

Georgia Council for the Arts

FY23 Bridge Grant

Panelist Biographies

Panel 1

Miranda Smith

*Arts Education Coordinator, Fulton County Arts and Culture
Fulton County*

Miranda Smith is an Arts Education Coordinator with Fulton County Arts and Culture. She graduated from Augusta State University with a BFA in Ceramic Sculpture and graduated from Georgia State University with a MFA in Ceramics. Miranda is an educator with over 20 years' experience, having taught throughout Georgia. She is a ceramic artist who specializes in Ceramic Education and Foundational Studies. Miranda currently works for Fulton County Arts and Culture in an Outreach capacity, traveling to different parts of the county creating and implementing art programs.

Kaylee Smith

*Executive Director, Back Alley Productions at The Mars Theater
Walker County*

Kaylee Smith has been one of the founding members of Back Alley Productions, has directed several shows, and acted in many others. She is currently attending the Savannah College of Art and Design with a focus on musical theatre. Her dream is to perform in Chicago or New York and make a lifelong career out of her love for theatre, both big and small.

Evan Goetz

*Executive Director, Tybee Post Theater
Chatham County*

Evan Goetz originally came to Savannah for graduate school at Savannah College of Arts and Design (SCAD). Now, as the executive director of the Tybee Post Theater, Evan enjoys promoting the island and the community and sharing this hidden jewel with others. He has arts management experience with organizations in Savannah, Rock Hill, SC, and Charlotte, NC. He holds a BA in Theatre from Limestone University, an MFA in Theatre from SCAD, and a certificate in Arts and Culture Strategy from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Zhong Beibei Lin

*Assistant Professor of Music, Valdosta State University
Lowndes County*

Hailing from a family of teachers, Dr. Beibei Lin is first and foremost dedicated to the development, growth, and success of her students and considers teaching her highest calling and greatest privilege. She was awarded the Steinway & Sons Top Teacher Award in 2017 in recognition of her teaching. Dr. Lin maintains an active performance schedule. She debuted as a soloist with the MasterWorks Festival Orchestra at age seventeen, performing Prokofiev's First Piano Concerto under the direction of Miriam Burns. Other significant performances include collaborative appearances at the 2016 International Double Reed Society Conference and a solo appearance at the 2017 Women Composers Festival of Hartford. In the summer, she serves as a collaborative pianist at the MasterWorks Festival at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC. She has presented solo and collaborative guest artist recitals and masterclasses at institutions throughout the United States. Widely sought after as an adjudicator, she served as a judge for the Florida Junior and Senior Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Piano Competitions, the Alabama Music Teachers Association (AMTA) State Piano Auditions, the AMTA Piano District Auditions, the Alabama All-State Orchestra Auditions, the Georgia Baptist Mission Board Keyboard Festival, and the Pensacola Music Teachers Association Sonata and Scholarship Contest. Prior to her appointment at Valdosta State University, Dr. Lin taught at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. Dr. Lin completed her Doctor of Music in Piano Performance and Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from The Florida State University. She completed her Bachelor of Music, Summa Cum Laude, in Piano Performance at Arizona State University. Her piano mentors include Heidi Louise Williams and Walter Cosand.

Denise Tucker

*Project Assistant, Greater Augusta Arts Council
Richmond County*

Since 2003, Denise has worked as an arts consultant, primarily working with small non-profit dance organizations writing grant proposals, prospect research, and developing fundraising plans. Projects range from writing proposals for a specific new program, to prospect research and fundraising guidance, to ongoing grantwriting and development work. Prior to this, Denise managed the Cutno Artist Group in Augusta, Georgia, for 12 years. She spearheaded the launch of an organizational website and e-newsletter and supported program development for the summer, after-school, and arts-in-education programs. Currently, Denise is part owner of Humanitree House Juice Joint & Art Gallery (where she manages the art of Baruti Tucker) and the acting Project Assistant for the Greater Augusta Arts Council.

Gerald Hodge, Jr.

*Founder & CEO, Appalachia Georgia Friends of the Bears
Gilmer County*

Gerald is the Founder and CEO of Appalachia Georgia Friends of the Bears in Ellijay, GA. He previously served as Executive Director of Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association in Etowah, TN. He retired as Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army where he served for 28 years. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee and an MA from the American Military University.

Panel 2

Madia Cooper-Ashirifi

*Assistant Professor and Chair of Dance, Brenau University
Hall County*

Madia Cooper-Ashirifi, Liberian dance educator, West African and Social Dance Performing artist, choreographer, and scholar, received a Master of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography from The College at Brockport and a B.F.A. in Dance Education from Brenau University. Currently, she serves as an Assistant Professor and Chair of Dance at Brenau University. As a Liberian-American, Madia shares her culture and knowledge of West African and social dances to all ages at various venues. She is a performer of the Ghanaian dance company Mawre African Dance and Drum, which travels throughout the Southeast performing and conducting residences. Madia's other company credits include the Bill Evans Dance Company and Sankofa African Dance Ensemble. In addition, she has collaborated with various musicians, visual artists, and singers to produce multi-artistic works and performance art in the U.S. Her choreographic works and teaching credits include a variety of dance disciplines in genres of the African Diaspora, modern, afro-modern, West African, Afro-funk, and jazz. Additional teaching and choreographic credits include: the American College Dance Association, University of Alabama, Darton College, Middle Tennessee State University, Amherst College, Dean College, The University of the South, The Atlanta Ballet Centre of Dance Education, The Dancers' Studio, Vanderbilt Summer Dance Intensive, New York Summer School of the Arts, and the Gainesville Ballet Summer Intensive Residency as well as others. In addition to teaching, she has had the opportunity to work and perform works of Kofi Mawuko, Robert Battle, Carolyn Adams, Donald McKayle, Cleo Parker Robinson, Dianne McIntyre, Chet Walker, Darwin Prioleau, Habib Iddrisu, Bill Evans, Larry Keigwin, Telly Fowler, and Sherry Zunker.

Heather Heath

*Executive Director, Golden Isles Arts & Humanities
Glynn County*

Heather Heath joined the staff of Golden Isles Arts & Humanities in 1998 and became its Executive Director in 1999. Heather has more than 25 years experience working in the arts with a strong background in theatre. As Executive Director of Golden Isles Arts & Humanities, Heather is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization and programming all the many events they sponsor. A graduate of Oxford College of Emory University and Florida State University where she received her B.A. in Theatre, Heather worked professionally as an actor in over 50 productions in the Atlanta area and the Southeast. Her work as an actor has been critically acclaimed and she continues to perform as time permits.

Susan Welsh

*Executive Director, Museum of Arts and Sciences
Bibb County*

Susan Welsh serves as the Executive Director of the Museum of Arts and Sciences. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia but also studied studio art and art history at Wesleyan College. Susan is an active member of the Macon Rotary Club, the co-chairman of the Macon Cultural Master Plan, and

serves on the Visit Macon Board of Directors, Coliseum Health System Board of Trustees, One Macon Steering Committee, Friends of Macon Music Executive Board, and Wesleyan College's Confucius Institute Advisory Board, among others. Before joining the Museum in 2012, Susan served as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Wesleyan College, where she provided leadership and strategic direction for the offices of development, alumnae relations, and marketing communications.

Brooks Nettum

*Administrator, St. Mary's Little Theatre
Camden County*

Brooks Nettum has worked in the theater and art circuit for over 20 years as the director of the historic Rylander Theatre, and a board member of the Americus-Sumter County Arts Council and Sumter Players Community Theater, as well as other non-profit organizations. She also has a forty year history of dance and community theater (directing, acting, set building, and choreography). Professionally, she retired from AT&T marketing and advertising.

Mandy Maloney

*Former Executive Director, Rome Area Council for the Arts
Floyd County*

Former executive director of Rome Area Council for the Arts (RACA) in Rome, Ga., Mandy Maloney is a Calhoun, Ga., native who studied Communications at Columbus State University. After spending time in California, she returned to Northwest Georgia where she has lived for nearly a decade. No stranger to the arts, Maloney made her acting debut at age 5 as Mrs. Claus. She has remained closely connected to her passion ever since, active in the Rome Little Theatre where she directs, produces, acts and serves on the board of directors. She has also been an integral part of local arts programming as a Young Actors Camp instructor and youth education instructor, and also as the Rome Little Theatre junior program director. Maloney attends St. Mary's Catholic Church. She currently serves as Director of the South Rome Early Learning Center. She has a Bachelor's degree from the University of West Georgia.

Dr. Phyllis Anderson

*Artistic Director, The Augusta Chorale
Richmond County*

Dr. Phyllis W. Anderson, a native of Norfolk, Virginia, currently teaches music education courses at Augusta University. Dr. Anderson is active as the artistic director and conductor of the Augusta Chorale, a community choir that performs classics, spirituals, and gospel accompanied by the Aiken Civic Orchestra. Dr. Anderson worked as faculty member and choir director in the Paine College music department for 13 years where she earned the rank of a tenured associate professor. Under her direction, the concert choir performed Vivaldi's Gloria, Mozart's Regina Coeli, and Faure's Requiem. Dr. Anderson earned the Bachelor of Science degree in music education at Norfolk State University, Norfolk, Virginia and the Master of Arts degree in music theory at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. She earned the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia where she won the United Negro College Fund Research Award for four consecutive years. She has earned the Georgia Professional Teacher Certificate, Level T7, and is certified in Orff Schulwerk and Kindermusik. Dr.

Anderson has been active as a clinician and consultant for choirs, schools, arts groups, and churches in Georgia, Ohio, and Maryland and has served on the Georgia Teacher Assessment Certification and SACS Review Teams. She was voted the Paine College Teacher of the Year and Euchee Creek Elementary School Teacher of the Year. She is active member of the the National Association for Music Education, the Augusta Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, Delta Kappa Gamma Society and Pi Kappa Lambda National Honor Society. She is active as a music consultant at Good Hope Baptist Church.

Panel 3

Douglas Scott

*Executive Director, Dance Force dba Full Radius Dance
Fulton County*

Founded in 1990 by Artistic and Executive Director, Douglas Scott, Full Radius Dance was originally known as Dance Force. The company began as a ‘traditional’ dance company in which all members were professional dancers without disabilities. In 1993, through a partnership with VSA arts of GA, Shepherd Center, and Special Audiences, Douglas began teaching dance classes for persons with physical disabilities, changing the course of his career. He was intrigued by the challenge of creating a modern dance technique that would be inclusive and challenging for all physical abilities, one that was firmly founded in art and not designed to be “therapeutic.” Through hard work, trial and error, and mutual learning between him and his students, Douglas developed a distinct style and technique, now celebrated for its artistry and inclusiveness. In 1995, Douglas was asked to create dances for the Arts Festival of Atlanta-commissioned production of “Visage En Face,” which was a collaboration with rock band Van Gogh. Douglas and Ardath Prendergast – a dancer, choreographer, and arts administrator with VSA Arts of GA – enlisted several members of the dance class to meet at Atlanta’s Piedmont Park on one foggy evening and launched the first performance of the dance company, E=Motion. Although it was under the Dance Force board of directors and fiscal sponsorship, E=Motion operated separately from the Dance Force company until the feasibility of this new and bold venture was determined. The company soon thrived in its new ambition. In 1998, E=Motion merged with Dance Force to create Full Radius Dance, with Douglas serving as the Artistic and Executive Director and Ardath as Artistic Associate – a position she held until her relocation in 2003. Full Radius Dance maintains a highly rigorous and active performance schedule in the Greater Atlanta area, as well as regionally, nationally, and internationally. Locally, the company presents an annual repertory concert and produces the annual Modern Atlanta Dance (MAD) Festival. The company is committed to redefining the boundaries of dance through performance, education, and advocacy, and constantly seeks opportunities to promote its core values for body positivity. At Full Radius Dance, we believe that your body is perfect, has undiscovered movement, and can experience dance.

Jim Farmer

*Festival Director, Out on Film
Fulton County*

Jim Farmer has served as the festival director of Out On Film since 2008. He has also served on several juries since 2010, including the head of the jury for the 2016 Atlanta Film Festival. Under his leadership Out On Film was named a Grand Marshal in the 2017 Atlanta Pride parade and received the Beacon

Award for Community Engagement from the ArtsATL Luminary Awards. Farmer won the 2015 Guardian Angel Award from the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (AGLCC) Award and in 2019 took home the award for Businessman of the Year. An Atlanta-based arts writer, he is a member of five regional and national critics organizations.

Tina Cox

*Executive Director, Paradise Garden Foundation
Chattooga County*

Tina Cox, Executive Director of Paradise Garden Foundation or PGF, leads PGF's operations, restoration, development, fundraising, membership, and financial management. While on the PGF board of directors, 2016-2017, she chaired the development team to create the 2017-20 and 2020-2023 Paradise Garden strategic plans. She is on the editorial team for Folk Art Messenger Magazine, and National Advisory Board for Folk Art Society of America. She was on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the High Museum of Art, Trustee Board for The Woodruff Arts Center and Board of Directors for the Hudgens Center for Arts & Learning. An avid folk art and self-taught collector and champion, Cox was a friend of Howard Finster. She organized a team of 27 volunteers to work with art conservationist, Tony Rajer, on the works of art from Paradise Garden acquired by the High Museum of Art in 1992. She recruited and assisted an art conservationist volunteer team for Paradise Garden and Pasaquan in 1994 as part of Save Outdoor Sculpture Project sponsored by the Smithsonian American Art. Tina's prior corporate experience was in operations with KPMG (25 years), Deloitte and Booz Allen. Tina's honors include the Folk Art Society of America Award of Distinction.

Dr. Shae Anderson

*Executive Director, The Liberty Theatre & Cultural Center
Muscogee County*

Dr. Anderson has served as the Executive Director of Liberty Theatre & Cultural Center for more than nine years. She is also the founder and co-publisher of UrbanEdge Publishing. She previously served as Assistant Professor of English at Fort Valley State University, and as adjunct faculty and lecturer at Columbus State University. She holds a BA from Bennett College, and an MA and PhD from Georgia State University.

Tiia Kunnapas

*Librarian, Southern Crescent Technical College
Upson County*

Tiia is a Librarian at Southern Crescent Technical College in Thomaston, Ga. She previously served as the Director of Library Services at Allegany College of Maryland and DeVry University in Decatur, Ga. She has also served as Assistant Librarian at Bauder College and Atlanta Technical College. Tiia holds a Bachelor's degree from the NYU Stern School of Business, a Masters in Education from the University of West Georgia, and a Masters of Library & Information Science from Valdosta State University.

Reishal Cummings

*Development Director, Augusta Mini Theatre
Richmond County*

Reishal Monique Cummings is an Augusta, Ga., native. Reishal holds a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Theatre Studies/Drama from South Carolina State University. She is actively working in film, stage plays, and web series, globally as well as locally. Reishal joined the Augusta Mini Theatre family in 2010 as a volunteer, later serving on the Board of Directors and currently serves as the theater's Development Director.

Panel 4**Angela Harris**

*Executive Artistic Director, Dance Canvas
Fulton County*

Angela Harris is the Executive Artistic Director of Dance Canvas, Inc., a career development organization for emerging professional choreographers and youth. Angela conceived and founded Dance Canvas after witnessing the difficult path and lack of professional opportunities for young choreographers. Additionally, Dance Canvas was envisioned to create relatable professional dance experiences and new dance patrons in the Atlanta area. Angela has developed youth dance/career development programs for the City of Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs, recording artist Usher's New Look Foundation, and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation. Through Dance Canvas, Angela has been a catalyst, consultant, and resource for numerous new dance organizations and artists throughout metro Atlanta. She received the 2011 Emerging Leader Award from Americans for the Arts and American Express, and was selected to be in the 2014 class of Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA). Angela served on the national Emerging Leaders Council for Americans for the Arts from 2011 - 2014, and is a member of Dance USA. Angela is originally from Baltimore, MD and is a choreographer, dancer, and a graduate of The Baltimore School for the Arts. She received her dance training at Dance Theater of Harlem, School of the Hartford Ballet, and The Eglevsky Ballet. She attended Mercyhurst College and City College of New York, earning a B.A. in Journalism, while on full ballet scholarship at Steps on Broadway. Angela has danced professionally with The Georgia Ballet, Columbia City Ballet, and Urban Ballet Theater in NYC. Angela has been a master class instructor at colleges & universities across the country. She was the resident ballet instructor at the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute in 2015, 2016 and virtually in 2020. Angela was awarded the 2012 Emerging Artist Award in Dance from The City of Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs and received a proclamation from the Atlanta City Council. Angela was selected as one of five Inaugural National Visiting Fellows at the School of American Ballet in NYC. Most recently, Angela received an SDCF Observership and worked with Susan Stroman on the new musical, Little Dancer, during its Development Lab for Broadway. Angela is on faculty at Emory University's Department of Dance and Movement Studies. She is also currently an instructor at Dekalb School for the Arts and Academy of Ballet.

Stephanie Donaldson

*Executive Director, Johns Creek Arts Center
Fulton County*

Throughout her nine years at the Johns Creek Arts Center, Stephanie has served in the capacities of Director of Registrations & Payroll and Deputy Director. In February 2020, she was appointed as Johns Creek Arts Center's Executive Director. Stephanie serves on several civic organizations: Leadership Johns Creek, Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Johns Creek North Fulton, School Governance Council, and the Legacy Arts Center Task Force.

Tate LeClair

*Director of Development, Springer Opera House
Muscogee County*

Tate is the Director of Development at Springer Opera House in Columbus, Ga. He has been working as an Arts Administrative professional for the past eight years, previously with Stone Mountain Park with Entertainment and Special Events. He is a professional actor and director with a BFA in Theatre Performance from Columbus State University where he was on the Dean's List and in the National Honors Theatre Fraternity Alpha Psi Omega. His Springer credits include the National Tour of Della's Diner, Sister Act, Beauty and the Beast, The Who's Tommy, Sweeney Todd, and Mary Poppins.

Laura Floyd

*Business Manager, Canopy Studio
Clarke County*

Laura Floyd is the Business Manager for Canopy Studio in Athens. She is a Certified Bookkeeper who has worked with a variety of businesses and nonprofit organizations in Athens over the past thirteen years. She has a background in music, visual art, and theater, and was a founding board member of ATHICA. She currently has paintings in local exhibitions and is a backdrop artist for Arts! Oglethorpe.

Ruth Sutcliffe

*Marketing Professional and Entrepreneur, The Scent Guru Group
Fulton County*

Ruth has been an arts and culture aficionado for decades and has volunteered for many non-profit organizations in the New York area. She has lived in Atlanta one year. She is an experienced, highly respected, creative, and innovative fragrance product developer, known for the development of award-winning fragrances over a wide range of end-uses from detergents and candles to perfumes. She is fluent in French, with knowledge of Italian and Spanish. She is a published writer, road tripper, world traveler (Africa, Tibet, India), art curator, social media content creator, and published author.

Panel 5

Bradley Hartman

*Grants Manager, Center for Puppetry Arts
Fulton County*

Bradley Hartman has served as the Grants Manager at Center for Puppetry Arts for the last four years. Previously, he served as an Academic Advisor and College Tutor at American InterContinental University. Bradley holds an Associate's Degree from Young Harris College and a Bachelor's Degree from Piedmont University.

Maria Zouves

*Co-Founder and President, Savannah VOICE Festival
Chatham County*

Maria Zouves is an educator, director, producer and writer. She is Executive Director of the Sherrill Milnes VOICE Programs – VOICEexperience Foundation and Co-Founder and President of the Savannah VOICE Festival – which she co-founded with her husband, Sherrill Milnes, to provide training for aspiring young artists and foster new audiences for the vocal arts. The Greek-American soprano has sung leading roles in the regional U.S., made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1997, and has recorded under the VAI label. Ms. Zouves has directed, taught, and produced events all around the world, having worked with the International Vocal Arts Institute (IVAI) in Montreal and Puerto Rico, the International Institute of Vocal Arts (IIVA) in Chiari, Italy, and at the Savonlinna Opera Festival in Finland. From 2007 to 2011, she served as Vice President and Associate General Director of Opera Tampa, the resident opera company of the Straz Center for the Performing Arts. She has taught workshops at Southern Illinois University, Drake University and served as interim opera director at Northwestern University.

Laura Johnson

*Administrative Director, CSU Youth Dance Conservatory
Muscogee County*

Laura Johnson received her B.A. in Dance and International Relations from the University of Alabama. After graduation, she attended the American Dance Festival in Durham, NC, on a Young Artist Scholarship to continue her studies in modern dance. She earned her M.A. in Performing Arts Management at American University in Washington, D.C., before moving down to the Columbus, GA, area. Since moving to the area, Laura has served as a choreographer, administrator, and associate director for the Columbus Ballet on several of their performances of *The Nutcracker*, as well as choreographer and director for the Ballet's spring programming. She has been a dance teacher for over 20 years and has taught at the CSU Dance Conservatory since 2019.

Patricia Harris

*Grant and Resource Development Specialist, National Black Arts Festival
Fulton County*

Patricia Harris is the Grant and Resource Development Specialist with the National Black Arts Festival. With over 30 years of artistic expression, organizational development and nonprofit leadership/management, Patricia Harris has accumulated a depth of experience in the creative arts industry, nonprofit management, outcome-based strategic planning, nonprofit board governance development, organizational capacity building, and community development. She has degrees in Organizational Development/Business Administration from Augsburg College, in Minneapolis, MN, and in Music Theory and Voice Performance from the Chicago Conservatory of Music, Chicago, IL. She received professional development training and certifications from the National Training Laboratories (NTL), Silver Springs, MD; The Forum, Landmark Institute, London, England; Association for Enterprise Development, Washington, DC; WSEP Ventures, Chicago, IL; and Georgia Center for Non-Profits, Atlanta, GA. Patricia has performed and acted in lead theater performances, and choral performances nationally. She is also credited as an accomplished national nonprofit leader who has received numerous national awards and accolades attesting her leadership and service to the nonprofit sector. She has served on national board of directors as a member and as board chair. She volunteers her time to her church community and to other nonprofit organizations when called upon. Patricia has supported NBAF as its grant and resource development team member for over eight years in the areas of grants and outcome reporting, resource development specialist, program and evaluation coordinator, and advisor for new artistic programming.

Madeline Bates Blankenship

*Get Artistic Program Lead, Creature Comforts Brewing Co.
Clarke County*

Madeline Bates has curated local art shows and art events for Creature Comforts Brewing Co.'s taproom facility since 2014. She has a B.A. in Art History from the Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia. Madeline served on the board of Athens Institute of Contemporary Art (ATHICA) from 2016–2018. She created the [Get Artistic](#) outreach and grant program at Creature Comforts Brewing Co. which officially began grantmaking in 2018. Madeline has 10+ years of experience as a classical percussionist and is currently involved in with the Athens Symphony Orchestra.

Jennifer Rao

*Director of Operations and Community Engagement, Discover Dunwoody
DeKalb County*

Jennifer Rao is the Director of Operations and Community Engagement for Discover Dunwoody, the Convention and Visitors Bureau for the City of Dunwoody. In her role, she manages all aspects of the organization's operations, including human resources, finance, and technology. She also is responsible for building strong and productive relationships with community partners and stakeholders, including local arts organizations. In FY 2020-2021 she wrote grant proposals resulting in \$207,000 in awards and managed compliance with all reporting requirements. Jennifer is currently pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the Harvard Extension School.

Panel 6

Dr. Andrew Wulf

*Executive Director, Albany Museum of Art
Dougherty County*

Andrew James Wulf, Ph.D., became executive director of the Albany Museum of Art in October 2019. Wulf came to Albany from Santa Fe, N.M., where he served as executive director of the New Mexico History Museum and the Palace of the Governors, a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, from 2015-2019. Prior to that, he was supervisory museum curator for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, a division of the U.S. National Archives, from 2010-2015. A guest curator and lecturer at the Museum of Design in Atlanta in 2016, Wulf has led the development of original museum and special collections-based public programming, exhibitions, and publications for the last 16 years. He was curator of exhibitions, special collections, at the University of Southern California, from 2004-2010, and at USC's Fisher Museum of Art. A graduate of the Getty Leadership Institute Executive Education Program for Museum Leaders, Wulf earned his Ph.D. from the School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, United Kingdom. He holds a M.A. in Art History and Museum Studies from USC; Graduate Certificates in The Arts of Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Europe, and The Visual Arts in Europe: 1720-1920, from Victoria and Albert Museum, London; an M.A. in Expressive Arts Therapy from Lesley University; an M.A. in English (Poetry) from the University of New Hampshire, and a B.A. in International Relations/French Literature from the University of Southern California.

Achia Floyd

*Development Manager, Atlanta Music Project
Fulton County*

Achia Floyd received her Bachelor's degree in Music Performance at the Florida State University, a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a Master of Arts degree in Arts Administration from Florida State University. She has performed at Carnegie Hall with the Imani Winds, the Juilliard School of Music, and the Bowdoin Music Festival. In her professional career, Achia founded the Terpsichore Winds, served as the executive assistant and private music instructor for Music Lessons Express, as the assistant director of the Javacya Arts Conservatory after school program. More recently, Achia worked as Executive Director of the Tallahassee Youth Orchestras and Development Coordinator for the Florida State University Foundation.

Rivka Levin

*Development Director, Atlanta Shakespeare Company
Fulton County*

Rivka joined the Atlanta Shakespeare Company after completing her Master's degree in Media and Performing Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in 2005. This degree prepared Rivka to serve the Tavern through Media Relations, Marketing, Theatrical Promotion, Casting, Media Criticism, Business Writing, and Project Development, in addition to further honing her skills as a performer. Rivka has been a member of Actor's Equity (the professional actor's union) since 1997, and is a classically trained singer, harpist, and vocal pedagogist. When not onstage at the Tavern, she serves as

the Music Director for the Georgia Renaissance Festival and performs with several bands. Rivka likes to make her own jewelry, study virology and epidemiology, and design and sew her own period costumes.

Sementha Mathews

*Executive Director, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission
Lowndes County*

Sementha Mathews is the Executive Director of the Turner Center for the Arts. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Public Relations and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. After retiring from a public relations career in local government, she was hired in 2018 to manage the day-to-day business operations of LVAC in accordance with policies established by the board. Sementha oversees a nine-member staff and programming that positively impacts the region with cultural enrichment, art education and entertainment. She also promotes the visionary and strategic direction for LVAC, its board and the center, and serves as the primary representative and spokesperson to the general public, the news media, and to city, county, state and federal agencies.

Patrick Brennan

*Former Executive Director, Sautee Nacoochee Community Association
White County*

Patrick was the Executive Director of Sautee Nacoochee Community Association (SNCA) for almost six years. While there, he developed a new audience-based mission statement, vision statement, and strategic plan for the organization. He also worked with the board to draft, test, and adopt a DEIA Statement documenting institutional operating values. Prior to joining SNCA, Patrick was Senior Director for Programs, Properties, and Preservation Services for the National Trust for Historic Preservation for over seven years, managing an annual budget of \$2.5 million and supervising a staff of 24 in three departments. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Washington and Lee University and a certificate in arts management from North Carolina State University.

Panel 7

Natalie Holly-Purviance

*Development Director, Actor's Express
Fulton County*

Natalie Holly-Purviance is an actor, writer, and filmmaker. As an actor, she originated the role of Maxine in Christie Perfetti's *Carnival Girls* and performed at The Kraine Theatre, Pantheon Theatre, House of Tribes Theatre, Impact Theatre, and the Strawberry-One Act Festival. As a filmmaker, she Associate Produced A. Sayeeda Clarke's short, *WHITE* for the inaugural ITVS Futurestates series starring Elvis Nolasco and Zabryna Guevara. In 2012 she moved to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and later, Cap-Haitien, Haiti, where she worked on various projects including a housing development community for displaced earthquake victims, which was funded by the United States Agency for International Development. During this time, she wrote and developed a television pilot, which she was invited to pitch at the CaribbeanTales Incubator hosted by the Toronto International Film Festival. She was commissioned by

the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago, to produce an educational video on jatropha, a local-to-Haiti multi-purpose crop, which was presented at the Caribbean Science and Agriculture Film and Video Competition. She has since been a finalist in the Writers Guild of America East, Made in New York Writers Room, has written for the New York Film Academy blog, and been published by The Haitian Times and Harper's Magazine. Born and raised in Queens, NY, to Haitian parents, Natalie studied at Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal, earned a BA in Sociology and Anthropology at Wells College, and completed her MFA at The Actors Studio Drama School in New York. She is currently Director of Development at The Actor's Express Theatre in Atlanta where she resides with her husband Domonic and her dog, Bella.

Lena Carstens

*Development Director for Public Grants, Atlanta Beltline
Fulton County*

Lena Carstens joined Atlanta Beltline Inc. (ABI) in 2015 as the Development Officer for Public Grants. She actively supports ABI by identifying and applying for public funding opportunities at the federal, state, local, and regional levels. Carstens formerly served as the Program Manager for Arts and Education Services at the City of Atlanta. She is an alum of LEAD Atlanta Class of 2006 and received the Outstanding Atlanta award in 2010. She holds an MBA and an M.A. in Arts Administration from Southern Methodist University and a BFA in Stage Management from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

Leigh Burns

*Director, Fox Theatre Institute
Fulton County*

Leigh Burns is the Director of Fox Theatre Institute. Before joining the Fox Theatre, Burns served as the education and outreach coordinator for the Georgia Main Street Program at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Burns additionally worked for numerous years with the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Burns has 20 years of historic preservation planning and community development experience including internships with the National Park Service and the Historic Oakland Foundation. She received a Masters of Heritage Preservation degree from Georgia State University in 2001. In 2014, Burns was presented an Award of Excellence in Historic Preservation from the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. She holds board positions with the Georgia Downtown Association and Young Harris College Alumni Board. Burns is a native of College Park and resides in Druid Hills with her husband. She actively volunteers with the Historic Oakland Foundation and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

Karla Redding-Andrews

*Executive Director, Otis Redding Foundation
Bibb County*

Karla Redding-Andrews, Vice President/Executive Director at The Otis Redding Foundation, graduated Georgia Southern University (where she serves on the PR Advisory Board) in 1985. Following graduation, she was PR Director for the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and went on to operate one of

Georgia's finest retail stores, Karla's Shoe Boutique with her mother, Zelma. When the Foundation was created she donated her time and energy to music and arts education programs for people age 5-18. She co-founded the Otis Music Camp with Lisa Love in 2007 and has continued to work tirelessly to involve more and more talented young people in the programs. In addition, Karla is a member of the Leadership Macon Class of 2015 and the Macon Rotary Club. She currently is vice-chair of the Georgia Music Foundation and serves on the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings Board of Visitors. She also serves on the board of the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, and the executive committee of Macon's International Cherry Blossom Festival. She previously served on the Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Advisory Commission. Karla received the Macon Arts Alliance Cultural Award in 2016. In 2018, she received The Women's International Music Network's "She Rocks Award" alongside Pat Benatar, Melissa Etheridge, The B-52's Kate Pierson and Cindy Wilson. Redding-Andrews and husband Timothy have two sons, Justin and Jarred.

Stacie McDaniel

*Director, Performing Arts Center, Georgia Southern University
Bulloch County*

Stacie McDaniel has served as the Director of the Performing Arts Center at Georgia Southern since 2015. In that capacity, she has overseen tremendous growth of the organization's programs and increased collaborative partnerships with university and community stakeholders. An effective and passionate arts administrator, Stacie is dedicated to creating welcoming artistic spaces which serve as the hearth of vibrant communities and civic engagement. Originally from southern Illinois, she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance and Creative Writing from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL in 2010, and received her Masters of Public Administration from Georgia Southern University. Stacie began her career as a performer, having been active in many creative endeavors including dance, drama, and vocal performance, and writing. Favorite roles include Sarah in *Company*, and Myrrhine in *Lysistrata*.

Laura Jennings

*Executive Director, LaGrange Art Museum
Troup County*

Laura Jennings has been the executive director of the LaGrange Art Museum in LaGrange for almost five years. With a journalism degree from the University of Georgia, she began her career in newspaper reporting and photography. Jennings has extensive experience in not-for-profit fundraising, marketing, public relations, and tourism. Laura has been involved with the LaGrange Art Museum for most of her adult life, serving as a volunteer, board chairman, and chair of various committees.