



The Future History of Public Art

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

Core Participant List

- **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 B.F.A. 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 level. 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. He 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, California Arts Council, California Association of Local Arts Organizations, Chicano Federation of San Diego County, 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 B.F.A. degree from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and has also studied at

Washington University, Webster 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 B.F.A. degree in sculpture from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco; her M.A. degree in museology/museum studies from John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, California; and her doctorate from the University of the Arts London in public art and curatorial studies.
- **Candy Chang** is an artist, designer, and urban planner based in New Orleans, Louisiana whose 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 to exhibitions and institutions such as the Venice Architecture Biennale, New Museum, Tate Modern, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. Chang received a B.S. degree in architecture and B.F.A. degree in graphic design from the University of Michigan. She received her M.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 a visiting assistant professor of history at Haverford College. 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 degree in American culture from the University of Michigan and a B.A. degree in urban studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He previously was the 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). He has served on the professional staff of the HSFCA 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 creation and installation of significant art projects at the University of Hawai'i's Cancer Center and Hawaiian 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 B.A. 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 an alternative art space, Southfork – Memphis. She was previously a fellow at the Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts at Rhodes College, located in Memphis, where she received a B.A. degree in art history.
- **Jen Lewin** is an internationally renowned 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, and also art Biennales in Denver and Gwangju, South Korea. She has also had numerous solo exhibitions of her work in the United States, Portugal, and England. Lewin attended the University of Colorado where she earned her B.A. degree in architecture and computer aided design. She then earned an M.P.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 each year. 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 B.F.A. 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 world-renowned architectural design heritage of Columbus, Indiana. McCoy has a history of creating unique solutions to complex cultural heritage challenges, curating art in public spaces, writing for digital and print publications, teaching in graduate programs, and creating 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 an M.A. degree in art history from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts and an Advanced Certificate from the Conservation Center.
- **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 thought-provoking art that is often

infused with humor. He has made interventions throughout Brazil, in addition to Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Peru, Russia, South Africa, USA 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 M.A. degree in arts management and urban planning from New York University and her B.A. 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 area 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 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 engagement of the community in the creation and appreciation of art. As a home grown and independent art festival, POW! WOW! is now recognized as one of the most premier mural festivals in the world with bases in Hawaii, Japan, Taiwan, Texas, Washington D.C., California and Massachusetts. Wong received his B.F.A. degree from the California College of the Arts.