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

Look for the following symbols in the conference schedule-at-a-glance for focus tracks. Feel free to mix and match the sessions you attend!

Arts + Ecology
Engaging ecological themes, adapting sustainable practices, and making room for collaboration between artists and scientists.

Equity
Strategies for fostering access in the arts and forwarding new models of inclusivity.

Leadership
Exploring our role as leaders – at every career stage – and how we build professional capacity for our organizations and ourselves.

Performing Arts
Supporting performing artists and performance-based work from inception through presentation.

Social Practice
Models and methodology for supporting social practice artists and projects.

We Mean Business!
The business of running arts organizations – it’s the stuff we often don’t want to think about, but simply can’t avoid!

conference schedule at a glance

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

10 am - 3:30 pm Preconference Tour .................................................. Norman Bird Sanctuary
6 - 8 pm Opening Night Reception ............................................. AS220 (115 Empire)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

9 - 10:00 am Welcome to Providence! :: RISD President Rosanne Somerson and Rhode Island Artist Medley, Part I .......... Biltmore Hotel | Grand Ballroom
10:15 am - 4:30 pm Breakout Sessions (advanced registration required) .......... Chamber of Commerce
10:15 - 11:45 am 1) Melding Public and Private: Residencies in National Parks + Other Public Spaces ................ Salon 2
2) Nontraditional Partnerships in Action .................................. Ballroom
3) Let’s Take the Long View: Deep Investments in Creative Practice ......................................................... Salon 6
4) Alternative Models for Artist Residencies in China .... Renaissance Salon
11:45 am - 1 pm Lunch................................................................. Ballroom
1:15 - 2:45 pm Breakout Sessions
1) Creation, Research, Engagement: Social Practice in Residence .................................................. Ballroom
2) Rad Alt Spaces of New England’s Rocky Coasts ......................... Salon 2
3) Better Together: Collaborating for Creative Access ................ Salon 6
4) The 4th Dimension: Beyond Time and Space .......... Renaissance Salon
3 - 4 pm Micro-Sessions
1) Bring It Home: Pivoting Back to Local Contexts ................ Salon 6
2) Powering Art: Renewable Energy + Arts Facilities .................... Ballroom
3) International Mobility + Exchange for Artists .............. Renaissance Salon
4) We Mean Business, Part I | Cover Your Ass(ets): Untangling Insurance .................................................. Salon 2
5) Advancing Support for Live Arts ...................................... State Suite B
6 - 8 pm Keynote :: Theaster Gates | Gail Silver Lecture .............. RISD Auditorium
8 - 10 pm Celebrate Providence! Party ...................................... Peerless Loft Atrium
### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

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<th>Session</th>
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<td>9 - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Innovation Plenary :: Thread - Collaboration + Community in Senegal</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 - 10:45 am</td>
<td><strong>MICRO-SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1) Zoning 101</td>
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<td>2) Pioneering a World Exchange: A Providence-Centric Biennial</td>
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<td>4) Telling Our Story: The Craft Schools Initiative</td>
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<td>5) Disruptive Change: Performance Mash-Up</td>
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<td>11 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td>1) The Matter of Money: Compensation, Equity + Valuing Artists</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4) We Mean Business Part II</td>
<td>Strange Bedfellows? Getting from Finance to Fundraising</td>
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<td>5) Critical Feedback for Creative Work: Fieldwork</td>
<td>AS220 (95 Empire)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Keynote :: Looking Back, Moving Forward: Advancing Cultural Equity</td>
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<td>3 - 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Tours + Workshops + Adventures</strong></td>
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<td>evening</td>
<td>Enjoy a night off!</td>
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### NETWORK MEET-UPS

1. Live Arts Supporters + Creators
2. Upstate New York Arts
3. Arts + Ecology Happy Hour

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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Keynote Address :: NEA Chairman Jane Chu and Rhode Island Artist Medley, Part II</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 - 11 am</td>
<td><strong>MICRO-SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td>1) Block Party in a Box: Toolkits for the Arts</td>
<td>Salon 2</td>
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<td>2) Pittsburgh Spotlight: City of Asylum + Office of Public Arts</td>
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<td>3) Free Agents: Roundtable on Arts and Entrepreneurship</td>
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<td>4) Making Space to Nurture Writers of Color</td>
<td>Renaissance Salon</td>
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<td>11:15 am -</td>
<td><strong>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td>12:45 pm</td>
<td>1) Funding Spotlight: Creative Placemaking and Community Transformation</td>
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<td>2) Residency/Presenter/Artist: Supporting Performance through Collaboration</td>
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<td>3) Open Doors: Engaging Underserved Artists</td>
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<td>4) We Mean Business, Part III</td>
<td>Somewhere Over the Numbers: Evaluating Mission Impact</td>
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<td>12:45 - 2 pm</td>
<td>Lunch + Closing Remarks</td>
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<td>2:15 - 4:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Tours + Workshops + Adventures</strong></td>
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<td>5:30 - 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Closing Night Awards Party</td>
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### Venues

All meetings take place at the **Biltmore Hotel (11 Dorrance Street)** unless otherwise noted. Thursday night meet-up locations will be posted at the registration table.

- AS220
- 95 Empire Street and 115 Empire Street
- Aurora
- 276 Westminster Street
- Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
- 30 Exchange Terrace (1st floor)
- Norman Bird Sanctuary
- 583 3rd Beach Road (Middletown, RI)
- Peerless Atrium
- 150 Union Street
- RISD Auditorium
- 7 Canal Walk, Providence River Greenway
RHODE ISLAND ARTIST MEDLEY, PART I
With so many phenomenal local artists, we couldn’t pick just one! Our Rhode Island Artist Medley features just a few of the state’s established and emerging creative voices. Presented in partnership with Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.
Emcee: Randall Rosenbaum | Executive Director, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)
Christopher Johnson | Spoken Word Artist with Everett Company + Rachel Rosenkrantz
Mary Beth Meehan | Photographer + Educator
Location: Biltmore Hotel – Grand Ballroom
10:15 am – 4:30 pm
BOARD TRACK
Advanced registration required. A complete agenda will be provided to registrants.
A day of workshops and discussions designed for board members and staff of arts-based organizations addressing strategies for shaping a healthy, passionate board; embracing governance responsibilities; and building fundraising expertise.
Susan S. Meier | Principal, Meier and Associates
Location: Chamber of Commerce
Lunch will be provided on-site
0.2 miles from the Biltmore Hotel
10:15 – 11:45 am
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
(1) Melding Public and Private: Residencies in National Parks + Other Public Spaces
Residencies that operate in public spaces must balance a commitment to the public with a loyalty to individual artists – and navigate an ever-changing dynamic between the two. This session brings together established and emerging public residencies – from the heart of Times Square to the interior of the National Parks – to explore creative practice in the public eye. Panelists will address targeting artists who are a good fit, setting and communicating expectations, understanding the ‘public’ and ‘private’ in the residency experience and in public spaces themselves, and exploring what kinds of art-making are most successful in public residencies.
Daniel van Benthuysen | Artist
Sherry Dobbin | Creative Director + Director of Times Square Arts, Times Square Alliance
Aaron Forrest | Principal, Ultramoderne; Assistant Professor, RISD Architecture
Susan Friel | Cultural Coordinator, City of Chicago – Department of Cultural Affairs + Special Events
Charles Tracy | National Park Service
Location: Salon 2
(2) Nontraditional Partnerships in Action
Join panelists for a discussion on cultivating creative partnerships. From collaborations with biological preserves and parkways, to joint programs with elementary schools, presenting organizations, and housing cooperatives – three case studies look at the surprising benefits of looking beyond the usual suspects when forming partnerships. Presenters offer tips for identifying partners, setting benchmarks, and balancing the needs of artists, partners, and one’s own program over time.
Lisa Hoffman | Associate Director, McColl Center for Art + Innovation
Bruce Rodgers | Executive Director, Hermitage Artist Retreat
David Szlasa | Co-Director + Artist, Range Studio
Location: Ballroom
(3) Let’s Take the Long View: Deep Investments in Creative Practice
What does it mean to invest deeply in artists? How can we challenge ourselves as individual organizations and as a field to move beyond traditional models of support and develop longer, deeper, and more integrated programs for artists to create new work? A conversation on how we make room for artists to stretch out, take creative risks, and encounter surprising results.
Ben Cameron | Program Director for the Arts, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Curt Columbus | Artistic Director, Trinity Repertory Company
Jean McLaughlin | Executive Director, Penland School of Crafts
Jeff Prystowsky | Musician + Founding Member, Columbus Cooperative
Location: Renaissance Salon
11:45 am – 1:00 pm
LUNCH
Location: Ballroom

(4) Alternative Models for Artist Residencies in China
An energetic network of artist-run spaces and artist residencies has formed in China’s rural and urban centers, despite almost no public funding for the arts. Residencies must constantly come up with creative strategies for funding artists, finding space, and collaborating with local communities, universities, tech startups, organic farms, hotels, and even trans-Pacific container ships. Join residency directors, funders, and organizers with a birds-eye view for a tour of the quickly changing landscape and new perspectives on sustainability.
Jay Brown | Founder + Director, Lijiang Studio
Xinxin Guo | Founder, Beijing Studio Center + China Arts Link
Emma Karasz | Director, Red Gate Residency
Kira Simon-Kennedy | Co-Founder + Director, China Residencies (moderator)
Location: Salon 6
7:15 – 2:45 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(1) Creation, Research, Engagement: Social Practice in Residence
How can we best support artists whose work is activated through community engagement? Cultural leaders from a variety of urban settings will discuss the institutional and artistic implications, best practices, and complex challenges encountered when facilitating relationships between artists, interdisciplinary practice, social issues, and local communities.
Linda Earle | Executive Director, New York Art Program (moderator)
Randi Hopkins | Associate Director of Visual Arts, Boston Center for the Arts
Shey Rivera Ríos | Artistic Director, AS220
John D. Spiak | Director + Chief Curator, Grand Central Art Center at California State University, Fullerton

Location: Ballroom

(2) Rad Alt Spaces of New England’s Rocky Coasts
How do alternative arts organizations build spaces that support genre-defying work and foster a culture of experimentation and camaraderie? How do we stay nimble and responsive while growing resources and camaraderie? How do we stay nimble and foster a culture of experimentation and spaces that support genre-defying work and foster a culture of experimentation and camaraderie?
Linda Earle | Executive Director, New York Art Program (moderator)
Randi Hopkins | Associate Director of Visual Arts, Boston Center for the Arts
Shey Rivera Ríos | Artistic Director, AS220
John D. Spiak | Director + Chief Curator, Grand Central Art Center at California State University, Fullerton

Location: Ballroom

(3) Better Together: Collaborating for Creative Access
Integrating artists with disabilities means looking beyond facilities toward broader definitions of accessibility and participation. This session brings stories and lessons learned from the 2015 Creative Access Residencies Program – a new initiative connecting visual artists and writers who have spinal cord injuries with residency opportunities. In 2015 the consortium program provided 12 talented artists month-long residencies at Ragdale Foundation, Santa Fe Art Institute, or Vermont Studio Center. Panelists will discuss the benefits and considerations of hosting artists with a range of disabilities, and share practical resources toward greater equity through this collaborative model.
Kathy Black | Program Director, Vermont Studio Center
Nina Elder | Residency Program Manager, Santa Fe Art Institute
Jeffrey Meeuwsen | Executive Director, The Ragdale Foundation
Ryan Walsh | Development + Writing Program Director, Vermont Studio Center

Location: Salon 6

(4) The 4th Dimension: Beyond Time and Space
What does it mean to be artist-driven? As cultural organizers, we have a critical role in providing direct support to artists. What are the various resources, expertise, and specialties that we can offer artists to support their careers, practices, and communities? Using the Long Table format developed by artist Lois Weaver, this session welcomes attendees to join the discussion by freely rotating in or out of the conversation among the artists and arts organizations at the table. Through this performative, dinner party style dialogue and open-ended non-hierarchical format, discuss what it means to be artist-driven and explore the ways in which we can expand our scope as well as focus our approach to address and anticipate the creative needs of artists.
Liz Maugans | Co-Founder + Executive Director, Zygote Fine Art Press
Jeremy Pataky | Independent Consultant, Overstory Consulting (moderator)
Sanjit Sethi | Former Executive Director, Santa Fe Art Institute

Location: Salon 6

(5) Powering Art: Renewable Energy + Arts Facilities
Taking a “start where you are” approach, this session explores practical techniques for increasing building efficiency and sourcing renewable energy. After investigating cost-effective means of reducing total energy consumption, the conversation will turn to case studies of on-site solar installations. The panel will also discuss the essentials of developing a clear strategy for energy sustainability in order to garner funding support. Come away with innovative ideas for taking steps to make your facilities more sustainable and efficient.
David Macy | Resident Director, The MacDowell Colony
Kiel Moe | Associate Professor of Architecture and Energy, Harvard University
Jack Ruderman | Director, Community Solar Initiatives, ReVision Energy

Location: Ballroom

3:00 – 4:00 pm

MICRO-SESSIONS

(1) Bring It Home: Pivoting Back to Local Contexts
The arts and culture sector has unique power to engage challenging issues and foster a deeper understanding of a place. But how can organizations harness this power—boldly responding to their contexts, empowering artists and cultural producers to take a seat at the table, and addressing pressing issues of a neighborhood, region, and beyond? From Cleveland, to Alaska, to Santa Fe, and back to Providence, arts leaders and funders reflect on a moment when they pivoted to the local by taking deeper looks at their neighborhoods, engaging community dynamics, and tackling social and environmental challenges. Join an open conversation on ways we engage our places, and what it means for our own missions, programming, and future sustainability.
SueEllen Kroll | Director of Grants + Strategic Partnerships, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
Melissa Levin | Director of Cultural Programs, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
Will Penrose | Director, Rema Hort Mann Foundation

Location: Renaissance Salon

(2) Powering Art: Renewable Energy + Arts Facilities
Taking a “start where you are” approach, this session explores practical techniques for increasing building efficiency and sourcing renewable energy. After investigating cost-effective means of reducing total energy consumption, the conversation will turn to case studies of on-site solar installations. The panel will also discuss the essentials of developing a clear strategy for energy sustainability in order to garner funding support. Come away with innovative ideas for taking steps to make your facilities more sustainable and efficient.
David Macy | Resident Director, The MacDowell Colony
Kiel Moe | Associate Professor of Architecture and Energy, Harvard University
Jack Ruderman | Director, Community Solar Initiatives, ReVision Energy

Location: Ballroom

(3) International Mobility + Exchange for Artists
Disrupting an artist’s creative practice often leads to the exploration of new ideas. This creative disruption can be particularly accentuated when artists cross cultural and global boundaries. This session delves into the sometimes tricky logistics of supporting international artists—e.g., visas, taxes, health insurance—and shares exciting new models and funding opportunities for fostering international mobility and cultural exchange.
Mary Sherman | Director, TransCultural Exchange Initiatives, ReVision Energy

Location: Ballroom

(4) We Mean Business, Part I | Cover Your Ass(ets): Untangling Insurance
Liability, coverage, and claims may not have been front and center in your mind when you decided to pursue a career in the arts—and insurance may still seem to be a big pill to swallow, but this session will change your thinking. Dare we say it...insurance can be thrilling? (Especially if you consider hurricanes, earthquakes, and alligators!)
Esther Grisham Grimm | Executive Director, 3Arts (co-moderator)

Location: Renaissance Salon
Advancing Support for Live Arts: Roundtable Discussion

Live arts (dance, theater, and music) have a unique ability to develop collaborations and engage audiences as a group through live performance. Recognizing that ensemble-based performing arts are under-supported in the residency field, Craig Peterson, Alliance Board Member, will briefly share the Alliance’s increased effort to foster a more vibrant network of support for live arts residencies followed by a roundtable moderated by Independent Consultant, Jennifer Calienes. Artists, organizers and funders are invited to share ideas for the collective advancement of culture and place.

Jennifer Calienes | National Arts Consultant
Craig T. Peterson | Director of Programs + Presentation, Gibney Dance

Location: State Suite B

ADVANCE CONFIRMATION

6:00 – 8:00 pm
KEYNOTE :: THEASTER GATES | GAIL SILVER MEMORIAL LECTURE

One of the most celebrated artists of our time, Theaster Gates instigates the creation of cultural communities by acting as a catalyst for social engagement that leads to political and spatial change. The founder of the nonprofit Rebuild Foundation, he is currently a Professor in the Department of Visual Art and Director of Arts and Public Life at the University of Chicago. The Gail Silver Memorial Lecture is presented in partnership with the RISD Museum.

Location: RISD Auditorium

0.3 miles from the Biltmore Hotel

Urban Pond Procession will lead attendees from the Biltmore lobby promptly at 5:30pm to walk to the RISD Auditorium.

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
CELEBRATE PROVIDENCE! PARTY

Together with the City of Providence’s Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, enjoy a fun, not-to-miss night of music, food, and reveling in the arts of Providence. Wind down after a day of sessions and the evening keynote and enjoy a great time in this extraordinary downtown location! Music by Latin American singer/songwriter Czésare Santana.

Location: Peerless Loft Atrium

Open bar (beer/wine) and hors d’oeuvres

0.3 miles from the RISD Auditorium; 0.2 miles from the Biltmore Hotel

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00 am – 10:15 am
MICRO-SESSIONS

10:15 – 10:45 am
MICRO-SESSIONS

(1) Zoning 101
Reimagining historic properties, merging living spaces with industrial production, and blurring the lines between public and private space can mean great things for artists, but can prove a nightmare when dealing with local zoning boards. Hear from leaders about zoning challenges and opportunities, with representatives from both cultural organizations and local planning departments. Gain tips for navigating zoning laws and hearings, advocating for arts-friendly zoning reform, and accessing resources to help you along the way.

Brad Kik | Co-Director, Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural Design (ISLAND)

Robert E. Azar | Deputy Director, City of Providence’s Department of Planning and Development

Location: State Suite B

(2) Pioneering a World Exchange: A Providence-Centric Biennial

Venice, Sao Paulo, Sydney and… Providence! When a team of artists, writers, curators, and directors come together to create The Providence Biennial, they seek to design world-class art experiences expanding the unique context of this small arts-driven city. This session explores how we – as art leaders – can band together to amplify local and regional arts initiatives to launch into a truly international dialogue. Join organizers for tales from the first year of collaborative planning, then help to inaugurate the Biennial’s next phase.

Judith Tolnick Champa | Founding Director, Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art

Vanphouthon Souvannasane | Director, Yellow Peril Gallery

Lori Urso | Executive Director, Slater Mill Residency

Location: Salon 2

(3) Parents in Residence: Models of Inclusion

Parents face unique challenges when trying to pursue artistic careers. The time and space residencies offer can seem unreachable for those artists who are also raising families. Hear about the many ways residencies are opening their doors to parents and making the residency experience possible. This session will share lessons learned from three years of grantmaking specifically designed to encourage residencies to become more family-friendly. We’ll explore both the challenges and successes and describe some models that residencies are using right now to ensure that artists with children are welcome participants.

Tony Grant | Executive Director, Sustainable Arts Foundation

Location: Salon 6

(4) Telling Our Story: The Craft Schools Initiative

The Craft Schools Initiative is a joint project of historic residential craft schools, which have been meeting together for the past three years. With a two-fold charge, the group has developed joint marketing efforts to reach new creative audiences and has conjured increased cooperation and communication among the programs. Panelists will be sharing unique insights from their efforts including how their organizational values have informed their work. Organizations interested in working collaboratively are encouraged to come learn about strategies and progress to-date.

Ennis Carter | Founding Director, Social Impact Studios
Stuart Kestenbaum | Strategist, CraftSchools.us
Kristin Müller | Executive Director, Peters Valley School of Craft

Location: Renaissance Salon

(5) Disruptive Change: Performance Mash-Up

Join choreographers Shura Baryshnikov and Sydney Skybetter for a dynamic exchange on new directions in performance. How will new
technologies reinvent artistic practice and the way we engage live arts? How do we consider disruptive change in the advancement of creative work? Shura and Sydney present the ideas that keep them moving and will inform their upcoming collaboration.

Shura Barryshnikov | Choreographer, Dancer & Educator
Sydney Skybetter | Choreographer, Writer & Technologist

Location: Ballroom

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(1) The Matter of Money: Compensation, Equity + Valuing Artists

This discussion will explore the ethics of artist support: how our practices around charging fees to or paying artists impacts who we serve, how organizations and artists can better navigate the value of non-monetary support, and how organizations can ensure artists are given adequate resources to succeed.

Elizabeth Chodos | Executive + Creative Director, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists’ Residency
Alec De León | Program Specialist, National Performance Network – Visual Artist Network
Carolina García Jayaram | CEO, United States Artists
Laurel Ptak | Director, Triangle Arts Association
Lise Sokolne | Core Organizer, W.A.G.E.

Location: Salon 6

(2) Revealing Process + Place: Structuring Ecological Residencies

While artists have been inspired by the landscape for hundreds of years, the nascent field of ecological art proposes that the artist more fully engages with the environment in ways that can have long-term, performative impacts. As hosts to artists, how do we facilitate meaningful work at the intersections of art and the environment – from structuring a productive and supportive context, identifying resources, and building opportunities for cross-discipline collaboration.

Christina Catanese | Director of Environmental Art, Schuykill Center for Environmental Education
Stacy Levy | Artist
Deenah Loeb | Executive Director, City Parks Association/Art in the Open
Jennifer McGregor | Director of Arts + Senior Curator, Wave Hill
Jan Mun | Media Artist

Location: Salon 2

(3) Artist-run: Balancing Artist + Administrator

Leaders of artist-run organizations must constantly juggle roles – shifting between administrator, organizer, academic, and artist. What are the ethics, aesthetics, and challenges involved in juggling multiple roles and identities? Join these leaders for a frank discussion on how working artists make time and space for their own creative careers and interests while simultaneously supporting the needs of other artists.

Mike Andrews | Academic Director, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists’ Residency; Associate Professor, Department of Fiber and Material Studies, SAIC
Jacques Louis Vidal | Resident Director, The Lighthouse Works, Inc.
Lauren Was | Co-Director, Art Garda; Critic, Wassaic Project

Location: State Suite B

(4) We Mean Business Part II | Strange Bedfellows? Getting from Finance to Fundraising

What do fundraising and finance have in common, other than an “F?” In this session, an experienced funder and a finance expert will share their ideas, observations, and suggestions on how to design and present a cogent budget and use the numbers to support a compelling proposal. This is an opportunity to get your burning questions answered!

Nicholas Constantakis | President, Constantakis Consulting Group
Cathy Edwards | Executive Director, New England Foundation for the Arts
Esther Grisham Grimm | Executive Director, 3Arts (co-moderator)
Sharon Ullman | Chief Operating Officer, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation (co-moderator)

Location: Renaissance Salon

(5) Critical Feedback for Creative Work: Fieldwork

How can artists get helpful feedback on their artistic work? How do we facilitate rigorous feedback that honors the creative process and builds community? Join The Field and AS220 for Fieldwork, The Field’s nationally recognized peer-to-peer critical feedback method. Fieldwork is utilized by The Field in NYC as well as by The Field’s 13 national and international sites. Watch as AS220 artists share short works-in-process and take part in this objective and supportive feedback method.

James Scruggs | Fieldwork Facilitator, The Field
Jennifer Wright Cook | Executive Director, The Field

AS220 artists TBA

Location: AS220 (95 Empire)

12:30 – 2:30 pm

LUNCH KEYNOTE :: SENATOR PELL LECTURE IN ARTS + HUMANITIES

Looking Back, Moving Forward: Advancing Cultural Equity

Honoring the late Senator Claiborne Pell – who was instrumental in the development of the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities – this year’s Pell Lecture celebrates the 30th anniversary of Rhode Island’s Expansion Arts program and challenges us to develop a more equitable arts ecosystem.

WELCOME:
Jorge Elorza | Mayor, City of Providence

PANELISTS:
Jeffreen Hayes, Ph.D. | Principal + Artistic Producer, bridgearts
Clyde Valentin | Director, Ignite Arts Dallas
Patrice Walker Powell | Retired, Cultural Worker + Public Servant (moderator)
Raymond Two Hawks Watson | Executive Member, Eastern Medicine Singers

PERFORMERS:
Sussy Santana | poet and performer
Eastern Medicine Singers

The 2015 Senator Pell Lecture is presented by the City of Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, in partnership with Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the Rhode Island Foundation, and Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. This project is part of the Pell Humanities Initiative in Rhode Island to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Location: Ballroom

3:00 – 5:30 pm

TOURS + WORKSHOPS + ADVENTURES

Space is limited; free to attendees, but registration required.

Artists Doin’ It for Themselves
Southside Cultural Center
Providence Public Library
Cable Car Cinema
AS220

Participants should gather in the Biltmore lobby promptly at 3:00pm for departure.

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Enjoy an evening on your own! Check out
our suggestions for dining and fun events near the hotel. Or meet up with one of these groups!

NETWORK MEET-UPS

Upstate New York Arts
Local 21 Bar + Restaurant – 211 Washington Street; 0.2 miles from Biltmore Hotel

Live Arts Supporters + Creators
The Dorrance – 60 Dorrance Street; 0.1 mile from Biltmore Hotel

Arts + Ecology
Faust – 122 Fountain Street; 0.2 miles from Biltmore Hotel

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
9:00 – 9:45 am
KEYNOTE ADDRESS :: NEA CHAIRMAN JANE CHU

The eleventh chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and an accomplished artist and musician, Chairman Chu will offer attendees a bold new vision for collaborating and connecting in the arts. This special program will be followed by a Q+A with the Chairman.

Location: Ballroom

RHODE ISLAND ARTIST MEDLEY PART II

Emcee: Randall Rosenbaum | Executive Director, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)
Ifa Bayeza | Playwright + Director
Jed Hancock-Brainerd + Rebecca Noon | Co-Directors, Strange Attractor Theatre

Location: Ballroom

10:00 – 11:00 am
MICRO-SESSIONS

(1) Block Party in A Box: Toolkits for the Arts

A model for sharing resources and programs on a broad scale, toolkits allows for widespread collaboration without a top-down, “colonial” approach. The toolkit is a technique for prototyping, evaluating, and then widely sharing a specific program idea. From Springboard for the Arts Creative Exchanges (Artists Health Fair, Block Party in a Box, Pop Up Museum) to ISLAND’s Long Memory Project, this session explores how toolkits are engaging artists and communities in new and exciting ways and extending the impact of artist-centered organizations. Come away with toolkits to try – as well as the information you need to create your own!

Brad Kik | Co-Director, Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural Design/ISLAND
Naomi Schliesman | Artist Development Coordinator, Springboard for the Arts
Carl Atiya Swanson | Director of Movement Building, Springboard for the Arts
Holly Wren Spaulding | Director, Poetry Forge + STORYhouse Partners

Location: Ballroom

(2) Pittsburgh Spotlight: City of Asylum + Office of Public Arts

An artist residency in a community setting sounds great on a grant application, but how can they also be truly great experiences for the artists and the communities involved? Join Pittsburgh’s Office of Public Art (OPA) and City of Asylum to explore two projects that grappled with this question – and encountered surprising results. Learn how OPA developed their Artist in the Public Realm Residency Program (and newly minted guide) and hear about City of Asylum’s newest collaboration between French theater director Pascal Rambert and people living with disabilities. A discussion on building momentum, navigating community, and the power of public works.

Silvia Duarte | Program Manager, City of Asylum
Renee Piechocki | Founding Director, Pittsburgh’s Office of Public Art

Location: Ballroom

(3) Free Agents: Roundtable on Arts and Entrepreneurship

Free agents with a taste for subversion, artists are the classic entrepreneurs – more so now than ever, in the midst of technological change and institutional shifts. This roundtable will delve into this messy overlap to identify maps for organizational sustainability. How do we support artists as entrepreneurs? Can we combine artistic critique and entrepreneurial disruption? Or borrow startup tactics, including early and frequent release, public iteration, benchmarks for success and scaling strategies? Facilitator Roddy Schrock will draw on his experience as director of Eyebam – which is mobilizing its alumni community, diversifying its programming, and dispersing its production sites – to lead this open roundtable discussion.

Roddy Schrock | Director, Eyebam

Location: Salon 6

(4) Making Space to Nurture Writers of Color

SonEdna and the new Rhode Island Writer’s Colony share a mission of supporting artists of color, but their approaches reflect distinct contexts. Reflecting on both the overlaps and divergence in their work in places as different as a rural town in the Mississippi Delta and the mill city of Warren, Rhode Island, Karen Allen Baxter and John Stephenson will address the start up, challenges, and rewards, of their programs to benefit writers of color. Author Naomi Jackson will offer her perspective as a leader of workshops for writers of color, a beneficiary of residency programs, and former funder. Participants can expect to gain a holistic perspective on the need for both specific programs focused on writers of color and integrating support for writers of color into traditional residency programs.

Karen Allen Baxter | Managing Director, Department of Africana Studies – Rites and Reason Theatre, Brown University; and Founding Chair, SonEdna
Naomi Jackson | Writer

Location: Salon 6

11:15 am – 12:15 pm
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(1) Funding Spotlight: Creative Placemaking and Community Transformation

Join us for a dynamic conversation among funders representing national, regional, and local support for the transformation of communities around arts and culture. Creative placemaking involves artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners deliberately integrating arts and culture into community revitalization work. This holistic approach puts arts at the table with land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, environmental, public safety, and other planning sectors. Hear from grantmakers about how the rise of creative placemaking has impacted funding decision-making, how this hybrid work brings new notions of impact, and what factors contribute to successful creative placemaking efforts across cities, towns, and rural communities.

Maria Rosario Jackson | Senior Advisor/Arts & Culture Program, The Krege Foundation
Jason Schupbach | Director of Design Programs, Visual Arts Division Team Leader, National Endowment for the Arts
Jayson Smart | Program Officer, Rasmuson Foundation
Caitlin Strokosch | Executive Director, Alliance of Artists Communities (moderator)

Location: Ballroom

(2) Residency/Presenter/Artist: Supporting Performance through Collaboration

Residency sites and presenters can more robustly support performance artists’ work – from conception to performance – through earlier and more intentional engagement. Starting with examples from recent collaborative efforts, American Dance Institute, MANCC (Maggie Allessee National Center for Choreography), Brooklyn Academy of Music, and artist David Neumann open a discussion about different models for partnering and working in tandem while...
maintaining institutional, curatorial, and artistic sovereignty. Designed to appeal to artists looking for more continuous support for new work, residency sites concerned with the support available to artists, and presenters interested in fully incubated and well-resourced new work, the session will solicit audience participation in discovering new and more complete support structures.

Amy Cassello | Associate Producer – Next Wave Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)
David Neumann | Artistic Director, Advanced Beginner Group
Carla Peterson | Director, Maggie Alleesee National Center for Choreography
Adrienne Willis | Executive Director, American Dance Institute (moderator)

Location: Salon 2

(3) Open Doors: Engaging Underserved Artists

Join this critical conversation on equity in the arts. How do artist-centered organizations take an honest look at who they are and – just as importantly – who they are not reaching? How do we more effectively take action toward inclusivity? Participants will share reflections from two years of work with Yaddo aiming to address these gaps, and will share strategies for identifying and addressing barriers to participation and ways of fostering access across a range of program models. An open discussion between panelists and the audience follows.

Mario Garcia Durham | President + CEO, Association of Performing Arts Presenters (moderator)
Kemi Ilesanmi | Executive Director, Laundromat Project
Elaina Richardson | President, Yaddo

Location: Salon 6

(4) We Mean Business, Part III | Somewhere Over the Numbers: Evaluating Mission Impact

How can we assess success as importantly – who they are not reaching? This session will present case studies that will help you develop ways to express the value of your mission.

Mary-Kim Arnold | Director of Evaluation + Learning, Rhode Island Foundation
Esther Grisham Grimm | Executive Director, 3Arts (co-moderator)
Sharon Ullman | Chief Operating Officer, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation (co-moderator)
Risë Wilson | Director of Philanthropy, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

Location: Renaissance Salon

12:45 – 2:00 pm
LUNCH + CLOSING REMARKS
Location: Ballroom

2:15 – 4:30 pm
TOURS + WORKSHOPS + ADVENTURES

Space is limited; free to attendees, but registration required. Gather in the Biltmore lobby promptly at 2:15pm for departure.

Architectural Walking Tour
The Steel Yard
Trinity Repertory Company
Roger Williams National Memorial

5:30 – 7:30 pm
CLOSING NIGHT AWARDS PARTY

Kick off our 25th anniversary celebration at this new mixed-use creative venue in the heart of downtown Providence! Don’t miss the pop-up performance of Connect — a project by Arvid Tomayko and Hannah Thompson.

Location: Aurora

Cash bar and hors d’oeuvres
0.2 miles from the Biltmore Hotel

speakers + presenters

Mike Andrews | Academic Director, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists’ Residency; Associate Professor, Department of Fiber and Material Studies, SAIC (Saugatuck, MI)
Mary-Kim Arnold | Director of Evaluation + Learning, Rhode Island Foundation (Providence, RI)
Robert E. Azar | Deputy Director, City of Providence’s Department of Planning and Development (Providence, RI)
Tony Balko + A.E. Paterra | Artists (Kingston, RI + Pittsburgh, PA)
Shura Baryshnikov | Choreographer, Dancer + Educator (Providence, RI)
Karen Allen Baxter | Managing Director, Department of Africana Studies - Rites and Reason Theatre, Brown University (Providence, RI)
Ifa Bayeza | Playwright + Director (Providence, RI)
Daniel van Benthuysen | Artist (Huntington, NY)
Kathy Black | Program Director, Vermont Studio Center (Johnson, VT)
Jay Brown | Founder + Director, Lijiang Studio (Providence, RI)
Jennifer Calienes | National Arts Consultant (Marblehead, MA)
Ben Cameron | Program Director for the Arts, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (New York, NY)
Ennis Carter | Founding Director, Social Impact Studios (Philadelphia, PA)
Amy Cassello | Associate Producer - Next Wave Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) (Brooklyn, NY)
Christina Catanesi | Director of Environmental Art, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (Philadelphia, PA)
Elizabeth Chodos | Executive + Creative Director, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists’ Residency (Saugatuck, MI)
Jane Chu | Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts (Washington, DC)
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Linda Earle | Executive Director, New York Arts Program (New York, NY)
Eastern Medicine Singers | Algonquin drum group (Providence, RI)
Cathy Edwards | Executive Director, New England Foundation for the Arts (Boston, MA)
Nina Elder | Residency Program Manager, Santa Fe Art Institute (Santa Fe, NM)
Jorge O. Elorza | Mayor, City of Providence (Providence, RI)
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Aaron Forrest | Principal, Ultradumonde; Assistant Professor, RISD Architecture (Providence, RI)
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Carolina García Jayaram | CEO, United States Artists (Chicago, IL)
Theaster Gates | Artist + Founder, Rebuild Foundation (Chicago, IL)
Tony Grant | Executive Director, Sustainable Arts Foundation (San Francisco, CA)
Esther Grisham Grimm | Executive Director, 3Arts (Chicago, IL)
Xinxin Guo | Founder, Beijing Studio Center + China Arts Link (Poughkeepsie, NY)
Gia Hamilton | Director, Joan Mitchell Center (New Orleans, LA)
Jed Hancock-Brainerd + Rebecca Noon | Co-Directors, Strange Attractor Theatre (Newport, RI)
Jeffreen Hayes, Ph.D. | Principal + Artistic Producer, bridge/arts (Chicago, IL)
Lisa Hoffman | Associate Director, McColl Center for Art + Innovation (Charlotte, NC)
Randi Hopkins | Associate Director of Visual Arts, Boston Center for the Arts (Boston, MA)
Kemi Ilesanmi | Executive Director, Laundromat Project (New York, NY)
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School of Crafts (Penland, NC)

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Hedgebrook (Langley, WA)

M. Louise McKay | Director of External Relations, Wavebrook (Langley, WA)

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Jan Mun | Media Artist (New York, NY)

Nick Murphy | Director, Thread Residency (Tambacounda, Senegal)

David Neumann | Artist Director, Advanced Beginner Group (Thornwood, NY)

Rebecca Noon | Actor + Director (Newport, RI)

Jeremy Pataky | Independent Consultant, Oверstory Consulting (Anchorage, AK)

Will Penrose | Director, Rema Hort Mann Foundation (New York, NY)

Carla Peterson | Director, Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (Tallahassee, FL)

Craig T. Peterson | Director of Programs + Presentation, Gibney Dance (New York, NY)

Renee Piechocki | Founding Director, Pittsburgh’s Office of Public Art (Pittsburgh, PA)

Steven Pincus | National Practice Leader, Fine Arts and Private Client Groups, DeWitt Stern (Mamaroneck, NY)

Jeff Prystowsky | Musician + Founding Member, Columbus Cooperative (Providence, RI)

Laurel Ptak | Executive + Creative Director, Triangle Arts Association (New York, NY)

Elaina Richardson | President, Yaddo (Saratoga Springs, NY)

Shey Rivera Rios | Artist, AS220 (Providence, RI)

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

Sokeo Ros | Artistic Director/Choreographer, Case Closed! / Everett: Company, Stage and School (Providence, RI)

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Susy Santanta | Poet (Providence, RI)

Kate Schapira | Poet + Professor, Brown University (Providence, RI)

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James Scruggs | Fieldwork Facilitator, The Field (New York, NY)

Sanjit Sethi | Former Executive Director, Santa Fe Art Institute (Santa Fe, NM)

Mary Sherman | Director, TransCultural Exchange (Boston, MA)

Tony Simon-Kennedy | Co-Founder + Director, China Residencies (New York, NY)

Sydney Skybetter | Choreographer, Writer + Technologist (Providence, RI)

Jayson Smart | Program Officer, Rasmuson Foundation (Anchorage, AK)

Rosanne Somerson | President, Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI)

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

John Stephenson | Managing Director + Co-Founder, The Rhode Island Writers Colony (Warren, RI)

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

Carl Atiya Swanson | Director of Movement Building, Springboard for the Arts (St. Paul, MN)

David Szlasa | Co-Director + Artist, Range Studio (Pal Alto, CA)

Judith Tolnick Champa | Founding Director, Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art (Providence, RI)

Arvid Tomayko + Hannah Thompson | Artists (Providence, RI)

Charles Tracy | National Park Service (Boston, MA)

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Clyde Valentini | Director, Ignite Arts Dallas (Dallas, TX)

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Raymond Two Hawks Watson | Executive Member, Eastern Medicine Singers (Providence, RI)

David R. White | Artistic Director + Producer, The Yard (Chilmark, MA)

Adrienne Willis | Executive Director, American Dance Institute (Rockville, MD)

Rise Wilson | Director of Philanthropy, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation (New York, NY)

Cliff Wood + Sidy Maiga | Musicians (Providence, RI)

Holly Wren Spaulding | Director, Poetry Forge + STORyhouse Partners (Williamsburg, MA)

Jennifer Wright Cook | Executive Director, The Field (New York, NY)

Pippi Zornoza | Co-Founder, Dirt Palace (Providence, RI)

“WHAT CHEER NETOP?”
Essentially “What’s up, friend?” this is how the Narragansets greeted Roger Williams upon his arrival in Providence in 1635. Williams’ wish was for Rhode Island to be "a shelter for persons distressed for conscience," a value still held strongly here nearly 400 years later.
alliance honor roll

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS
Thank you to the following individuals who have contributed to the Alliance in 2014-2015:

Arielle Angel
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RISD Museum
Roger Williams National Memorial
Southside Cultural Center
The Steel Yard
Trinity Repertory Company
VSA Rhode Island

FOUNDING MEMBERS
Once upon a time, 18 members founded the Alliance with seed money from The MacArthur Foundation in 1991. Today we have more than 400 members, in 50 U.S. states and 17 countries! As we embark on our 25th anniversary, we are so grateful to the original gang of 18 who banded together in order to build a strong collective voice for the artist residency sector:

Alternative Worksite (now the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts)
Atlantic Center for the Arts
Capp Street Project
Centrum
Djerassi Resident Artists Program
Fine Arts Work Center
Headlands Center for the Arts
Institute of Contemporary Art (now PS1)
Jacob’s Pillow
The MacDowell Colony
Mattress Factory
The Millay Colony
Palenville Interarts Colony
Ragdale Foundation
Sculpture Space
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
Yaddo
Yellow Springs Institute

19

20
Hey, we’re turning 25!!

What better way to kick off our year-long celebration than welcoming more than 300 of our favorite people to our hometown of Providence? Thank you for joining us!

Providence has been a haven for misfits, rabble-rousers, nonconformists, and innovators for nearly 400 years, and we at the Alliance are (as we say in Providence) wicked excited to share this place with you.

The next few days will include lots of thank-you’s, showcases of ideas and art-making, and an abundance of evidence about why Providence is one of the most dynamic cities in the U.S., so I won’t highlight all of that here. Instead, I’d like to say a bit about turning 25...

The Alliance started as a scrappy gang of 18 organizations who, with seed money from The MacArthur Foundation, gathered for the first time in 1991 at Atlantic Center for the Arts to discuss the state of support for individual artists to create new work. Out of a time of cultural, political, and philanthropic crisis, these 18 understood the power of a collective voice to forge a better path. Glasses were raised, manifestos were written, and plans were hatched! But I don’t think any of those first attendees could have forseen what the Alliance has become today -- an international association with more than 400 members in all 50 U.S. states and more than 17 countries, a strong partner to foundations and policy-makers, a vital advocate for the residency sector and individual artists, and a re-grantor that has distributed more than $2 million to artists and residency programs in the last decade.

In the coming months we’ll share with you our plans for the future, reflecting our ongoing commitment to social responsibility and inclusivity, and how this commitment will be reflected in four of our specific areas of impact: Arts + Ecology, Accessibility, Leadership Development, and Performing Arts.

In the meantime, I can’t say enough about our most extraordinary staff – our 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 Chair extraordinaire Jason Kalajainen – the most supportive, wise, delightful, and inspiring partners I could ask for.

Most of all, thanks to you for joining us! We are so proud to welcome you to Providence!

Caitlin Strokosch
Executive Director

from the director

HOPE
As the official motto of the U.S.’s smallest state, it is – fittingly – a grand idea in a small word.