



Americans for the Arts 2005 Annual Convention

Speaker and Presenter Biographies

Mary Berryman Agard

Mary Berryman Agard is an organizational development consultant working in the arts, human services, social justice, environmental, and food security arenas. For over two decades, she has provided policy analysis, research, strategic planning, management auditing and consultation, program design, community consensus building, and structured group process facilitation. She is the former chair of the Madison CitiArts Commission, a former police and fire commissioner, and has served on the boards of a number of educational and arts organizations. Currently, she is a member of the board of directors of Next Generation Now. Ms. Berryman Agard is the proprietor of Hyperion Studios, of which Hyperion Associates is the consulting division.

Peggy Amsterdam

Peggy Amsterdam is president of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, which serves 300 nonprofit member organizations. Under her direction, the Cultural Alliance has launched a successful marketing campaign, led advocacy efforts for the region's cultural sector, and administered grant programs. Previously, she directed the Delaware Division of the Arts from 1993-2000.

Gigi Antoni

Gigi Antoni has twenty years' experience as a nonprofit arts manager, arts educator, presenter, teacher/artist trainer, professional actress/director, and designer of curriculum-specific integrated arts programs. Since 1995, she has served as executive director of Big Thought (formerly Young Audiences of Greater Dallas). Ms. Antoni served as a key partner and driver in the creation of Big Thought's Dallas Arts Partners initiative, a national model for public school arts integration, developed in partnership with Dallas Independent School District, the City of Dallas Cultural Affairs Commission, and 60 community cultural agencies.

Barbara Schaffer Bacon

Barbara Schaffer Bacon co-directs Animating Democracy, a program of the Americans for the Arts Institute for Community Development and the Arts, funded by the Ford Foundation. Ms. Schaffer Bacon has worked as a consultant since 1990, prior to which she served as executive director of the Arts Extension Service at the University of Massachusetts. Ms. Schaffer Bacon has written, edited, and contributed to several publications, including the revised edition of *Fundamentals of Local Arts Management* and *The Cultural Planning Work Kit*, published by the Arts Extension Service. She serves as a primary instructor for the Fundamentals and Advanced Management seminars, guest lecturer for the New York University Graduate Program in Arts Management, and a senior faculty member for the Empire State Partnerships Summer Institute in arts education. She is president of the Arts Extension Institute, Inc. and a board member of the Fund for Women Artists.

Ed Bailey

Ed Bailey is currently vice president, Brand Development for *Austin City Limits*—the venerable PBS concert series produced by KLRU public television in Austin, TX. Mr. Bailey has spearheaded its expansion as a diversified music brand, and has overseen such projects as the *Austin City Limits* exhibit and merchandise store in the new Austin airport; the *Best of Austin City Limits* Country series created for CMT; the debut of the *Austin City Limits* Music Festival; *Austin City Limits* receipt of the National Medal of Arts; and the 30th anniversary release of a new line of DVDs scheduled for this year. Mr. Bailey was part of the launch team that opened the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, OH. His experience building public/private partnerships has led to consulting assignments with Paul Allen's Experience Music Project in Seattle, Farm Aid, the Buddy Holly Center, and the River Music Experience. He serves on the boards of the Austin Music Foundation, Savor Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival, the Alejandro Fund, and on the advisory committee of the Austin Film Festival.

Ramona Baker

Ramona Baker has served as CEO for nonprofit organizations for over 25 years. In addition to teaching at several universities, Ms. Baker has also lectured throughout the U.S. and around the world. Most recently, she served for 10 years as the CEO of the Arts Council of Indianapolis, where she increased public funding by 350 percent and cash reserves by 3,000 percent.

Robert Baron

Robert Baron is the folk arts program director at the New York State Council on the Arts. He is a nonresident fellow in the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard, and has served as folklore administrator of the National Endowment for the Humanities and as senior research specialist in the Education Division of The Brooklyn Museum.

Blair Benjamin

Blair Benjamin is the director of fundraising and commercial development for MASS MoCA in North Adams, MA, and associate director of the Center for Creative Community Development. He is formerly director of marketing, development, and community relations for Flatbush Development Corporation in Brooklyn, NY.

Louis Black

Louis Black moved to Austin, TX, in 1976 to attend graduate school and never left. Shortly after receiving his M.F.A. from the University of Texas in 1980, he co-founded *The Austin Chronicle*, of which he is currently editor and co-owner. In 1987, he co-founded South by Southwest (SXSW), a two-day regional music festival that has grown into an internationally renowned, 10-day event concentrating on music, film, and new media. Mr. Black has been involved in the Austin film scene for over 20 years as a founding board member of the Austin Film Society and co-founder of the Texas Film Hall of Fame. He is an executive producer of *SXSW Presents* and *Be Here to Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt*.

Paul Bonin-Rodriguez

Paul Bonin-Rodriguez is a writer-performer who has toured nationally since 1992. He has published six plays. Currently he is a doctoral candidate in the Performance as Public Practice Program at the University of Texas at Austin; his dissertation, *Artists and the Material World*, asks how the systems of support for independent performing artists can account for their artistic processes as well as the products they create.

Paddy Bowman

Paddy Bowman coordinates the National Network for Folk Arts in Education, linking folklorists, folk artists, and educators nationwide. She develops folk arts and education resources as well as training programs and serves on the Steering Committee of the Arts Education Partnership.

Deborah Boykin

Deborah Boykin is tribal archivist for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and is the former folk arts coordinator with the Mississippi Arts Commission. A folklorist by training, she has worked with community groups on documenting and presenting their artistic traditions.

Mary Briggs

Mary Briggs has been on staff of the Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington County, VA, since 1989. She is director of cultural development, where she oversees services to artists, including facility access, organizational and professional development programs, and grants. Ms. Briggs is also responsible for the development of Arlington's folklore program.

Donald Byrd

Donald became artistic director of Spectrum Dance Theater in December 2002. Prior to this position, Mr. Byrd was artistic director of DONALD BYRD/THE GROUP, a critically acclaimed contemporary dance company. Since 1976, he has created more than 80 works for his former company and for Spectrum Dance Theater, as well as for major modern dance repertory and classical companies and stage productions. Mr. Byrd currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Dance Theater workshop in New York and was appointed to the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs (Seattle Arts Commission) in July 2003.

Ben Cameron

Ben Cameron is the executive director of Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for nonprofit theaters. He was director of the theater program for the National Endowment for the Arts and has held positions at Indiana Repertory Theatre and PlayMakers Repertory Company. He has taught theater at several universities and is a member of the adjunct faculty at Columbia University. He received an M.F.A. in dramaturgy from the Yale School of Drama; a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and honorary degrees from DePaul University and the American Conservatory Theatre. Mr. Cameron currently serves as the secretary of the American Arts Alliance, on the Board of Grantmakers in the Arts, and on the Tony Awards Nominating Committee.

Tony L. Chauveaux

Tony L. Chauveaux, deputy chairman for grants and awards of the National Endowment for the Arts, is responsible for planning and management of all discipline-based grants and awards, and works with Chairman Dana Gioia in formulating Arts Endowment policies and programs. He was appointed to the Texas Commission on the Arts in 1997 and was named chairman in 2000.

Linda Chiavaroli

Linda Chiavaroli, director of communications for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, has worked in marketing and public relations for dance companies, orchestras, individual artists and arts centers, and as a journalist covering the performing arts.

Randy I. Cohen

Randy Cohen is vice president of research and information at Americans for the Arts. Mr. Cohen has produced such projects as Arts & Economic Prosperity; directed the Institute for Community Development and the Arts; edited the award-winning *Monograph* series; and published numerous reports about local arts agencies, united arts funds, arts education, and public- and private-sector support for the arts. He has also worked in partnership with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities to produce "Coming Up Taller"—the White House report documenting 225 arts and humanities programs for at-risk youth—and with the National Endowment for the Arts and U.S. Department of Justice to produce the "YouthARTS Project," the first national study to document statistically the impact of arts programs on at-risk youth. Prior to joining Americans for the Arts in 1991, Mr. Cohen worked as a policy and planning specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Peggy Conlon

Ms. Conlon is president and CEO of The Advertising Council, an organization that annually mobilizes more than \$1.5 billion of advertising time and space, as well as the creative services of over 50 major advertising agencies. She has partnered with both the Clinton and Bush administrations to use the power of public service advertising to improve some of the nation's most pressing issues. She organized the Campaign For Freedom to address the critical issues resulting from the events of September 11 and was awarded the New York Women in Communications Matrix Award for Advertising in 2002. Ms. Conlon serves on the Board of Directors of the Harvard School of Public Health's Health and Social Behavior Advisory Committee and has been appointed by former President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush to lead the National Dialogue on Cancer.

Ann Daly

Ann Daly is a consultant, author, educator, and speaker, specializing in the arts and creative professions. She advises on strategic planning, capacity-building, program design, and audience development and provides in-depth analysis of trends in the arts, culture, and policy. As a coach and workshop leader, Dr. Daly helps clients develop the skills they need to achieve artistic goals.

D. Jack Davis, Ph.D.

D. Jack Davis is a professor of art and director of the North Texas Institute for Educators on the Visual Arts (NTIEVA) at the University of North Texas (UNT), where he has also served as chair, dean, and vice provost. He holds a Ph.D. in art education from the University of Minnesota.

Keila DePoorter

In 2001, Keila DePoorter and her family retraced the route covered by their slave-trading ancestors. The family's journey and reckoning with its legacy was filmed for Browne's documentary, *Traces of the Trade*. Ms. DePoorter describes her current involvement in the Spirituals Project Choir in Denver as a personal process "toward the beginning of historical completion."

Eduardo Diaz

Eduardo Diaz has been actively involved in the arts for over 27 years—as media producer, actor, presenter, festival director, grantmaker, advocate, and consultant. Mr. Diaz is the former director of cultural affairs for the City of San Antonio and now consults in the areas of local arts agency management, organizational assessment and business and marketing planning, cultural and heritage tourism, marketing and audience development, youth arts programs, and cultural diversity. He is the founder of the International Accordion Festival and on the board of Gemini Ink, a literary arts center in San Antonio.

Jay Dick

Jay Dick is director of state arts policy at Americans for the Arts. With the mandate to influence the policies that promote state funding for and expansion of the arts, Mr. Dick works closely with the 50 state arts advocacy captains and the State Arts Action Network and Council to accomplish this goal. Prior to joining Americans for the Arts, Mr. Dick was an account manager at Capitol Advantage (Capwiz), where he was responsible for building working relations with clients to enable them to fully use their online legislative action centers to build strong grassroots advocacy programs. Mr. Dick spent the 1996 campaign cycle in his home state of Iowa working as the field director for a Congressional campaign in Iowa's 3rd District.

Moy Eng

Moy Eng is the program director of the performing arts program at The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, which is one of the leading arts funders in California and provides support for arts organizations and artists in the San Francisco Bay Area. Prior to December 2001, she directed the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation's grantmaking programs in energy and human rights; maintained a consulting practice; and worked in senior development positions in nationally-known arts organizations. In 2003, Ms. Eng received leadership awards from the California Arts Council and Americans for the Arts.

Alejandro Escovedo

Alejandro Escovedo became a legend in his own time the right way: by making extraordinary music and writing songs that stand among the best written in our time. Part of the legend comes from *No Depression*, the roots music magazine that named him *Artist of the Decade* well before 2000. His eclectic musical stylings have won him local, national, and international accolades and have kept him touring throughout the United States and Europe for well over two decades. During a performance in April 2002, Mr. Escovedo collapsed due to complications from Hepatitis C. An array of artists immediately put together benefit concerts to help sustain him financially. In addition, Or Music released *Por Vida*, an album of his songs performed by a stellar assortment of musicians. Austin's mayor proclaimed November 4, 2004, Alejandro Escovedo Day, on which many of the *Por Vida* artists celebrated his work and life with a concert at Austin's Paramount Theatre. Money raised from this and ongoing sales of *Por Vida* have gone to the Alejandro Fund, bringing awareness to the growing national and international health crisis posed by Hepatitis C. But these events were not the climax of Alejandro Escovedo's career, and certainly not its summation. Refreshed and as courageous as ever, he began working live again in late 2004.

Lisbeth Evans

Appointed secretary of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in 2001, Lisbeth Evans oversees the state art museum, four history museums, 27 historic sites, a symphony, the arts council, libraries, and historical resources. She led the internationally-publicized First Flight Centennial Celebration in 2003.

Melanie Fernandez

Melanie Fernandez is director of community and education programmes at Harbourfront Centre. She also served as community arts officer at the Ontario Arts Council and head of education and programmes at the Art Gallery of Ontario. She has written extensively in the areas of cultural diversity and cultural production, aboriginal cultural production, and community arts.

Harold Fields

Harold Fields facilitates monthly citywide racial dialogues held at The Tattered Cover, Denver's most popular bookstore. He also conducts racial discussions at area churches. Mr. Fields participated in multiracial discussions filmed for the *Traces of the Trade* documentary that follows a white family from New England coming to terms with their role in the triangle slave trade.

Bill FitzGibbons

Bill FitzGibbons is the executive director of Blue Star Contemporary Art Center and, as a sculptor, has received over 25 public art commissions. He has also been sculpture chair at the San Antonio Art Institute and a Fulbright Scholar in Hungary.

Eric Friedenwald-Fishman

Eric Friedenwald-Fishman is the creative director and president of Metropolitan Group. He is an innovative leader in resource development and strategic communication for the community sector. Mr. Friedenwald-Fishman works throughout the U.S. on fundraising, public awareness programs, and social change campaigns. He has raised more than \$200 million through fundraising campaigns.

Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell has the uncanny ability to generate value by interpreting groundbreaking research and applying it to business. With his best-selling first book, *The Tipping Point*, Mr. Gladwell embedded the concept of the tipping point in our everyday vocabulary and gave organizations new tools for understanding trends. His *New York Times* #1 best-seller, *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, analyzes intuition—how we know what we know, instinctively—and explores how we can improve our instincts for good decision-making. He graduated with a degree in history from the University of Toronto in 1984. From 1987 to 1996, he was a reporter for the *Washington Post*, first as a science writer and then as New York City bureau chief. Since 1996, he has been a staff writer for the *New Yorker*.

Juana Guzman

Juana Guzman has been vice president for the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum since 1999. She has also started her own company, Economic Connections, which focuses on economic development initiatives for the arts. She is a consultant on several projects focusing on arts, culture, and tourism as a catalyst for economic development in several cities.

Brent Hasty

Brent Hasty is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Curriculum Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Hasty consults with arts organizations and school districts as they work to integrate community arts and cultural resources into the classroom and was one of the chief architects of Dallas Arts Partners, a collaborative project among the City of Dallas School District and 62 arts and cultural organizations. Mr. Hasty is a former high school teacher and program/education director of the Young Audiences of North Texas chapter of YAI. He teaches social studies methods to pre-service teachers and researches the discursive constructions of difficult knowledge across different forms of representation (image, text, movement, etc.) in education.

Alvin A. Henry

For nearly 30 years, Alvin Henry has been the creative executive responsible for strategic planning, creating and maintaining a cohesive institutional image, and generating revenues for major performing arts organizations. Mr. Henry's professional career in theatre, opera, and dance has included leadership roles with such organizations as the San Francisco Ballet, the La Jolla Playhouse, City Center Theatre, The Metropolitan Opera, and John Houseman's The Acting Company. Mr. Henry has served on the Advisory Council for Arts Reach; as a panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts; and as a Board Member of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Alison Hunnicutt

Alison Hunnicutt has worked for the Greater Hartford Arts Council since October 2004. She grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, and moved to Connecticut in 1999, where she received a B.A. in Art History from Central Connecticut State University.

Joan Israelite

Joan Israelite became the first president and CEO of the Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City in March 1999. From 1996 to 1999, Ms. Israelite worked as development director for the Kansas City Symphony. From 1991 to 1996, she worked at the Lyric Opera, also serving as their development director. Ms. Israelite's volunteer efforts have included serving as a board member of the Greater Kansas City Convention and Visitor's Bureau; as the first woman president of the Downtown Sertoma Club of Kansas City; as the president of the National Society for Fundraising Executives; and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Brazil.

Leslie A. Ito

Leslie A. Ito is the executive director at Visual Communications, the nation's first Asian American media arts organization. At Visual Communications, she is the primary grant writer and manages the Armed with a Camera Fellowship Program for Emerging Media Artists. Ms. Ito is also the co-coordinator for the California Asian American and Pacific Islander Arts Network, an informal advocacy and networking group. From 1998 to 2000, she was a program associate in the Media, Arts Culture Division at the Ford Foundation in New York. She has worked in several Asian Pacific American arts and cultural organizations in the Los Angeles area, including the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center and the Japanese American National Museum. She has also worked at the Smithsonian Institution's Wider Audience Development Office. Ms. Ito received her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College in American studies and her M.A. in Asian American studies from UCLA.

Anne Katz

Anne Katz is the executive director of Arts Wisconsin, a member of the Americans for the Arts State Arts Action Council, and received the 2004 Governor's Award in Support of the Arts in recognition of Arts Wisconsin's work. She was a fellow at the National Endowment for the Arts, and has served on panels for the Wisconsin and Milwaukee Arts Boards, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission.

Bill Keens

William Keens is president of Wolf, Keens & Company, a full-service consulting firm with offices in Falls Church, VA, and Cambridge, MA, that specializes in the cultural sector, foundations, and socially progressive organizations.

John R. Killacky

John R. Killacky is the program officer for arts and culture at the San Francisco Foundation. He has served as a panelist, lecturer, and consultant for a broad range of arts and funding organizations, has written numerous publications on the arts, and written and directed several award winning short films and videos.

Pam Korza

Pam Korza co-directs Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts that fosters civic dialogue and engagement through arts and culture. Ms. Korza partners with Barbara Schaffer Bacon in organizational consulting with cultural organizations. She also worked with the Arts Extension Service where she coordinated the National Public Art Policy Project and directed the New England Film and Video Festival.

Sara C. Lawrence

Sara C. Lawrence serves as the director of the ArtsSmart Institute for Learning, leading 25 teaching artists in 30 schools in Texas and Arkansas, researching best practices in teacher training in arts-integration to engage students in the learning process for academic and personal excellence. In addition, Ms. Lawrence has taught from kindergarten to college level in special education and art. Currently, Ms. Lawrence is a doctoral candidate in educational psychology at Texas A & M University—Commerce.

Liz Lerman

Liz Lerman is the founding artistic director of Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, a contemporary dance company that tours nationally and internationally. Over the past 26 years she has received recognition for her work with Liz Lerman Dance Exchange and as a solo artist. She has received an American Choreographer Award, the American Jewish Congress "Golda" award, the first annual Pola Nirenska Award, and the Mayor's Art Award. She is also the 2002 recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship in recognition and support of her creative accomplishments. Ms. Lerman's work has been commissioned by Lincoln Center, American Dance Festival, Dancing in the Street, BalletMet, and The Kennedy Center. Her choreographic work has received support from AT&T, Meet the Composer, American Festival Project, the National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network Creation Fund, and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Abel Lopez

Abel Lopez is associate producing director of GALA Hispanic Theatre, president-elect of Theatre Communications Group and vice chair of the Americans for the Arts and the American Arts Alliance Boards of Directors. He is also the immediate past president of the Boards of Directors of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Non-Traditional Casting Project, and the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture.

Robert L. Lynch

Robert L. Lynch is the president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, where he has served since the organization's inception in 1996. Previously, he was executive director of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies for 12 years, and managed the successful merger of that organization with the American Council for the Arts to form Americans for the Arts. He has delivered and presented more than 1,000 speeches and workshops in 49 states and eight countries, for audiences ranging from Native American tribal gatherings to the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe, to the President of the United States. He is currently on the boards of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund and the United Arts Organization of Washington, DC.

Mary McCullough-Hudson

Mary McCullough-Hudson is president and CEO of the Cincinnati Fine Arts Fund, which conducts an annual united arts campaign (\$10.9 million in 2005), manages an endowment, and provides support services including planned giving and staff and volunteer development programs. She currently serves on the board of directors of Americans for the Arts.

Jill McGuire

Jill McGuire founded and has led the Regional Arts Commission (RAC), the St. Louis region's largest arts agency, for the last 20 years. She has been recognized for her arts advocacy and creative approaches to grantmaking, having distributed more than 4,500 grants totaling \$54 million. In 2003, Ms. McGuire opened the RAC Cultural Resource Center, a 20,000 square foot facility housing administrative offices, a gallery, performance and rehearsal space, and flexible meeting space for the arts community. She was recently named one of the "Top 25 Most Influential Business Women" by the *St. Louis Business Journal* and was the recipient of the 2005 Leadership in the Arts Award, presented by the Missouri Arts Council.

Samuel Miller

Samuel Miller is the president of Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC). LINC's efforts are centered on effecting broad-based change to increase direct support for artists, enhance artist/public interaction, and improve the policy environment for creative work. Previously, Mr. Miller served as executive director of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) for 10 years. Under his leadership, NEFA launched important new projects in New England, including the Creative Economy Initiative.

Stephen Mills

Stephen Mills is artistic director of Ballet Austin. Under the artistic leadership of Mr. Mills, Ballet Austin has emerged as one of the nation's premiere dance organizations. *The Washington Post* recognized Ballet Austin as "one of the nation's best-kept secrets" in 2004. Winner of the Steinberg Award for choreography at the 2004 Festival des arts de Saint-Sauveur in Montreal, Mr. Mills has created more than 40 works for companies in the United States and abroad. He has worked in collaboration with such luminaries as Grammy Award-winners Asleep at the Wheel and Shawn Colvin, as well as internationally-renowned flamenco artist José Greco II. Mr. Mills serves on the board of trustees of Dance/USA.

Denise Montgomery

Denise Montgomery is director of the Office of Cultural Affairs for the City and County of Denver. Prior to her role with the city, Ms. Montgomery was executive director of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts.

Felix Padrón

Felix Padrón is the director of the Office of Cultural Affairs for the City of San Antonio. He supervises the Grants, Neighborhood Arts, Development, Fundraising and Arts Marketing programs. In 2003, Mr. Padrón initiated San Antonio's first citywide cultural planning process entitled "The Cultural Collaborative": A Community Plan for San Antonio's Creative Economy. Before becoming director, Mr. Padrón served six years directing the City of San Antonio Public Art and Design Enhancement Program, in the Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Public Works Department.

Julie Peeler

Julie Peeler is vice president of arts and business programs at Americans for the Arts. She is an accomplished market researcher and marketing strategist with nearly two decades of experience in both the for-profit and nonprofit arena. While working at J. Walter Thompson and Foote, Cone & Belding, both major international advertising agencies, she developed growth plans for Fortune 500 clients including S.C. Johnson Wax, Kraft Foods, The Kellogg Co., and The Quaker Oats Co., as well as for the U.S. Olympic Committee. Ms. Peeler is the founding director of the National Arts Marketing Project, which is designed to help nonprofit arts organizations understand the marketplace in which they operate, and develop innovative and effective marketing plans.

Jose Flores Peregrino

Jose Flores Peregrino is originally from Laredo, TX. He is a musician, songwriter, author, and *jefe* of the traditional Mexica ceremonial group, Xinachtli. He is currently an English professor at Austin Community College and working on his second book of poetry.

Cookie Gregory Ruiz

Cookie Gregory Ruiz is executive director of Ballet Austin. Ms. Ruiz has more than 20 years of experience in the areas of strategic planning, program development, and nonprofit fundraising and management. She has served as a speaker, facilitator, and presenter for a variety of leadership conferences, including the National Conference on Community Leadership, Dance/USA, and the Texas Commission on the Arts. Ms. Ruiz is currently chair of the Trustees Committee of Dance/USA and is a member of its national board of trustees, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and the board of the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Matthew Saunders

Matthew Saunders is senior director of technology at Western States Arts Federation and oversees the technical and strategic vision of web-based software. His background as a painter and lighting designer merges with expertise in Internet systems to provide a unique understanding of technology. He holds an M.F.A from Virginia Tech.

Sara Schnadt

Sara Schnadt is a Chicago-based web and database developer, arts administrator, and visual artist. She has created an online artists' jobs and opportunities database at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago, designed a video archive database for Video Data Bank in Chicago, and is currently working on Chicago Artists Resource, a city-wide directory and online resource center for artists, an initiative of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs in collaboration with arts organizations and facilities throughout Chicago. Ms. Schnadt has worked as an arts administrator and arts resource designer at various arts organizations in Chicago since 1995, including School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Insight Arts, and Randolph Street Gallery. She has worked as a visual art instructor at the School of the Art Institute and University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL. Ms. Schnadt is a founding member of Spareroom Performance Art Space and Artists' Collective in Chicago.

Harvey Seifter

Harvey Seifter is director of Creativity Connection, a program of the Arts & Business Council of Americans for the Arts, which is designed to help corporations meet their training and development objectives through arts-based learning. As executive director of Orpheus, Mr. Seifter introduced the orchestra's conductorless process as a business model in the U.S., Europe, and Japan. He is the author of *Leadership Ensemble: Lessons in Collaborative Management*; principal of Seifter Associates, a consulting firm that develops organizational creativity solutions; and executive and artistic director of Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts.

Stephen Sheppard

Dr. Stephen Sheppard is a professor of economics and public affairs at Williams College, Williamstown, MA, and director of the Center for Creative Community Development. He is an urban economist who specializes in using principles of "economic geography" and Geographic Information Systems to study the impact of the arts on local neighborhood development.

Sheila Smith

Sheila Smith is executive director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts. She recently acted as a public policy consultant for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, has served as staff at the Minnesota State Senate, lobbied local governments for Continental Airlines in Houston, and currently teaches nationally about grassroots advocacy and other issues.

Victoria Spangler, Ph.D.

Victoria Spangler is the executive director of Young Audiences of Abilene, a division of a national art in education organization. Her areas of expertise include acting, directing, creative drama, and theatre management, and she is also a consultant for Region 14 Education Service Center, where she directs a traveling theatre troupe.

Michael Spring

Michael Spring is director of the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs, a local arts agency with an annual budget of \$13.4 million. He serves as board secretary for both Americans for the Arts and Americans for the Arts Action Fund.

Robert Steed

Robert and Nancy Steed founded Performance Plus..., a theatre-based training company, in 1988. Mr. Steed had previously been a lawyer with Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and, for 20 years, director of Labor Relations and vice president, Human Resources at Time Incorporated.

Jane Steinberg

Jane Steinberg is the program director for Reboot (www.rebooters.net), a network that brings together creatives from media, politics, entertainment, social justice, technology, and literature realms to explore generational issues of community, identity, and meaning. She also helped establish Grand Street, a network of innovative young funders, and is the founder and artistic director of the Kiva Theater Company in New York City.

Richard Stock

Richard Stock is one of the co-founders of Stock Osburn Connection, as well as a professor at Cooper Union, one of America's top-ranked schools of engineering, where he brings arts-based learning approaches to the commercial market. The company offers a wide variety of modular workshops, covering issues such as principles of communication, specific elements of communication (such as voice, body, content, teams), and specialized topics such as nonverbal communication, negotiation, conflict resolution, video-conferencing, and speaking from texts.

Robert Stuart

Robert Stuart is senior vice president of @DVOCACY, INC., and president of the E-Volve Foundation, the company's philanthropic arm. Hired by the Rockefeller Family Fund in the early 1990s to help invent the field of online advocacy for nonprofit groups, today Mr. Stuart is an online strategist and Internet media advisor to numerous political campaigns, candidates, and advocacy organizations. He founded TechRocks while serving as a program associate at the Rockefeller Family Fund (RFF) in 1996. At the same time, he was one of the founders of the Grantmakers for Effective Organizations and spearheaded the National Strategy for Nonprofit Technology.

Juan Tejada

Juan Tejada is an instructor of music at Palo Alto College in San Antonio, TX, where he is developing the first *conjunto* music program at the college/university level in the nation. Previously, he served as the Xicano music program director for the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, where he created and directed the internationally renowned Tejano Conjunto Festival.

Kay Turner

Dr. Kay Turner has been director of the Brooklyn Arts Council's (BAC) *FolkArts* program since 2000, where she has initiated a number of field research based projects. She is a co-founder of Texas Folklife Resources, one of the first nonprofit folk arts organizations in the United States, and teaches courses on gender, performance theory, and oral narrative at New York University.

George Tzougros

George Tzougros is the executive director of the Wisconsin Arts Board, the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts in Wisconsin. Mr. Tzougros works with the arts community, Wisconsin Arts Board members and staff, the governor, and state legislature to create funding programs and services to meet the needs of the citizens of Wisconsin.

Mary Lee Webeck, Ph.D.

Mary Lee Webeck is an assistant professor in the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin. Her scholarship focuses on teachers and students developing understanding of citizenship and civic life, philanthropy and education, Holocaust education, and aesthetically focused educational approaches. Dr. Webeck has worked closely with the Center for Civic Education, the Texas State Bar, and the Houston Holocaust Museum in creating and administering professional development opportunities for teachers.

Bart Weiss

Bart Weiss is an award-winning independent film and video producer, director, editor, and educator. He currently serves as president of the board of directors of the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers and is on the board of directors of the University Film and Video Association. Mr. Weiss is the co-founder of the Dallas Video Festival and the Video Association of Dallas. He is an associate professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and has been a video columnist for the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Dallas Times Herald*, *United Features Syndicate*, and KERA 90.1 FM Radio in Dallas. As the convention's Artist in Residence, Mr. Weiss will be capturing the essence of our work and synthesizing it in a video piece to be presented at the closing luncheon.

Gerald Yoshitomi

Jerry Yoshitomi is the Lead Consultant on Information and Network Strategies for Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC), a national initiative to improve the lives and conditions of artists in the United States. He is also engaged by foundations and university performing arts presenters to read, research, and provoke innovation on increasing participation and revenues as well as revealing the personal benefits and public value of arts experiences.