



The Future History of Public Art

The 17th Symposium of the Western States Arts Federation
Honolulu, HI | November 5-7, 2017

Symposium Participants

- **Heather Aitken** is a project manager with the City of Calgary's Public Art Program. There, she works with a multi-disciplinary team of city staff, artists, and stakeholders to implement the Utilities and Environmental Protection (UEP) Department's Public Art Plan. The Plan, which is rooted in a cross-disciplinary approach, has fostered innovative permanent and temporary award-winning public art projects. Aitken is currently working with a team of staff and consultants on the development of Chapter 2 of the UEP Public Art Plan that will include the work of Waste and Recycling Services and Environmental and Safety Management to reflect the breadth of work within the department—land, air, and water. Aitken received her bachelor's degree in drawing with a minor in painting from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.
- **Larry Baza** is a professional arts administrator with 40 years of experience advocating for the arts at the local, state, and national levels. He is currently the chair of the City of San Diego's Commission for Arts and Culture and was appointed to the California Arts Council in 2016 by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. Baza has served on the Port of San Diego's Public Art Committee and as executive director of the County of San Diego's Public Arts Advisory Council. He has directed San Diego arts organizations, including Centro Cultural De La Raza, Sushi Performance and Visual Art, and Community Arts of San Diego. His wealth of knowledge and experience includes affiliations, consultancies, site visits, and panel participation with arts organizations, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the California Association of Local Arts Organizations, the Chicano Federation of San Diego County, the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, and the San Diego Community Foundation.
- **Jack Becker** is the founder of the nonprofit organization Forecast Public Art, which was established in 1978. He is also the founding publisher of Forecast's award-winning magazine *Public Art Review*. Becker currently leads Forecast's Creative Consulting program, at which, as a public artist, administrator, and veteran public art consultant, he specializes in developing projects and plans for communities. Becker previously served as program coordinator for the City of Minneapolis' Art in Public Places program and as arts development manager for the City of St. Paul, Minnesota. He received a bachelor's

degree from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and has also studied at Washington University, and the Croydon College of Art and Design in Great Britain.

- **Cameron Cartiere** is a creative practitioner, writer, and researcher who works in the areas of public art, urban renewal, and environmental issues. Cartiere is the author of *RE/Placing Public Art*, co-editor of *The Practice of Public Art* (with Shelly Willis), co-editor of *The Everyday Practice of Public Art: Art, Space, and Social Inclusion* (with Martin Zebracki), and co-author of the *Manifesto of Possibilities: Commissioning Public Art in the Urban Environment*. Cartiere is an associate professor of Culture + Community at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver, British Columbia. Currently, she is the co-editor-in-chief of the peer reviewed journal *Public Art Dialogue*. Cartiere received her bachelor's degree in sculpture from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco; her master's degree in museology/museum studies from John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, California; and her doctorate degree from the University of the Arts London in public art and curatorial studies.
- **Candy Chang** is an artist, designer, and urban planner who is based in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her work centers on ways to make cities more comfortable and contemplative places. By combining street art with urban planning and social activism, Chang has been recognized as a leader in the development of new strategies for civic design. Her work has been exhibited in public spaces throughout the world. In addition, she has participated in exhibitions and programs, at venues including the Venice Architecture Biennale, the New Museum, the Tate Modern, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. Chang received bachelor's degrees in architecture and a bachelor's degree in graphic design from the University of Michigan. She received her master's degree in urban planning from Columbia University.
- **Paul Farber** is the artistic director of Monument Lab, a public art and history project based in Philadelphia. He is currently the managing director of the University of Pennsylvania's program in the Environmental Humanities. Farber is the curator of the traveling exhibition, *The Wall in Our Heads: American Artists and the Berlin Wall*, and was the inaugural scholar-in-residence for the City of Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program. Farber received his doctorate in American culture from the University of Michigan and earned a bachelor's degree in urban studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He previously was a doctoral fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., and a visiting scholar in the Urban Studies program at the University of Pennsylvania.
- **Jonathan Johnson** is the executive director of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (HSFCA) where he has served on the staff since 1988. Prior to being appointed executive director of the Foundation, Johnson held a number of positions in the Foundation's Art in Public Places Program, including program manager, project manager, conservation coordinator, registrar, and director of the Hawai'i State Art Museum. Johnson is well known in the state in part because he has successfully managed the development and installation of significant art projects including those at the University of Hawai'i's Cancer Center and Hawai'ian Studies building, the Kapolei and Hilo Judiciary buildings, the Hawai'i Convention Center, and state airports on all of the state's islands. Johnson received his bachelor's degree in design with an emphasis

on business administration from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California.

- **Lauren Kennedy** is the executive director of the UrbanArt Commission in Memphis, Tennessee. Prior to assuming her current role, Kennedy served as the partnership manager for Ballet Memphis; the program manager for the Dallas Art Fair; and she created, directed, and managed Southfork–Memphis, an alternative art space. She was previously a fellow at the Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts at Rhodes College, where she received a bachelor's degree in art history.
- **Jen Lewin** is a light and interactive sculptor based in New York City. Over the last 15 years, Lewin has fabricated large-scale interactive sculptures that combine light, sound, and motion to encourage community interaction. Her technically complex works have been featured at events including Vivid Sydney, iLight Marina Bay, Signal Fest, and Burning Man. She has had numerous solo exhibitions of her work in the United States, and England. Lewin attended the University of Colorado, where she earned a bachelor's degree in architecture and computer-aided design. She then earned a master's degree in interactive design from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.
- **Deborah McCormick** is the director of SCAPE Public Art in Christchurch, New Zealand. Over the past 19 years, she has directed a team of specialist staff and consultants to plan, coordinate, and deliver eight successful SCAPE Public Art Biennials for Christchurch. In 2016, SCAPE moved from a biennial to an annual, six-week season of public art delivery. Under her directorship, SCAPE Public Art has produced and commissioned more than 200 new temporary and permanent public artworks. The organization also sponsors a gifting program that has placed 11 permanent artworks. McCormick received her bachelor's degree from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- **Richard McCoy** is the director of Landmark Columbus, an organization dedicated to caring for and celebrating the widely recognized architectural design heritage of Columbus, Indiana. McCoy's work is centered in the areas of creating solutions to complex cultural heritage challenges, curating art in public spaces, and writing for digital and print publications. He also is engaged in teaching in graduate programs, and the creation of innovative web projects. From 2003 to 2013, McCoy worked at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, where he created the nationally-recognized Objects & Variable Art Laboratory. He holds a master's degree in art history from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts and an advanced certificate from the Conservation Center.
- **Maile Meyer** is the principal of Ho'omaika'i, a contemporary art curation and management organization based in Honolulu. There, she works with and represents Hawai'i-based artists to procure and fulfill art commissions for clients. Her clients include The Howard Hughes Corporation, Kamehameha Schools, and the Hawai'i Convention Center. Meyer is also the executive director of Pu'uhonua Society, a nonprofit organization that supports Native Hawai'ian and Hawai'i-based artists and cultural practitioners. In addition, she is the owner of Nā Mea Hawai'i, a community resource and retail purveyors of local goods, fine art, and traditional objects that are made in

Hawai'i. Meyer received a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a master's degree in arts management from the Anderson School of Business at the University of California, Los Angeles.

- **Mundano** is a Brazilian street artist and activist who is the creator of *Pimp My Carroça*, a project that began as a way to raise the visibility of trash collectors throughout São Paulo, Brazil. Now a global, crowdfunded initiative, *Pimp My Carroça* has been embraced throughout the world. As of 2016, over 700 carts in 42 cities had been painted with the help of many street artists, volunteers, and donors. The project was honored with the International Award for Public Art in May of 2017. Mundano's work calls attention to social, political, and environmental challenges through art that is often infused with humor. He has engaged in interventions throughout Brazil, and has also been active in Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Peru, Russia, South Africa, the United States, and Tanzania.
- **Cynthia Nikitin** is the senior vice president and director of the public art and creative placemaking programs for the Project for Public Spaces in New York City. Nikitin wrote the public art master plan for the city of Atlanta; created a public art gift-review policy for the 1996 Olympics; and created public art overlay plans for Congress Street in Tucson, Arizona; and public squares across Mobile, Alabama. For the past four years, she has served as director of the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design, one of the National Endowment for the Arts' key design leadership initiatives. Nikitin received her master's degree in arts management and urban planning from New York University and her bachelor's degree in art history and comparative politics from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.
- **Leon Tan** is an art and culture historian, critic, artist, educator, and registered psychotherapist. He researches and publishes in the areas of contemporary art, public art, globalization, digital culture, social activism, and mental health. Tan is the academic and research leader in creative industries at the Unitec Institute of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand. He serves as an advisor to artists and arts organizations and is a member of the International Association of Art Critics and the Auckland Council's Advisory Panel on Art in Public Places. Tan received his doctorate in art history and media studies from the University of Auckland.
- **Jasper Wong** is an artist, illustrator, curator, and art director based in Honolulu. He is the founder and lead director of POW! WOW!, a nonprofit organization of contemporary artists committed to community enrichment through the creation of art-outreach programs, educational programs, and the engagement of the community in the creation and appreciation of art. As a homegrown and independent art festival, POW! WOW! is recognized as one of the premier mural festivals in the world, with bases in Hawai'i; Japan; Taiwan; Texas; Washington, D.C.; California; and Massachusetts. Wong received his bachelor's degree in illustration from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco.