



## Speaker and Facilitator Biographies

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### Friday Morning Briefings, October 5



**Isaac Brown, Legislative Counsel  
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Isaac Brown works with the NASAA board and membership to advance state arts agencies' federal policy interests on Capitol Hill. He monitors federal legislation affecting state arts agencies, facilitates NASAA's work with Congress and engages NASAA members in federal advocacy efforts. At Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP, Brown focuses on public policy and government relations. Before joining the firm, he worked in the U.S. House of Representatives both in a personal office and as committee staff. His areas of expertise include appropriations, environment and energy issues. On Capitol Hill, Brown served as legislative director and floor assistant to Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL). In this role, he advised the congresswoman on a range of issues including appropriations, education, energy, environment and transportation. As her leadership aide, Brown was instrumental in authorizing several significant pieces of legislation in the 111th Congress, including passage in the House of Representatives of the American Clean Energy and Security Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.



**Harold A. Burnham, Master Shipwright  
NEA 2012 Heritage Fellow**

A master craftsman and dedicated student of design, Harold Burnham is the 28th member of his extended family to run an Essex shipyard—a tradition that dates back to 1819 and includes 11 generations of his family. In today's age of fiberglass boat construction, Burnham is widely considered to be the expert on working with wood. His designs are praised for blending traditional wood craftsmanship with today's safety and design standards. He

graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and worked as an officer on large commercial ships, and he uses this knowledge in his shipbuilding practices. With deep roots in his community, Burnham is passionate about sharing his extensive knowledge with those with whom he works. In 2001, he received a Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) grant in the traditional arts, and in 2003 received an MCC Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant.

**Susan Clampitt, Commissioner  
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities**

As a senior executive search consultant at Campbell and Company, Susan Clampitt has extensive experience successfully recruiting top leaders for foundations, nonprofits and government. Clampitt has served in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel as director of arts and humanities appointments and women's appointments, and continues to place board members, CEOs and senior vice presidents in nongovernmental organizations. She has served as executive director and general manager of WAMU-FM in Washington D.C., deputy chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, associate administrator at the U.S. General Services Administration, founder and chair of a graduate program at Bank Street College of Education, and associate director of media and communications at the Museum of Modern Art. Clampitt is on the advisory board of the Creative Communities Initiative steering committee of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region and the Arden Institute. In 2003, she was a recipient of the Fast 50 award for entrepreneurship from *FastCompany* magazine, was a winner of the 2003 Mayor's Arts Award and was selected as Aspen Institute fellow. She received her bachelor's degree from Douglass College at Rutgers and her master's degree from Bank Street College of Education.



**Mario Garcia Durham, Executive Director  
Association of Performing Arts Presenters**

In October 2011, Mario Garcia Durham became the fifth executive director of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) since its founding in 1957. He comes to APAP from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), where he was director of artist communities and presenting. At the NEA, Durham led and participated in such programs as An Evening of Poetry, hosted by the president and Mrs. Obama, and the NEA Opera Honors, and inaugurated the new Artist Communities granting program. After holding numerous management positions and serving as artistic director at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in 1990s, he founded Yerba Buena Arts & Events in 2000, the producing organization of the annual Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. The outdoor event offers more than 100 free performances by the San Francisco Opera, the San Francisco Ballet and more for an audience of 100,000 attendees. Durham has served on the APAP board of directors and on the Executive Committee. A graduate of the University of Houston, Durham is passionate about the performing arts, especially jazz music, Broadway shows, opera and evolving forms of performance and media arts.



**Elliott Ferguson II, President and CEO  
Destination DC**

Elliott Ferguson II serves as president and CEO of Destination DC, the official convention and tourism corporation for the nation's capital. A 20-year veteran of the travel and hospitality industry, Ferguson leads Destination DC's efforts to generate economic opportunity for the District through meetings and tourism, overseeing the organization's convention and tourism sales, marketing, finance and business development operations.



**Tim Halbur, Director of Communications  
ArtPlace**

Tim Halbur is director of communications for ArtPlace, a collaboration of 10 leading national and regional foundations, eight federal agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts, and six of the nation's largest banks, to accelerate creative place making across the United States. Previously, Halbur served as managing editor for [Planetizen.com](http://Planetizen.com), the leading news and information website for the urban planning, design and development community.



**Linda Donovan Harper, Executive Director  
Cultural Tourism DC**

Linda Donovan Harper came to Cultural Tourism DC as executive director in July 2007, bringing more than 20 years' experience in community and economic development, as well as demonstrated performance in nonprofit management and fund raising. As principal at LHarper & Associates, she worked with more than 200 communities, state agencies, corporations and nonprofits in 30 states and three countries, developing a national reputation as a visionary strategic planner, creative thinker and meeting developer. Between 2000 and 2007, Harper served as chair of the board to The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery. In addition, she worked as director for the professional exchange and community sustainability program at the Countryside Institute in New York. At the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Harper was a member of the management committee at the National Main Street Center, a widely recognized program in Washington, D.C. Harper holds a BS in Humanities from Missouri Valley College (Marshall, Missouri) and has pursued graduate level work in art history at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and the University of Missouri, Columbia.



**Albert Head, Executive Director, Alabama State Council on  
the Arts  
NEA 2012 Heritage Fellow**

For more than 40 years as a director of three different cultural agencies and as a national arts leader, Al Head has advocated for the importance of the traditional arts and the necessity of providing state support for this field. The only state arts director to start folk arts programs in three states—Florida, Louisiana and Alabama—

Head has strived to show how important the folk and traditional arts are to defining and giving life to a community. A native of Troy, Alabama, he earned his undergraduate degree from Troy State University in art history and aesthetics. He received his M.A., with a concentration on Southern literature, from Auburn University at Montgomery. In 1974 he received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship to attend Harvard's Arts Administration Institute. An integral part of the state arts field since his position in 1972 with the Fine Arts Council of Florida, Head served as executive director at the Stephen Foster Folklife Center (1975-1977) and the Louisiana Division of the Arts (1977-1985) before becoming executive director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, a position he has held since 1985. Head served two terms on the NASAA board, and in 1998 NASAA presented him with the Gary Young Award for his leadership and achievements in promoting the arts nationally. Head has served as a member of the South Arts board for 35 years, presiding as its chair from 1983-1985.



**Polly Kahn, Vice President, Learning and Leadership Development  
League of American Orchestras**

Polly Kahn has played a local and national leadership role in the arts community for more than three decades. She joined the League of American Orchestras—the service organization for American orchestras—in March 2000. As vice president for learning and leadership development, she oversees the League's artistic, learning and leadership development programs and services, including the Orchestra Leadership Academy, Orchestra Management Fellowship Program, National Conference, Music Alive and constituent services, as well as programs for emerging orchestra executives, on-line learning, mentoring and self-assessment tools for orchestras. Prior to joining the League, Kahn served as the director of education for the New York Philharmonic, where she revised and significantly expanded the New York Philharmonic's education programs. Previously, she served as director of education for the Tisch Center for the Arts at the 92nd Street Y and as assistant director of the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education. Kahn has served as a consultant to cultural and philanthropic organizations nationally, on the boards of the Ethical Culture-Fieldston Schools, the Center for Arts Education, the Center for Educational Partnerships in Music and the New York City Arts-In-Education Roundtable, of which she was a founding member. Currently, she serves on the board of advisors for the Sphinx Organization. Kahn was honored as the recipient of the InterSchools Orchestras Award for Outstanding Contributions to Arts Education in New York City.



**Elizabeth Merritt, Founding Director, Center for the Future of Museums  
American Alliance of Museums**

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) established the Center for the Future of Museums (CFM) in 2008 to help museums understand the cultural, political, economic, environmental and technological trends shaping the world and envision how museums can help their communities thrive in coming decades.

Before being appointed CFM's first director, Merritt led the Excellence Programs at AAM—Accreditation, Museum Assessment and Peer Review—as well as the association's research activities. Prior to joining AAM, she spent 15 years working in museums in administration, curation and collections management. Her areas of expertise include futures studies, museum standards and best practices, ethics, collections management and planning, and assessment of nonprofit performance. Her books include *National Standards and Best Practices for U.S. Museums* and the *AAM Guide to Collections Planning*. She blogs for CFM at [futureofmuseums.blogspot.com](http://futureofmuseums.blogspot.com) and tweets as [@futureofmuseums](https://twitter.com/futureofmuseums).



**Molly Neptune Parker, Passamaquoddy Basketmaker  
NEA 2012 Heritage Fellow**

The matriarch of four generations of Passamaquoddy basket weavers, Molly Neptune Parker began weaving baskets at a young age, using the scraps of ash wood that fell to the floor as her mother worked. Today, she leads efforts to share this tradition with young people, encouraging the continuance of this art form for generations to come. Born in Indian Township, Maine, in 1939, Parker is part of a family of basketmakers that includes her mother, grandmother and aunts. She continues to make baskets with ash flowers fashioned on the top, a design her mother and grandmother used. Parker is known for her fancy baskets, featuring intricate weaving techniques, such as her signature creation, the acorn-shaped basket. Basketmaking supports her livelihood, and has allowed her to buy a home and help pay for the education of her grandchildren, who are also carrying on this craft. A true tradition bearer, Parker continues her own efforts to preserve the basketmaking tradition among her community in the Passamaquoddy Tribe, including mentoring her grandson, George Neptune. She has served as president of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and a master teacher in the Maine Arts Commission's traditional arts apprenticeship program, and has demonstrated her craft at the 2006 Smithsonian Folklife Festival as well as local festivals and schools. She is a recipient of the Maine Arts Commission Fellowship Award for Traditional Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts Native Arts Award and First People's Fund's Community Spirit Award.



**Tarrence Paschall Sr., Tidewater Gospel Quartet  
NEA 2012 Heritage Fellow**

With grace and smooth harmonies, the Paschall Brothers proudly carry on the Tidewater gospel quartet tradition. Founded in 1981 by the late Reverend Frank Paschall Sr., an accomplished gospel singer and devoted father of 11 children, the group performs a classic gospel repertoire along with original compositions. Reverend Frank Paschall Sr. trained five of his seven sons to accompany him in the earliest configuration of the group, which now includes several grandchildren. When Frank Sr. passed away in 1999, his son Tarrence assumed leadership of the group, but the lead vocal role is often passed around among members for different songs. In a testament to their timeless artistry and influence, the group has gained an increased national following after a breakout performance at the Lowell Folk Festival in 2003. The Paschall Brothers have since

taken the stage at the Kennedy Center and Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The group released the album *On the Right Road Now* in 2007 under the Smithsonian Folkways record label, coproduced by the Virginia Folklife Program. Featuring both original music composed by Frank Paschall Sr. and innovative arrangements of music from groups like the Golden Gate Quartet and Dixie Hummingbirds, the album received the Best Gospel Album award at the 2008 Independent Music Awards and the 2009 Independent Music Award Gospel Album of the Year.



**Jennifer Cover Payne, President  
Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington**

Jennifer Cover Payne is the president of the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, which is a leader in supporting, developing and promoting the National Capital region as the arts and culture capital of our nation. The Cultural Alliance recently developed the first regional collaborative marketing project, CultureCapital.com, a virtual arts marketplace connecting arts consumers to the D.C. metropolitan region's thriving arts and culture community. Payne received both her bachelor's and master's of science degrees in speech from Emerson College in Boston. She was an associate professor of theatre and the first African American tenured in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Vermont in Burlington. A 1998 graduate of Leadership Greater Washington and Leadership America, Payne serves on several boards of directors in the Washington metropolitan region, including Filmfest DC, National Cherry Blossom Festival, and the advisory boards of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Kennedy Center, WETA radio and WHUT (Howard University Television).



**Gladstone Payton, Director of Federal Affairs  
Americans for the Arts**

In his capacity as director for federal affairs at Americans for the Arts, Gladstone Payton is responsible for advancing the organization's legislative agenda and promoting public policies that aid the arts in Congress. His lobbying efforts will primarily be focused on the House of Representatives, but he also is involved in supporting the general counsel and director of federal affairs in promoting arts education, assisting in the planning and execution of Arts Advocacy Day and ArtsVote, and researching new funding opportunities for the arts. Payton has 13 years of experience in Congress, electoral politics, and nonprofit advocacy, having worked for former House Democratic Whip David Bonior, managed successful state house race campaigns, clerked for the federal bench and recently held a senior staff position with Alliance for Justice as its director of outreach. He graduated with a degree in political science and history from the University of Michigan, and holds a J.D. from the Howard University School of Law.



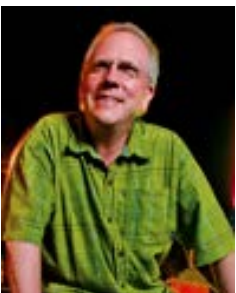
**Randall Rosenbaum, Executive Director  
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**

Randall Rosenbaum has been the executive director of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts since 1995. From 1984 to 1994, Rosenbaum served in a variety of capacities at the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, including deputy director and director of the Dance and Presenting Organizations programs. He has a bachelor of music education degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, and has managed orchestras and nonprofit arts organizations in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Ohio. Rosenbaum has served as a site visitor and panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts in the dance, theatre, musical theatre/opera, and state and regional programs, and as a panelist for the state arts agencies of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Connecticut and Massachusetts, as well as for the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Heinz Endowment of Pittsburgh, and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture in Cleveland, Ohio. Rosenbaum has taught arts administration courses, classes and seminars at Brown University and Rhode Island College. He serves on the board of the New England Foundation for the Arts.



**Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Director of Government  
Relations  
American Alliance of Museums**

Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied has been the director of government relations for the American Association of Museums (AAM) since 2008. In this role, she works to advance AAM's priority issues—primarily federal funding, education policy and charitable giving—on Capitol Hill and with federal agencies on behalf of a wide range of museums, including aquariums, arboretums, archaeological museums, art museums, botanical gardens, children's museums, culturally specific museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, nature centers, planetariums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, zoological parks, and other specialty museums. Silberglied is credited with establishing and managing AAM's very first Museums Advocacy Day in 2009, which brought 300 museum advocates to Washington, D.C., for a day of intensive advocacy training followed by a day of visits to Capitol Hill. She is a 1991 graduate of New York University, where she majored in politics and journalism.



**Nick Spitzer, Host and Producer  
*American Routes***

Nick Spitzer, the producer and host of *American Routes*, is a folklorist and a professor of anthropology and American studies at Tulane University. He specializes in American music and the cultures of the Gulf South, receiving a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Texas in 1986 with his dissertation on zydeco music and Afro-French Louisiana culture and identities. Spitzer was founding director of the Louisiana Folklife Program, and edited and cowrote *Louisiana Folklife: A Guide to the State* (1985) and *The Mississippi Delta Ethnographic Overview* (1979) for the National Park Service. He created the

Folklife Pavilion for the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition, where he curated *The Creole State: An Exhibition of Louisiana Folklife*. He has served as senior folklife specialist at the Smithsonian Institution (1985-1990) and as artistic director for the *Folk Masters* concert/broadcasts from Carnegie Hall and Wolf Trap (1990-97) and the Independence Day concerts broadcast live on NPR from the National Mall (1992-2001). As Louisiana State Folklorist (1978-1985), Spitzer created films, festivals, exhibits and recordings of regional music and coproduced a 90-minute Folk Festival USA special on Louisiana music for NPR, helping to bring Cajun music and zydeco to national visibility. A former resident scholar at the School of American Research in Santa Fe, and a Fellow of the American Folklore Society, he received the American Folklore Society Benjamin Botkin Lifetime Award in Public Folklore, an ASCAP-Deems Taylor Excellence in Broadcasting Award in 2004 and the New Orleans Mayor's Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award, and in 2006 was named Louisiana Humanist of the Year for cultural recovery efforts after the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe.



**Ryan Stubbs, Research Director  
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Ryan Stubbs oversees NASAA's data collection and research services and serves as the point person for information requests from members and the public. He most recently served as director of research for the Western States Arts Federation, where he managed the Creative Vitality Index, implemented in nine states and 16 localities across the country, and coordinated the State Arts Education Assessment, a survey of arts education prevalence in K-12 schools in four states. Stubbs previously worked for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, planning capital construction for state colleges, and administered the Colorado Enterprise Zone Program for Adams County. He holds a B.A. in economics and master's degrees in public administration and urban and regional planning.



**Mary Jo Waits, Economic, Human Services & Workforce  
Division Director  
National Governors' Association**

Mary Jo Waits is the director of the Economic, Human Services and Workforce Division at the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices. Governors rely on the NGA Center to provide tailored technical assistance for challenges facing their states, identify and share best practices from across the country, and serve as an information clearinghouse for an array of gubernatorial initiatives. Prior to joining NGA, Waits was project director with the Pew Center on the States. She has held numerous positions in her native Arizona, including principal at the public policy consulting firm Mary Jo Waits and Associates LLC, associate director of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University and assistant director of the Governor of Arizona's Office of Policy Development and Planning. Waits was senior economic policy advisor to the governor and lieutenant governor of Alaska and was a member of *Economic Development Quarterly's* editorial board.



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## Friday Afternoon Sessions, October 5



### **Jaime Bennett, Chief of Staff and Director of Public Affairs National Endowment for the Arts**

Jamie Bennett is chief of staff and director of public affairs at the National Endowment for the Arts. Previously, he was chief of staff at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, at the Agnes Gund Foundation, and to the president of Columbia University. He worked in fund raising at The Museum of Modern Art, the New York Philharmonic, and Columbia College. Before entering the public sector, Jamie served on the boards of the HERE Arts Center, Art 21 and No-Pants Theatre Company, and was a founding cochair of Studio in a School's Associates Committee and Merce Cunningham Dance Company's Foot-in-the-Door Committee.



### **Robert Booker, Executive Director Arizona Commission on the Arts**

Bob Booker joined the Arizona Commission on the Arts in January 2006. In 2006 he was awarded NASAA's prestigious Gary Young award for national service to the field. He was appointed as the cochair of the Arts and Culture Committee of the Arizona Mexico Commission by Governor Napolitano in 2006, and serves on the Arizona Centennial Commission and Foundation. He has served as president of the board of NASAA and as a member of the Minnesota Governor's Quarter Dollar Commission, and is the former chair of the Minnesota Governor's Residence Committee. Booker has served on the boards of Arts Midwest, Minnesota Museum Educators Association, Arts Over AIDS and the Minnesota AIDS Project. He is an art collector and painter.



### **Lindsay Dahl, Deputy Director Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families**

Lindsay Dahl is the deputy director for Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, a national coalition of 450 organizations and businesses dedicated to protecting American families from toxic chemicals. Dahl directs the campaign's field organizing, builds coalition partners, and advises on strategic communications and on-line organizing. Before joining the campaign, Dahl directed policy and media strategy for the Healthy Legacy Coalition of Minnesota. In that capacity, she led the campaign for Minnesota to become the first state to ban the chemical BPA, along with several other public health policy wins.



### **Patrick Fanning, Arts Learning and Special Projects Coordinator Arizona Commission on the Arts**

Patrick Fanning currently serves as the special projects and arts learning coordinator at the Arizona Commission on the Arts, where

he manages the Arizona Poetry Out Loud program and serves as liaison to the Arizona Cultural Data Project Task Force. He is active as a commissioner for the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission and serves on the boards of The New School for the Arts in Tempe and Emerging Arts Leaders Phoenix. A classically trained pianist, Fanning studied collaborative piano and vocal coaching at Arizona State University and the University of Michigan.



**Eric Giles, Learning Services Manager  
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Eric Giles joined NASAA in 2008. As learning services manager, he helps to manage a diverse portfolio of learning services for NASAA members. His responsibilities include coordinating NASAA's virtual learning programs, such as web seminars, as well as assisting with the design and delivery of conference sessions and other in-person learning opportunities for state arts agencies. In addition to his work at NASAA, Giles teaches basic drawing and composition as an adjunct faculty member at the College of Southern Maryland.



**Lora Gordon, Associate  
Cultural Data Project**

As the Cultural Data Project (CDP) associate for California and Arizona, Lora Gordon oversees the coordination and delivery of informational and training sessions, assists in the development and delivery of communications materials, and works closely with participating funders to develop the customized reports that complement their grant application processes. Prior to joining the CDP, Gordon served as manager of development and internal affairs at the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia and as general manager for Ensemble Theatre Company in Santa Barbara, California, and worked in many facets of theatre administration with Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre and Two River Theatre Company in Red Bank, New Jersey. Gordon received her bachelor of arts degree in theatre from Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey.



**Julie Heizer, Acting Director, International Trade  
Administration  
United States Department of Commerce**

Julie Heizer rejoined the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) in 2003 as deputy director, Industry Relations, for the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. She is responsible for industry outreach, partnerships, and strategic alliances. In her first association with the DOC (1992-1996), she worked for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration as the manager of private-sector marketing. Heizer was named acting director of the office in 2012. From 1997–2003, she was director, and then vice president, of tourism for the Washington DC Convention and Tourism Corporation (WCTC). In this capacity, she was responsible for domestic and international tourism development and sales programs, as well as for the organization's consumer inquiry and fulfillment programs. Prior to her work for WCTC, Heizer served as assistant director of development for the Maryland Office of

Tourism Development. She spent four years as the manager of private-sector marketing for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration, a former agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. She also served as executive director of the Virginia Peninsula Tourism and Conference Bureau and the Montgomery County, Maryland, Convention and Visitors Bureau, both multifaceted destination marketing organizations.



**Paula Kerger, President and CEO  
PBS**

Paula Kerger is president and chief executive officer of PBS, the nation's largest noncommercial media organization with more than 350 member stations throughout the country. Kerger joined PBS as its sixth president and chief executive in 2006. Since her arrival, she has made particularly strong commitments to the arts, news and public affairs; high-quality content for education; diversity; and the use of new technology to bring public media into the lives of all Americans. Among her accomplishments are Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan's fall 2009 12-hour documentary, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea"; the debut of such acclaimed children's programs as "The Cat in the Hat Knows A Lot About That," "Dinosaur Train," "Curious George" (the number-one show for children ages 2-5 since 2006), "Word World," "Super Why!" "Martha Speaks" and "Sid the Science Kid"; new prime-time science and arts series; the new PBS ARTS website and ARTS Festival; and comprehensive on-line sites for parents and caregivers. PBS also has developed the new PBS LearningMedia, which provides educators with strategies, tools and professional development resources needed to fully utilize digital learning in the classroom. In 2008, Kerger received the Woman of Achievement Award from Women in Development, New York.



**Peter Krsko, Executive Director  
Albus Cavus**

Peter Krsko is a D.C.-based artist and the executive director of Albus Cavus, a nonprofit collective of artists, educators and visionaries who use art, science and technology to improve public spaces with a goal to build healthy communities. Trained as a scientist, Krsko is interested in interactions and dynamics within biological systems and recognizes the similarities between robust urban communities and natural ecosystems. He holds a master's degree in applied physics and a Ph.D. in biophysics and material science from the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey.



**Robin Middleman, Senior Program Officer  
New Jersey State Council on the Arts**

Robin Middleman has managed the New Jersey State Council on the Arts arts education programs for more than eight years. Those programs include the Artists-in-Education Residency Program, the New Jersey Writers Project, the Artist/Teacher Institute and Poetry Out Loud. Middleman was on the New Jersey Arts Education Census Project team, which planned and

implemented the 2006-2007 and 2011-2012 survey on the status of arts education in every public school in New Jersey and produced the reports *Within Our Power* and *Keeping the Promise*. She serves on the steering and governance committees of the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership. Middleman served as the mid-Atlantic representative to the NASAA Arts Education Advisory Group from 2006-2011 and represented the advisory group on the steering committee of the Arts Education Partnership during her tenure. She has served three times as a reviewer of the Coming Up Taller Award and as a panelist for the National Endowment on the Arts. Middleman graduated with a B.A. in visual arts and cultural history from Rutgers College, Rutgers University. A practicing visual artist, her work has been featured in exhibitions in New York City, Philadelphia, New Jersey and Connecticut and in traveling exhibitions, including the Unity Canvas Project in response to 9/11. Middleman started a collage-a-day project on January 1, 2012, and is still going! Prior to her work at the Council, she served as co-executive director of Artworks, the Visual Arts School; assistant director at the Arts Council of Princeton; and teacher of visual arts at the Princeton Adult School and in after-school and other community settings.



**Robert Morrison, Cofounder  
Quadrant Arts Education Research**

Robert Morrison is the founder of Quadrant Arts Education Research, the nation's leading arts education research and intelligence organization. He has a deep body of research and policy work and is recognized as a pioneer in statewide arts education status and condition research. In California, Morrison's report, "The Sound of Silence: The Unprecedented Decline of Music Education in California Public Schools" (2004), was one of the catalysts for a \$500 million reinvestment into music and arts education in public schools that has been signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. In New Jersey, Morrison was the managing partner for the ground-breaking New Jersey Arts Education Census Project, completing the first statewide census for arts education in every school building, which has been hailed as a model for statewide arts education research. Prior to founding Quadrant Arts Education Research, Morrison founded Music for All, one of the nation's largest and most influential music education organizations, where he remains chairman emeritus. He helped develop and then served as the CEO of the VH1 Save The Music Foundation. Previously, Morrison was a senior executive for the NAMM: The International Music Products Association, where he served as executive director of the American Music Conference, working with the late Michael Kamen and Richard Dreyfus to create the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. Morrison's advocacy work has earned him both an Emmy and a Peabody Award. He recently received an honorary doctorate degree from the State University of New York.



**Doug O'Brien, Deputy Under Secretary, Rural Development  
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Doug O'Brien, J.D., is the deputy under secretary for rural development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), where he previously served as senior advisor to Secretary Vilsack and chief of

staff to Deputy Secretary Merrigan. Before joining the Department of Agriculture, O'Brien was assistant director at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In this capacity, he assisted the director in administering the day-to-day operations of that department in such areas as plant industries, animal health and its laboratories. In addition, he was responsible for developing the department's biofuels, bioproducts and renewable energy policy efforts. O'Brien is former counsel for the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, where he worked on the 2002 Farm Bill, livestock marketing, concentration, agricultural credit and cooperative issues. Prior to that, he served as the first legal specialist in the USDA Grain, Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration's National Hog Office in Des Moines, where he focused on livestock marketing issues. O'Brien graduated from Loras College and earned a Juris Doctorate with honors from the University of Iowa. In addition, he holds a master's degree in agricultural law from the University of Arkansas.



**Shelley R. Poticha, Director of the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities**

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Shelley R. Poticha serves as director of the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A well-respected expert in growth management and urban policy, Poticha is responsible for advancing housing and communities that promote affordable, livable and sustainable living environments. She also provides technical and policy support for energy, green building, and integrated housing and transportation programs at HUD and around the nation. Poticha leads HUD's interagency efforts with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation to help improve access to affordable housing, more transportation options and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. She previously served as president and CEO of Reconnecting America and served as founding cochair of the Transportation for America Campaign. Prior to joining Reconnecting America, Poticha was the executive director of the Congress for the New Urbanism. She holds a master of city planning degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a bachelor of arts from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

**Lilly Shoup, Policy Analyst**

**Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation**

Lilly Shoup is a policy analyst in the Office of the Undersecretary for Transportation Policy in Washington, D.C. She supports the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and related livability initiatives at the Department of Transportation, working closely with the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. Shoup has worked on federal transportation authorization and policy proposals to ensure transportation investments support sustainable communities. She previously served as research director at Transportation for America and as a senior associate at ICF International. She is author of national publications, including *Dangerous by Design* and *The Fix We're In For: National Bridge Assessment*. She holds a master's degree in city and regional planning from

the University of Maryland at College Park and a bachelor of arts in economics and public policy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Ardath Weaver, Research Director  
North Carolina Arts Council**

Ardath Weaver has explored the intersection of the arts and society for more than 40 years. On the staff of the North Carolina Arts Council since 1981, Weaver crafted the creative economy research defining the arts industry in North Carolina. She holds a B.A. from Brown University, a certificate from the Harvard Institute in Arts Administration and a Master of Public Affairs from North Carolina State University. Weaver currently serves on the National Standard Revisions Working Group. As a member of the NASAA Research and Information Committee, Weaver served on the working group for the Unified Database of Arts Organizations Project of NASAA, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the Urban Institute National Center for Charitable Statistics. She was also a member of Advisory Committees for the National Standard for Arts Information Exchange and the NEA Surveys of Public Participation in the Arts.

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## **Saturday Morning Sessions, October 6**



**Kelly J. Barsdate, Chief Program and Planning Officer  
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Kelly Barsdate joined NASAA in 1991. She oversees NASAA's services to members, including all research activities, education programs and special initiatives. She runs NASAA's State Arts Agency Boot Camps, designs the association's web seminars and conferences, and conducts numerous workshops on topics such as cultural policy and funding trends, arts participation, public value, and practical evaluation methods. Barsdate developed NASAA's New Directions in State Arts Agency Grantmaking curriculum, a series of workshops to help state arts agencies enhance the results of their grant investments. In addition to managing NASAA's internal strategic planning, Barsdate often is engaged as a consultant to assist arts funders (both public and private) with strategic planning, program design, grant guidelines development and program evaluation. She has managed collaborations with partners including the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Center for Charitable Statistics, Grantmakers in the Arts, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Princeton University, Altria and the National Endowment for the Arts. Barsdate has authored numerous monographs and articles on arts funding and arts research. She is a frequent presenter at national arts and philanthropy conferences and is a contributing editor to the *Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society*.



**Casey Blake, Communications and Research Director  
Arizona Commission on the Arts**

Casey Blake is the communications and research director at the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Prior to this position, she served as the Commission's individual artist services coordinator and the special projects coordinator. When not at the arts commission, Blake travels throughout the United States as the stage manager for Phoenix-based flamenco guitarist Chris Burton Jácome. She holds a B.A. in theatre and dance from James Madison University and an M.F.A. in dance, choreography and performance from Arizona State University. Blake has served as a panelist for state and regional grant review panels, and is the chair of the Dance Advisory Board for Scottsdale Community College. She is a board member for contemporary dance company CONDER/dance and teaches regularly for an adult dance studio in the Phoenix area.



**Jaime Dempsey, Deputy Director  
Arizona Commission on the Arts**

In 2006, Jaime Dempsey became deputy director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts, a 46-year old agency that provides grants, programs and services supporting a statewide arts and culture sector. She has since been instrumental in reimagining the public relations potential of a state arts agency, leading the renovation of the agency's communications vehicles, on-line presence and social media efforts. As deputy director, Dempsey has managed the restructuring of programs and services amidst significant agency budget reductions, curates the annual Southwest Arts Conference, and leads the development of the promotional campaign for the arts in Arizona, *The Choice is Art*. She recently was appointed to the inaugural national board for the Cultural Data Project, a program of the Pew Charitable Trusts. She participates as an active member of planning committees for NASAA and serves on the board for Phoenix Pride, providing services and support to Phoenix's LGBTQ communities. Dempsey studied theatre and anthropology at Arizona State University, where her artistic practice focused on acting, stage directing and vocal performance.



**Loie Fecteau, Executive Director  
New Mexico Arts**

Loie Fecteau has served as executive director of New Mexico Arts, the state arts agency and a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, and its advisory New Mexico Arts Commission since 2004. Fecteau has focused much of her tenure on arts-based economic development and cultural tourism, including the development of Arts Trails, designed to put New Mexico artists on the map and bring the market to them, as well as the creation of state-designated arts and cultural districts in partnership with the New Mexico Economic Development Department's MainStreet Program. The pilot New Mexico Fiber Arts Trails have received national recognition and have been featured in *USA Today's* daily newspaper and its *Go Escape* travel magazine. Fecteau served on the legislative advisory panel that recommended creation of the New Mexico School for

the Arts, a publicly funded statewide arts high school, and currently serves on the steering council of Creative New Mexico, a brand-new statewide arts and cultural advocacy organization. Fecteau also serves on the Multicultural Advisory Committee for the Western States Arts Federation and as the New Mexico state captain for Americans for the Arts. She is a former member of the NASAA board of directors. Prior to becoming an arts administrator, Fecteau was a journalist for more than 20 years and covered politics in New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. She received an M.A. in journalism from the University of Missouri and a B.A. in English from Marietta College.

**Sue Gens, Executive Director  
Minnesota State Arts Board**

Sue Gens joined the Minnesota State Arts Board in 2001, having previously served as the agency's director of communication and government relations and its interim executive director. Before joining the Arts Board, Gens was director of external relations for the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities); and director of development for United Arts, a federated fund-raising organization for small and mid-sized arts organizations in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area. Gens has worked in the Twin Cities nonprofit and public sectors for 25 years; has held public relations, marketing, and development positions at the Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, COMPAS and the Women's Theatre Project; and has served as a volunteer, consultant or board member with a variety of nonprofit organizations. She is a graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead, with degrees in music and arts administration.



**Jonathan Katz, Chief Executive Officer  
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Jonathan Katz is one of the primary spokespersons on behalf of funding and support for the arts and cultural activities in the United States. For more than 20 years, he has guided the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, the association through which the nation's 56 state arts agencies share knowledge and strategic thinking, develop leadership and professionalism, and advocate the value of the arts and culture. A frequent speaker and workshop leader at forums on cultural issues and trends, Katz has consulted extensively on strategic planning, cultural policy development, advocacy, leadership development and financial planning for nonprofits. He is a cofounder of the Arts Education Partnership, established by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts as the nation's forum for the advancement of arts education. A former member of the U.S. Commission on UNESCO, Katz advised the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA) on its strategic planning process; advised the Korean national arts council on its grant programs; and led the CEO Seminar for heads of national arts and cultural agencies at the IFACCA World Summit. Katz directed the graduate arts administration program at the University of Illinois at Springfield, The Children's Museum of Denver and the Kansas Arts Commission. For NASAA, Katz coauthored *Advancing America's Creativity: An Agenda for Leadership in Support of the Arts and Cultural*



*Activities, the State Arts Agency Strategic Planning Toolkit, and Facing Controversy: Arts Issues and Crisis Communications, and wrote the Report of the Task Force on Cultural Pluralism.*



**Kiley Kraskouskas, President and Crowd Funding Consultant  
Thinking Forward Media**

Kiley Kraskouskas is a successful crowd funder and crowd funding consultant with entrepreneurship in her DNA. Prior to launching Thinking Forward, she was a project producer at the award-winning company Cortina Productions, where she designed and produced complex, large-budget multimedia projects for high-profile corporate, government and university clients. While at Cortina, she successfully spearheaded the development of their government marketing division. For each new project, Kraskouskas brings an analytical mind-set, creative excitement and passion for helping new ideas manifest. As president of Thinking Forward Media, she oversees all project management, budgeting and execution of deliverables. Most recently, she made her directorial debut with the independent documentary, *Essakane Film*. *Essakane Film* was supported through two crowdfunding campaigns and an NEA Art Works grant. Kraskouskas holds a master's degree in sociology from New York University and a B.A. in political science and sociology from the University of Denver.



**Robert Lynch, President and CEO  
Americans for the Arts**

Robert Lynch is president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. With more than 30 years of experience in the arts industry, he is motivated by his personal mission to empower communities and leaders to advance the arts in society and in the lives of our citizens. In 1996, Lynch managed the successful merger of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, where he had spent 12 years as executive director, with the American Council for the Arts to form Americans for the Arts. Under his 26 years of leadership, the services and membership of Americans for the Arts have grown to more than 50 times their original size. Lynch currently serves on the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, a position appointed by the U.S. secretary of commerce, as well as on the board of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund, the Arts Extension Institute, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst College of Humanities and Fine Arts board. He is a member of the Executive Committee for United Voices for Education and is on the Advisory Council of the National Museum for Children in the Arts. In 2012, he was selected as one of the most influential executives in the sector by the *NonProfit Times Power & Influence Top 50*. Lynch earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and plays the piano, mandolin and guitar.



**Meredith Maslich, Trainer and Board Member  
SpeakeasyDC**

Meredith Maslich has introduced hundreds of people to the art of storytelling since joining the SpeakeasyDC faculty in 2008. In addition to teaching Storytelling 101 and 201, she has taught storytelling workshops for sales, advocacy and professional development for organizations like the Maryland Library Association and American Heart Association. Maslich has performed dozens of stories on stage, including the 2012 ensemble production, *Sucker for Love*, which she also codirected. She is the managing editor of the SpeakeasyDC blog and, formerly, SpeakeasyDC's board president. Maslich currently is working on getting her new publishing company, Possibilities Publishing, off the ground.



**Lori Meadows, Executive Director  
Kentucky Arts Council**

Lori Meadows has served as executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council since 2005. Prior to her appointment as executive director, she served as executive staff advisor, overseeing program and organizational management of the agency. An arts council staff member since 1997, Meadows also served as individual artist program director and as technical assistance coordinator. Prior to her tenure with the Arts Council, she directed the Kentucky Save Outdoor Sculpture! and Kentucky Textile programs, and owned and operated an historic textile consulting business. She has served on numerous public art advisory committees including the Federal Art-in-Architecture Program, the Smithsonian Institute, the Capitol Centennial Commission, The Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Louisville Arena Authority. She has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and other state arts agencies. Meadows earned her bachelor of arts degree in history and textiles from the University of Kentucky and her associate of arts degree in design from Midway College.



**Malissa Feruzzi Shriver, Chair  
California Arts Council**

Malissa Feruzzi Shriver received a B.A. in women's studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, and studied art with Jonathan Bickhart (sculpture) and Stephen Douglas (portrait painting). She attended the State and Local Government Program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and received an honorary doctorate from Laguna College of Art and Design. A professional painter, she is the owner of Feruzzi Fine Arts. Feruzzi has been involved with the California Arts Council for eight years and in that time has focused on restoring creative education to public schools in California by addressing policy issues, legislation and systemic changes needed to restore the arts to curricula. She serves on the boards of the California Alliance for Arts Education Policy and Western States Arts Federation, where she chairs the Congressional Advocacy Committee, and chairs the Arts Learning Committee on the

NASAA board. She is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and California Arts Advocates and is a past member of the California Music Project.



**Laura S. Smith, Chief Advancement Officer  
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Laura Smith joined the NASAA staff in 2002. With 15 years' experience fund raising in the not-for-profit sector, she has developed special interests in nonprofit board development, individual giving, corporate relations, and establishing development programs. At NASAA, she plans, coordinates and implements strategies to develop donors and contributions to support NASAA; leads staff and volunteers to institutionalize philanthropy and fund development within NASAA; and develops systems that support fund development. She works with public agencies, individuals, companies and foundations to develop resources and relationships that build NASAA's capacity to serve its members and achieve its strategic goals. In addition to managing NASAA's resource development activities, Smith works closely with the NASAA board, committees and other state arts agency leaders on development and governance issues. She advises NASAA members and partners on effective fund development strategies that can generate support for the arts at the local and state levels.



**Sue Struve  
Communications Manager, NASAA**

Sue Struve ensures NASAA's mission and value are conveyed to members, constituents, the public and the press. She is responsible for NASAA's website and e-mail communications as well as printed materials, and works to build community among state arts agencies. She joined NASAA in 2008. Struve was director of web operations at the U.S. Naval Institute, where she advanced the organization's mission using web and e-mail communications, managed hundreds of web projects, and oversaw three website redesigns. Her editorial career includes terms as web content editor, e-mail newsletter editor and producer, magazine and book editor and public relations coordinator. She has held positions at The Aspen Institute, Cornell Maritime Press, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries and Arbitron Ratings Company.



**Craig Watson, Executive Director  
California Arts Council**

Craig Watson became director of the California Arts Council in 2011, when he was chosen by the Council after a nationwide search. Watson started his arts career at local arts agencies and arts services organizations, and later built a career in the telecommunications industry before returning to the arts as executive director of the Arts Council for Long Beach. The California Arts Council is the official state arts agency for California, the state with the largest number of artists and creative-industry workers in the nation.

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