

ASSEMBLE

September 25-28, 2024

Interlochen Center for the Arts

2024

**NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF ARTS ADMINISTRATORS
CONFERENCE**

ASSEMBLE: EMBRACING OUR COLLECTIVE NETWORK



ASSEMBLE, the 51st Annual Conference of the National Council of Arts Administrators brings together past, present, and future arts leaders to explore the transformative power of diverse networks in shaping the future. More than just a gathering, ASSEMBLE embodies the philosophy of assemblage, where people, things, and stories intertwine to spark innovation and drive change. As arts administrators, we are vital in creating these spaces. At this year's conference, you will connect with inspiring colleagues, delve into shared solutions, forge partnerships, meet mentors, and create friendships to amplify the impact in your community.



Interlochen

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The nonprofit Interlochen Center for the Arts is a recipient of the National Medal of Arts and the only organization in the world that brings together a 3,000-student summer camp program, a 550+-student fine arts boarding high school, a year-round source of expert online arts education for children, teens, and adults; opportunities for adults to engage in fulfilling artistic and creative programs; two 24-hour listener-supported public radio services (classical music and news); more than 600 arts presentations annually by students, faculty and world-renowned guest artists; a robust hospitality division that curates on-campus lodging, dining, and transportation services; and a global alumni base spanning nine decades, including leaders in the arts and all other endeavors. For information, visit Interlochen online at www.interlochen.org.

Located 15 miles north of Interlochen's campus, Traverse City and the surrounding area regularly receive accolades and recognition for its natural beauty, food and wine, and arts and culture.

TRAVEL + ACCOMMODATIONS

TRAVEL BY CAR OR PLANE

note: Shuttle service to Interlochen Center for the Arts campus is available to conference participants. Please submit your flight information when you book your stay (or inform the hotel once you have made your plans).

LODGING

ON-CAMPUS: <https://www.interlochen.org/about/visit-campus/lodging>
FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY: 231.276.7570
Group#: NCAA

Rooms will be released to the general public on September 1st. Please plan accordingly.

notes:

Extended pre and post-conference lodging is available at the conference rate. Please call the hotel directly if your stay is beyond the conference dates.

Meals at Stone Cafeteria will be included in your extended stay.

The Stone Cafeteria is not included in the lodging fee during the conference. The conference will provide meals and snacks at designated times and locations (unless noted). Cafeteria hours are available upon check-in.

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE MAP](#)

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE /
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

8:00-10:30

NCAA BOARD MEETING / Stone Hotel, Culver Room (current board members)

10:00-5:00

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION / MTCAL

12:00-1:00

LUNCH / Lochaven (meet at 11:45 in front of the Stone Hotel to walk to lunch)

2:00-3:30

IGNITES / MTCAL Great Room

Advocacy Through Organization: A Blueprint for Leveraging Collective Voice in Front-Line Leadership

Colin Blakely - Director of the School of Art and co-Executive Director of the HeadsNETWORK, University of Arizona

Collage Narratives: Dialogical Approaches to Critical Conversations on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity

Amy Pfeiler-Wunder - Associate Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Kutztown University

Assembl(ag)e is the Answer

Linnea Fitterer - Director of the Office of Engagement and Adjunct Professor, Art Academy of Cincinnati

The SLICE class

Christopher Kaczmarek- Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Art & Chair of the Department of Art and Design, Montclair State University

The Goofy, the Bawdy, and the Googly

Jack Risley- Professor in the College and Graduate School of Art in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St Louis

3:30-4:00 MEET + GREET / MTCAL (light snacks served)

4:00- 6:00

CASE STUDIES / MTCAL Great Room

Student-Centered Approach: Safety and Wellbeing

Maria Bentley - Assistant Dean, Alfred University School of Art & Design

Mentorship Experiences for Emerging Administrators

Jeff Beekman - Chair Department of Art Chair, Florida State University

Christopher Kaczmarek - Department of Art and Design Chair, Montclair State University

Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder - Associate Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Kutztown University

6:00-7:00

PRIORITY ASSEMBLED - MEMBER'S EXHIBITION RECEPTION / Dow Center for Visual Arts- Gordon Brunner Family Gallery
[Alfred University]

7:15-8:00

DINNER / MTCAL Great Room [Cranbrook Academy of Art]

Remarks by Jim Hopfensperger, former president of the National Council of Arts Administrators

8:15-9:00

FILM SCREENINGS FROM INTERLOCHEN'S FILM & NEW MEDIA DIVISION / DeRoy Center for Film Studies

(Introduction + Q&A with Founding Director of Interlochen's Film & New Media Division)

[Central Michigan University]

9:15-10:00

GATHERING ON THE LAKE / Penn Hall (fire pit, snacks, drinks & community)

[Eastern Michigan University School of Art & Design]

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE /
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

7:00-7:45

WALK / RUN led by board members Sandra Murchison & Colin Blakely / *Meet at Stone Hotel Front Porch*
COFFEE / Stone Hotel Lobby

8:15-9:00

BREAKFAST / MTCAL Great Room

9:00-11:00

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CONTINUES / MTCAL

9:00-9:45

WELCOME REMARKS / MTCAL Great Room

A History of Interlochen Center for the Arts from the Interlochen Library + Archives staff, Eileen Ganter
Lauren Lake - President of NCAA

10:00-11:30

ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS / Various Locations

Sign-up will be at check-in. Full descriptions are below.

AI: Tips for Arts Administrators / MTCAL Great Room

Joe Poshek - Dean of the School of the Arts, Library & Online Education at Irvine Valley College in Southern California

Visualizing Administrative Success / Dow Visual Arts Room 015

Anna Ogier-Bloomer - Associate Dean of Career Development and Industry Relations, Columbia College Chicago

Avoid the Burn / MTCAL 107

Paige Williams - Dean of Endicott College's School of Visual & Performing Arts

Flexing as Administrators / Phoenix Theater

Sandra Murchison - Director of the School of Art & Design at Eastern Michigan University and the Director of the Parsons Center for Arts & Sciences.

Ground Rules for Arts Administrators / MTCAL 106

Linnea Fitterer - Director of the Office of Engagement and Adjunct Professor, Art Academy of Cincinnati

Twist It, Flip It, Reverse It / Music Center 1303

Harriet Hoover - Associate Department Head of Foreign Languages and Fine Arts, Wake Technical Community College &

Melania Aguirre-Rabon - Department Head of Foreign Languages and Fine Arts Department Head, Wake Technical Community College

12:15-1:00

LUNCH / MTCAL Great Room

1:15-2:45

DISCUSSION: Let's Talk About Critique: Reimagining Art and Design Education / MTCAL Great Room

Elissa Armstrong - Associate Professor, Department of Craft/Material Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts &

Mariah Doren - Dean of Graduate, Professional, and Continuing Education, Massachusetts College of Art and Design

2:45-4:00

COFFEE BREAK + GRANOLA BAR / Outside Dendrinos Chapel and Recital Hall

[School of Visual Arts @ Penn State] + [Central Michigan University]

4:00-5:00

KEYNOTE SPEAKER PANEL / Dendrinos Chapel and Recital Hall

Dr. Camille Colatosti - Provost of Interlochen Center for the Arts

6:00

BOARD BUS/CARS TO DENNOS MUSEUM CENTER

Pick-up is at the main entrance to Interlochen by the main gate.

6:30

WELCOME REMARKS, *Craig Hadley - Director & Chief Curator* / Dennos Museum

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

7:00-7:30

DENNOS MUSEUM RECEPTION

7:30

BUS & CARS TO DOWNTOWN TRAVERSE CITY

8:00 - 10:00

DINNER ON OWN (links to downtown dining establishments)

10:00 / Pick-up at 10pm at The State Theater - 235 Front Street

BUS /CARS RETURNS TO INTERLOCHEN

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE /
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

7:00-7:45

WALK / RUN- led by board members Sandra Murchison & Colin Blakely / Meet at Stone Hotel Front Porch
COFFEE / Stone Hotel Lobby

COFFEE

8:15-9:00

BREAKFAST / MTCAL Great Room [Central Michigan University]

9:15-10:45

TOURS OF INTERLOCHEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS / Meet outside of MTCAL

11:00-12:30

PANEL: ASSEMBLY IN ACTION THROUGH NON-PROFIT LEADERSHIP / MTCAL Great Room

Angie Quinn, Executive Director of Michigan Legacy Art Park

Tamara Hoffbauer, Executive Director of Oliver Art Center

Craig Hanley, Executive Director & Chief Curator, Dennos Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College

12:45-1:30

ANNUAL BUSINESS LUNCH / MTCAL [Wayne State University]

All conference attendees attend the annual business lunch.

2:00-3:30

ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS / Various Locations

*sign up at check-in / detailed description below

AI: Tips for Arts Administrators / MTCAL Great Room

Joe Poshek - Dean of the School of the Arts, Library & Online Education at Irvine Valley College in Southern California

Visualizing Administrative Success / Dow Visual Arts Center 015

Anna Ogier-Bloomer - Associate Dean of Career Development and Industry Relations, Columbia College Chicago

Knitting Without Prejudice / MTCAL 106

Vagner Mendonça Whitehead- Director of the School of Visual Arts (SoVA), Penn State

Ground Rules for Arts Administrators / MTCAL 107

Linnea Fitterer - Director of the Office of Engagement and Adjunct Professor, Art Academy of Cincinnati

Twist It, Flip It, Reverse It / Music Center 1303

Harriet Hoover - Associate Department Head of Foreign Languages and Fine Arts, Wake Technical Community College &

Melania Aguirre-Rabon -Department Head of Foreign Languages and Fine Arts Department Head, Wake Technical Community College

3:30-4:00

COFFEE BREAK + CANDY BAR / MTCAL

[Columbia College]

4:00- 5:30

MEET-UPS / MTCAL (detailed descriptions below)

Trending Down: Addressing Enrollment Challenges / MTCAL Great Room

Arnold Holland, Dean College of the Arts, CSU Fullerton

The Reshaping of American Higher Education: Current trends impacting creative fields, smaller schools, and the overall diversity of the ecosystem / MTCAL 106

Deborah Obalil, President & Executive Director of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art Design (AICAD)

Stronger Connected: Strategies for Creating Belonging / MTCAL 107

O. Gustavo Plascencia, Dean of Visual Arts, New World School of the Arts

Mentorship: Successful Strategies for Supporting Your Team / Dow Visual Arts 015

Lauren Lake, Dean of the School of Art & Design + Performing Arts Division at Alfred University

The Student Wellness Challenge: Assembling Campus Resources to Support Retention / Music Center 1303

Maria Bentley, Assistant Dean, Alfred University School of Art & Design

Preparing Students for Success Post-Graduation / Music Center 2214

Colin Blakely, Director of the School of Art University of Arizona

6:30-8:00

DINNER BANQUET & PROGRAM / MTCAL Great Room[SUNY- New Paltz, School of Fine & Performing Arts]

8:00-10:30

GATHERING ON THE LAKE / Penn Hall (fire pit, snacks, drinks & community)

WHITE ELEPHANT SWAG PARTY /

BINGO (MADE JUST FOR YOU) + BREWS / MTCAL Great Room

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE /
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

7:00-9:00

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / Stone Hotel, Culver Room

END OF CONFERENCE

SPENDING MORE TIME IN THE TRAVERSE CITY AREA?

Between nature and water, you'll find a community connected by both, where there's always something happening. If you're not near the water, or on the trails, you're likely exploring the county roads in search of scenic overlooks and local treats. **Traverse City** is a destination where your journeys are filled with moments between activities that allow you to realize you are exactly where you should be.

<https://www.traversecity.com>

WORKSHOPS / IN DETAIL

*ATTENDEES WILL SIGN UP FOR WORKSHOPS AT CONFERENCE CHECK-IN.
All materials will be provided.*

Using AI: Tips for Administrative Leaders / Joe Poshek

This workshop will explore AI applications for arts administrators, including techniques for composing letters of recommendation, performance evaluations, speech outlines, and PowerPoint slides.

Visualizing Administrative Success / Anna Ogier-Bloomer

This workshop will begin with a guided visualization in which participants will be asked to shed their mental weight, stress, obligations, and focus. We will discuss and break down the outdated expectations and myths of what it means to be a leader and begin to rebuild unique, personal, and fulfilling plans for an administrative life in line with your values.

We will use mind mapping to help clarify our goals and the steps to achieving them. Participants will leave with a clearer personal vision of success.

Ground Rules for Arts Administrators / Linnea Fitterer

There is a rich history of artists using lists to create, engage, and solve problems. In this workshop, we will create instruction-based lists for successful leadership in the arts. We will assemble, discuss, and break down the outdated expectations, unspoken perceptions, and other myths of being a leader and begin to rebuild a unique, personal, and fulfilling list for an administrative methodology in line with your core values.

This workshop is designed to provide participants with a variety of instruction-based resources to apply to their professional practices. All are welcome to implement the methods that resonate best and engage during the workshop how they choose whether through individual work, group discussion, or a combination.

Knitting without Prejudice / Vagner Mendonça Whitehead

Knitting is an individual activity, much like reading a book. It often requires concentration, disposition, skill, and a proper setting. Learning something new is both invigorating and challenging, as wonderment and frustration can take place almost simultaneously.

This workshop aims to provide a safe space for academic leaders to stretch their boundaries and navigate difficult territories. Through active listening and loom knitting, we will explore strategies for de-centering, making space, and acknowledging not-knowing. No prior loom knitting experience is needed, and an open heart is welcomed.

Flexing as administrators while making Flexagons / Sandra Murchison

Participants will make paper book structures that involve folding and turning folios over one another in linear and often circular patterns. What forms and unexpected comparisons evolve from the process speaks to the magic that can flourish from our art as committed, diligent makers and administrators.

Avoid the Burn / Paige Williams

Are you dealing with hot topics or finding yourself in hot water over an unpopular (but necessary) decision? Protect yourself! Join us for a potholder-making workshop. Looms, patterns, weaving hooks, and 100% cotton loops in a variety of colors will be provided.

Twist It, Flip It, Reverse It / Harriet Hoover & Melania Aguirre-Rabon Using Richard Serra's Verb List, 1968, workshop participants will utilize everyday materials to create process-based works individually and collaboratively. We will explore whether or not the creative process is mirrored in our leadership styles and working methodologies. How can we, as administrators, embrace the possibilities of chance to sustain our energy as leaders and creatives?

**PRIORITY ASSEMBLED
MEMBER'S EXHIBITION**

Furthering the theme of this year's conference, this exhibition supports assembling ourselves as makers to share the stories of how, why, and perhaps even when we can intertwine our leadership work with our creative and research practice.

JEFF BEEKMAN
DANIEL KARIKO
LINNEA FITTERER
LYNN BATCHELDER
PAIGE WILLIAMS
VAGNER WHITEHEAD
CHRISTOPHER KACZMAREK
SANDRA MURCHISON
ANN KIM
MICHELLE MURILLO
ANGELA MIRCISOV
LAUREN LAKE
BROOKE WHITE
MARIAH DOREN
JESSIE THOMAN
REBECCA FINLEY
LAURA VANDENBURGH
REBECCA STRZELEC
OSUBI CRAIG
MATTHEW ALBRITTON
DYLAN MINER
MICHAEL HENDERSON
MARIA T. BENTLEY

MEET-UPS / IN DETAIL

ATTENDEES WILL CHOOSE A MEET-UP TO ATTEND ON SITE.

Preparing Students for Success Post Graduation / Colin Blakely

The Arts (and higher education in general) have come under fire for not adequately preparing students for jobs post-graduation. In the visual arts, much of our professional practice efforts focus either on being a professional artist or entering a narrow field of art-specific careers (graduate school, teaching, etc). Yet, we know that we are providing our students with incredible skills that will allow them immense success not just in the arts but in careers that might undergo multiple twists and turns over an alum's lifespan. Are we doing enough to help ease a student's transition post-graduation? What career-related curricular and co-curricular resources can and should we offer beyond the traditional portfolio preparation, artist statements, and resumes? How are we covering skills such as entrepreneurial mindset, branding, market rights, reproductions, etc., that are necessary for a career in the arts? How do we open students up to the possibility of arts-adjacent careers that broaden their options post-graduation?

The Student Wellness Challenge: Assembling Campus Resources to Support Retention / Maria Bentley

A 2023 American Council on Education stated, "The student mental health crisis is not just a counseling center issue. It is a campus-wide issue..."

We will explore ways to support students via an assemblage of campus resources. We will discuss support and procedures for crisis management and trauma support for faculty and students and ask ourselves: How can we best support the well-being of your faculty and staff as they continue to support students? How do we identify the training our faculty and staff need to support collaborative efforts? How do we bridge and repair the communication and connection gap in this post-COVID generation? How do you promote positive connections and communication about wellness with your students?

Trending Down: Addressing Enrollment Challenges / Arnold Holland

A forum for discussing challenges and solutions to enrollment management in higher education arts programs.

What aspects of campuses and academic programs appeal to potential applicants? Admissions criteria- can barriers be removed? What specific challenges do colleges face to attract a more diverse student body? How much is this broad challenge a matter of better marketing?

Mentorship: Successful Strategies for Supporting Your Team / Lauren Lake

Mentorship in higher education plays a critical role in shaping career paths and professional growth. The benefits of mentoring are far-reaching, extending beyond the immediate academic environment into the realm of long-term career development. Participants will determine the direction of the conversation as the group considers several guiding questions: How best can administrators foster the practice of mentorship with faculty & staff? Should the formal responsibilities of faculty include mentorship components? What are the best practices for administrators seeking mentors in the current (and future) phase of their careers?

The Reshaping of American Higher Education: Current trends impacting creative fields, smaller schools, and the overall diversity of the ecosystem

/ Deborah Obalil

The Hechinger Report recently declared that colleges are closing at a rate of one per week in spring 2024. Major headlines were made by the elimination of arts and humanities majors at West Virginia University and the sudden closure of the University of the Arts. The Dept. of Education bungled the redesign of the FAFSA, leading to a disastrous decline in completions, particularly among low-income Black and Hispanic students. Simultaneously, the Dept. of Education is doubling down on its new Financial Value Transparency regulations, which require the measurement of every program (aka major) by the graduates' earnings. The overall ecosystem of higher education in the US is being reshaped, but not with any overall strategy and certainly not with the value of the arts in mind. Come discuss with your colleagues potential collaborative approaches to addressing these shifts and protecting the arts in higher education.

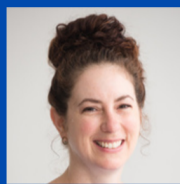
Stronger Connected: Strategies for Creating Belonging / O. Gustavo Plascencia

Explore practical strategies for creating a strong sense of belonging while sharing your personal journey in art administration. This conversation will be grounded in personal and professional experiences. Willing participants will have vulnerable conversations, philosophical tangents, attempts for healing attempts, and opportunities for belonging. Join me for an insightful conversation and hear about the collective strengths and knowledge we have as leaders in art education.

PRESENTER BIOS



Melania Aguirre-Rabon is the Foreign Languages and Fine Arts Department Head at Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, NC. She received her Master's degree in Romance Languages, Literature, and Linguistics from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Appalachian State University. In her role as Department Head, she leads a dynamic and complex department with more than 30 faculty members (Art, Music, French, and Spanish) and supervises The Associate in Fine Arts, a two-year transferable degree.



Elissa Armstrong, is an associate professor in the [Department of Craft/Material Studies](#), Virginia Commonwealth University [School of the Arts \(VCUarts\)](#). From 2009–20 she served as the director of VCUarts' Art Foundation Program. Armstrong's ceramic work has been featured in numerous galleries and museums including two NCECA Annual Exhibitions (2024 & 2020), the Fuller Craft Museum, the Clay Studio and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. Her book with coauthor, Mariah Doren, *Let's Talk about Critique: reimagining art and design education*, was published 2023, by Intellect Press, UK and the University of Chicago Press, USA. Armstrong received her MFA in ceramics from Alfred University; her BFA in ceramics from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design & Sheridan College.



Jeff Beekman is a Florida-based artist and educator who has used his creative and curatorial practice to explore the enduring impacts of climate change on coastal communities, the Land Arts movement as a catalyst for contemporary art making, and the ethics behind the memorialization of sites of violence. The throughline between these is an examination of the relationships between land, memory, and human activity. Beekman received his BFA in Ceramics from the University of Florida and his MFA in 3D from the University of New Mexico. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Art at Florida State University, where he additionally serves as Chair.



Maria Bentley is the Assistant Dean for the School of Art & Design at Alfred University. Maria has over ten years of experience in Arts Enrollment Management, Community based Social Practice, and Arts Therapeutic programming. Maria holds a master's degree in College Student Development and is completing coursework and certification in Mental Health Counseling. Maria works diligently in her current role as Assistant Dean to assemble and advocate for resources that support both students and faculty in the Arts while collaborating with her colleagues across the University.



Colin Blakely currently serves as Director of the School of Art and co-Executive Director of the HeadsNETWORK at the University of Arizona. Prior to joining the University of Arizona in July 2015, he was Department head and Full Professor of Photography at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI, where he was on the faculty for 14 years.



Camille Colatosti, Ph.D. serves as Provost at Interlochen Center for the Arts. In this role, she oversees all aspects of education, including curriculum, assessment, and pedagogy, for the Interlochen Arts Academy, the Interlochen Arts Camp, Interlochen Online, and the Interlochen College for Creative Arts.



Mariah Doren is the Dean of Graduate, Professional, and Continuing Education at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Mariah's writing includes a book coauthored with Elissa Armstrong: *Let's Talk about Critique: reimagining art and design education*, published 2023, by Intellect Press, UK and the University of Chicago Press, USA, a chapter, "Assessment as Learning" in *Introduction to Design Education* by Steven Faerm and articles, "Teaching re-seeing: Deploying archives in art and design education" co-authored with Malgorzata Bakalarz-Duverger in *Journal of Visual Inquiry* and "Working Collaboratively - Teaching Collaboration" in *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*. Mariah has a Doctorate in College Teaching of Art and Design from Columbia University.



Craig Hadley, Executive Director & Chief Curator, has over 16 years of academic museum experience from various curatorial and administrative roles at Northwestern Michigan College, DePauw University, and Beloit College. Craig earned his BA from Beloit College, MA in History and Museum Studies from the University of Missouri, and is currently enrolled as a doctoral student at Central Michigan University. He volunteers as an AAM accreditation site reviewer and serves on the AAMG board of directors. In addition to museum catalogs, his writing has been published widely in *The Museum Review*, *The Journal of Leadership Education*, on the IMLS website, and in the *Journal of College & Research Libraries*.



Tamara Hoffbauer is the Executive Director of Oliver Art Center. executive director at the Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center For The Arts. She has served in various roles with nonprofit foundations, including as a board member, director of communications and development, and membership manager. She has also worked as CEO of a brand marketing company and has many years of business administration experience. Tamara earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design from DePaul University in Chicago, where she spent several years working in professional theater. Tamara is now focusing on full-time nonprofit work to provide as many resources as possible to the artists of northwest Michigan.



Dr. Arnold Holland is Dean of the College of Arts at the California State University. He holds a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Visual Communications from Virginia Commonwealth University. Additionally, Dr. Holland earned his Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) in Higher Education Leadership from CSUF. In addition to being a National Council of Arts Administrators (NCAA) board member and has held memberships and leadership positions in professional design organizations, such as the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), Organization of Black Designers (OBD), College Media Association (CMA), and University and College Designers Association (UCDA).



Harriet Hoover is an Assistant Professor of Studio Art and Associate Department Head of Foreign Languages and Fine Arts at Wake Technical Community College. She received her MFA in Sculpture and Studio Art from UNC Greensboro and BS (Textile Technology) and BA (Art + Design) from NC State University. She has served as an art educator and administrator for a variety of audiences in academic, museum, and community settings. Her research focuses on social engagement through play, chance, and the artistic process.



Christopher Kaczmarek is a New York-based artist and educator whose work spans both experimental and traditional practices, including sculpture, site-specific installations, performance, video, and solar-powered objects. Recent interests have been concerned with the act of walking as a praxis for artistic production and the shapes in which collective and collaborative settings can be formed to become spaces where imagination and creativity are used in the service of hopeful outcomes. He has received an MFA in Visual Art and an MA in Modern and Contemporary Art History, Theory, and Criticism from Purchase College, State University of New York, and is currently an Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Art and Chair of the Department of Art and Design at Montclair State University, New Jersey USA.



Lauren Lake is the Dean of the School of Art and Design + Performing Arts Division at Alfred University. Prior to this appointment, she was the Chair of the Department of Studio Art at the University of North Texas, Chair of the Department of Art & Art History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and concurrently served as the Associate Director, Graduate Chair and Director of Graduate Studio Studies at the University of Florida School of Art and Art History. She is president of the of the National Council for Arts Administrators. Further professional development includes the HERS Leadership Program at Bryn Mawr College, certificates in Diversity & Inclusion and Women in Leadership from Cornell University.



Vagner Mendonça Whitehead is Director of School of Visual at Penn State University. He is an artist, activist, educator, and academic leader. His art practice encompasses traditional and new media, curatorial projects, community engagements, and creative writing. These expressions display accidental and forced intersections of personal experiences, histories, current events, geo-locations, languages, and found artifacts, presented in group and solo exhibitions in art galleries, community centers, and museums, as well as film and video festivals, nationally and internationally. Much like his role as an educator, Vagner's creative process happens through juxtapositions, exchanges, and group facilitations, where he learns just as much, if not more, from those who generously decide to share their time and perspectives with him, and others. Ultimately, making space is as important as making.



Sandra Murchison is the Director of the School of Art & Design at Eastern Michigan University and the Director of the Parsons Center for Arts & Sciences. Murchison also serves as the Secretary for the NCAA Board of Directors and as the Chair of the Program Committee for the Riverside Arts Center Board of Directors. Prior to EMU, she was a faculty member at Millsaps College for 17 years, including as Chair of the Art Department and where she founded a non-profit arts center off campus in Jackson, Mississippi. As an active member of SGC International, Sandra served first as Archivist and then Vice President for Internal Affairs of the organization.



Deborah Obalil has over twenty-five years of experience as a leader in the North American arts and culture industry, having led multiple highly acclaimed organizations and served as a well-regarded management consultant in the field. She was appointed the Executive Director of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD) in June 2012 and then President in fall 2015.



Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder serves as the new associate dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Kutztown University. She taught for 15 years in the Department of Art Education, Kutztown University serving as chair for two years and the master's in art education coordinator. She has been active in the National Art Education Association (NAEA), most recently as chair and now past chair of the Research Commission. Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder presents her research at regional, national, and international conferences and has published in both books and peer-reviewed journals. Her creative practice infuses narrative inquiry methodologies in the forms of non-traditional artist books focused on mothering and the farming landscape of her youth.



O. Gustavo Plascencia is Dean of Visual Arts at the New World School of the Arts. He was raised in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila and attended the Escuela de Artes Plásticas, Ruben Herrera, in Saltillo, Coahuila, before immigrating to the USA. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in Photography and Media Arts in Photography from the University of Colorado, Boulder and his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Texas at Arlington. Plascencia is a visual artist and educator whose creative work documents local ecosystems while practicing walking methodologies.



Joe Poshek is Dean of the School of the Arts, Library and Online Education at Irvine Valley College in Southern California. Prior to this appointment he also served as Dean of Visual & Performing Arts, Library and Online Education at Orange Coast College where he also served as a tenured professor of music and department chair. He has taught in higher education for over 30 years. Before entering college administration, Joe was a prolific professional musician specializing in classical and jazz guitar, recording six solo albums selling over 120,000 copies and over 2500 performances on three continents.



Angie Quinn is the Executive Director of Michigan Legacy Park. She has over 20 years of non-profit administration, programming, historical research and donor development experience. From 1996 to 2011, she served as Executive Director of ARCH, Fort Wayne's historic preservation organization. From 2015 to 2021 she served as the Fund Development Director for Fort Wayne Trails, Inc. Angie was also the co-owner with her husband, of the award winning Pembroke Bakery & Café, in Fort Wayne, a vegan and gluten-free friendly bakery and café from 2011 to 2022. She has her MA from Indiana University in Anthropology, and the Certificate in Fund Raising Management (CFRM) from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.



Jack Risley is an artist and professor in the College and Graduate School of Art in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St Louis. Risley is a recovering administrator who credits growing up on a college campus for his belief in higher education and its embrace of goofy experimentation.

SPONSORS



Donna Meeks



THIS YEAR NCAA WELCOMES SPONSORS TO HELP US OFFER A ROBUST ROSTER OF ACTIVITIES AT THE CONFERENCE. ALL SPONSORS WILL BE THANKED ON OUR WEBSITE, IN CONFERENCE SIGNAGE AND MATERIALS, AND AT CONFERENCE REMARKS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES OR WOULD LIKE TO CO-SPONSOR AN EVENT PLEASE REACH OUT TO NCAA PRESIDENT LAUREN LAKE (LAKEL@ALFRED.EDU).

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