

# Georgia Council for the Arts Project Grant FY23 Grant Panelist Biographies

## Project Grant - Panel 1

### **Amy Royals**

*Director of Annual Giving, Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA*

An artist and traveler from a young age, Amy Royals graduated from Kennesaw State University with a B.F.A in Painting and Drawing with a Minor in Art History. Four years at The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia allowed her to explore a career in many aspects of visual art and nonprofit management such as program and event planning, exhibition curating, and fundraising. During that time, she served as a panelist for agencies such as Emory University, C4 Atlanta, and the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs and was a grant review panelist for Fulton County Arts and Culture. Amy discovered her passion for nonprofit development, specifically in communications, grant writing, and campaign management. In 2018, she assumed a new role with the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta where she is currently the Director of Annual Giving. Amy lives in Atlanta with her husband and one-year-old daughter and still enjoys painting and photography when she is not keeping up with her little one.

### **Tiffany Wilson**

*Community Engagement Coordinator, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, Columbus, GA*

Tiffany has more than 20 years of experience, ranging from special event planning, to grant writing in the non-profit sector. She has worked for the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, and Historic Westville. Tiffany spent 8 years with Twin Cedars Youth and Family Services, where she helped secure more than \$2.5 million dollars in federal grants and private funds. In 2013, she was hired as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, where she oversees the strategic development of the organization's internal and external marketing efforts, advertising placement, public relations, institutional fundraising, programming, and most recently volunteer services. Tiffany graduated in 1999 with a B.S. in Public Relations from Georgia Southern University.

### **Gina Ward**

*Director, Douglass Theatre, Macon, GA*

Gina Ward has been the manager of the Historic Douglass Theatre in Downtown Macon since 2003. She is responsible for every aspect of the theatre, including keeping the seats filled through regular performances, musical events, political forums, family gatherings, and film presentations. She does this all while maintaining a historic facility that requires special projects, upgrades, and repairs. Those who work with Gina on a regular basis know that she is dedicated to the preservation of the Douglass and its best use as a performing arts center for Downtown Macon.

### **Terry Bryson Lowry**

*Composer and Arts Educator, Carrollton Symphony Orchestra, Carrollton, GA*

Terry Lowry is the composer of over 200 works, including piano concertos, oratorios, symphonies, chamber works, song cycles and numerous works for solo instrument, especially piano. His iTunes

podcast, “Tone Poem”, through which he often releases new compositions, has subscribers in over 100 countries. He was the Georgia Music Teacher Association Commissioned Composer for 2019. As both pianist and conductor, Mr. Lowry maintains a very busy performing schedule. A Steinway Artist, he has performed over 1000 solo piano recitals throughout North America and Europe and he has appeared on the podium in the United States, Germany, Austria, Spain, and Italy. He is the Conductor and Music Director of the Carroll Symphony Orchestra, the Carrollton Wind Ensemble and the Carrollton Jazz Orchestra.

### **Christopher Brazelton**

*Executive Director, Elm Street Cultural Arts Center, Woodstock, GA*

Christopher Brazelton is the executive director of Elm Street Cultural Arts Villiage. Christopher lives in Woodstock with his wife Morgan, son Nathan, and their dogs, Tally and Fischer. He started at Elm Street in April of 2013 and has loved getting involved with the community. He holds a B.A in Theatre from Florida State University. Prior to coming to Woodstock, Christopher founded Leave Your Mark Productions in Tallahassee, FL, where he built a volunteer base of 400 people and produced over 25 productions with a vision that each ticket contributing to social justice issues globally. Now, Christopher is focused on Elm Street programs to create vibrancy and engage the community with everything that the organization does.

### **Toni Renee Johnson**

*Associate Professor of Dance, Savannah State University, Savannah, GA*

Toni Renee Johnson is a seasoned dance professional with over 20 years of experience in performance, choreography, production, directing, dance education and mentorship. Historically, Toni Renee is the first tenured Associate Professor of Dance at Savannah State University. During her tenure, she joyfully served in an array of capacities including the Performing Arts Coordinator for the Department of Fine Arts, Humanities and Wellness, Faculty Senator; Chair of SSU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences NPCC committee; Advisor and Artistic Director of Obsidian Dance Repertory, departmental dance ensemble and University cultural ambassadors; whose members she lead to China for a collaborative dance production with dance majors at Jiujiang University, hosted by the Confucius Institute in Jiujiang, China; as well as travel for dance training in Los Angeles and Atlanta. She is a longtime collaborator with the Savannah Black Heritage Festival and Artistic Director of Maverick Dance Experience, dance company, originating in Bronx, NY. Toni Renee holds an MFA degree in choreography and performance from Florida State University and is alumna of Drexel University where she earned her BS degree in Communications.

## **Project Grant - Panel 2**

### **Nneka Carter Young**

*Executive Director, President Theatre, Manchester, GA*

Nneka Carter-Young is a well-known business coach who has helped many companies develop their brand, expand their reach and increase their profits. She also has been instrumental in startups and organization development and systems. Ms. Carter-Young has a B.S. in Organizational Communications from Wilberforce University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Manchester Development Authority. Where she focuses on creating economic opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents. She also was a former board member of The President Theatre and served as Acting Director. Carter-Young credits her ability to help businesses thrive is her understanding of people. Her service to the development of people

includes Assistant Dean of Students and Career Center Coordinator at Point University, a Christian school located in West Point, GA. She managed multiple City of Atlanta Center of Hope Recreation Centers, an initiative of Former Mayor Kasim Reed. She served eight years as an Executive Director for the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta. She is a former National Trainer Associate for Boys & Girls Clubs of America. She served as the Program Facilitator for the Female Rites of Passage Program for the Omega Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio. A longtime Girl Scout Leader and Council volunteer. Ms. Carter-Young has shared her unique insight as a keynote, presenter and mentor at various nonprofit organizations.

### **LeeAnna Anglin**

*General Manager, Albany Symphony Orchestra, Albany, GA*

LeeAnna Parr Anglin was born and raised in Albany, Georgia where she has made her home, raised her children, and become involved in the Arts. LeeAnna is the mother of five children whom she home schooled. Her two daughters danced with Murphey Dance Studios for almost two decades; and during that time, LeeAnna worked with and volunteered for Murphey's in a range of activities to promote the artistic development of the many children whom the Studio taught. Along with her children, she became involved in the Albany Theater and continues with her support as a volunteer. Then the Albany Symphony Orchestra entered the picture! She began as a volunteer, eventually was hired as an assistant to the Business Director, and is now the General Manager of the Symphony. As a result of her work and volunteering, she has dealt with local schools, churches, libraries, businesses, and organizations, affording her many opportunities for promoting and supporting the Arts of southwest Georgia.

### **Pamela Kohn**

*Executive Director, Cine, Athens, GA*

Pamela has been involved in the marketing of motion pictures at film festivals around the world, including Cannes, Toronto, and the American Film Market. As a producer, Kohn has worked on a number of films including *Somebodies*, which premiered at Sundance as an "official selection" film in the narrative feature competition. *Somebodies* won the Special "Grand Jury" prize for Screenwriting at the Sarasota Film Festival and garnered critical recognition at Roger Ebert's film festival and was subsequently bought by Black Entertainment Television (Viacom). *Somebodies* was then developed into a television series, based on the movie. Kohn produced *Rain*, which was picked up by Showtime. *Rain* is the first indigenous Bahamian feature film of its kind to be filmed in the country. The film premiered at the Toronto Film Festival, screened at and won the "Audience Choice Award" at the Bahamas International Film Festival. Screened at the Pan African Film Festival and won "Best Director-First Feature. Additional Awards: Graine Cinephage Award - Creteil International Women's Film Festival, France, Best Teen Movie Award - Women's International Film Festival Seoul Korea amongst others. She also produced *Bottleworld*, a feature film starring Maya and Scott Wilson. Kohn has also been the Co-Founder, Festival Director, and Producer of Robert Osborne's Classic Film Festival, and worked as a Director of Development and Fundraiser for the University of Georgia for over 10 years.

### **Tommy Crane**

*Associate Professor, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA*

Tommy Crane is an associate professor at Valdosta State University in the Department of Art & Design's Interior Design program. Tommy earned his Bachelor of Science in Interior Design at the University of Southern Mississippi and then earned his Masters of Fine Art in Interior Design from Florida State University. Tommy has earned his National Council for Interior Design Qualifications (NCIDQ) certification and is a licensed interior designer in the States of Georgia and Florida. He also has earned and maintains his Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional (AP) in

Interior Design plus Construction specialty (ID+C). He also maintains memberships in the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC). Tommy also is currently vice president of the Valdosta Heritage Foundation and a commissioner for the Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission, showing his commitment to historic preservation and restoration.

### **Kathleen Ewing**

*Grant Writer, South Georgia Ballet, Thomasville, GA*

Kathleen is the Director of Charitable Giving at A Safe Place where she manages all fund development for the organization. Kathleen received her BFA in Dance, with Honors, and a MA in Arts Administration from Florida State University. She is a grant writer, fundraiser, dance educator, choreographer, and nonprofit administrator. She is experienced in teaching underserved populations, program development, and administering within arts education. Kathleen worked at the American Dance Festival and South Georgia Ballet before entering the human services sector. She continues to choreograph, grant write, and teach in the arts sector.

### **Waduda Muhammad**

*Development Manager, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA*

Waduda Muhammad is a visual Arts Administrator in Atlanta GA. She received her Master's of Science degree in Arts Administration from Drexel University in Pennsylvania and received her Bachelors of Arts degree in Art History from Georgia State University. She is the former Interim Director of the Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery at Georgia State University (2008-2010). Since then, she has contracted with numerous arts organizations throughout Atlanta GA such as Pearl Goose Creatives LLC, Georgia Arts Network, Creative Currents LLC, Spelman College Museum of Fine Arts on a variety of art exhibitions, community arts festivals, art beautification and mural projects to name a few. She completed her graduate internship at South Arts as Assistant to the Director of the Performing Arts Exchange. Some of her accomplishments include co-curating several international exhibitions, co-organized the *Roots and More: African & African American Artistic Legacies* Art History Symposium 2009, has written the introduction to *I Remember* an artist catalog 2008, CENCIA Center for Collaborative International Arts catalog 2010 and served as a juror (photography) at the Washington Post in DC for the *Justice & Human Rights Expedition Presentations 2015*. Her most notable accomplishment 2016 – 2018 is as the recipient of a \$100,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente on an initiative with the Atlanta Beltline Inc. As part of a team, Muhammad spearheaded a walking tour of Public art under the auspice of her business Dennis Ayres Fine Arts LLC.

## **Project Grant - Panel 3**

### **Martín Gendelman**

*Associate Professor, Composition and Theory, Statesboro, GA*

The creative work of composer Martín Gendelman (b.1976) touches on both the acoustic and electronic domains and includes compositions for solo performer, chamber groups, and orchestra, as well as many cross-disciplinary works and installations (primarily with dance, video, and theatre). Over the last 20 years, his music has been performed across the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East by ensembles such as the New York-based Da Capo Chamber Players and Mise-En Ensemble, the Boston New Music Initiative, Meitar Ensemble (Israel), and Galan Trio (Greece), and the *Orquesta Sinfónica del Neuquén* (Argentina), to name a few. Some of the events in which he has taken part, either as a guest composer or lecturer, include the Festival Forfest in the Czech Republic, CEME New Music Festival in Israel, the Visiones Sonoras International Festival of Musics and New Technologies in Mexico, the New Music

Greensboro Festival, Parma Music Festival, and many national and regional conferences of the Society of Composers and the College Music Society in the United States. Gendelman holds a doctoral degree in music composition from the University of Maryland and has served as Co-Director of the Society of Composer's (SCI) Region IV and as Co-Director of the 2016 National Conference of the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS). He is currently Associate Professor of Music and Head of Music Theory and Composition at Georgia Southern University, where he also directs the On The Verge new music series.

### **Anya Turpin**

*Special Events, City of Perry, Perry, GA*

My name is Nastasha "Anya" Edgley-Turpin. I currently oversee the City of Perry's Special Events - from Food Truck Fridays during our Spring and Summer months to the Perry Buzzard Drop on New Years Eve, our events offer family-friendly fun for everyone to enjoy! One event in particular which I am most proud of is our Perry International Festival, which showcases the diversity of Middle Georgia through song, dance, art, and food from more than 30 cultures. This event was awarded a grant by GCA in 2021 and we are excited to see it continue to grow in our community! I am originally from O'ahu, Hawai'i and have a background in Tourism. I love true crime podcasts, National Parks, Teddy Roosevelt, and all things weather related. When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling to new places!

### **Julie McCluskey**

*Executive Director, Rome Shakespeare Festival, Rome, GA*

Julie McCluskey is an experienced actor and manager who has worked with several community and regional theatres throughout the Southeast. She currently resides in Rome, where she worked closely with Rome Shakespeare Festival Founder, Gail Deschamps, up until her passing in February of 2021. Julie has also performed for the Rome Little Theatre, the Rome Shakespeare Festival, and the River Arts District Playhouse, and has won two Roman Awards for her performances with these organizations. Professionally, Julie's experience extends outside the theatre and into the corporate world, where she has held management positions with different companies over the last ten years, including Starbucks and Winshape Camps. Julie graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Drama from Lee University in 2010. While there, she was president of her university's chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, as well as a two-time nominee for the regional Irene Ryan Acting Award presented by The Kennedy Center. A quick learner with an intense drive to foster creativity in and amongst her peers, Julie is using these skills as the new Executive Director of the Rome Shakespeare Festival to help lead the organization over the next few years as it expands and grows its influence throughout the community.

### **Lilly McEachern**

*Project Coordinator, Steffen Thomas Museum, Buckhead, GA*

Lilly McEachern currently works as the exhibitions and project coordinator at the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art in Buckhead, Georgia, a curator at Hotel Indigo Athens and a researcher at the Lyndon House Arts Center in Athens, Georgia. Lilly serves on the Exhibitions Committee at Athens Institute for Contemporary Art where I curate special exhibitions and score proposals. Lilly also does freelance ghost writing and marketing for artist studios.

**Ramatu Afegbua-Sabbatt**

*President and CEO, Manga African Dance, Atlanta, GA*

Ms. Afegbua-Sabbatt is a master dancer, professional instructor, musician, storyteller, businessperson, and a member of the International Dance Council of Paris. She is the President/CEO of Manga Dance, an African dance company based in Atlanta.

**Nichole Potzauf**

*Executive Director, Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association, Blue Ridge, GA*

Nichole Potzauf is the Executive Director for the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association and Art Center in Blue Ridge, GA since 2013. With a focus on arts accessibility and economic & community development, she currently serves as a Board Member and Chair of the DDA Design Committee for the City of Blue Ridge's Downtown Development Authority and is a member of the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee. During her tenure at BRMAA, she has been awarded several national and state-level grants including the 2020 Georgia Governor's Award in Arts & Humanities and has worked with Georgia Council for the Arts and the Georgia Municipal Association to highlight Blue Ridge as one of the top five communities in the state of Georgia that exemplified creative economic development and public investment in the Arts. She has been a participant in the Ford Foundation's Southern Cultural Research project, AFTA Equitable Investment Advisory Group, and AFTA Executive Leadership Forums. Prior to joining BRMAA, Nichole was a Production Manager in Los Angeles, CA for television production companies such as NBC/Universal, E! Networks, and Paramount Studios. Originally from Miami, Florida, Nichole has earned her Bachelors in Theater Arts from Florida State University with an emphasis in directing and production.