



## AM PORTLAND IDEA FORUM DESCRIPTIONS

11/21/15

### **SATURDAY December 12 from 2:00-3:30pm**

#### **Contemporary Native American Artists: Issues and Trends**

**Moderator:** Lulani Arquette, Executive Director, Native Arts and Culture Foundation

**Participants:** Deana Dartt, Curator of Native American Art, Portland Art Museum; Christopher Morgan, Dancer, Choreographer and Artistic Director, Christopher K. Morgan & Artists; Nicholas Galanin, Multimedia Artist; Rosy Simas, Dancer and Choreographer

A discussion moderated by Lulani Arquette, Executive Director of the Native Arts and Culture Foundation, and featuring performing and visual native artists working in contemporary idioms. Panelists will discuss how they perceive and imagine indigeneity today and how that is reflected in their work. They will also address trends and issues facing native contemporary artists.

**Broadway 1 & 2, Plaza Level**

#### **Equity & Access: How are artists of color supported in the creation of their art?**

**Moderator:** Rosie Gordon-Wallace, Founder Director | Curator, Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc.

**Participants:** Ryan Dennis, Public Art Director, Project Row Houses; Jo Ann Minor, Programs Manager, Ashe Cultural Arts Center; Chris Cowden, Executive Director, Women & Their Work; Vicki Meek, Manager, South Dallas Cultural Center; Nancy Chen, Program Director, Asian Arts Initiative

How are artists of color being supported in the creation of their art? This session will consider social, economic and political disparities resulting from structural racism and look at intergenerational dialogue as a strategy for survival. After comparing facts and experiences, we will attempt to construct policies and actions that result in positive outcomes.

**Pavilion Ballroom West, Plaza Level**

#### **How Do You Measure Hope?**

**Moderator:** Jae Shim, Director of Finance and Operations, Asian Arts Initiative

**Participant:** Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, Artist & Scholar, Performance as Public Practice, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin

How can arts organizations measure their worth more in terms of the value of artistic production to communities and less in terms of working capital, P&L, or assets and facilities? In other words, to quote performance scholar Jill Dolan (2005), how do we measure the ways that artistic production “lifts everyone slightly out of the present” and brings them to a space of feeling more hopeful for the world, allied to each other, and perhaps even moved to action in response to the work presented? In this session, we will discuss steps to form a team of NPN/VAN Partners to collaborate, fundraise, research, and devise a measurement system focusing on the value of arts to society--in terms of arts--and not on the utility of arts in terms of job creation number, literacy, leadership skills, and property values. The resulting measurement system would be available to Partners and funders.

**Studio Suite, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

#### **Don't Drop Dead on Stage: A Performing Artist Guide to Retirement**

**Moderator:** Idris Ackamoor, Executive/Co - Artistic Director, Cultural Odyssey

The forum will be a frank discussion on the challenges to navigate the difficult terrain of the performing arts ecology regarding retirement issues. You are a performing artist: dancer, musician, singer, or actor. And like 98% of your crew have never thought about retirement and/or the need and wherewithal to do so. Do you possess the “drop dead on stage” mentality which simply put means to keep performing

until you physically drop dead during a performance to thunderous applause and catcalls for encores: encores that never materialize. The final curtain requires badly attended benefits to scrounge up enough spare change as to provide funding to bury you and/or provide emergency medical care if you were lucky enough to survive the curtain call.

**Director's Suite, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

### **Socially Engaged Art-- Current and Historical Practices, Opportunities and Challenges**

**Moderator:** Kyoko Yoshida, Consultant to U.S.-Japan Connection, NPN/VAN

**Participants:** Sadayuki Higuchi, Secretary General, Arts NPO Link; Justin Jesty, Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Literature University of Washington; MK Wegmann, President & CEO, NPN/VAN

This session will provide scientific and historical perspectives on past and current practices of "Socially Engaged Art," and inform and inspire artists and arts presenters who are committed to social inclusion and activism. This session is an opportunity to learn and discuss contextual background, practical opportunities and challenges of the practice in post-3.11 Japan and in other parts of the world.

**Council Suite, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

### **Artist As Curator, Curator As Artist: Walking The Line Between Artistic And Presenting Practices**

**Participants:** Richard Newman, Co-Director, The Hinterlands; Kristan Kennedy, Visual Art Curator, PICA; Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, Co-Director, anonymous bodies || art collective; Kristy Edmunds, Executive and Artistic Director, Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA; Stephanie McKee, Artistic Director, Junebug Productions

This session will explore the dialogue between artistic and curatorial practice, focusing on individuals and organizations that exist as both artists and presenters. For those who identify primarily as artists but also work as presenters/curators, how does presenting other artists work affect your practice? For presenters that also maintain an artistic practice, how does the process of art-making influence your work as a curator? What kinds of balances are struck between the two disciplines? What kinds of viewpoints emerge?

**Forum Suite, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

### **A Network Within a Network: Naming the Moment of Change**

**Participants:** Harold Steward, Performing Arts Coordinator, City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs; Candace L. Feldman, Producing Director, 651 ARTS; Ashley Davis, Programs Director, Alternate ROOTS

NPN/VAN has been an intricate part of the genesis of Next Generation National Arts Network, and since the 2013 Annual Meeting, we have grown from a network of 20 to more than 150. With our presence on most social media platforms and performing arts conferences, we look to go even further. In Portland, we will create a strategy session to identify needs and opportunities for national networks of young administrators to continue to build a multi-year strategic plan. Learning from NPN and programs like LANE, we are proposing space and time to collaborate and create similar models for the advancement of the field's next leaders.

**Pavilion Ballroom East, Plaza Level**

### **Principles in Practice: Making Movements Count**

**Co-Moderators:** Kathie deNobriga, Arts & Democracy and Sage Crump, Complex Movements

**Participants:** Invincible/ill Weaver, Complex Movements; Aaron Landsman, City Council Meeting; Michael Premo, Sandy StoryLine

Join a dynamic constellation of cultural organizers as they lay out the fundamental principles, tools and approaches at the intersection of arts, culture, civic engagement and social justice. Topics include how touring can support local community movement building, how fundamental values are deeply embedded in practice, and how to best see and discuss impact. Depending on the needs and interests of the participants, the workshop leaders will also share some tools that can create connections between artists, communities, and presenters.

**Broadway 3 & 4, Plaza Level**

## **SUNDAY December 13 from 11:30am-1:00pm**

### **Digital Placemaking: Arts And Civic Culture That Connect Live Performance To Communities On Digital Platforms**

**Presenters:** Claudia Alick, Associate Producer--Community, Oregon Shakespeare Festival; Jamie Gahlon, Senior Creative Producer, HowlRound

A short presentation of digital place-making examples from other organizations followed by breakout small groups where we will identify and share how we are connecting our live performance to communities through digital platforms. The session will end with a group sharing and a list of platforms and apps that we have identified as useful tools in our work.

**Director's Suite, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

### **Artist Action, Climate Crisis and Systems Change: "There are no non-radical options left"**

**Participants:** Elizabeth Doud, Coordinator, Performing Americas Program; Nick Slie, Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director, Mondo Bizarro, Suzanne Sbarge, Executive Director, 516 Arts; Erika Blumenfeld, Artist

Because the scope and complexity of the climate crisis leaves no part of our physical, social, economic and political landscapes untouched, and because so much of the issues artists address are imbedded in the still-unfolding and alarming collapse of our biosphere, culture's role in progressive climate action is inevitable and can be networked more deeply. Drawing upon the practical principles of "rewilding" (now prevalent in many ecological circles), this session will investigate this tension as a means to discuss how resisting control can breath a necessary wildness into our field ecosystem; and, in turn, enliven our artistic practices towards a more pronounced vitality in the world. Discussion topics will include building narrative around non-human protagonists and stories, grappling with complex systems change priorities, interdisciplinary collaborations outside the arts sector, and action measures on local and global scales.

**Broadway 3 & 4, Plaza Level**

### **Coming and Going**

**Participants:** Anne Arrasmith, Founding Director, Space One Eleven; Ed Noonan, Arts Administrator (Retired), Educator, Theater Artist and Poet; Stephanie McKee, Artistic Director, Junebug Productions; MK Wegmann, President & CEO, NPN/VAN; Nathan Purath, Co-Director, Coleman Center for the Arts; Candace Feldman, Producing Director, 651 Arts; Carla Perlo, Founding Director, Dance Place  
We will use this session to identify the psychological aspects of different types of transitions--whether they be conflicted, planned or from the ground up. As we explore the emotional impact of transition on the exiting, mid-career and next generation artists, we'll attempt to develop specific and strategic coping skills and support resources.

**Forum Suite, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

### **Performing Arts Curation and Communities of Color**

**Moderator:** Alvan Colon-Lespier, Pregones Theater

**Participants:** Jane Gabriels, Director, Papatian; Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, Co-Director, anonymous bodies || art collective; Moira Brennan Brennan, Program Director, MAP, Multi-Arts Production Fund; Shay Wafer, Executive Director, 651 Arts

This session focuses on imagining twenty-first century configurations of performance curation and presenting that acknowledges the particular concerns of audiences and artists of color.

**Council Suite, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

### **I'll Show You Mine...**

**Hosted by:** Spencer Byrne-Seres, VAN Site Coordinator and visual artist, Portland, OR

*I'll Show You Mine...* is a fun and fast-paced slideshow, hosted by the Visual Artists Network. 10 visual and performing artists will blast through a selection of their work. Each artist will have only 6 minutes and 40 seconds to present images of their work. If you want to see lots of work in a quick, informal setting, this Idea Forum is for you!

**Pavilion Ballroom West, Plaza Level**

**Decolonizing Methodologies: Common Values, Cultural Competence and Capitalization**

**Facilitated by:** Sage Crump, Program Manager, Leveraging a Network for Equity (LANE)

**Presenters:** Tatiana Hernandez, Hemera Foundation; Alex McCray and Claire Knowlton, Nonprofit Finance Fund

Rooted in the concepts of Linda Tuhiwai Smith's book of the same name, this workshop shares models that build new ways of working based on values that grow our humanity. Presenters will share how their organizations are using concepts outside the norm to develop and shift their programming. We will hear about how the Hemera Foundation focuses on Mindfulness and Contemplative practices, and how the Nonprofit Finance Fund has shifted to work with small and mid-sized organizations. This session will also include an interactive exercise to practice creating new systems.

**Broadway 1 & 2, Plaza Level**