzle participants with the love of play and creative exploration. Khaleshia is the Maryland Director for Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic (TAMA), a network that advocates for, empowers, and supports Teaching Artists throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. She has a BA in Theater Arts from Morgan State University and an MA in Arts Management from the University of Central Florida.

Devin Walker
Devin Walker, a.k.a., “Uncle Devin, the Children’s Drum cussionist,” is a national leader in the children’s music industry and an award-winning drummer and percussionist specializing in Family Funk. He is the owner of The Uncle Devin Show®, an interactive musical experience for children that uses percussion instruments to cultivate their minds—a dynamic cross between DC’s Trouble Funk and Schoolhouse Rock. Uncle Devin and 25 other artists are members of the Tribe Collective whose album “All One Tribe” was GRAMMY-nominated for Best Children’s Music Album in 2022.

Thelma Williams
Thelma Williams is a senior at Bard High School Early College Baltimore. She is a novelist and dramatic writer. She is also experimenting with acrylic and oil painting. Thelma joined the B’more Youth Arts Advocacy Council (BYAAC) because she knows from experience that a career choice in the arts is not taken as seriously as other career choices associated with STEM. She is thrilled to be part of a group that is advocating to change this. This fall she will be attending Bard College, majoring in musicology or theatre.

Chloe Zheng
Chloe Zheng is a Baltimore City College High School senior. She is a visual artist who works primarily with acrylics. She plans to use art to help others through art therapy or counseling in the future. Chloe joined the Bmore Youth Arts Advocacy Council (BYAAC) to gain more job experience and to see what possible change she could make alongside other youth advocates. The experience has helped her to see different possibilities for change and cooperation that translates in her day-to-day interactions with others. She will continue to work with her community to push for more equity in arts education and funding.
MARYLAND CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS
Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) is a statewide arts advocacy and education organization. Founded over 40 years ago to provide “One Voice for all the Arts in Maryland,” MCA works to highlight the role the arts play in the economic vitality of the state and the increased quality of life they provide for all Marylanders. MCA is committed to expanding the nonprofit arts sector through public investment and service, thereby enhancing lifelong learning, quality of life, and economic vitality for all Maryland citizens.

ABOUT ARTS EDUCATION IN MARYLAND SCHOOLS
AEMS facilitates improving the quality of, and access to, arts education for all Maryland public school students through an array of interrelated strategies including supporting arts education policy and advocacy efforts, developing partnerships with schools and school systems, disseminating information, convening the fields of arts and education, organizing focused task forces, offering professional development for teachers and artists, providing technical assistance through research and evaluation tools, and hosting recognition programs.

MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL
Founded in 1967, the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is an agency of the State of Maryland Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts, and encourages and invests in the advancement of the arts for all Marylanders. Its grants and programs support artists and arts organizations in their pursuit of artistic excellence, ensure the accessibility of the arts to all citizens, and promote statewide awareness of arts resources and opportunities. MSAC awards grants to not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations and individual artists, and provides technical and advisory assistance to individuals and groups. The agency is funded by an annual appropriation from the State of Maryland and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. MSAC may also receive contributions from private, non-governmental sources.
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Rayanne Gonzales in Round House Theatre and Olney Theatre Center’s production of In the Heights
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Maryland Arts Summit 2019
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Camp Hippodrome
Linehan Artist Scholars
Explore Every Angle

Receive a scholarship of $5,000 – $22,000 per academic year
Engage in dynamic discussions in a cross-disciplinary first-year seminar
Attend performances and visit art museums in New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.
Live on campus in a Living Learning Community with students who share your passion for the arts
Receive summer research support to study with creative professionals across the globe

Prepare for Your Creative Career!

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