

NAMAC Leadership Institute for Visual Arts Organizations 2011 Participant Bios



Mark Allen, Executive Director

Machine Project

Los Angeles, CA

Mark Allen is an artist, educator, and curator based in Los Angeles and the founder and executive director of Machine Project. Under his direction Machine has produced over 500 events, workshops and installations. He is an Associate Professor of Art at Pomona College and serves on the Board of Directors of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Mark received his MFA in Visual Art from the California Institute of the Arts.

About Machine Project:

Machine Project is a non-profit performance and installation space investigating art, technology, natural history, science, music, literature, and food in an informal storefront in the Echo Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Machine Project also operates as a loose confederacy of artists producing shows at locations ranging from beaches to museums to

parking lots.



Ashley Clemmer Hoffman, Public Art Manager

Project Row Houses

Houston, TX

Since December 2006, Ashley Clemmer Hoffman has been the Public Art Manager at Project Row Houses, where she develops the artist residency programs, manages artist projects, curates public programs and oversees marketing and communication. Ashley earned her BA in Visual Art from Roanoke College in Salem, VA and her MA in Community Art from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, MD.

About Project Row Houses:

Project Row Houses (PRH) was founded in 1993 by Rick Lowe and six African-American artists, in Houston's Third Ward. The original site of 22 historic shotgun-style houses has grown to encompass over 55 buildings. PRH's mission is to transform community through the celebration of art and African American history and culture. Central to the vision of PRH is the social role of art as seen in neighborhood

revitalization, historic preservation, social services, and youth education.



Christopher Cook, Executive Director and Curator

Salina Art Center

Salina, KS

Christopher Cook is the Executive Director and Curator of the Salina Art Center. Previously, he was Curator of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and Curator of the Sioux City Art Center. Cook has organized over forty exhibitions with artists Dan Attoe, Johanna Billing, Chakaia Booker, Anne Collier, Adam Pendleton, Fred Sandback, Melanie Schiff, and Stephen Vitiello, among others. He holds an MA in art history from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

About Salina Art Center:

Founded in 1978, the Salina Art Center is a community-oriented, artist-centric contemporary art institution in the heart of downtown Salina, Kansas. Accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1991, SAC is comprised of three facilities—Galleries, Cinema, Warehouse—that deliver a year-round schedule of exhibitions, films,

artist residencies, and educational programs. In 2004, SAC became a funded participant of the Warhol Initiative, a national program through the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

NAMAC Leadership Institute for Visual Arts Organizations 2011 Participant Bios



**Chris Cowden, Executive Director
Women & Their Work**
Austin, TX

Chris Cowden has served as the Executive Director of W&TW since 1986 and has overseen the work of more than 1,850 visual and performing artists. She has a B.A (graduating Phi Beta Kappa), and M.A. in English Literature and completed all course work for a PhD. She has taught English Literature at the University of Texas and worked as a corporate loan officer at JPMorgan Chase in New York overseeing accounts with sales over \$100,000,000.

About Women & Their Work:

Founded in 1978, Women & Their Work serves as a catalyst for new ideas in contemporary art. Presenting over 50 events annually, we foster the artistic growth of women artists by encouraging new, adventurous work. We publish color catalogues of each artist's work commissioning essays about its context and significance. W&TW is a

founding member of the National Performance Network and the Visual Artists Network and has been part of the Warhol Initiative since 2001.



**Courtney Fink, Executive Director
Southern Exposure**
San Francisco, CA

Courtney Fink is the Executive Director of Southern Exposure, a non-profit art space that supports artists in the development and presentation of new work and ideas. She led SoEx through three relocations, the opening of its new building and developed SoEx Off-Site, a public art program; and Alternative Exposure, SoEx's grant program created in partnership with the Warhol Foundation. She has held positions at California College of the Arts, Capp Street Project and Franklin Furnace.

About Southern Exposure:

Southern Exposure is a non-profit visual arts organization based in San Francisco that supports artists in the development and presentation of new work and ideas. An active presence since 1974, the organization engages the public in the artists' work and evolves in response to the

needs of artists and the community. Activities includes the commissioning of new work, exhibitions, arts education programs, public art projects, grants, arts education programs, projects, workshops, and performances.



**Felicity Hogan, Executive Director
Artists Alliance, Inc.**
New York, NY

Felicity Hogan is Executive Director of Artists Alliance, Inc. ("AAI"), an arts non-profit based on the Lower East Side, NY where she oversees the LES-Rotating Studio Program and Cuchifritos gallery/project space. Originally from the United Kingdom, she came to America and has been involved in running alternative spaces for over ten years. An artist and curator, Ms. Hogan also works for New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) in NYFA Learning, providing professional development for artists.

About Artists Alliance, Inc.:

Artists Alliance, Inc. ("AAI") is an arts non-profit based on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, NY. AAI believes that the arts and individual artists are an essential element of the culture, history and future of the Lower East Side. AAI advances this philosophy through its residency

program providing free studio space for 8 artists annually; Cuchifritos Gallery/Project Space located in the historic Essex Street Market and a host of other art and education initiatives.

NAMAC Leadership Institute for Visual Arts Organizations 2011 Participant Bios



Emily Hopkins, Executive Director
Side Street Projects
Pasadena, CA

Emily Hopkins is the executive director of Side Street Projects, the nation's only mobile and sustainable community art center. SSP is often referred to as a functioning piece of public art. Emily is dedicated to developing sustainable community-based systems with artists and hands-on art programs for K-12 students that incorporate core curriculum—especially math and science. She serves on three art advisory committees for the local school district, and holds a BFA from CalArts.

About Side Street Projects:

Founded in 1992, Side Street Projects is an artist-run organization that gives artists of all ages the ability and the means to support their creative endeavors. Simply put, we teach artists how to roll up their sleeves and do things themselves. Each year we serve 10,000 individual (adult) artists and over 2,000 children. All of Side Street Projects' programs encourage creative problem solving and self-reliance within a contemporary art context.



Steve Liggett, Executive and Artistic Director
Living Arts of Tulsa
Tulsa, OK

Steve Liggett has been an arts advocate and artist in the Tulsa community for over forty years, and holds a Master of Arts degree with a concentration in Ceramics from the University of Tulsa. His own studio work has evolved from his ceramics background to performance/video/installation work. In 2001 he won the Harwelden Award for recognition of his art leadership in the Tulsa community. He has served as the Artistic Director for Living Arts of Tulsa since 1993.

About Living Arts of Tulsa:

Since 1969, Living Arts of Tulsa has been steadfast in its mission of "presenting and developing contemporary art forms in Tulsa." Living Arts' focus is on newly evolving ideas and concepts, in the creation of art forms, and exploring the relationship of art to other disciplines and fields of knowledge. Through the presentation of creative workshops, performances, exhibitions, films/videos, demonstrations of current art, lectures, related educational activities and research, Living Arts shares its interests with the community.



Nat May, Executive Director
SPACE Gallery
Portland, ME

Nat grew up in Maine, studied religion in college, worked and traveled in Asia for a few years, then returned to Maine in 1999. He met a group of photographers and founded a collective darkroom space and somehow became the business manager. This led towards involvement at SPACE Gallery in 2003, six months after it opened. Eventually he became the Executive Director and head curator. He has the best job in Maine.

About SPACE Gallery:

SPACE Gallery opened in 2002 as a means bring Portland's studio parties, installations, and performances to a more public forum. The one-room art space was home to contemporary, emerging and unconventional art exhibitions, literary events, family programming, and live music. In nine years, SPACE has developed from an all-volunteer organization to one with 4 full-time administrative staff, a dozen part-time program staff, and over 100 active volunteers. SPACES Gallery opened an adjacent second gallery space in July 2011.

NAMAC Leadership Institute for Visual Arts Organizations 2011

Participant Bios



Mack McFarland, Curator
Feldman Gallery + Project Space
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Portland, OR

Mack McFarland is the curator for the Feldman Gallery + Project Space at the Pacific Northwest College of Art. While there he has curated, organized, and managed more than 200 exhibitions. His future exhibitions include, *Happy Birthday: Celebration of Chance and Silence*, commemorating the legacy of John Cage in September 2012 on Cage's 100th birthday, and a new commissioned work from Critical Art Ensemble.

About Pacific Northwest College of Art:

Since its founding in 1909, Pacific Northwest College of Art has become a leader in innovative educational programs that connect students to a global perspective in the visual arts and design. The Philip Feldman Gallery + Project Space at Pacific Northwest College of Art is dedicated to the work of national and international contemporary artists. The gallery mounts six exhibitions a year that highlight 21st century art and design practices, and serves as a tool for the College's curriculum.



Hesse McGraw, Chief Curator
Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts
Omaha, NE

Hesse McGraw is Chief Curator at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, Nebraska. He formerly served as associate director at Max Protetch gallery in New York City and was the founding director and curator of Paragraph, a Charlotte Street Foundation initiative in Kansas City, Missouri. He served as the senior editor of Review magazine, in Kansas City. McGraw holds degrees from the University of Kansas and the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland.

About Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts:

The Bemis Center is an artist-centered organization that provides time, space and support for artists' process and develops programs that catalyze their work to engage and challenge the public. Since its founding in 1981, the international Artist-in-Residence program has provided direct support to over 600 artists, and today supports thirty-six artists annually. Our programs — Residency, Exhibitions, Community Arts and Art Sales — seek to perpetually give the institution to artists working at the forefront of contemporary culture.



Cassandra Oliveras, Marketing Manager
El Museo del Barrio
New York, NY

Cassandra Oliveras brings ten years of arts administration experience to her role at El Museo, having previously held the post of Director of Marketing for Ballet Hispánico. She has managed several branding, social media, and targeted advertising campaigns in the nonprofit arts sector. Prior experience includes General Management and Development at the Roundabout Theatre Company. A graduate of Rutgers University, Ms. Oliveras is a classically trained soprano and member of the NYC Master Chorale.

About El Museo del Barrio:

El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution, welcomes 250,000 visitors annually to discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo's critically acclaimed exhibitions and wide-ranging collections, film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs. A dynamic artistic and community gathering-place, El Museo is a center of cultural pride on New York's Museum Mile.

NAMAC Leadership Institute for Visual Arts Organizations 2011

Participant Bios



Jon Pounds, Executive Director
Chicago Public Art Group
Chicago, IL

Jon Pounds early work involved temporary non-permission street installations. After joining CPAG in 1984 he began creating collaborative public artworks including playground structures, sculptures, and murals. A fifteen month-long Chicago Community Trust fellowship allowed him to study the intersection of urban planning, community activation, and public art. As Director of CPAG (since 1989) he has expanded the ability of the CPAG and its artists to respond more fully to a wide range of community needs.

About Chicago Public Art Group:

In 1971, artists concerned with art and social justice organized Chicago Mural Group (CPAG-1987). CPAG's mission is to establish creative partnerships between artists and communities and to transform and enhance the lives of residents. CPAG's programming includes murals, mosaics, sculpture, landscape design, urban planning, consulting, and sponsorship of workshops and symposia. As a Ford Foundation - Artography grant awardee, CPAG has co-produced *Creating Places*, a gathering of planners, architects, community organizers and artists to explore how their practices overlap.



Greg Sandoval, Manager of Adult Public Programs
Seattle Art Museum
Seattle, WA

Greg Sandoval is Manager of Adult Public Programs at the Seattle Art Museum where he oversees programming for the museum's three sites. Previously at SFMOMA, he developed public programs and interpretive materials for adult audiences. Greg brings additional experience from the San Francisco Art Institute, ArtPace in San Antonio and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, among others. In his free time, Greg enjoys traveling and attending concerts, often doing both at the same time.

About Seattle Art Museum:

Seattle Art Museum (SAM) provides a welcoming place for people to connect with art and to consider its relationship to their lives through its programming. SAM is one museum in three locations: Seattle Art Museum downtown, Seattle Asian Art Museum at Volunteer Park, and the Olympic Sculpture Park on the downtown waterfront. SAM collects, preserves, and exhibits objects from across time and across cultures, exploring the dynamic connections between past and present.



Scott Schofield, Executive Director
Out North Contemporary Art House
Anchorage, AK

Scott Turner Schofield enjoyed eight years of successful international touring and arts activism through solo performance before settling in as Artistic Executive Director of Out North Contemporary Art House in Anchorage, Alaska in 2010. His interests include artistic interventions in social issues and unpopular art forms and content. He now corals a herd of multidisciplinary artists, and programs performing, media, visual, literary, and new media arts to keep warm and make light in the winter.

About Out North Contemporary Art House:

The mission of Out North Contemporary Art House is to produce and present art that challenges and inspires; to nurture creative space where people of all cultures, generations, circumstances and abilities can gather and learn; and to champion artists whose work pushes traditional boundaries of aesthetics and content.

NAMAC Leadership Institute for Visual Arts Organizations 2011

Participant Bios



**Xochi Solis, Director of Public Programming
Visual Arts Center
University of Texas at Austin**
Austin, TX

Xochi Solis is Director of Public Programming at the Visual Arts Center (VAC). She received her B.F.A in Studio Art from UT Austin in 2005. Concentrating on painting during her undergraduate career, she studied abroad in Tuscany and also gained insight from time abroad in Mexico City. Previous to her work with the VAC, she was the Executive Director of the 2009 Texas Biennial and is currently an active member of MASS Gallery, an artist-run project space in East Austin.

About The Visual Arts Center:

The Visual Arts Center within the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas is positioned as a place for the intersection of art education and art evolution, in which members of a diverse art community have the opportunity to conduct ongoing experiments in visual expression. The VAC draws together a uniquely diverse arts

community of students, alumni, faculty, guest artists and creative voices from around the world.



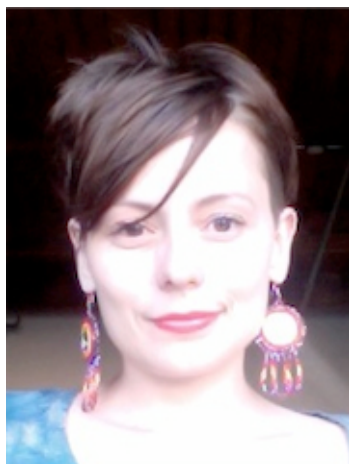
**Sarah Stauder, Executive Director
Rochester Art Center**
Rochester, MN

I have a B.A. in Art History from DePauw University and anticipate receiving my masters in arts and cultural management from St. Mary's University of Minnesota in spring 2012. I have been the Executive Director of Rochester Art Center since January 2008. Previously, I was the director of the Charles Allis/Villa Terrace Art Museums in my hometown of Milwaukee, WI. Currently, I live in Rochester, MN with my husband, Mike, and almost 2-year-old son, Howie.

About Rochester Art Center:

We offer the opportunity for all people to understand and value the arts through innovative experiences with contemporary art. Through world-class exhibitions and programs, we present a welcoming, integrated, and diverse experience that encourages questioning, creativity, and critical thinking. These activities are designed to reflect the dynamic

relationship between art and society. After sixty-five years, we continue to provide value through engagement with broad communities, strong collaborations with other organizations, and a history of excellence.



**Shannon Stratton, Executive and Creative Director
threewalls**
Chicago, IL

Shannon Stratton is co-founder and current Executive and Creative Director of threewalls Chicago. Stratton's background is both in studio practice and art history, theory and criticism with a focus in craft practice and artist-run administration. Independently of threewalls, she writes, curates, collaborates with Judith Leemann on the ongoing *Gestures of Resistance project*, and facilitates an annual retreat residency at Harold Arts in Ohio. She teaches at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

About threewalls:

threewalls was founded in 2003 to provide greater support and visibility for the visual arts community in Chicago. The founders wanted to encourage a greater awareness of Chicago's art scene by inviting emerging professional artists to Chicago to share in the city's rich

histories, resources and creative communities. In an effort to provide meaningful support to emerging artists, curators and writers, threewalls has worked to form a sustainable organization that provides exhibition space, residency opportunities and artist fees to both visiting and regional artists.

NAMAC Leadership Institute for Visual Arts Organizations 2011 Participant Bios



**Andrew Suggs, Executive Director
Vox Populi**
Philadelphia, PA

Andrew Suggs is a curator, writer, and artist based in Philadelphia. His most recent project, *Kick in the Eye*, was a group exhibition of queer artists engaging methods of hiding, coding, and obfuscating in portraiture. He has contributed texts to *Phonebook: A Directory of Alternative Spaces* and *Queer Voice* (ICA Philadelphia catalog), among others. Andrew is the Executive Director of Vox Populi, a Philadelphia artists' collective. He earned an AB cum laude from Harvard University.

About Vox Populi:

Founded in 1988, Vox Populi is an artist collective that works to support the challenging and experimental work of under-represented artists with monthly exhibitions, gallery talks, performances, lectures, and related programming. With a rotating membership and a commitment to working collectively, the gallery is a vital forum for the development and exchange of artistic ideas.



**Bryan Warren, Executive Director
Crane House, The Asia Institute**
Louisville, KY

Bryan Warren is Executive Director of Crane House, The Asia Institute, a non-profit Asian cultural organization in Louisville, Kentucky with a mission to build understanding and appreciation of Asian culture and heritage through the arts and education. Bryan is also a working artist, community organizer and curator. He has exhibited throughout the United States and worked with communities throughout the Southeast region on community-based art projects and exhibits.

About Crane House:

Crane House has been serving the public for over twenty-four years as Louisville's premier Asian cultural organization. Its mission is "to build understanding and appreciation of Asian culture and heritage through the arts and education." Crane House offers lectures, exhibits, workshops and other programs through the year to promote Asian arts and culture and to preserve, enhance and showcase the distinct cultural contributions of the local Asian community.

**NAMAC Leadership Institute for Visual Arts Organizations 2011
Participant Bios**