

January 26 at 7pm

Audiences and Equity:

What's the relationship between audience engagement and the pursuit of equity in this new era?



Donna Walker-Kuhne – Founder of Walker International Communications Group, Inc.

Acknowledged as the nation's foremost expert in Audience Development by the Arts & Business Council, Ms. Walker-Kuhne has devoted her professional career to increasing access to the arts. She has raised over \$23 million in earned income promoting the arts to multicultural communities. Award-winning arts marketing consultant Donna Walker-Kuhne calls the process of engaging audiences "a journey of life." Throughout her career of 35-plus years, she has relied on deep sincerity and understanding of the diversity of cultures, religions, lifestyles, race and ethnicities as keys to creating new audiences for the 21st century. She is founder of Walker International Communications Group Inc., a boutique marketing, press and audience development consulting agency. Her team has over 45 years of experiences specializing in multicultural marketing, group sales, multicultural press and promotional events. She is currently consulting as Senior Advisor, Community Engagement at New Jersey Performing Arts Center charged with developing and deepening relationships with targeted communities through partnerships, special events and group sales. She was formerly Vice President, Marketing and Communications for New Jersey Performing Arts Center.



Patrick Torres – Artistic Director of Raleigh Little Theatre, Raleigh, NC

Patrick Torres has more than a decade of experience as a professional director and theatre educator. His work as a freelance director has been seen at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Southwest Shakespeare Festival, Round House Theatre, The Source Festival, and the Hangar Theatre among others. In 2003, he was selected as a Drama League Directing Fellow and in 2005 was named a Young Leader of Color by the Theatre Communications Group. He has an MFA in Directing from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Chad Bauman – Executive Director, Milwaukee Rep, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Under Chad’s guidance, Milwaukee Rep has grown from a \$9M to \$14M organization. Before moving to Milwaukee, he was the Associate Executive Director at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, where he was instrumental in opening the Mead Center for American Theater, a 200,000 square feet, three theater performing arts complex dedicated to American voices and playwrights. Bauman is a graduate of Harvard Business School’s Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program and has a Master of Fine Arts in producing from the CalArts. He and his husband Justin live in Whitefish Bay and have been host parents to AFS Exchange Students from Norway and Germany.

February 16 at 7pm

Artists and Organizations: How do artists and organizations authentically collaborate? How has this relationship changed?



Karen Zacarías – Playwright, Washington, DC

Karen is one of the most produced playwrights in the United States. She was one of the inaugural Resident Playwrights at Arena Stage in Washington, DC and a core founder of the LATINX THEATRE COMMONS. She is also the founder of Young Playwrights’ Theater, an award winning theater company that teaches playwriting in public schools in Washington, DC. Karen lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and three children. Her plays include *The Copper Children*, *Native Gardens*, *Destiny of Desire*, *The Book Club Play*, *Just Like Us*, *Legacy of Light*, *Mariela in the Desert*, and *The Sins of Sor Juana*. Her work has been produced at The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Arena Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Goodman Theater, Round House Theater, The Denver Center, Alliance Theater, Imagination Stage, GALA Hispanic Theater, Berkshire Theater Festival, South Coast Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, San Jose Repertory Theater, GEVA Theater, Horizon’s Theater, People’s Light and Theater, Walnut Street Theater, Arden Theater, Milagro Theater, Teatro Vista, Aurora Theater, and many more.



Melissa Crespo – Associate Artistic Director, Syracuse Stage, Syracuse, NY

Melissa Crespo (she/her/hers) is from Connecticut with Dominican, Puerto Rican and Chilean roots. She is a New York City based director of theater, opera and film. She most enjoys directing world premieres. She is also a producer, dramaturg and playwright. As a director, Melissa has developed work at New Dramatists, The Lark (RIP!), The Playwright's Center and theaters around the country & abroad. As a playwright, Melissa co-wrote Egress with Sarah Saltwick. It received the Roe Green Award Workshop Production at Cleveland Playhouse in 2019. Egress recently had a world premiere at Amphibian Stage, and will be produced at Salt Lake Acting Company as an NNPN Rolling World Premiere. She is a Founding Editor of 3Views on Theater, an online theater journal conceived by The Lillys. Melissa has served as a Time Warner Fellow at WP Theater, Allen Lee Hughes Directing Fellow at Arena Stage, Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage Theatre and is an alum of the Drama League Director's Project. She is a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop and received her MFA in Directing from The New School for Drama. She is a proud member of the 2021 Still Standing Artist Residency and the newly appointed Associate Artistic Director of Syracuse Stage.



Mei Ann Teo - Associate Artistic Director of New Work, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR

Mei Ann Teo (they/she) is a queer immigrant from Singapore who is an artistic leader, theatremaker, filmmaker, and educator. A recent recipient of the League of Professional Theatre Women's Josephine Abady Award, Teo served for three years as the Artistic Director of Musical Theatre Factory, an artists service organization committed to dismantling oppressive ideologies towards collective liberation, and resident company of Playwrights Horizons. They are now the Associate Artistic Director of New Work at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Teo makes theatre and film at the intersection of artistic, civic, and contemplative practice. As a director/devisor/dramaturg, they create across genres, including music theatre, intermedial participatory work, reimagining classics, and documentary theatre. Directing work includes the world premieres of Jillian Walker's SKINFoLK: An American Show, at the Bushwick Starr (New York Times Critic's Pick; New York Magazine Approval Matrix, "Highbrow, Brilliant") and Madeline Sayet's Where We Belong, at Shakespeare's Globe and Woolly Mammoth ("directed with cinematic grandeur" —The Washington Post) and the North American premiere of Amy Berryman's Walden at Theatreworks Hartford ("brilliant direction" —Hartford Courant; New York Times Critic's Pick).
meiannteo.com

March 23 at 7pm

Adaptations and Evolutions

How are arts organizations evolving and transforming in this new era?



Anna Glass – Executive Director of Dance Theatre of Harlem, New York, NY

Anna Glass has been involved in the performing arts as both an artist and arts administrator for over twenty-five years. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem where she co-launched a collaborative initiative addressing racial inequity in ballet. Anna has also served as a consultant providing strategic planning and fundraising guidance to various nonprofit arts organizations across the country and has served as an advisor for the DeVos Institute of Arts Management supporting New York City nonprofits. She is also a licensed attorney in the State of New York. Anna lives in Harlem with her husband and their daughter.



Sarah Craig – Executive Director of Caffè Lena, Saratoga Springs, NY

Sarah earned her BA in Psychology and Women's Studies from the University of Vermont, where she developed organizing skills as an activist on campus and in Burlington. Before taking the reins at Caffè Lena in 1995, she served as a fundraiser then executive director for the Massachusetts state branch of Peace Action, a nationwide, grassroots citizen's lobby. Sarah seeks to carry forward Lena Spencer's dedication to community service through music, creating friendships, careers, and harmonious connection. She has contributed articles to national music publications, freely offers herself as a mentor to emerging artists and presenters, and shares her experience as a panelist at conferences in the US and Canada.



Nancy Yao Maasbach – President of the Museum of Chinese in America, New York, NY

Nancy Yao Maasbach has served as the President of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) since 2015. As the President of MOCA, Nancy has the unique privilege of combining her experiences in managing organizations, promoting arts and culture as a bridge between peoples, and executing research focused on redefining the American narrative by examining the role of Chinese Americans in U.S. history. Prior to her time at MOCA, Nancy was the executive director of the Yale-China Association, one of the oldest nonprofit organizations dedicated to building U.S.-China relations. Nancy has over twenty years of leadership experience at nonprofit organizations and for-profit management, including staff and board positions at The Community Fund for Women & Girls, International Festival of Arts and Ideas, Tessitura Network, Goldman Sachs & Co, Council on Foreign Relations, CNN, the Center for Finance and Research Analysis, and Aberdeen Standard Investments-managed closed-end funds. Nancy received her MBA from the Yale School of Management and her AB from Occidental College. She was an original member of the Here and Now Theater Company. She is a lecturer at the Yale School of Drama. Nancy is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



C. Brian Williams – Founder and Executive Producer, Step Afrika!, Washington, DC

Brian is a native of Houston, Texas, and graduate of Howard University. He first learned to step as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. – Beta Chapter, in the Spring of 1989. While living in Southern Africa, he began to research the percussive dance tradition of stepping, exploring the many sides of this exciting, yet under-recognized American art form and founded Step Afrika! in 1994. Williams has performed, lectured and taught in Europe, Central and South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean and throughout the United States. He is the founder of the monumental Step Afrika! International Cultural Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Through Williams' leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America's newest cultural exports and inspired the designation of Step Afrika! as Washington, D.C.'s official "Cultural Ambassador." Williams has been cited as a "civic/community visionary" by NV Magazine, a "nation builder" by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and a "minority business leader" by the Washington Business Journal. He is the recipient of numerous Artist Fellowships; the Distinguished Arts Award from the Coalition for African-Americans in the Performing Arts; the Pola Nirenska Award for Contemporary Achievement in

Dance. He is also featured in *Soulstepping*, the first book to document the history of stepping. He also earned the 2008 Mayor's Art Award for Innovation in the Arts and has led the company to multiple Metro DC Dance Awards for "Outstanding New Work", "Excellence in Stage Design/Multimedia" and "Outstanding Group Performance." In 2018, Williams received the Mayor's Arts Award for Visionary Leadership from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

April 6 at 7pm

Arts Ecologies and Economies

What new ecosystems for the arts are appearing? How are relationships, partnerships, and planning changing in the arts? How might they change going forward?



Ben Cameron – President of the Jerome Foundation, Minneapolis, MN

Ben Cameron was Program Director for the Arts at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation from 2006 to 2015, where, during his tenure, the Foundation created the Doris Duke Artists Awards and received the National Medal of the Arts from President Barack Obama. He previously served as the Executive Director of Theatre Communications Group, as the Senior Program Officer for the Dayton Hudson Foundation and Manager of Community Relations for Target Stores, and as the Director of the Theater Program at the National Endowment for the Arts. He received an MFA from the Yale School of Drama, a BA with honors from UNC-CH and is a recipient of three honorary degrees.



Robert Barry Fleming – Executive Artistic Director of Actors Theatre of Louisville, Louisville, KY

Robert Barry Fleming is the Executive Artistic Director of Actors Theatre of Louisville and previously served as Associate Artistic Director at Cleveland Play House and as Director of Artistic Programming at Arena Stage. World premieres commissioned, developed and championed during this tenure at Arena include the 2017 Best Musical Tony Award winner *Dear Evan Hansen*, Karen Zacarias's *Destiny of Desire*, and the 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner, *Sweat*, by Lynn Nottage. Fleming was also a tenured professor and Chair of the University of San Diego Theatre Arts and Performance Studies Department. Live event directing and choreography credits include *Are You There?* and *Once On This*

Island (Actors Theatre of Louisville), and productions at Cleveland Play House, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Tantrum Theater.



Lisa Richards Toney – President and CEO of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP), Washington, DC

Lisa Richards Toney has more than 20 years of experience leading a range of small and large arts and humanities organizations, managing change, and building stability. Prior to leading APAP, she served as Executive Director of the Abramson Scholarship Foundation, Deputy Director and later Interim Executive Director of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, as well as other leadership roles at the Pen/Faulkner Foundation; The American Place Theatre, and as the first Executive Director of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Drama and English as a Presidential Scholar from Spelman College, a Master of Arts Degree in Arts Education from New York University, and a Vilar Arts Management Fellowship with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



David Andrew Snider – Facilitator and Host

Author of the new text and playbook *Managing Arts Organizations*, David Andrew Snider has more than 25 years of experience as a director, educator, producer and administrator. Currently the Executive & Artistic Director of the Hubbard Hall Center for the Arts and Education in Cambridge, NY, he has launched several new artistic and education programs on the campus of Hubbard Hall while also greatly expanding the company's outreach to the community. David has led the Board of Directors through a new strategic planning process aimed at growing the company's staff, fundraising, marketing and administrative systems to better support its mission delivery over the next two years while increasing the company's annual budget by 25% in his first year. Prior to Hubbard Hall, David served as the Director of Artistic Programming at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater in Washington, DC from 2012-2014, and as the Producing Artistic Director and CEO of Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT) from 2005-2012. Under his leadership, YPT was awarded commissions from the White

House, the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian Institution while establishing a resident company and an advisory panel of nationally recognized playwrights. From 2010-2012, David received the Meyer Foundation's \$100,000 Exponent Award for visionary leadership of a nonprofit, the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the Hands On Greater DC Cares' Essence of Leadership Award. David is a Directing Fellow of the Drama League of New York, a past President of the League of Washington Theatres, a member of Leadership Greater Washington and a National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Fellow. David received his MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts and his BA in English Literature/Russian language from Dickinson College, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa. David is currently a Lecturer in the Arts Administration program at Skidmore College and resides in the village of Cambridge, NY, with his wife and children.