

# The Joyce Foundation 2018 Creative Placekeeping/Placemaking Summit Bios

## The Artist as Problem Solver

Recognizing the Role of the Artist in Civic Life & Sustainability



**Diop Adisa (Indianapolis)** was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. He attended Broad Ripple high school and IUPUI. He's 29 years old and has been with the grassroots community organization Kheprw Institute (KI) since its inception back in 2003. To describe him simply, he's an artist, activist, and entrepreneur. He's a part of the social enterprise KI NuMedia ([www.kinumedia.org](http://www.kinumedia.org)) which is a web graphic video and social media design company. He's also an independent hip hop artist who has worked within the Indianapolis hip hop community for the past 10 years.



**Eric Avner (Cincinnati)** is CEO, chief ambassador and lead disruptor of People's Liberty in Cincinnati. He leads with vision and mission while overseeing investments throughout the urban core. Eric serves as Vice President and Senior Program Officer for the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation.



**Carol Bebelle (New Orleans)**, a native New Orleanian, is the co-founded Ashé Cultural Arts Center (Ashé CAC), along with Douglas Redd, in 1998. Ashé CAC is dedicated to community and human development using culture and art, and it became a central player in the rebuilding of New Orleans post-disaster, particularly in the Central City community and the city's cultural landscape. Bebelle is a graduate of Loyola and Tulane universities. She has a 20-year career in the public sector as an administrator and planner of human service programs. She also is a consultant offering planning, development, and grant writing services to human service programs. Her clients are non-profits, religious programs, entrepreneurs and artists.



**Phyllis Viola Boyd (Indianapolis)** is an artist and urban strategist. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Groundwork Indy, a non-profit organization that employs youth to work on community-based projects that equitably enhance environmental, economic, and social well-being. Phyllis co-leads with LaShawnda Crowe Storm the RECLAIM 46208 Project, which transforms the blight of vacant lots into economic opportunities for the formerly incarcerated and other community members. This project involves multiple partners such as the City of Indianapolis, neighborhood schools, community artists, and various non-profits. Before joining Groundwork Indy, Phyllis practiced landscape architecture and urban planning in the for-profit sector, where her work focused on sustainable design and planning.

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**Andre Denman (Indianapolis)** is the Principal Park Planner and Greenways Manager for City of Indianapolis. Andre oversees the long and short term planning and development of Indianapolis parks, greenspaces, and the connectivity of its greenways and trails. He also works closely with advocates, friends groups, and the Indianapolis Parks Foundation to raise donations and grants to move the department towards its vision to “create parks and experiences that inspire”. Andre is also the city’s representative on the Greenways Development Commission that helps shape the advancement of connectivity and protect the city’s assets along the many natural and manmade greenway corridors.



**Dr. Jarrod Nicholas Dortch (Indianapolis)** is an educator, artist and urban farmer. He holds a BA, MA and Ed.D. from Ball State University. He has taught Communication for Ivy Tech Community College in Muncie, IN since 2010. He also runs the urban agricultural start-up Solful Gardens, LLC. in the Indianapolis area. Jarrod enjoys finding the intersection of all these aspects of his life to help to build communities. Whether it be in the classroom, the neighborhood or in the field, he is his most comfortable self when teaching and learning is taking place.



**Justin Ferguson (Indianapolis)** is the Executive Director of Outreach & Engagement for Ball State University’s College of Architecture and Planning. He is also the Director of the Master of Urban Design Program embedded in Indianapolis, which operates out of the Platform at the City Market. Justin holds a PhD and MSc in Architecture from the University of Michigan, where his dissertation research focused on public participation in the design of public projects, as well as a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Cincinnati. Justin is currently working on the development of a new, Indianapolis-based Civic Design Center.



**Linnea Gartin (Cincinnati)** is Manager of Programs at ArtWorks in Cincinnati. Linnea is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Social Practice Art at the University of Indianapolis and will complete the program in August 2018. Her passion for the arts began as a young child using disposable cameras to document her all of experiences and surroundings. With age and exploration, she has immense pride and talent in working collaboratively with community members, artists, and youth to create public works of art with meaning and purpose. Linnea resides in Northern Kentucky with her husband, dog, and two cats. Prior to ArtWorks, Linnea was living in her home state to complete her Bachelor’s degree in Art History from Minnesota State University Moorhead. She was also employed by the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, North Dakota as a Collections Intern and Visitor Services Associate.



**Elka Gotfryd (New York)** is Senior Project Associate at Project for Public Spaces. Her work focuses on the Southwest Airlines Heart of the Community program. And she plays a key role in program development for PPS’ work in Israel. She is currently conducting research on Placemaking as a tool for conflict resolution, with a focus on case studies from the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Elka brings to the table a

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multidisciplinary approach and skill set that includes urban planning, GIS analysis and cartography, database management, and civic engagement and advocacy. Before joining the PPS team, Elka worked as the community planner for Old City and Downtown Jerusalem, where she was responsible for representing local communities vis-à-vis City Hall and the Local and Regional Planning Councils. Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, yet having studied and worked in this politically charged milieu, Elka is an advocate of sensitive and context-specific solutions for cities and public spaces. She is passionate about the power of place as a common denominator – whether in regions of ethno-national conflict, between different stakeholders, or among diverse communities.



**Daniel Gray-Kontar (Cleveland)** is Executive Artistic Director of Twelve Literary Arts. A poet and education activist, he has worked as an advocate for social transformation in the city of Cleveland for more than 25 years. Gray-Kontar is an education consultant for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; writer-in-residence at MOCA Cleveland; former chair of the Literary Arts Department at the Cleveland School of the Arts; and a former graduate school fellow at UC Berkeley's College of Education. His work in arts education has been showcased on PBS Newshour. Gray-Kontar has lectured at universities, public schools, arts organizations and scholarly conferences across the US. His TED talk discussing youth leadership in public school education has affected the ways public school administrators think about the inclusion of youth and their families in the process of re-making school cultures and curricula.



**Jingo De La Rosa (Indianapolis)** is a commercial illustrator, art educator, and community artist. He has worked with renowned organizations such as '47 Brand Apparel, Duncan Toys, Sakura of America and the NCAA. Jingo spearheads community-oriented art initiatives such as DRAWN, a sketch night/live performance event; and the Indianapolis leg of The Monster Project. He also serves as the Volunteer Coordinator for CreativeMornings, and Design/Promotions Manager for ArtSpeak. He has a studio at the Circle City Industrial Complex, where he works on commercial projects and programming for community engagement. Jingo is a native of the Philippines, but now calls Indianapolis his home.



**Juana Guzman (Chicago)**, for more than 35 years, has served as a nationally acclaimed arts consultant and organizational management leader. Throughout her career, Ms. Guzman has championed the promotion and preservation of the arts, culture and heritage as a catalyst for economic and social change for diverse American populations. Since 1980, Ms. Guzman has developed and implemented strategies that focused on organizational capacity building, diversity training in the workplace, alternative sources of revenue, entrepreneurialism, creative place-making and place-keeping in diverse communities of color. In 2012, Ms. Guzman left her position of 13 years as the Vice-President of the National Museum of Mexican Arts (NMMA) in Chicago, the largest accredited Latino arts institution in the country, to start her own company "I Juana Know Inc." Ms. Guzman is also the co-founder of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture.

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**Tracie D. Hall (Chicago)** is Director of the Joyce Foundation's Culture Program. She has previously served as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events for the City of Chicago where she oversaw the Arts and Creative Industries Division; and in The Boeing Company's Global Corporate Citizenship Division where she worked as Community Investment Strategist and later as Chicago Community Investor. Deeply invested in the intersection of arts access and economic development, Hall is the recipient of various awards for her creative and community work. She is Founding Curator of Rootwork Gallery, an experimental arts space in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.



**DeAmon Harges (Indianapolis)** of The Learning Tree ([thelearningtrees.com](http://thelearningtrees.com)) is the original "Roving Listener" as a neighbor and staff member of the Broadway United Methodist Church. His role is to listen and discover the gifts, passions and dreams of citizens in his community, and to find ways to utilize them in order to build community, economy, and mutual "delight." The bulk of DeAmon's work is based on the principles and practices of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD) that brings neighbors and institutions together to discover the power of being a good neighbor. DeAmon builds on what is already present and in place in the neighborhood, using those formally undiscovered assets to connect and empower rather than working only from the community's needs and deficits. There is now a core of "Roving Listeners" working in the Broadway Methodist Church neighborhood.



**Tonika Johnson (Chicago)** is a photographer from Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. She received her BA in Journalism & Photography from Columbia College Chicago and her MBA from National-Louis University. In 2010, she helped co-found Resident Association of Greater Englewood (R.A.G.E.) and now serves as its Program Manager. She was selected as a 2017 Chicagoan of the Year by Chicago Magazine for her photography depicting Englewood's enduring beauty as a counternarrative to pervasive media coverage focused on poverty and crime. In 2017, the Chicago Reader ran a photo essay by Johnson as its cover story titled "Life Beyond The Headlines." Selected work from her two projects are currently being exhibited at Loyola University's Museum of Art (LUMA) in Chicago.



**Sean Oreo Jones (Indianapolis)** is an artist currently residing in Indianapolis. Originally focused on hip hop culture, Jones has harnessed his craft as a musician around the country and has recently developed a role as community organizer with an artistic purpose by founding Chreece – one of the Midwest's biggest hip hop festivals. In 2015, Sean he began working as Sound Artist in Residence at Listen Hear located in the Garfield Park Neighborhood. As part of Big Car Collaborative, Jones has supported the creative community by curating exhibitions at Listen Hear and helping develop the new low-power FM station WQRT that broadcasts out of the sound art gallery.

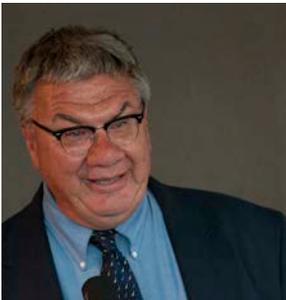
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**Mark Latta (Indianapolis), M.A.**, is the Director of the Writing Center, Instructor of English, and Public Literacy Coordinator at Marian University. His research and teaching interests focus primarily on the intersections of composition, critical public literacies, informal learning systems, critical service learning, and resistance narratives. His social practice projects include supporting community critical literacies through the Flanner Community Writing Center; I Am East 10th Street, a public art memoir installation relating the stories of those who live and work along east 10th Street; and Moving Stories, a public art project built around the rhetorical culture and infrastructure of public transportation.



**Carmen Lethig (Indianapolis)** has worked at the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority for nine years in three different roles. Her current role is as the state's first Placemaking Manager. She focuses on fostering development and organizational capacity for creating places where people want to live, work, and play throughout the State of Indiana. She works on various programs to accomplish this goal including Stellar Communities, My Community, My Vision and CreatINg Places. In her free time, Carmen enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, reading, drinking (lots of) coffee, going to museums, plays, and concerts, traveling and acting as the project manager in the rehab of her family's 1929 bungalow home. Carmen is a certified urban planner and earned a BA from Purdue University in Communications and a Masters in Regional and Urban Planning from Ball State University.



**Drew Klacik (Indianapolis)** was born in Northwest Indiana, earned a BA from Purdue, and a masters in urban planning at Ball State. He previously worked for the city of Indianapolis, where he was part of the economic development team that helped transform downtown Indianapolis. He is now a Senior Policy Analyst at the IU Public Policy Institute where he works collaboratively with others interested in building a thriving central Indiana and state of Indiana. Recent projects included working with Indy Chamber and the Brookings Institute on the Brookings' sponsored Income Disparity Lab and the Public Policy Institute's Thriving Community, Thriving State effort to provide a series of recommendations for Indiana's urban, suburban, and rural places.



**Eduardo Luna (Indianapolis)** was born in Mexico and raised in the Midwest. He is passionate about creating a bridge between the two cultures. Eduardo works as an placemaking artist and immigrant and refugee outreach specialist at Big Car Collaborative. He is a founding member of NOPAL Cultural, a Latino-American arts organization which connect latino artists with art projects in Indianapolis. In his free time Eduardo hosts a variety of music events such as Espanglish Night and Radio Calaca. He also manages events and appearances of his friend El Camaron Electronico, a Mexican luchador MP3J whose mission is to share alternative Spanish language music in Indianapolis.

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**Kavita Mahoney (Indianapolis)** is the Arts Center Manager at the Garfield Park Arts Center. She's held positions at both local and national museums, art centers, and galleries – honing her skills in curatorial practice, exhibit design and development, arts programming, and leadership. Kavita has a passion for elevating the arts in the Indianapolis area in ways that will benefit the public good, create a sense of community, and stimulate awareness of social and cultural issues. She holds a B.A. in Studio Art and History of Art and a Masters in Museum Studies from Indiana University.



**Shauta Marsh (Indianapolis)** is a co-founder of Big Car Collaborative and curates commissioned exhibits at Tube Factory and other Big Car locations. From 2011-2015 she was executive director of the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art. She has curated and/or organized more than 40 exhibitions and worked with notable artists from Indianapolis and around the world.



**Kevin McKelvey (Indianapolis)** is a place-based novelist, essayist, poet, designer, and social practice artist. At University of Indianapolis, he directs the MA in Social Practice Art and coordinates the student-run publishing imprint, Etchings Press. Find him online at [kevinmckelvey.org](http://kevinmckelvey.org).



**Dancia Malone (Indianapolis)** is an arts & culture ambassador and urban planner pursuing her PhD on the User-Experience of Race. Her work is artistic in nature and based on the context of Race & Space – Growing Critical Cultural Capacity in the Built Environment. As a Vanguard Fellow and 1828 Alumni, she challenges the ideas of public space and place-making to encourage a people-centric status quo. Danicia holds a Bachelor in Urban Planning and Spanish from Ball State University & a Masters in Nonprofit Management with a focus on global relations and sustainability from Indiana University. She is a creative director, interaction designer and planner based in Indianapolis, IN with ongoing projects in Monteverde, CR, Dallas, TX and New Orleans, LA.



**Joyce L. Moore (Indianapolis)** has been involved in community service since childhood, working with her scout troop. Her interest in gardening was cultivated by her father, an avid gardener, who also kept backyard chickens at their childhood home. Joyce is a twice-elected Indiana Democratic State Delegate. She has served on several community boards and is presently a member of the board of ACGA (American Community Gardening Association,) and Brandywine Creek Farms. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Indiana University and has a graduate certification in SAS Programming from Philadelphia University.



**Justin Garrett Moore (Indianapolis)** is an urban designer and the Executive Director of the New York City Public Design Commission. He has extensive experience in urban design and city planning—from large-scale urban systems, policies, and projects to grassroots and community-focused planning, design, and arts initiatives. At the Public Design Commission, his work is focused on prioritizing the quality and excellence of the public realm, and fostering accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in the City's

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public buildings, spaces, and art. He is also the co-founder of Urban Patch, a social enterprise based in Indianapolis that focuses on community revitalization in American inner cities and a member of the NYC-based collective BlackSpace.



**Cari Morales (Indianapolis)** is a Program Assistant at Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). There she coordinates the Façade Grant Program and oversees Creative Placemaking in the Great Places 2020 as well as supports FOCUS: Works. She is the neighborhood liaison for investments in the Southeast neighborhoods as well as the Twin Aire Great Place. She lives with her brother on the east side of Indy and is currently training for the Indy Mini with her twin sister.



**Roy Priest (Alexandria, Virginia)** is a creative architect and administrator of community development programs. Roy is well known and respected in Washington and across the country. His distinguished 50 years career in government and the non-profit sectors included executive positions at both the local, municipal and federal level. His exemplary leadership and accomplishments reflects his steadfast commitment to serving the social and economic needs of our nation's families and communities. His success is not benchmarked by the thousand of housing, retail, commercial and industrial projects that have been built and financed through programs he has developed and engineered throughout his career in Community Economic Development but by the creation of measurable program and policy outcomes built in the intersection between places and people.



**Ash Robinson (Indianapolis)** established her artistic voice at Herron School of Art & Design where she received her BFA in Furniture Design. Not singularly defined by making functional objects, furniture forms have become a gateway into a more personal artistic endeavor. Ash's work makes social issues tangible by uncovering and highlighting the truth in the everyday objects. Through a variety of forms including, fiber, sculpture, installation, and community based projects, Ash has developed a strong presence in the Indianapolis art community.



**Katie Robinson (Indianapolis)** has served as the Director of the Office of Sustainability since January 2017. Before becoming the Director of the Office of Sustainability, Katie directed constituent services on behalf of the City, overseeing the Mayor's Action Center and the Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates. In this role, she continuously improved the service and communication provided to the City's constituents. Katie also managed a diverse array of special projects, facilitating Mayoral initiatives throughout the City-County enterprise. Katie had previously counseled corporate fundraising efforts for cultural art institutions such as the Eiteljorg and Indiana State Museums, and was the Director of Life Sciences and Community Relations for Develop Indy. She began her career in public service as a Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison for former Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson.

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**Derrin Slack (Indianapolis)** – While on a college mission trip to Botswana, Africa, Derrin experienced the power of giving back to others and wondered how his life would have been different had he been exposed to service at a younger age. This led to the founding of ProAct and what it is today. With a strong background in nonprofit management and research, Derrin acts as the conduit between the needs of the community, and the individuals, partners, sponsors, and students that engage with ProAct. Under his leadership, the organization has engaged over 8,000 boys and girls in community service with an economic impact of over \$600,000 in just over five years.



**Paige Sharp (Indianapolis)** serves as Director of Programs for the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) where she oversees, directs, and manages the statewide services and grant programs funding over \$3.2 million state and federal dollars to Hoosier artists and organizations each year. Sharp graduated with a BFA from the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago, and has served as a passionate arts professional since. Her years of arts service has focused on arts education, community arts program development, exhibition development, and grantmaking/grantwriting. She has also served on multiple boards and committees from local to national.



**LaShawnda Crowe Storm (Indianapolis)** is an artist, activist, community builder and occasionally an urban farmer. Whether she is making artwork or sowing seeds, Crowe Storm uses her creative power as a vehicle for dialogue, social change and healing. Her series, The Lynch Quilts Project, has won widespread support. At the core of Crowe Storm's creative practice is a desire to create community-based processes where the process of making art becomes the opportunity to create the necessary space and place for necessary conversations around a variety of topics ranging from racial justice and historical violence, gender empowerment and community healing.



**Tracy Taft (Ajo, Arizona)** works as a volunteer with the International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA), having a successful leadership transition last year. Previously she served as Executive Director for 13 years, and as a board member before that. Based near the U.S./Mexico border and the border of the Tohono O'odham Nation, ISDA is known for using creative placemaking strategies to build community across borders and across long-standing racial and ethnic divisions, while also weaving art and culture into its comprehensive community economic revitalization work. Under her leadership, ISDA won regional and national awards for its historic preservation projects in Ajo's town center. Taft is a tenacious visionary with a background in academic and community education and experience in most elements of strategic nonprofit development and management. Prior to working in Ajo, she spent 15 years in Washington, DC, building the NeighborWorks Training Institute. She holds MA and PhD degrees in Philosophy from SUNY/Buffalo.

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**Peter Haakon Thompson (St. Paul, Minnesota)** is Community Development Coordinator, Lowertown St. Paul at Springboard for the Arts. As an artist, Thompson's primary mediums are participation, interaction and conversation. Some of his works include: The A Project, Art Shanty Projects, Expeditionary Conversation Tents, Mobile Sign Shop and the Temporary Table Tennis Trailer. He is a past recipient of a McKnight Fellowship for Photographers and holds a BFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts and an MFA from the University of Minnesota. [www.peterhaakonthompson.com](http://www.peterhaakonthompson.com).



**Megan Trischler (Cincinnati)** is program director of People's Liberty in Cincinnati. As program director, she oversees the PL residency program while keeping a keen eye on all PL design and storytelling. Megan's past work includes the development of PieLab—a pie shop, job-training center and cultural hub in Greensboro, Ala.,—and the design and development of CoSign, an initiative that paired small business owners with local artists and professional sign fabricators to install storefront signage in Cincinnati.



**Jim Walker (Indianapolis)** is CEO of Big Car Collaborative, a social practice art and placemaking nonprofit organization. Walker serves as lead artist on Spark Placemaking, a Big Car program bringing engagement-based public programming and people-focused design to communities. He also leads Big Car's work to utilize cultural strategies to support equitable revitalization in long-overlooked neighborhoods south of downtown Indianapolis. Walker – who received his MFA from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C. – has worked as a teacher, journalist, designer, and public artist. He also currently teaches in the University of Indianapolis Social Practice Art and Placemaking graduate program.



**Wildstyle (Indianapolis)**, also known as Keith Paschall, is a former auto mechanic turned project manager and roving Illustrator (visual artist) for the Learning Tree who uses pictures and videos to tell story of community and human development. He also is heavily involved in the Indianapolis hip hop scene as a producer, photographer, and manager. Whether dealing with the hip hop community or the community, his job is to make the invisible visible.



**Dahuang Zhoushi and Shanzuo Zhoushi (Chicago)**, were born in Guangxi, China and are world-renowned Chinese painters. Since coming to the US in 1986, they have become celebrity artists in US and Europe with their endeavor and talent. Time and time again they created legends of the world's abstract art history; their paintings are chased after by collectors, celebrities, museums and foundations; they hold exhibitions all over the globe and have received numerous awards. As one of the most important contemporary artists duo, they create unique, profound, and powerful works through the collaboration of the two.