#aac14conf
Tweet it, gram it, post it, tag it!
Share your pictures and posts with our official conference hashtag.

conference sponsors

local planning group

701 Center for Contemporary Art
American College of the Building Arts
Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture
Azule
Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs
College of Charleston
Gibbes Museum of Art

Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art
North Charleston Cultural Arts Department
Redux Contemporary Art Center
The Rensing Center
South Arts
South Carolina Arts Commission
Sisal & Tow

ALLIANCE OF ARTISTS COMMUNITIES
2014 annual conference
conference schedule at a glance

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Arts + Ecology Preconference (advanced registration required) ..................................</td>
<td>College of Charleston</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 8 pm</td>
<td>Opening Night Reception</td>
<td>Redux Contemporary Art Center</td>
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**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Welcome Address :: Mayor Joseph Riley</td>
<td>Gold Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Board Track (advanced registration required)</td>
<td>Laurens</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 5 pm</td>
<td>Performing Arts Track (advanced registration required)</td>
<td>College of Charleston</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</td>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Residencies of the Experimental South</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2) Welcome! New Perspectives on Accessibility</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) Trends in Public Philanthropy</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 - 1 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 - 3 pm</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Public and Process-Oriented Residencies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2) Art + Ecology: Lessons from the Preconference</td>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3) Earned Revenue and Artist Residencies</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
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</tbody>
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**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Keynote :: Indira Johnson</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 - 10:45 am</td>
<td>MICRO-SESSIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Kitchen Table Chat: Non-Traditional Residency Environments</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<td>2) AS220: Unjuried, Uncensored</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
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<td>3) Residencies + Universities: Partn for Research and Inquiry</td>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4) CSA (Charleston Supported Art)</td>
<td>Laurens</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</td>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Retreat + Advance: Residencies and Social Practice Artists</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2) Upending Standard Reporting and Evaluation with Poetry and Nuance</td>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3) Art + Science + Community + Education: Unpacking the Environmental Artist Residency</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
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<td>4) OPEN EXCHANGE: Roundtable Discussions (see pg. 11)</td>
<td>Laurens</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 - 2 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 - 5 pm</td>
<td>Tours + Workshops + Adventures</td>
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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Keynote :: Marlena Smalls</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 - 10:45 am</td>
<td>MICRO-SESSIONS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1) Spotlight on Asia: International Exchange + Artist Residencies</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<td>2) Greater than the Sum of Its Parts: Advocacy Tips + Tools</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3) Alternate ROOTS and AZULE: Mobilizing Community-Rooted Art through Partnerships</td>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</td>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) People, Purpose, Place: Connecting with Funders</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<td>2) Urban Engagement and the Relevance of Place</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
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<td>3) Facilities Planning</td>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 - 2 pm</td>
<td>Lunch + Closing Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Tours + Workshops + Adventures</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 - 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Closing Reception</td>
<td>Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art</td>
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**venues**

- College of Charleston (Alumni Center Room) ........................................... 86 Wentworth Street
- Francis Marion Hotel (Gold Ballroom, Calhoun, Laurens, Rutledge) .............. 387 King Street
- Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art ....................................................... 161 Calhoun Street
- The Historic Rice Mill ............................................................................ 17 Lockwood Drive
- Redux Contemporary Art Center .................................................................. 136 St. Philip Street
Dear Colleagues + Friends,

Thank you for joining us for the Alliance of Artists Communities’ 24th Annual Conference!

We are excited to welcome you to Charleston, a city known for its thriving contemporary arts scene, cuisine, architecture, and historic charm, offering a perfect backdrop for this year’s conversation. The 2014 conference includes nearly 100 speakers from across the globe – more than one-third of whom are practicing artists.

Our planning committee members (listed on the back cover) have all contributed enormously to this conference, and we are proud to showcase this vibrant community to arts-and-culture leaders from around the world. I offer special thanks to Scott Shanklin-Peterson, Mark Sloan, Ken May, and Stacy Huggins, for enthusiastically championing our decision to come to Charleston from the start.

For generous underwriting, thank you to 3Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation for their sponsorship; to our arts council partners at Alabama State Council on the Arts, Georgia Council for the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, South Carolina Arts Commission, and South Arts; and to Esther Grimm and Lava Thomas for their generous support.

Please also join me in thanking the Alliance’s extraordinary staff – our new Director of Operations + Programs, Deb Dormody, who has coordinated this conference; Flannery Patton, who curated all conference sessions; and Stephanie Storch, who handled countless conference details. You are phenomenal! And thanks as always to the Alliance’s Board of Trustees – led by outgoing Chair extraordinaire Wayne Lawson – who are equal parts wise, thoughtful, supportive, and funny.

Most of all, thanks to you for joining us! We are proud to facilitate this vibrant international gathering of artists, innovators, cultural leaders, public officials, funders, advocates, and others who believe in advancing today’s artists.

Caitlin Strokosch
Executive Director
conference sessions + events

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20
10:00 am - 4:30 pm
PRECONFERENCE: ARTS + ECOLOGY
Advanced registration required. A complete agenda will be provided to registrants.
A full day exploring how residencies are engaging with ecological art and design, conservation, environmental activism, food systems, agriculture and rural art-making. Organized in partnership with:
› Grin City Collective
› ISLAND
› Madroño Ranch
› A Studio in the Woods
› Wormfarm Institute
Location: College of Charleston Alumni Center Room, 86 Wentworth Street
лечу will be provided on-site
 провел 0.4 miles from the Francis Marion Hotel

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION
Connect with old friends and make new ones during the festive opening reception hosted at Redux Contemporary Art Center. Come see how this bustling center is energizing local arts in Charleston and help us kick off the 2014 Conference in style!
Redux Contemporary Art Center
136 St. Philip Street
Beer/wine and hors d’oeuvres
0.3 miles from the Francis Marion Hotel

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21
9:00 am - 10:15 am
WELCOME ADDRESS
Wayne Lawson | Board Chair, Alliance of Artists Communities
Caitlin Strokosch | Executive Director, Alliance of Artists Communities

10:30 am - 12:00 pm
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
(1) Residencies of the Experimental South
Experimental residencies have a long heritage in the South, going back to Black Mountain College in North Carolina. Today, southern experimental residencies are shaping an emerging field in contemporary art, composed of independent organizations, project spaces, and collectives invested in cultural, economic and social art practices. Join a conversation between a group of creatives who operate artist residencies set in a rural town within a film festival, inside a thrift store-turned-museum, and in raw, urban spaces across Atlanta. This panel will explore what experimental means in an art-residency context, and how places, publics, and resources relate to the residency environment and an artist’s practice.
Shana Berger | Co-Director, Coleman Center for the Arts
Dan Brawley | Executive Director, Cucalorus Film Festival
Jennie Carlisle | Production Curator, Elsewhere Artist Collaborative
Beth Malone | Founding Executive Director, Dashboard Co-op
Location: Francis Marion - Rutledge

(2) Welcome! New Perspectives on Accessibility
Join your panelists in sharing integrative approaches to accessibility and supporting artists with disabilities. Hear about challenges, lessons learned, and successful models – that go beyond facilities improvements – including program development, outreach, implementation, and funding. This session brings together a range of voices – including that of a major granting agency, arts organizations dedicated to underserved communities, and the artist’s perspective – and invites audience questions and dialogue.
Beth M. Bienvenu | Director - Office of Accessibility, National Endowment for the Arts (moderator)
Esther Grisham Grimm | Executive Director, 3Arts
Ryan Walsh | Writing Program Director + Grants Program Manager, Vermont Studio Center
Cynthia Weitzel | Visual Artist, Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
Location: Francis Marion - Calhoun

(3) Trends in Public Philanthropy
In a lively discussion, panelists will look at current issues and trends in arts philanthropy among local, regional, state, and national government funding agencies. The group will also discuss the grantmaking process and what makes a successful funding application, with audience questions welcome.
David Fraher | Executive Director, Arts Midwest (moderator)
Michael Orlove | Artist Communities, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works Director and International Activities Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts
Karen L. Paty | Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts
Albert B. Head | Executive Director, Alabama State Council on the Arts
Location: Francis Marion - Gold Ballroom
(2) Advancing Artists’ Careers

Today’s artists are intentionally making their living through a variety of income sources – such as teaching, online sales, festivals, grants, commissions, and non-creative jobs. In order to live a creative life, artists must juggle the ebb and flow of cash while balancing time on their artistic endeavors. This interactive session will look at how this diversified income portfolio influences an artist’s choices and what organizations can do to better support artists. The panel will share examples of how artists are managing their careers, elicit best practices from participants, and provide ideas and resources on ways to support artists in your community.

Michaela Pilar Brown | Artist
Ken May | Executive Director, South Carolina Arts Commission
Andrew Simonet | Choreographer, Writer + Founder, Artsits U
Heather Pontonio | Program Officer for Art, Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation (moderator)

Location: Francis Marion - Gold Ballroom

(3) The Art of Supporting Dance-Making: Building Visibility and Value

This session will discuss the ways in which organizations and independent artists can create fruitful partnerships dedicated to research and development – protecting stable and productive work environments, digging deeper into the relationship between process and product (recognizing that these terms mean different things to different people), connecting local communities to artistic practices in direct, personal and collaborative ways, and marshaling collective tools and resources to build a culture of curiosity around the art-making process. This session uses the Hatchery Project – a multi-year collaborative residency partnership between The Chocolate Factory Theater (Long Island City, NY), the Maggie Alleesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL), RED Arts Project (Philadelphia, PA), and Vermont Performance Lab (Guilford, VT) – as a launching point to examine challenges, opportunities, and models in the support of performing arts and artists.

Luciana achugar | Artist
Jennifer Calienes | Maggie Alleesee National Center for Choreography
Sara Coffey | Vermont Performance Lab
Beth Gill | Artist
Carla Peterson | Maggie Alleesee National Center for Choreography

Location: Francis Marion - Calhoun
table chat about people and places drawn from work in Philadelphia and New York. We’ll talk about how hybrid work can be done well in mixed communities and non-traditional environments, explore the parameters which make a nutritional live-art residency experience, and try to identify the “juice” that makes it most useful for all involved. We’ll think about partnerships that have worked and how we don’t always have a “model” to follow, but instead pay attention to the artists and organizers involved to build something collaboratively. We’ll share some stories about when it went awry and how we muddled through and learned from it. This collaborative conversation will be guided by the group of “things-happen-makers” in the room. Come with your questions, core concerns, and a story about when it went really well (and why).

Anna Drozdowski | Director, Neighborhood House
Makoto Hirano | Founding Company Member, Team Sunshine Performance Corporation
Melissa Levin | Director of Cultural Programs, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

Location: Francis Marion - Gold Ballroom

(2) AS220: Unjuried/Uncensored

AS220 is a live/work community in Providence, Rhode Island, providing an unjuried and uncensored place for artists to make and present work and a space where artistic process is valued more than art as a commodity. In this session we pose the idea of an unjuried/uncensored residency model and explore artistic process and inclusion as key values in artist communities. We will also explore how residencies can work in favor of diverse artistic mediums and how they can enhance a community’s cultural ecology. In our complex cultural environment, many artists are creating their own independent residencies and alternative models. What can existing residencies learn from this movement?
Shey Rivera Rios | Director of Programs, AS220

Location: Francis Marion - Calhoun

(3) Residencies + Universities: Partnerships for Research and Inquiry

How do universities and artist residency programs integrate their time, talent, and resources to advance scholarship, artistic practice, and communities? How do their respective institutional missions dovetail in service of innovative solutions to social, environmental, technological, health and wellness problems? What lessons might be learned from the challenges and opportunities realized along the way? Leaders from both the university and residency side share their considerable experience and creative approaches to maximizing artist, faculty, and student collaborations within often limited budgets and timeframes.
Ken Lamba | Dean + Professor - College of Arts and Architecture, UNC Charlotte
Anna Rogan | Managing Director, A Studio in the Woods, Tulane University
Brad Thomas | Director of Residencies + Exhibitions, McColl Center for Art + Innovation (moderator)

Location: Francis Marion - Rutledge

(4) CSA (Charleston Supported Art)

Charleston Supported Art’s exciting model of art sponsorship and distribution supports artists in the creation of new work and establishes relationships with local collectors and patrons. Just as community supported agriculture has become a popular way for consumers to buy seasonal food directly from local farms, Charleston Supported Art uses the same buy-direct, buy-local spirit to support local art, artists, and collectors, based on the model created by Springboard for the Arts. Each Charleston Supported Art season features a limited number of CSA shares containing original works of art by established and emerging Charleston area artists in a variety of styles and media. Hear from three of CSA’s co-founders how this program is building a stronger base of artist supporters, engaging new audiences, and helping sustain local artists!
Erin Glaze Nathanson | Charleston Supported Art Co-founder; Arts Director + Curator, Charleston Supported Art
Camela Guevara | Charleston Supported Art Co-founder; Artist, Redux Contemporary Art Center
Ann Simmons | Charleston Supported Art Co-founder; Marketing + Development Coordinator, City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department

Location: Francis Marion - Laurens

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(1) Retreat + Advance: Residencies and Social Practice Artists

How can residencies best support artists whose work is activated through social engagement? This interactive session features a look at three very different models of residency programs that welcome artists whose creative practice work advances toward, rather than retreats from, public engagement; and the perspective of an artist who has practiced social engagement across many different institutional platforms.
Ken Lamba | Dean + Professor - College of Arts and Architecture, UNC Charlotte

Location: Francis Marion - Gold Ballroom

(2) upending Standard Reporting and Evaluation with Poetry and Nuance

What happens when you embed an artist/critic/poet into your program or institution to serve as evaluator, documentarian, journalist and/or provocateur? This session provides a platform to discuss recent experiences with Ain Gordon (playwright, director and actor) and Claudia La Rocco (poet, critic and performer) whose perspectives and insight have offered new ways of defining, enhancing and sharing a full range of activities inclusive of outcomes. The session will be a facilitated Q&A with panelists surrounding their process, roles, outcomes and impact.
Jennifer Callenes | Independent Consultant + Senior Advisor, Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography/ManCC
Melissa Franklin | Director of Pew Fellowships in the Arts, The Pew Center for Arts + Heritage
Ain Gordon | Artist
Claudia La Rocco | Writer + Cultural Critic

Location: Francis Marion - Rutledge

(3) Art + Science + Community + Education: Unpacking the Environmental Artist Residency

Recognizing artists as catalysts of change, the McColl Center for Art + Innovation is advancing environmental art in the urban context through its Environmental Artist-in-Residency (EAIR) program. Given the scope and depth of these artist-led interventions, McColl Center has strengthened and catalyzed new relationships between organizations to advance artists and community. How does the Center as the facilitating organization influence placemaking activities through environmental art? In what ways does environmental art contribute to civic engagement, cultural affirmation, stewardship of place, community building, economic development and aesthetic value of place? How does the EAIR program affect artists practice? What does it really take to do projects of this scale in this emerging field and maintain excellence? This panel will unpack the vibrant relationship between the residency program, community partner, and artist to address these larger questions and reveal a framework for success and impact.
Kim Graham | Vice President of Community Engagement, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership, Inc.
Lisa Hoffman | Associate Director, McColl Center for Art + Innovation
TOURS + WORKSHOPS + ADVENTURES

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
LUNCH
Location: Francis Marion - Gold Ballroom

2:15 pm - 5:00 pm
(1) Greater than the Sum of Its Parts | Advocacy Tips + Tools
How can you be an active part of local arts advocacy efforts, increasing the visibility of not only your own organization but the greater cultural ecology of your community? How do we help public officials and arts advocates speak on our behalf and how can we collectively demonstrate the impact of our work? Join two seasoned arts advocates — working with both urban and rural communities at the local and state level — for a nuts-and-bolts discussion of effective arts advocacy.

Christie Angel | Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of External Affairs & Services, Mayor’s Office - City of Columbus, Ohio
Ra Joy | Executive Director, Arts Alliance Illinois
Location: Francis Marion - Calhoun

(2) Urban Engagement and the Relevance of Place
This conversation will take on what it means to engage within urban communities and how creative actions take into account race, economics, neighborhoods, policy-making, and sustainability. In particular, we will look through the lens of cities at a critical juncture between crisis and rebirth — including Pittsburgh and New Orleans — and explore the role artists and arts organization play as the conscience of a city.

Mario Garcia Durham | President + CEO, Association of Performing Arts Presenters (moderator)
Dave English | Manager of Membership + Development, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council
Gia Hamilton | Director, Joan Mitchell Center
D.S. Kinsel | Artist; Program Coordinator & National Social Media Coordinator, MGR Youth Empowerment Arts in Action

(3) Alternate ROOTS + AZULE: Mobilizing Community-Rooted Art through Partnerships
The new strategic plan of Alternate ROOTS, a membership organization serving artists and cultural organizers in the South, focuses on new partnerships and guidelines in the creation of community-engaged arts projects. “Partners In Action” – a major program of Alternate ROOTS – aims to build strong collaborations that extend or deepen the presence of artists within a community, at home or on the road. These activities explore the power of art as a force for social and economic justice. This sessions offers lessons learned for anyone interested in ideas for partnerships beyond money.

Hannah Durack | Program Associate, Performing Arts Program, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Cindy Gehrig | President, Jerome Foundation; President, Camargo Foundation (co-moderator)
Jason Kalajainen | Executive Director, Luminarts Cultural Foundation (co-moderator)
Arleta Little | Arts Program Officer, McKnight Foundation
Location: Francis Marion - Gold Ballroom
(3) Facilities Planning
When we look at developing our facilities, there are plenty of complicated decisions to be made. How do we design facilities that are flexible enough to support a program’s changing needs and diverse groups of artists? How do we work within the limitations of historic districts and other types of structure? How do we prioritize facilities updates to reduce the risk of costly projects down the road? Join us for a discussion on facilities – from the practical to the philosophical!

Melanie Finlayson | Studio Manager, Penland School of Crafts
Jamie Gregory | Underwriter - Fine Art + Museums, Markel ArtWorks
Bruce Rodgers | Executive Director, Hermitage Artists Retreat
Susan Page Tillett | Executive Director, Mesa Refuge (moderator)

Location: Francis Marion - Rutledge

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
★ LUNCH + CLOSING REMARKS
Location: Francis Marion - Gold Ballroom

2:15 pm - 4:30 pm
TOURS + WORKSHOPS + ADVENTURES
(space limited; free to attendees, but advance registration required)
★ Redux Contemporary Art Center
★ Architectural Walking Tour
★ Of Mice + Hens – A Taxidermy Workshop
★ North Charleston Public Art Stroll

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
CLOSING RECEPTION
Close out the conference with a special reception at The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art. Join us for an exclusive performance by Halsey’s artist-in-residence and internationally renowned Javenese shadow puppet artist, Jumaadi. Jumaadi will premier new shadow works created in collaboration with American artist Geoffrey Cormier.

Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art
162 Calhoun Street
★ Beer/wine and hors d’oeuvres
★ 0.1 miles from the Francis Marion Hotel

SOUTH CAROLINA FACTS:
George Gershwin composed his well-known opera Porgy and Bess while living on Folly Beach, SC. Porgy and Bess are buried in the James Island Presbyterian Church graveyard.

keynotes

INDIRA JOHNSON
Indira Johnson’s internationally-renowned projects have made waves in communities throughout the United States and India. Melding Indian folk traditions with large-scale sculptural installation, her work challenges notions of peace, gender, violence and literacy. She is founder of the Shanti Foundation for Peace, an award-winning nonprofit supporting non-violence through arts education, and her sculptural work is represented in collections around the world – including the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Mobile Museum of Art, and the High Museum of Art. In 2013, Indira was the first visual artist to be named Chicagooan of the Year following her public art initiative Ten Thousand Ripples, which employed one-hundred giant emerging Buddha head sculptures to spark conversation and celebration around peace in neighborhoods throughout Chicago.

MAYOR JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
One of the longest serving mayors still in office, Joseph P. Riley, Jr., has served as Mayor of Charleston since 1975. Mayor Riley’s vision for arts in South Carolina led him to establish the Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs; the annual MOJA Festival that showcases African-American and Caribbean arts and artists; City Arts for Kids, a program that ensures access to the arts and arts education; and a nationally-acclaimed architectural design model for beautiful public housing. His leadership paved the way for the Spoleto Festival – a sister festival of Italy’s world-renowned arts festival that has stimulated an artistic renaissance in Charleston and throughout South Carolina. Mayor Riley has won numerous awards for his arts leadership and was named one of the 25 most dynamic mayors in America by Newsweek.

MARLENA SMALLS
Dr. Marlena Smalls was born in Ohio to South Carolina parents and is the founder and director of the internationally known Hallelujah Singers. A graduate of Central State University, Dr. Smalls’ talents have taken her around the globe and she has toured extensively in Europe, performed for the Queen of England, and held a concert in the Frankfort Opera House in Germany. But not even an Ohio upbringing and a well-worn passport could sever Dr. Smalls’ link to South Carolina. In 1985, she founded the Gullah Festival in Beaufort, which would celebrate Gullah culture of the South Carolina Sea Islands and preserve its many traditions, and by 1990 she had formed the Hallelujah Singers. Inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame in 2004, Marlena is also known to international audiences as Bubba’s mom in the Academy Award-winning motion picture Forrest Gump.

REGGIE WILSON
Reggie Wilson is a choreographer, performer and the founder of New York’s Fist & Heel Performance Group. Called “one of this country’s most talented choreographers” (New York Times), Reggie’s work draws on the movement languages of the blues, slave and spiritual cultures of Africans in the Americas, mixing them with postmodern elements to create what he calls post-African/neohooDoo modern dances. He is the recipient of the BESSIE-New York Dance and Performance Award, Herb Alpert Award in Dance, and the Joyce Foundation Award for his recent work Moses(es) Project.

Reggie’s performances have premiered at international venues including the Dance Factory (South Africa), Dança na Cidade (Portugal), Festival Kaay Fecc (Senegal), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco), The Politics of Ecstasy (Berlin, Germany), and Summerstage (New York City).
conference speakers + presenters

Iuciana achugar | Choreographer + Dancer (New York, NY)
Laura Amador | Resident Manager, Djerassi Resident Artist Program (Woodside, CA)
Christie Angel | Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of External Affairs & Services, Office of the Mayor - City of Columbus (Columbus, OH)
Andrea Avery | Community Arts Coordinator, John Michael Kohler Arts Center (Sheboygan, WI)
Jamie Badoud | Executive Director, Hambidge Center for Creative Arts & Sciences (Rabun Gap, GA)
Becca Barnet | Artist + Founder, Sisal & Tow (Charleston, SC)
Beth M. Bienvenu | Director of the Office of Accessibility, National Endowment for the Arts (Washington, DC)
Shana Berger | Co-Director, Coleman Center for the Arts (York, AL)
Dan Brawley | Executive Director, Cucalorus Film Festival (Wilmington, NC)
Caroline Brooks | Program Manager, Sitka Center for Art & Ecology (Otis, OR)
Michaela Pilar Brown | Artist (Charleston, SC)
David Bruce | Stateside Liaison + Founding Board Member, The Skopelos Foundation for the Arts (Arlington, VA)
Jennifer Calienes | Independent Consultant + Senior Advisor, Maggie Alleece National Center for Choreography/MANCC (Tallahassee, FL)
Jennie Carlisle | Production Curator, Elsewhere Artist Collaborative (Greensboro, NC)
Christina Catanese | Director of Environmental Art, Schuykill Center for Environmental Education (Philadelphia, PA)
Julie Chenot | Program Director, The Camargo Foundation (Cassis, France)
Sara Coffey | Founder + Director, Vermont Performance Lab (Guilford, VT)
Donna Cooper Hurt | Multi-media Artist (Charleston, SC)
Caroline Crumpacker | Executive Director, The Millay Colony for the Arts (Austerlitz, NY)
Julie Decker | Director + CEO, Anchorage Museum (Anchorage, AK)
Anna Drozdzowski | Director, Neighborhood House (Philadelphia, PA)
Hannah Durack | Program Associate, Performing Arts Program, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (New York, NY)
Sharon Dynak | President, Ucross Foundation (Ucross, WY)
Linda Earle | Executive Director, New York Arts Program (New York, NY)
Pablo Elliott | Farmer, Marble House Project (Dorset, VT)
Dave English | Manager of Membership + Development, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (Pittsburgh, PA)
Melanie Finlayson | Studio Manager, Penland School of Crafts (Penland, NC)
Omari Fox | Artist, Educator, Executive Committee Member of Alternate ROOTS (Charleston, SC)
David Fraher | Executive Director, Arts Midwest (Minneapolis, MN)
Melissa Franklin | Director of Pew Fellowships in the Arts, The Pew Center for Arts + Heritage (Philadelphia, PA)
Jim Frost | Co-Executive Director, Atlantic Center for the Arts (New Smyrna Beach, FL)
Gwylene Gallimard | President, AZULE (New Taipei City, Taiwan)
Mario Garcia Durham | President + CEO, Association of Performing Arts Presenters (Washington, DC)
Cindy Gehrig | President, Jerome Foundation (St. Paul, MN); President, Camargo Foundation (Cassis, France)
Beth Gill | Choreographer + Dancer (New York, NY)
Ain Gordon | Artist (New York, NY)
Kim Graham | Vice President of Community Engagement, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership, Inc. (Charlotte, NC)
Jamie Gregory | Underwriter, Markel ArtWorks/Fine Arts Insurance (Glen Allen, VA)
Esther Grisham Grimm | Executive Director, 3Arts (Chicago, IL)
Camela Guevara | Charleston Supported Art Co-founder, Artist, Redux Contemporary Art Center (Charleston, SC)
Gia Hamilton | Director, Joan Mitchell Center on Bayou Road (New Orleans, LA)
Albert B. Head | Executive Director, Alabama State Council on the Arts (Montgomery, AL)
Cammie Hill-Prewitt | Residency Coordinator, A Studio in the Woods (New Orleans, LA)
Makoto Hirano | Founding Company Member, Team Sunshine Performance Corporation (Philadelphia, PA)
Lisa Hoffman | Associate Director, McColl Center for Art + Innovation (Charlotte, NC)
Stacy Huggins | Executive Director, Redux Contemporary Art Center (Charleston, SC)
Indira Johnson | Artist (Chicago, IL)
Ra Joy | Executive Director, Arts Alliance Illinois (Chicago, IL)
Jason Kalajainen | Executive Director, Lumenarts Cultural Foundation (Chicago, IL)
Brad Kil | Co-Director, Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural Design (Bellaire, MI)
D.S. Kinsel | Artist; Program Coordinator & National Social Media Coordinator, MGR Youth Empowerment Arts in Action; Co-Founder, BOOM Concepts (Pittsburg, PA)
Eric Kocher | Director - Artist-in-Residence Program, HUB-BUB (Spartanburg, SC)
Ken Lamba | Dean + Professor, College of Arts and Architecture, UNC Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)
Claudia La Rocco | Writer + Cultural Critic (New York, NY)
Helene Larsson Poussette | Head of Events Unit - Department for Intercultural Dialogue, The Swedish Institute (Stockholm, Sweden)
Wayne Lawson | Director Emeritus, Ohio Arts Council; Chair, Alliance of Arts Communities (Columbus, OH)
Catherine Lee | Assistant Director, Bamboo Curtain Studio (New Taipei City, Taiwan)
Melissa Levin | Director of Cultural Programs, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (New York, NY)
Arleta Little | Arts Program Officer, McKnight Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)
Sandra Liu | Program Officer, Asian Cultural Council (New York, NY)
Beth Malone | Founding Executive Director, Dashboard Co-op (Atlanta, GA)
Victoria Marks | Choreographer + Dancer (Los Angeles, CA)
Jean-Marie Mauclet | Artist, Secretary of AZULE (Charleston, SC)
Ken May | Executive Director, South Carolina Arts Commission (Columbia, SC)
Susan Meier | Principal, Meier and Associates (Washington, DC)
Dana Morrison | Artist-in-Residence Program Manager, Facebook (San Francisco, CA)
Erin Glaze Nathanson | Arts Director + Curator, Charleston Supported Art, LLC (Charleston, SC)
AnneTrabeue Watson Nelson | Visual Arts + General Programming Coordinator, City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department (North Charleston, SC)
Michael Orlove | Artist Communities, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works Director and International Activities Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts (Washington, DC)
La’Shea Oubre | Educator + Community Specialist (Charleston, SC)
Annie-B Parson | Founder + Choreographer, Big Dance Theatre (New York, NY)
Karen L. Paty | Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts (Atlanta, GA)
Carla Peterson | Director, Maggie Alleece National Center for Choreography/MANCC (Tallahassee, FL)
Craig T. Peterson | Director of Programs + Presentation, Gibney Dance (New York, NY)
Heather Pontonio | Program Officer for Art, Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation (New Haven, CT)
Molly Rideout | Co-Director, Grin City Collective (Grinnel, IA)
Joseph P. Riley, Jr | Mayor (Charleston, SC)
Shay Rivera Ríos | Director of Programs, AS220 (Providence, RI)
Aurora Robson | Artist-in-Residence, McColl Center for Art + Innovation (Charlotte, NC)

Bruce Rodgers | Executive Director, Hermitage Artists Retreat (Englewood, FL)

Ama Rogan | Managing Director, A Studio in the Woods, Tulane University (New Orleans, LA)

Brian Rogers | Artistic Director, The Chocolate Factory (Long Island City, NY)

Alison Russo | Program Associate, The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center (New York, NY + Bellagio, Italy)

Jay Salinas | Co-Founder, Wormfarm Institute (Reedsberg, WI)

Alyssia Savoy | Program Manager, The DISTILLERY Artist Residency (New Orleans, LA)

Margaret Shiu | Founder + Director, Bamboo Curtain Studio (New Taipei City, Taiwan)

Ann Simmons | Charleston Supported Art Co-founder; Marketing + Development Coordinator, City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department (North Charleston, SC)

Andrew Simonet | Choreographer, Writer + Founder, Artists U (Charleston, SC)

Mark Sloan | Director + Senior Curator, Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art (Charleston, SC)

Marlena Smalls | Founder + Director, The Hallelujah Singers (Beaufort, SC)

John D. Spiak | Director + Chief Curator, Grand Central Art Center at California State University, Fullerton (Santa Ana, CA)

Caitlin Strokosch | Executive Director, Alliance of Artists Communities (Providence, RI)

Brad Thomas | Director of Residencies + Exhibitions, McColl Center for Art + Innovation (Charlotte, NC)

Susan Page Tillett | Executive Director, Mesa Refuge (Point Reyes Station, CA)

Eric Wallner | CEO, Torpedo Factory Art Center (Alexandria, VA)

Ryan Walsh | Writing Program Director + Grants Program Manager, Vermont Studio Center (Johnson, VT)

Cynthia Weitzel | Visual Artist, Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (Red Wing, MN)

Reggie Wilson | Choreographer; Founder, Fist & Heel Performance Group (New York, NY)

Pamela Winfrey | Senior Artist, Exploratorium (San Francisco, CA)

Tiffany York | Contemporary Programs & Residency Manager, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston, MA)

WAYNE LAWSON | Chair
Ohio Arts Council (Director Emeritus); and The Ohio State University

JASON KALAJAINEN | Vice-Chair
LuminArts Cultural Foundation

CYNTHIA GEHRIG | Treasurer
The Jerome Foundation and Camargo Foundation

MARIO GARCIA DURHAM | Association of Performing Arts Presenters

LINDA EARLE | New York Arts Program

DAVID FRAHER | Arts Midwest

MARK GOLDEN | Golden Artist Colors

ESTHER GRISHAM GRIMM | 3Arts

DAVID MACY | The MacDowell Colony

 CRAIG T. PETERSON | Gibney Dance

BRUCE RODGERS | Hermitage Artist Retreat

JAYSON SMART | The Rasmuson Foundation

TED BERGER | New York Foundation for the Arts (Executive Director Emeritus)

J. RICHARD BRAUGH | UBS Financial

MARY CARSWELL | The MacDowell Colony (Executive Director Emeritus)

MEL CHIN | Artist

JHUMPA LAHIRI | Author

LIZ LERMAN | Choreographer

ROGER MANDELE | Qatar Museums Authority

CLAY ROCKEFELLER | Artist and real estate/community developer

LOWERY STOKES SIMS | Museum of Arts + Design

MARY T. WOLFE | Philanthropist

DEB DORMODY | Director of Operations + Programs

FLANNERY PATTON | Director of Member Services + Communications

STEPHANIE STORCH | Office + Business Manager

CAITLIN STROKOSCH | Executive Director

MELISSA FRANKLIN | Pew Fellowships in the Arts

GIA HAMILTON | The Joan Mitchell Center

LISA HOFFMAN | McColl Center for Art + Innovation

BRAD KIK | Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural Design

TAMARA ROSS | The Banff Centre

SOUTH CAROLINA FACTS:
Charleston’s Spoleto Festival was founded in 1977 as the American counterpart to the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy. Internationally recognized as America’s premier performing arts festival, Spoleto has premiered works by the likes of Chen Shi-Zheng, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Laurie Anderson, Allen Ginsberg, and Osvaldo Golijov.

SOUTH CAROLINA FACTS:
The state dance of South Carolina is the Shag. The six-step Carolina Shag originated in the 1930s in Myrtle Beach, SC.