PROGRAM GUIDE

Culture Summit 2017
Abu Dhabi
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This program is current as of April 3rd.
For the most up-to-date agenda and speaker list, please visit our website or download the CultureSummit 2017 app.
WELCOME
Welcome to CultureSummit 2017 Abu Dhabi!

For this week’s event—the first of its kind—CultureSummit 2017 Abu Dhabi has gathered a remarkable group of high-level public policy leaders, artists, arts administrators, philanthropists, executives, and people who influence culture from the worlds of media and technology.

Our participants are renowned creative thinkers and established leaders who have traveled to Abu Dhabi from more than 80 countries to discuss the moment when everyone on the planet will be connected to a single global cultural ecosystem for the first time in history. From combating extremism to reversing climate change, from preserving culture to promoting the arts in education, we will explore the actions that these leaders can take to address global challenges.

The focus of CultureSummit is the future—emerging trends, opportunities, challenges, technologies, and the rising generations who will shape and be shaped by the outcomes of our discussions.

This promises to be an exceptional week, and we are delighted that you can join us.
AGENDA
Sunday, April 9

12:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration (Location: Host Hotels)

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner (Location: Park Hyatt)
A Bright Line in History: Why Here, Why Now?
During this first session, a panel will frame the summit with a discussion of the coming watershed moment in human history when everyone on the planet will be connected in a single global cultural ecosystem for the first time in history. This discussion will explore these ideas and themes for the participants and serve as a scene setter for the rest of the week. The focus of the summit is on the future, emerging trends, opportunities, challenges, technologies and the rising generations who will shape and be shaped by the outcomes of discussion throughout the week.

Monday, April 10

9:00 – 12:45 p.m. State of the Arts Plenary
Universality and Uniqueness: Boundaries and that by Which We are Bound Together in a Connected World

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Welcome Remarks
9:15 – 9:45 a.m. “Cases Studies in Connectedness: New Collaborations for a New World”
H.E. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of State, Federal National Council Affairs; Chair, Media Zone Authority-Abu Dhabi & twofour54
Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Robert L. Lynch, President & CEO, Americans for the Arts

9:45 – 10:30 a.m. “Global Culture Hubs: The Role and Lessons of New Cities in an Urbanizing World”
H.E. Mohamed Al Mubarak, Chairman, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority
Richard Armstrong, Director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation
Rula Jebreal, Visiting Professor, American University of Rome
Ana Cristina Vargas, Architect

10:30-10:45 a.m. Keynote Address
HH Sheikh Nahyan Al Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture, United Arab Emirates

Coffee Break for Conversation

11:00-11:15 a.m. Featured Performance
Sandeep Das, Silk Road Project

11:15-11:45 a.m. “The Universals: What the Arts Tell Us About How We Can Come Together”
Sabine Choucair, Artistic Director, Clown Me In
Amb. Cynthia Schneider, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, Georgetown School of Public Service
Dustin Yellin, Founder, Pioneer Works

11:45-12:15 p.m. “Globalization and the Other: Lessons from Refugees and The Dislocated”
Octopizzo, Founder & Executive Director, Octopizzo Foundation
H.E. Faryad Rwandizi, Minister of Culture, Iraq
Sherrie Westin, EVP, Global Impact & Philanthropy, Sesame Workshop
12:15-12:45 p.m.  “The Different Cultures of Funding Culture: A Look at Private Philanthropy, State Support and What Lies Between the Two”

Werner Binnenstein-Bachstein, Director, Community Arts Lab, Porticus Foundation

Angela Migally, Executive Director, Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation

Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch Conversation and Performance

This lunch session will include a series of working conversations on the morning’s themes at tables hosted by event faculty.

Featured Performance

Ana Tijoux with Ramiro Durán

Afternoon issue workshop series

The afternoon programs for the event will follow CultureSummit’s Q-A-A format. On day one, workshops will focus on identifying the major questions that participants feel we need to be asking about the future of global arts and culture with a specific focus on how culture and coming changes in how culture is distributed and consumed can be used to produce positive social change. On day two, the workshops will focus on identifying the best answers the group can identify to those questions. And on day three, the groups will work on identifying the most effective and impactful actions they feel should be taken by artists, arts organizations, governments and other actors to help realize the answers identified in day two.

2:15 – 3:30 p.m.  Issues Workshops – Framing the Questions
6:00–10:00 p.m.  A Celebration of Our Artists in Residence
(Location: Manarat al Saadiyat)

Introductions & Conversation with CultureSummit 2017 Artists-In-Residence:

Tan Dun, Composer
Idris Khan, Visual Artist
Liz Lerman, Choreographer

Featured Performance

“Healing Wars”: choreographed by Liz Lerman
featuring Paul Hurley & Keith Thompson

Nightcap Performance by DJ Tudo

Tuesday, April 11

9:00–12:10 p.m. State of the Arts Plenary
Change Agents, Healers and Advocates: The Why of the Arts and Media in the New Global Cultural Reality

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. “The Why and How of Cultural Preservation in the Coming Decades”

HE Dr. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh,
Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Cultural Adviser, Ministry of Presidential Affairs

Zaki Aslan, Arab States Representative, ICCROM

HRH Dana Firas, President, Petra National Trust

Mariët Westermann, Executive Vice President, Andrew Mellon Foundation
10:30-10:50 a.m.  **Featured Performances**  
Julian Crouch & Saskia Lane’s Birdheart

10:50–11:20 a.m.  **“The Arts and Fighting Climate Change”**  
Fabrice Monteiro, Photographer  
Aurora Robson, Founding Artist, Project Vortex  
Sibylle Szaggars Redford, Founder, President & Artistic Director, The Way of the Rain

11:20–11:50 a.m.  **“The Arts and Gender Equity”**  
Jamila Afghani, Executive Director, Noor Educational & Capacity Development Organization  
Alyse Nelson, CEO, Vital Voices  
Adejoke Tugbiyele, Artist

11:50–12:10 p.m.  **Featured Performances**  
Nástio Mosquito, Multimedia & Performance Artist  
Sarah Elizabeth Charles, Vocalist

12:30–2:00 p.m.  **Lunchtime Conversation and Expo 2020 Dubai Preview**  
Dr. Tarek Oliviera Shayya, Director, International Affairs Department, Minister of State; Office Board Director, Expo 2020  
Manal Al Bayat, Senior Vice President Business Development and Integration, Expo 2020  
Dr. Hayat Shamsuddin, Senior Advisor, Culture, Expo 2020  
Moderator: Dyala Nusseibeh, Director, Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority

**Afternoon issue workshop series**

2:15 – 3:30 p.m.  **Issues Workshops – Seeking Answers**  
What is in the Minds and Hearts of the Rising Generations?
5:30–10:00 p.m. Cultural Diplomats of the Year Awards Dinner  
(Location: The Ritz Carlton)  
Awards in Cultural Diplomacy Presented to:  
Dr. Madeleine K. Albright, Former US Secretary of State & Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group  
El Sistema (represented by Eduardo Mendez, Executive Director, Fundacion Musical Simón Bolivar)  
HE Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State. Foreign Affairs, Minister of State, Federal National Council Affairs  
HE Dr. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Cultural Adviser, Ministry of Presidential Affairs  
Sesame Workshop (represented by Sherrie Westin, EVP, Social Impact & Philanthropy)  
West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (represented by Tabaré Perlas, CEO)  
Featured Performance  
Maya Beiser, Cellist  
Nightcap Performance  
Young Paris with DJ Acidophilus

Wednesday, April 12

9:00–12:20 p.m. State of the Arts Plenary  
A Day of Vision: Technology and How It Will Change Everything

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. “The Arts & Advocacy: Confronting the Challenges of Our Time”  
Dr. Madeleine K. Albright, Former U.S. Secretary of State; Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group

9:30 –10:15 a.m. “Innovators Roundtable: Visions for a Different Tomorrow”  
Tracy Fullerton, Chair, Interactive Media & Games Department, University of Southern California  
Aaron Koblin, Co-Founder & CTO, Within  
Horacio Lecona, Creative Director, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México  
Matthew Putman, Nanoscientist, Musician and Board Chair, Pioneer Works
10:15–10:35 a.m.  **Featured Performance**  
*Emeline Michel* with Studio at the Summit  
(Christopher Marianetti, Jeremy Thal, Kyla-Rose Smith)

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Coffee Break for Conversation

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10:50–11:20 a.m.  **“The Unintended Consequences of Technological Change”**  
*Bill Bragin*, Executive Artistic Director, NYU Abu Dhabi Arts Center  
*Samantha Diamond*, CEO, CultureConnect  
*Kristy Edmunds*, Executive & Artistic Director Center for the Art of Performance, UCLA

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11:20–11:50 a.m.  **“The Future of Culture”**  
*Princess Alia Al-Senussi*, Chair, Tate Young Patrons Board; Advisor, Art Basel  
*Adrian Ellis*, Director, AEA Consulting; Director and Co-Founder, Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN)  
*H.E. Saif Saeed Ghobash*, Director General, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority  
*Deborah Rutter*, President, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

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11:50–12:20 p.m.  **Featured Performances**  
*Mutabaruka*, Dub Poet  
*Jo Lawry*, Singer Songwriter

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12:30–2:00 p.m.  **Lunchtime Conversation and Artist-in-Residence Discussion**  
A conversation on “Disruptive Art and a Disrupted Future” with Artist-in-Residence *Idris Khan*

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Afternoon issue workshop series

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2:15–3:30 p.m.  **Issues Workshops – Action Agenda**  
Next Generation Collaborations and Where They May Lead
5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Cultural Trade Routes Dinner and Performances
(Location: Park Hyatt)
On this special evening the food and the performances will be curated to illustrate the flow of all forms of culture from and through the Middle East to Asia and China as well as to Africa, Europe and the Americas. It will illustrate cultural connections over the centuries and speculate about where they may go in the future.

5:45 – 7:00 pm Artist-in-Residence Presentation
Tan Dun, Academy Award-Winning Composer

7:00 – 9:00 pm Dinner and Performances
Curating Chef
Simon Majumdar, Food Channel
Featured Performance
Falu, Singer/Songwriter
Nightcap Performance
DJ Beco with Flavio Renegado

Thursday, April 13

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. State of the Arts Plenary
Solutions: Emerging Opportunities, Generations and Risks and the Answers the Arts Can Provide for Each
For this session we will invite the workshop faculty plus selected individuals to offer their key “action item” conclusions for the event before opening the conversation to the entire group.
Featured Performance
Tim Casson, “The Dance WE Made”

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. A Preview of the Louvre Abu Dhabi

11:00 – 12:30 p.m. A Special Closing Performance
The Way of the Rain

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunchtime Conversation and Closing Remarks
Dr. Madeleine K. Albright
Former U.S. Secretary of State Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group

Madeleine K. Albright is chair of the Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategy firm, and Albright Capital Management LLC, an investment advisory firm focused on emerging markets. In 1997, Albright became the 64th secretary of state of the United States. She was the first female secretary of state and, at that time, the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. From 1993 to 1997, Albright was the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations and a member of the president’s cabinet. She is a professor in the practice of diplomacy at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Albright chairs the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. She is the president of the Truman Scholarship Foundation. In 2012, she was chosen by President Barack Obama to receive the nation’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in recognition of her contributions to international peace and democracy.

El Sistema
Represented by Eduardo Mendez, Executive Director, Fundacion Musical Simón Bolívar

Born in Caracas, Venezuela on Dec. 6, 1978, the younger brother of two, Eduardo Mendez grew up in Merida with his parents, Laura and Gustavo. At the age of 5, he started playing the violin in a nucleo and continued to play in the Chacao’s nucleo in Caracas until he auditioned for the Simon Bolivar Orchestra. Mendez was accepted and played with the orchestra, traveling on several international tours in America and Europe, until 2003. He graduated from the law school at the Universidad Catolica Andres Bello in 2000 and graduated as a magister in public policies from IESA in 2007. Maestro Jose Antonio Abreu, as executive director of El Sistema, named him in 2008 after 12 years of uninterrupted work alongside him. Mendez continues in his role as executive director today.
H.E. Dr. Anwar Bin Mohammed Gargash
Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash was appointed in 2006 as Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs. In February 2008, His Excellency Dr. Gargash was given the additional responsibility of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. In February 2016, he has been appointed as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. His Excellency holds a number of positions in addition to his Ministerial positions as he is the Chairman of the National Elections Committee, overseeing the UAE’s first elections which took place in 2006 and the subsequent elections in 2011 and 2015. He is also the Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy and Leads the UAE team for the Human Rights Periodic Review. Dr. Gargash received his Ph.D from King’s College.

H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh
Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cultural Advisor, Ministry of Presidential Affairs

His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh has been active in service of the government and as an interpreter for the presidents of the United Arab Emirates since 1968. He is the assistant minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation at the Foreign Ministry and the cultural advisor at the UAE Presidential Court. Nusseibeh was deputy chairman of the Abu Dhabi Culture and Heritage Authority since 2006. Following its amalgamation with Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority in 2012, he continued as a board member of the newly formed entity, contributing to the development of some of Abu Dhabi’s major cultural and art initiatives. He has served as a trustee of the Sheikh Zayed Award and the International Prize for Arab Fiction. He is the chairman of the London School of Economics LSE Middle East Centre Advisory. He is also the president of the Alliance Francaise Abu Dhabi.
West-Eastern Divan Orchestra
Represented by Tabaré Perlas, CEO
Tabaré Perlas has been chairman of the Daniel Barenboim Foundation since 2007. He manages the international network of foundations created by Barenboim as well as the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which he has accompanied since its creation in 1999 in Weimar, Germany, by Barenboim and the late philosopher Edward Said. Israeli, Palestinian, and other Arab musicians who had interacted only with one another through the prism of war found themselves living, working, and making music together as equals. The utopian experiment in promoting common understanding quickly evolved into a legendary orchestra, which has given concerts every year in the most prestigious venues of the world. The Barenboim-Said Academy and its Pierre Boulez concert hall, which Perlas helped create on these principles, opened, respectively, in December 2016 and March 2017 in Berlin.

Sesame Workshop
Represented by Sherrie Rollins Westin, Executive Vice President, Global Impact and Philanthropy
Sherrie Rollins Westin is executive vice president, Global Impact and Philanthropy for Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind Sesame Street. Westin oversees the workshop’s programs, addressing the needs of children from India to South Africa to the United States and providing early education through mass media and targeted initiatives. Westin’s career spans media, the private sector, nonprofit, and public service. She was assistant to the president for public liaison and intergovernmental affairs under President George H.W. Bush, assistant secretary for public affairs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and held senior positions at the ABC television network and U.S. News & World Report. Westin serves on the boards of UNICEF, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and Mount Holyoke College. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and was named a 2016 Leading Global Thinker by Foreign Policy magazine. Westin holds an honorary doctorate from Concordia College and graduated from the University of Virginia.
ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE
Tan Dun
Academy Award Winning Composer/Conductor

The world renowned artist and UNESCO Global Goodwill Ambassador Tan Dun, has made an indelible mark on the world’s music scene with a creative repertoire that spans the boundaries of classical music, multimedia performance, and Eastern and Western traditions. A winner of today’s most prestigious honors including the Grammy Award, Oscar/Academy Award, Grawemeyer Award for classical composition, Musical America’s Composer of the Year, Bach Prize and Shostakovich Award, Tan Dun’s music has been played throughout the world by leading orchestras, opera houses, international festivals, and on the radio and television. Most recently, Tan Dun conducted the grand opening celebration of Disneyland Shanghai which was broadcast to a record-breaking audience of 65 million people worldwide. Tan Dun has previously served as Chair of Carnegie Hall’s China Committee, Creative Chair of the 2014 Philadelphia Orchestra China Tour, Associate Composer/Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony, and Artistic Director of the Festival Water Crossing Fire held at the Barbican Centre.

Idris Khan
Visual Artist

Born in Birmingham in 1978, Idris Khan lives and works in London. Since completing his master’s degree at the Royal College of Art in London in 2004, he has shown internationally multiple times, including his most recent solo show at the New Art Gallery Walsall, Birmingham (2017). Drawing inspiration from the history of art and music as well as key philosophical and theological texts, Khan investigates memory, creativity, and the layering of experience. Khan is known for his large-scale works — sculpture, painting, and photography — in which techniques of layering are used to arrive at what might be considered the essence of an image, and to create something entirely new through repetition and superimposition. Khan has a permanent public monument, forming the centerpiece of the new Memorial Park in Abu Dhabi.
Liz Lerman
Choreographer

Liz Lerman is a choreographer, performer, writer, educator, and speaker and the recipient of numerous honors, including a 2002 MacArthur “Genius Grant” and a 2011 United States Artists Ford fellowship in dance. A key aspect of her artistry is opening her process to various publics from shipbuilders to physicists, resulting in research and outcomes that are participatory, relevant, urgent, and usable by others. She founded the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in 1976 and led it until 2011. Her most recent work, “Healing Wars,” toured across the United States in 2014-15. Lerman conducts residencies on the critical response process, creative research, the intersection of art and science, and the building of narrative within dance performance at such institutions as Harvard University, the Yale School of Drama, Wesleyan University, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the National Theatre Studio, among others. Her third book, *Hiking the Horizontal: Field Notes from a Choreographer*, was published in 2011 by Wesleyan University Press. Liz Lerman most recently won the 2017 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award, a prestigious honor in acknowledgement of her vision and outstanding contributions to the dance field.
STEERING COMMITTEE & FACULTY
H.E. Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi
Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs
Chairwoman of the Media Zone Authority — Abu Dhabi (MZA) and twofour54

Her Excellency Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi was appointed as the United Arab Emirates minister of state for federal national council affairs in February 2016. In this role, Al Kaabi acts as the key link and facilitator between the cabinet and the Federal National Council. Al Kaabi is chairwoman of the Media Zone Authority — Abu Dhabi (MZA) and twofour54, the home of media and entertainment in Abu Dhabi, and chairwoman of Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Co. (ADNEC Group). She is also a board member of the UAE’s National Media Council, Abu Dhabi Media, Image Nation, and the Abu Dhabi Sports Council. Al Kaabi is the first UAE national to be ranked on Foreign Policy magazine’s Top 100 Global Thinkers List. In 2014, she was named one of Forbes Middle East’s 30 Most Influential Women in Government. She was awarded Business Woman of the Year at the Gulf Business Industry Awards.

H.E. Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak
Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi)

H.E. Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak is chairman of the Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, which oversees the conservation and promotion of Abu Dhabi’s heritage and culture, leveraging them to develop distinctive Abu Dhabi experiences designed to enrich the lives of visitors and residents. In 2016, Khalifa was appointed chairman of the Tourism Development & Investment Co. (TDIC), master developer of major tourism, cultural, and residential destinations in Abu Dhabi. Khalifa is also chairman of Miral Asset Management, which is responsible for creating and managing destinations in Abu Dhabi focused on building lifelong visitor value for the emirate. Khalifa is CEO of Aldar Properties PJSC, Abu Dhabi’s leading property development and management company as well as chairman of Aldar Academies, one of the largest providers of modern private education in Abu Dhabi. He is chairman of Image Nation Abu Dhabi, one of the leading content creators for film and television in the Middle East.
Carla Dirlikov Canales  
CEO and Founder, TCP Venture

Carla Dirlikov Canales is an internationally known opera singer who has established herself as a leader in using the arts to advance important social issues. She is a member of the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities Turnaround Arts Program, was selected by Foreign Policy magazine as one of its 100 Leading Global Thinkers in 2015 and won the Medal of Excellence from the Sphinx Organization. In each case, she was the first opera singer to receive the honor. As a singer, she has received worldwide acclaim and is best known for her portrayals of Bizet’s “Carmen,” which she has performed more than 80 times in a dozen countries. She has performed as a soloist at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and top international venues in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. She is the founder and CEO of the Canales Project, aimed at giving voice to issues of identity and culture through music and conversation. Canales also maintains a practice as an independent curator and is co-founder of a Washington, D.C.-based public arts program.

David J. Rothkopf  
CEO and Editor, The FP Group

David J. Rothkopf is CEO and editor of the FP Group, where he oversees all editorial, publishing, events, and other operations of the company, which publishes Foreign Policy magazine. Rothkopf is the author of numerous internationally acclaimed books, including Power, Inc., Superclass, Running the World, and National Insecurity: American Leadership in an Age of Fear. His newest book, The Great Questions of Tomorrow, will be published in April. He writes a weekly column for ForeignPolicy.com and is a frequent contributor to leading newspapers and magazines, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Financial Times, CNN, Newsweek, Time, and many others. He is the host of “The Editor’s Roundtable” (“The E.R.”) podcast, a weekly program that examines the big issues of the day. Rothkopf is a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
Bill Bragin
Artistic Director, New York University Abu Dhabi Arts Center

Bill Bragin is the founding executive artistic director of the Arts Center at New York University Abu Dhabi, a game-changer in the United Arab Emirates. Previously, as director of public programming of New York’s Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, he attracted hundreds of thousands of audience members to the Midsummer Night Swing and Lincoln Center Out of Doors festivals, and commissioned and premiered numerous works in various disciplines. He set the artistic vision for the David Rubenstein Atrium, which opened during his tenure. Previously, as director of Joe’s Pub at the Public Theater, he commissioned and helped develop the Tony Award-winning musical *Passing Strange*. Bragin is co-founding producer of the not-for-profit world music festival and service organization globalFEST and a former member of the board of trustees of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals. As “Acidophilus,” he is internationally recognized as part of the GlobeSonic Sound System.

Werner Binnenstein-Bachstein
Director of Community Arts Lab, Porticus Foundation

Dr. Werner Binnenstein-Bachstein was born in 1969 in Vorarlberg, Austria. He started his professional career as an assistant professor in the Department for Social Policy, focusing on research of nonprofit organizations, volunteering, and social inclusion. During this time, he was a director of the Competence Centre for Nonprofit Organizations at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. In March 2013, he started to work for Porticus as a regional director for Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East. In January 2016, he assumed a new role as a director of the Community Arts Laboratory, an initiative closely linked to Porticus. He is a co-founder of superar, a music initiative based on an El-Sistema model. He worked closely with orchestras, co-organized the opening of the music festival Wiener Festwochen in 2007, and the first collaboration between the superar group and the Vienna Philharmonic at the Summer Night Concert in 2012.

STEERING COMMITTEE & FACULTY
Sandeep Das
“Silk Road Project”

Sandeep Das is considered one of the leading Tabla exponents in the world. His collaboration with the Silk Road Ensemble for “Sing Me Home” won the 2017 Grammy Award for the Best World Music Album. Before this win, he was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2005 and 2009. His professional career spanning 23 years has seen him composing and playing with the legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, string quartets, and orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to name a few. His concerts have taken him regularly to major centers of music around the globe, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Royce Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Hollywood Bowl, Kennedy Center, and the Concertgebouw. To his credit he has 40 CDs, three of which have been Grammy nominated.

Kristy Edmunds
Artistic Director, Center for the Art of Performance, UCLA

An artist, curator, and artistic director, Kristy Edmunds is recognized for innovation and depth in the presentation of works by contemporary artists, with an emphasis on contemporary performing arts. In her current role at UCLA’s performing arts program CAP UCLA, Edmunds is shepherding an exciting new era. Under her leadership, the organization has evolved into a creative habitat for supporting artists in the presentation of their work. Edmunds previously served as the consulting artistic director for the Park Avenue Armory in New York from 2009-2012. Previously, she was artistic director for the Melbourne International Arts Festival from 2005-2008, the first to serve a four-year term. She was the founding executive and artistic director of the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and the TBA Festival (Time Based Art) in Portland, Oregon. In 2016, Edmunds was named Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.
Sarah Johnson
Director, Weill Center for Music, Carnegie Hall
As director of the Weill Music Institute, Sarah Johnson is responsible for developing and overseeing Carnegie Hall’s education and social impact programs. The Weill Music Institute annually serves over 500,000 children, students, teachers, parents, young music professionals, and adults in the New York metropolitan area, across the United States, and around the world. Johnson has led the Weill Music Institute in enormous programmatic growth and has launched numerous initiatives, including Musical Connections, serving people in health care settings and correctional facilities, including juvenile justice settings; the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America; and most recently NYO2, a summer training program for outstanding musicians 14 to 17 years old. She was the 2013 American Express NGen Leadership Award winner, an honor given each year to an accomplished leader under age 40 who has demonstrated significant impact in addressing society’s critical needs.

Nora Halpern
Vice President, Leadership Alliances Americans for the Arts
Trained as an art historian and curator, Halpern joined Americans for the Arts in 2001, following four years as a DPhil advisor in art history at the University of Oxford, where she also was an independent curator. Before living in England, Halpern was curator of the Frederick R. Weisman Collections in Los Angeles, founding director of the museum at Pepperdine University, and director of Fine Arts for Sotheby’s. She has received the Los Angeles Mayor’s Award of Merit and a Helena Rubinstein fellowship from the Whitney Museum of American Art. She is on the board of Scholastic’s Alliance for Young Artists and Writers and formerly served on the boards of the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, the Santa Monica Museum of Art, ArtTable, and PS Arts.
Robert L. Lynch
President and CEO, Americans for the Arts

Robert L. Lynch is president and CEO of Americans for the Arts and the Americans for the Arts Action Fund. With more than 42 years of experience in the arts industry, he is motivated by his mission to empower communities and leaders to advance the arts in society and in the lives of our citizens. Bringing a national perspective to local arts issues, Lynch serves on the board of the Independent Sector. He has served two terms on the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, a position appointed by the U.S. secretary of commerce. He was the 2017 inaugural recipient of the JFK Commonwealth Award from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. Lynch received a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and enjoys playing the piano, mandolin, and guitar. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Naima Lahbil Tagemouati
Academic Expert

Naima Lahbil Tagemouati was a professor of economics at Fez University and then took on the role of director of the Fes Festival of Sacred Music. She is now a freelance consultant and novelist. She works mainly on culture as a tool for development, rehabilitation of old cities (especially the Fez medina), and poor housing and slums. She had published many articles and scientific books, short stories, and novels, among them Dialogue en medina, La liste, and Fès est une drogue. Her novels and short stories are inspired from her work in the field.
Panos Panay
Director, Berklee Institute for Creative Entrepreneurship
Panos Panay is the founder and managing director of the Berklee Institute for Creative Entrepreneurship as well as a passionate entrepreneur, educator, and startup mentor. As the founder of Sonicbids, he created the leading platform for bands to book gigs and market themselves online, building a subscriber network of 550,000 bands and 35,000 promoters from over 100 countries. He led the company as CEO for 13 years, from its inception until after its successful acquisition in a deal backed by Guggenheim Partners. Panay is the co-founder of the Open Music Initiative, which has brought together over 140 leading music, media, technology industry organizations, and academic institutions to create a blockchain-based open protocol for uniform identification of musical-rights owners and creators. His work and approach to entrepreneurial and innovation pedagogy builds heavily on music thinking, in particular jazz, as a catalyst for creative breakthroughs in business, life, and art.

Simon Majumdar
Chef and TV personality
Simon Majumdar is a world-renowned broadcaster, food writer, author, and cook who has dedicated the second half of his time on this planet to fulfill his ambition to “go everywhere, eat everything.” The journey has taken him to all 50 states and dozens of countries around the world. He has written hundreds of articles for such outlets as The Guardian, Foodnetwork.com, The Times of London, and The Daily Beast. He has also written three books, Eat My Globe (2009), Eating for Britain (2011), and Fed, White and Blue (2015), which catalogs his journey to American citizenship. Majumdar also is a well-recognized television personality, regularly appearing on such shows as Cutthroat Kitchen, Beat Bobby Flay, Iron Chef America, The Next Iron Chef, The Best Thing I Ever Ate (Food Network), EAT: The Story of Food (Nat. Geo), and Man vs. Master (FYI). He lives in Los Angeles.
Sophia Welz
Managing Director, South African National Youth Orchestra Foundation

Sophia Welz is the managing director of the South African National Youth Orchestra Foundation and has two main passions: music and people — more specifically, the ability of music to empower people. She has varied experience in the public and private sectors and community environments, as well as in music performance and arts management. Believing that well-rounded musicians become well-rounded people, her ambition is to create a South Africa that offers equal access to high-quality music education.
PANELISTS & PRESENTING ARTISTS
Jamila Afghani  
Executive Director, Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization

Jamila Afghani has been the head of NECDO since 2001. NECDO is a nonprofit, local, women NGO registered with Afghan government. During the Russian invasion she immigrated to Peshawar Pakistan where she completed her secondary and higher education. She has two master degrees in Sharia Law & International Relations from Peshawar University. Ms. Afghani has always worked in the field of education, serving the Afghan youths and women in the refugee camps in Peshawar and remained a woman activist defending the rights of women in the light of Islamic law and the international law. She has initiated several fruitful projects for the empowerment of women, youths & children socially, economically in 18 provinces of the country. One of the initiatives, working with Imams (religious leaders) on human rights and women rights, has received international recognition. She has received the religious Peace Maker Award from Tananbaum and many national and international appreciation and award.

Princess Alia Al-Senussi  
Chair of Tate Young Patrons Board Advisor, Art Basel

Princess Alia Al-Senussi holds master’s degree in political science from Brown University and an MSc in law, anthropology, and society from the London School of Economics. She is studying toward her Ph.D. in politics at SOAS (London). Al-Senussi is an active member of the contemporary art world, with a focus on young patronage and arts and culture in the Middle East, holding a variety of nonprofit board and committee positions that promote young patronage of the arts in London and collecting in the Middle East. The majority of the philanthropic work Al-Senussi does is through chairing, founding, and running museum patrons groups as chair of the Tate Young Patrons, the Board of Patrons of Art Dubai (serving an integral role in the founding of the fair), and the Middle East Circle of the Guggenheim. Al-Senussi is the representative to the United Kingdom and the Middle East for Art Basel.
Richard Armstrong
Director, Guggenheim Museum and Guggenheim Foundation

Richard Armstrong has served as director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation since November 2008. As head of the Guggenheim’s executive staff, he focuses on the pivotal role of the New York museum and its collection while providing leadership and management for the other institutions in the global Guggenheim network and for the foundation’s international programs. Armstrong works with senior staff to maximize all aspects of the foundation’s operations: permanent collections, exhibition programs, loans, acquisitions, documentation, scholarship, and conservation. Armstrong serves in an advisory capacity on a number of foundation boards, including the Victor Pinchuk Foundation, Kiev, Ukraine; the Artistic Council, Fondation Beyeler, Basel, Switzerland; the Al Held Foundation, New York; and the Judd Foundation; and as director, Fine Family Foundation, Pittsburgh. Armstrong is a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Armstrong graduated from Lake Forest College in Illinois with a BA in art history. He subsequently studied at the Université de Dijon and the Université de Paris, Sorbonne.

Manal AlBayat
Senior Vice President, Business Development and Integration, Expo 2020 Dubai

Manal AlBayat is senior vice president of business development and integration at Expo 2020 Dubai. Her responsibilities include developing outreach programs and collaborative platforms for local, regional, and international businesses that will not only facilitate their integration into the Expo supply chain, but also drive global business connectivity and long-term growth. Before joining the Expo 2020 Dubai team, AlBayat founded HEADSTART, a strategy and human capital consultancy, where she advised corporates on such matters as reputational positioning, stakeholder engagement, and human capital policies and processes. AlBayat holds an MBA from DePaul University with a concentration in marketing and change management as well as a bachelor’s degree in organizational management from Purdue University. She has spoken on panels across the globe on a wide range of topics, including community and international engagement initiatives, the role of women in the economy, and enabling human capital to achieve its potential in the public and private sectors, all vital components to Expo 2020 Dubai’s efforts to engage and inspire.
H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh
Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation
Cultural Advisor, Ministry of
Presidential Affairs

His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh has been active in service of the government and as an interpreter for the presidents of the United Arab Emirates since 1968. He is the assistant minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation at the Foreign Ministry and the cultural advisor at the UAE Presidential Court. Nusseibeh was deputy chairman of the Abu Dhabi Culture and Heritage Authority since 2006. Following its amalgamation with Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority in 2012, he continued as a board member of the newly formed entity, contributing to the development of some of Abu Dhabi's major cultural and art initiatives. He has served as a trustee of the Sheikh Zayed Award and the International Prize for Arabic Fiction. He is the chairman of the London School of Economics LSE Middle East Centre Advisory. He is also the president of the Alliance Francaise Abu Dhabi and the UAE chapter of the International Friends of Richard Wagner Society.

Dr. Zaki Aslan
ICCROM

Zaki Aslan is a conservation architect who has been the manager of ICCROM’s ATHAR Program (Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Arab Region) since 2003. Aslan provided technical advice and extensive training programs to the Arab states in the Mediterranean and the Gulf countries on issues related to heritage conservation, management, and planning, World Heritage procedures, national heritage strategies and governance, as well as education and curricula development at the graduate level. A 1988 graduate in architecture, Aslan holds a Ph.D. in heritage conservation and management from the University College London and a M.Sc. degree in conservation of the built environment from the University of Montreal (1991). He is co-author of a UNESCO-ICROM teacher’s guide titled “Introducing Young People to Heritage Site Management and Protection” and editor of ICCROM-ATHAR Publication Series: Issues in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Arab Region. Aslan is an advisory member at the 2nd Category World Heritage Centre for the Arab states in Bahrain.
Maya Beiser
Cellist
Cellist Maya Beiser is passionately forging a career path through uncharted territories, captivating audiences worldwide with her virtuosity, eclectic repertoire, and relentless quest to redefine her instrument’s boundaries. Raised in the Galilee Mountains in Israel, surrounded by the music and rituals of Jews, Muslims, and Christians while studying classical cello repertoire, Beiser has dedicated her work to reinventing solo cello performance in the mainstream classical arena. Beiser is a 2015 United States Artists distinguished fellow in music and a 2017 Mellon distinguished visiting artist at MIT. Her vast discography includes 10 solo albums. Her latest album, TranceClassical, released in July 2016, debuted at No. 1 on the Apple Music classical chart. Her album Uncovered, a collection of re-imagined classic rock, also topped the classical music charts, making the No. 1 spot on both Amazon and iTunes. Beiser was a founding member of the Bang on a Can All-Stars and is a graduate of Yale University.

Alfredo Bello aka DJ Tudo

A researcher of Brazilian traditional expressions, Alfredo Bello has a collection of over 2,000 hours of original music and video footage. Together with a collection of 16,000 LPs, it is considered one of the most important ethnomusicological collections of traditional music in Brazil. The gathering of this vast material led to the creation of the label Mundo Melhor (www.selomundomelhor.org), documenting the traditions of several communities across Brazil. DJ Tudo was born after adding bass, sampling, percussion, keyboards, and programming to his musical knowledge, a project that searches for new artistic experiences by combining traditional folkloric music and electronic music, creating a unique way of being a DJ, linking and overlapping traditional and contemporary/electronic music.
Irina Bokova
Director-General, UNESCO

Irina Bokova, who was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, has been the director-general of UNESCO since November 15, 2009, and re-elected in 2013. She is the first woman to lead the organization. She graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations and studied at the University of Maryland (Washington) and the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University). Bokova joined the United Nations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in 1977. As a member of parliament (1990-1991 and 2001-2005), she participated in the drafting of Bulgaria’s new constitution, which contributed significantly to the country’s accession to the European Union. As director-general of UNESCO, Bokova is actively engaged in international efforts to advance quality education for all, gender equality, cultural dialogue, and scientific cooperation for sustainable development. She is leading UNESCO as a global advocate for the safety of journalists and freedom of expression. Bokova is co-vice chair of the Broadband Commission and chair of the U.N. High Level Committee on Management.

Tim Casson
Performer

Tim Casson is a performer, choreographer, and dance educator based in London. He trained in dance at the BRIT School and studied musical theater at Bird College before completing an MA in contemporary dance at the London Contemporary Dance School. Casson has performed internationally and taught extensively for the Jasmin Vardimon Company, creating their JV2 postgraduate program. He has performed for Nigel Charnock, Katie Green, and Ben Wright. Casson has been featured in various music videos, commercials, and the movie World War Z. Described as “the friendliest man in dance,” Casson regularly leads educational projects for a wide range of dance organizations, such as Sadler’s Wells Theatre, where he has worked extensively with the U.K.’s National Youth Dance Company. Casson has held associate artist positions at Pavilion Dance South West and dancedigital (U.K.), created the World Record Breaking online performance project, “The Dance WE Made,” and directs his company, Casson & Friends, creating work with a focus on collaboration, interaction, and joy.
Panmela Castro
President, NAMI Rede Feminista De Arte Urbana

Panmela Castro, who was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1981, has a master’s degree in contemporary artistic processes from the State University of Rio de Janeiro and graduated in painting from the School of Fine Arts at the University of Rio de Janeiro. She is Brazilian, a feminist, human rights activist, art collector, cultural entrepreneur, and a promoter of street art produced by women in Brazil. In 2005, Castro initiated a collection of the work of street artists, the majority of which were by women. She performs a curatorial role with the aim of encouraging the production of work by such artists. She also founded Rede NAMI, a feminist organization that unites various artistic talents and seeks to promote training and workshops with the aim of advocating for the rights of women and, in essence, ending violence committed against women. She has received many nominations, such as one of “150 Women Who Shake the World.” (Newsweek, 2015).

Sarah Elizabeth Charles
Vocalist

Sarah Elizabeth Charles is a rising vocalist/composer based in New York. She has worked and studied with artists such as George Cables, Geri Allen, and Nicholas Payton and released her debut record, “Red,” in September 2012 with her band, SCOPE. As the active vocalist in a number of bands, Charles has performed at many venues, including the White House, the Kennedy Center, and the Rose Theatre with Jazz at Lincoln Center. Charles is also an active educator. She works as a teaching artist with Carnegie Hall and is developing an early childhood music education program with Rise2Shine, a nonprofit based in Fond Parisien, Haiti. Her critically acclaimed sophomore project, “Inner Dialogue,” released March 24, 2015, features her band along with co-producer/special guest Christian Scott. Her third album will be released this year.
Julian Crouch
Artist

Julian Crouch is a Brooklyn-based independent director, designer, writer, maker, teacher, illustrator, and musician whose career has spanned theater, opera, ballet, film, and television. Initially a mask and puppet maker, with much of his life based in London, Crouch co-founded London’s Improbable Theatre Company in the mid-1990s. Crouch co-created, co-directed, and designed the multi-award winning Shockheaded Peter. His opera work has included set design and associate direction for Satyagraha for the ENO and The Met Opera, and creating The Enchanted Island, Doctor Atomic and staging the 125th Gala for the Met. Most recently Julian co-directed and designed Jedermann for the Salzburg Festival. His recent set design for Hedwig And The Angry Inch on Broadway earned him a Tony Nomination. Currently he is designing The Nutcracker for Christopher Wheeldon and The Joffrey Ballet, King Arthur for the Berlin Staatsoper, Hansel and Gretel for the Scala Opera, Milan.

Sabine Choucair
Artistic Director, Clown Me In

Sabine Choucair (Lebanon) has a BA in theater from Lebanese University. She studied at the International School of Performing Arts and the Desmond Jones School of Mime in London. She is certified in social therapy from the East Side Institute in New York. She’s an active member of Clowns Without Borders USA and co-founder of Clown Me In. Choucair is managing director of the Beirut Cinema Days Arab film festival and artistic director of Caravan, a street theater project based on true stories from Syrian refugees, which has toured in Lebanon and Tunisia and is planning to go to Europe this year. She has done theater, storytelling, and group therapy projects around the world with drug addicts, marginalized communities, refugees, and youths living in difficult situations. She has worked in Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan, Dubai, the United Kingdom, Mexico, the United States, Brazil, India, Cyprus, and Cameroon.
Samantha Diamond  
CEO, CultureConnect

Samantha Diamond is CEO of CultureConnect (www.cultureconnectme.com), an award-winning technology company delivering beautiful and meaningful digital experiences to museums and cultural heritage organizations. CultureConnect innovates the visitor experience through audience research, digital experience design, and software development. Previously, Diamond was on the executive team of 20x200, a VC-backed art e-commerce company that pioneered the sale of contemporary art online. She has been featured in national press (NPR, CNBC), international conferences (MuseumNext, American Alliance for Museums, among others), and speaks frequently as an expert on the intersection of digital transformation, learning, and engagement. Diamond’s expertise includes strategy and operations, which she honed while working at the multibillion-dollar McMaster-Carr Supply Co. and in Africa and the Middle East for the U.S. government and NGOs. She received an MBA from Columbia Business School and a BA in international relations from Tufts University.

Roberto Dranoff  
DJ Béco Dranoff

Active in music production and the international creation and development of cultural and charitable projects, São Paulo-born Béco Dranoff is a creative connector with over 25 years of experience in the entertainment industry. Based in New York since 1988, Dranoff’s Brazilian, European, and American backgrounds and expertise positions him as a global bridge for entertainment and music projects in and out of Brazil. His multifaceted career includes credits in Grammy- and Academy Award-nominated projects, as well as label founder and artistic director, record producer, festival curator, documentarian, film/TV music supervision, and online radio host. Notable projects include co-founding Ziriguiboom music label, production of artists Bebel Gilberto, Bossacucanova, Zuco 103 and more, Red Hot + Rio HIV/AIDS charitable compilations, documentary Beyond Ipanema: Brazilian Waves in Global Music and New York’s Brasil Summerfest. In 2010, Béco was recognized in Vogue Brazil’s list of Top 100 Brazilians in the USA.
**Adrian Ellis**
Director, AEA Consulting; Director and Co-Founder, Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN)

Adrian Ellis is the founder of AEA Consulting (1990) and the Global Cultural Districts Network (2013). In addition to consulting globally with clients across the cultural, public, and business sectors, Ellis lectures and writes widely and has been featured in numerous distinguished forums. He serves on the International Advisory Committee of the master’s program in international arts management. A lifelong jazz fanatic, Ellis was executive director of jazz at Lincoln Center from 2007-2011. Before founding AEA, he was executive director of the Conran Foundation in London, where he planned and managed the creation of the Design Museum. He began his career as a civil servant in the U.K. Treasury and the Cabinet Office. Ellis received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from University College, Oxford, where he served as a college lecturer in politics. He completed additional graduate work at the London School of Economics.

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**Ramiro Durán**
Producer and Musician

Ramiro Durán Bunster is a Chilean producer and musician with a long history in jazz and folkloric music. With an arsenal that includes acoustic and electric guitar and the Venezuelan and Puerto Rican cuatro, he has been an integral member of the instrumental ensemble Aguaferte Acústico, La Chilombiana, and recently, Ana Tijoux. He has traveled through most of Europe as well as Latin America, and appears on the Grammy-nominated album “Vengo” by Ana Tijoux, as well as the forthcoming record by the Mexican singer Mon Laferte.
Falu
Singer/Songwriter

Falu is internationally recognized for her rare ability to seamlessly blend a signature modern inventive style with a formidable Indian classically shaped vocal talent. Falu moved to the United States in 2000 and was appointed as a visiting lecturer at Tufts University, where she taught Indian classical music for two years. Her subsequent career in the United States had led to a series of collaborations with Yo-Yo Ma, Wyclef Jean, Philip Glass, Ricky Martin, Blues Traveler, and A.R. Rahman, among others. She was appointed Carnegie Hall’s ambassador of Indian music in 2006, where her shows at Zankel Hall have consistently sold out. One of Falu’s most astonishing recent performances occurred alongside A.R. Rahman for President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama at the White House for their first state dinner in November 2009. She was the featured performer at the Time-100 gala in 2009. In early 2015, Falu was named one of the top 20 most influential global Indian women in India’s Economic Times. Falu is touring her new project, Falu’s Bollywood Orchestra.

HRH Princess Dana Firas
President, Petra National Trust

HRH Princess Dana Firas is a global advocate for heritage protection and preservation as a foundation for development, responsible tourism, political identity, and participation. Princess Dana is president of the Petra National Trust, Jordan’s oldest national nongovernmental organization in the field of heritage protection and preservation. Established in 1989, PNT seeks to preserve and protect the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic heritage of the ancient Nabataean city in southern Jordan and its surrounding region. Since the early 1990s, Princess Dana has worked to promote cultural heritage preservation, education, and sustainable development in various capacities. Princess Dana holds a B.A. degree from Boston University. She also holds an MSc in development studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science and an MPA from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, where she was a Fulbright scholar. She is married to Prince Firas bin Raad and has two daughters, Safa and Haya, and a son, Hashem.
Tracy Fullerton
Chair of USC Interactive Media & Games Department

Tracy Fullerton is a game designer, professor, and director of the USC Games program. Her research center, the Game Innovation Lab, has produced several influential independent games, including “Cloud,” “fLoW,” “Darfur is Dying,” “The Misadventures of P.B. Winterbottom,” and “The Night Journey,” with artist Bill Viola, and “Walden, a game.” Fullerton is the author of Game Design Workshop: A Playcentric Approach to Creating Innovative Games, a design textbook used at game programs worldwide, and holder of the Electronic Arts Endowed Chair in Interactive Entertainment. Before USC, she designed games for Microsoft, Sony, MTV, among others. Tracy’s work has received honors including an Emmy nomination, Indicade’s Sublime Experience, Impact, and Trailblazer awards, the Games for Change Game Changer Award, and the Game Developers Choice Ambassador Award.

Rula Jebreal
Visiting Professor, American University of Rome

Rula Jebreal is a professor of international relations at the American University of Rome. From 2011 through 2014, Jebreal was an on-air foreign policy analyst for MSNBC. She frequently appears on CNN, Bloomberg, HBO, and other major U.S. and Italian networks. Jebreal’s articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Newsweek, Foreign Policy, The Nation, the San Jose Mercury News, Salon.com, and others. Her work reflects a deep knowledge of religious fundamentalism, ultra-nationalist and populist movements in the West, and the emerging political order in the Arab-Muslim world. She has written three books. Her first book, MiraL, was made into a major motion picture by The Weinstein Cos.
Aaron Koblin  
Co-founder & CTO, Within  

Aaron Koblin is the co-founder and CTO of Within, a virtual reality company. Previously, he created and led the Data Arts Team at Google from 2008-2015. Koblin has received numerous awards, including the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Interaction Design and the National Science Foundation’s award for science visualization. He received an Emmy in 2014, and two of his music video collaborations have been Grammy-nominated. In 2010, Koblin was the Abramowitz artist-in-residence at MIT. He received his M.F.A. in design/media arts from UCLA. His work is part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. His projects have been shown at international festivals, including TED, Sundance, Tribeca Film Festival, Ars Electronica, SIGGRAPH, and the Japan Media Arts Festival.

Saskia Lane  
Musician  

Saskia Lane is a Juilliard-trained bassist, composer, performer, and educator whose work spans many genres. Most recently, she co-created with fellow composer Tom Cabaniss and librettist Zoe Palmer a new opera for young people, *Otway*, which premiered at Carnegie Hall in January. The Brooklyn-based artist has been touring her new show, *Birdheart*, co-created with director/designer Julian Crouch, and had the honor of performing the piece for the Dalai Lama in September 2016. This summer she will perform in the Salzburg Festival’s annual production of *Jedermann*, her fifth appearance there. Since 2010, Lane has been a member of the theater company Checkov at Lake Lucille as performer and composer, and is set to appear in the group’s soon-to-be-released feature film of *The Seagull*. A classically trained musician with a strong grounding in jazz, Lane has appeared with artists as diverse as Jay-Z and Beyoncé, Marc Ribot, and the Kronos Quartet.
Jo Lawry
Singer, Songwriter

Australian-born, Brooklyn-based Jo Lawry’s debut album, *I Want to Be Happy*, was named one of the Best CDs of the Decade by *Downbeat* Magazine. She is the vocalist for the Fred Hersch Pocket Orchestra and has worked with Carnegie Hall as a featured artist in their Musical Connections program. Lawry has become well-known beyond jazz circles for her work with Sting, with whom she has been touring and recording since 2009, and more recently with Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel. In 2013, Lawry was featured in the film *20 Feet From Stardom*, which chronicled the lives and careers of “the backup singers behind some of the greatest musical legends of the 21st century” and went on to win the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Lawry leads her own band and released her latest album of originals, *Taking Pictures*, in March 2015. The follow-up, *The Bathtub and The Sea*, is due for release in May.

Horacio Lecona
Creative Director, UNAM

Horacio Lecona is president and CEO of Creativa Inc. He has been instrumental in positioning Creativa to take on a leadership role in the performing arts and creative development, promoting the company through the fields of arts, creative thinking, technology, and business in the international arena. He was artistic director of the Compañía Nacional de Danza and later coordinator of Nacional de Danza at the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico. While working in Mexico, Lecona took an interest in international arts advocacy. He has designed and run a diverse range of projects for the Creativity Development and Artistic International Exchange. He is secretary of planning and programming of the Coordinación de Difusión Cultural at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico.
Emeline Michel  
Singer

Haitian songstress and Red Cross Ambassador Emeline Michel is internationally acclaimed for fusing pop, jazz, blues, and traditional Haitian rhythms into deeply moving, joyful music delivered with a charismatic live show. A master entertainer, Michel has shared her message with audiences for more than 20 years, including appearances at Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, Milan’s Teatro Manzoni, Florida’s Kravis Center, Festival International de Jazz (Haiti), Ontario’s Luminato Festival, the Montreal International Jazz Festival, the New Orleans Jazz Fest, Tasmania’s Ten Days on the Island, Zimbabwe’s Harare International Arts Festival, and MTV’s Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief. Hailed by the New York Times as a “diplomat of music” and “the dancing ambassador with a voice serene and warm like the breeze,” Michel began singing with the gospel choir in the church of Gonaïves, Haiti. After studying at the Detroit Jazz Center, she returned to Haiti, where her career blossomed.

Christopher Marianetti  
Artistic Director and Co-Founder, Found Sound Nation

Christopher Marianetti is a composer, producer, and educator from Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is the artistic director and co-founder of Found Sound Nation, a collective of musicians and artists who design and lead socially engaged music projects. He is a co-director of OneBeat, a music diplomacy initiative now entering its fourth year in partnership with the U.S. State Department, bringing together musicians, social entrepreneurs, and artistic innovators from around the world to launch collaborative projects designed to make a positive impact on local and global communities. His works have been presented at the MATA Festival, Gaudeamus Interpreters Competition, International Symposium on Electronic Art, Merkin Concert Hall, Massachusetts Museum of Modern Art, The Stone, and the Tenri Cultural Institute, among others. With Found Sound Nation, Marianetti has led music projects in New York, South Africa, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Italy, and Switzerland, as well as serving as a teaching artist with the Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall.
Angela Migally  
**Executive director, Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation**

Angela Migally joined the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation as general counsel in 2013 and was appointed to the role of executive director in June 2015. The private not-for-profit foundation is committed to the cultivation of a more creative, connected, and thriving UAE community. SHF oversees a diverse portfolio of not-for-profit programs and initiatives spanning the arts, culture, heritage, human development, and early childhood in the UAE and internationally. Migally also served as deputy director of the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program at New York University Abu Dhabi, a leadership program for top Emirati university students from the three federal universities. She also served as an instructor on NYU President John Sexton’s teaching team, teaching a course on U.S. constitutional law to NYUAD students and Sheikha Moahmed bin Zayed Scholars from 2010 to 2013. Before coming to Abu Dhabi, Migally was a practicing lawyer.

Fabrice Monteiro  
**Visual Artist**

Belgian-Beninese visual artist Fabrice Monteiro electrically draws on the techniques of photojournalism and fashion photography while referencing tradition-based West African cosmologies and the modern history of African and African American photography. Monteiro studied industrial engineering in Europe and worked as a model. Under a New York-based photographer, he immersed himself in photography, gradually turning to African and Afro-Atlantic themes as he contemplates his complex “trans-cultural” ancestry. “The Prophecy” contemplates global crisis in an era of climate change and environmental degradation through a vision that is both terrifying and beautiful. Composite figures inspired by West African masqueraders emerge out of oil slicks, garbage dumps, and desiccated landscapes in startling, exquisite dances of our new millennium. In such images we behold the incomparable beauty of the human figure in ways that celebrate and undercut the aesthetics of the fashion world—forcing us to contemplate our shared histories and potential futures on this beautiful, fragile planet.
Mutabaruka
Poet

Mutabaruka (formerly Allan Hope) was born in Rae Town, Kingston, on Dec. 26, 1952. After primary education he attended Kingston Technical High School. Trained in electronics, he left his first job after about six months and took employment at the Jamaica Telephone Co. Ltd. During his time at the telephone company he began to examine Rastafarianism and found it more meaningful than either the Roman Catholicism of his upbringing or the political radicalism into which he had drifted. To Mutabaruka now, Rastafarianism is part of a universal quest that may also be pursued by other routes, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, or Christianity. He was the first well-publicized voice in the new wave of poets growing since the early 1970s. They have developed a living relationship between a poet and a fairly wide audience such as, in Jamaica, only Louise Bennett has achieved before them.

Nástio Mosquito
Multimedia and Performance Artist

At the core of Nástio Mosquito’s work is an intense commitment to the open-ended potential of language, arrived at through deliberate strategies of reinvention. Mosquito makes music, performances, objects, and videos under a range of monikers, such as Nastiá, Saco, Cucumber Slice, and Zura Zuara. Nástio also develops works under the collectives Nastivicious and Bofa da Cara. In 2010, Bofa da Cara produced My African Mind, a stunning video about Western constructions of Africa, with a voiceover that floats along with a dramatic, 1940s-Hollywood-style soundtrack. Mosquito is a founding member of DZZZZ Consulting Services and ZZZZZZ Creative Projects and was recently nominated for the Future Generation Art Prize 2014, a major international competition that provides long-term support to emerging artists.
Alyse Nelson  
CEO, Vital Voices  

Alyse Nelson is president and CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership. A co-founder, Nelson has worked for the organization for 20 years, serving as vice president and senior director of programs before assuming her current role in 2009. Under her leadership, Vital Voices has expanded its reach to serve over 15,000 female leaders in 144 countries. Previously, Nelson was deputy director of the State Department’s Vital Voices Global Democracy Initiative and worked with the President’s Inter-agency Council on Women at the White House. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Expert Group for the B Team, and the advisory board of Chime for Change. Fortune named Nelson one of the 55 Most Influential Women on Twitter. She is the author of the best-selling book Vital Voices: The Power of Women Leading Change Around the World and has been featured in various international and national media.

Octopizzo  
Musical Artist and UNHCR Ambassador  

Octopizzo is a Kenyan hip hop artist who has won several national and international awards. He has served as a Youth Ambassador for Film Aid International, the British Council and is currently supporting UNHCR Kenya with a dynamic youth project dubbed “Artistes for Refugees”. He has been involved in a variety of philanthropic and community based projects with children, women and youth since 2010. Although his first love is music, he is equally passionate about projects that focus on capacity building and community participation. His music centers on success, believing in oneself and resonates with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Octopizzo believes that everything is possible. He is a living testament of that fact as he was born in a mud house in arguably the largest slum in the world. He can attest to the countless challenges that life in such informal settlements face.
Hayat Shamsuddin  
Director of Culture, Expo 2020

Hayat Shamsuddin has been working with Expo 2020 since September 2014. She is responsible for embedding Emirati and Arab culture throughout the planning and delivery of the Expo 2020 event, to maximize the opportunity of reaching out to cultural entities and participating nations, offering a platform for unity, collaboration, and cultural expression, as well as providing all visitors with culturally transforming experiences. Shamsuddin has more than 20 years of experience in travel and tourism, events, culture, and education, and has worked on a number of high-profile national events across the UAE advising both government and private sector organizations. Throughout her career, Shamsuddin has increased awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of Emirati culture and heritage among multicultural and national segments in the UAE. She has developed marketing segmentation specific to the UAE multicultural society, which has proved effective for strategic planning across diverse economic sectors, including art fairs, film festivals, television productions, book fairs, and tourism developments. Shamsuddin has a master’s in tourism marketing and a Ph.D. in consumer behavior from the University of Surrey in the U.K.

Tarek Oliveira Shayya  
Board Director, Expo 2020

Under the management of HE Minister Reem Ibrahim Al Hashimy, minister of state for international cooperation, Oliveira Shayya has been the director of the International Affairs Department at the Minister of State office since 2010. He supervises a team of strategists and specialists in political risk analyses, political trend assessments, scenario planning, and the development of strategies with key stakeholders for the UAE’s policies/engagement with various parts of the world. In January 2016, he was appointed as a board director for Expo 2020 with responsibility for international participants. In this capacity, Shayya supervises the team responsible for managing Expo’s relationship with all potential participant countries. Shayya has 22 years of experience in various international affairs fields at the United Nations and the government of the UAE. He holds a Ph.D. in international relations/foreign policy from Northwestern University.
Young Paris
Artistic Director, Music Producer, and Songwriter

Young Paris totes an origin story that blends cultures from three corners of the world. Born to Congolese parents, he is an artistic director, music producer, and songwriter who has worked with Grammy Award-winning producers. Young Paris has recently been featured in Billboard, The Fader, REVOLT, BET, Vice, XXL Mag, Pigeons & Planes, in addition to his impact on fashion in Vogue, WWD, Harper’s Bazaar, Coveteur, Essence, and VMAN. His full-length album, “African Vogue,” recently released official remix of “Best of Me,” featuring Nigerian star Tiwa Savage, and “One Time,” featuring Reekado Banks, have won acclaim. Young Paris’s latest accomplishment finds him as a signee to the Jay-Z’s entertainment brand, Roc Nation. He is ready to introduce his wave of Afrobeats and unique style in pop culture. He is the founder MELANIN, a company designed to encourage people of color to share and embrace their excellence and highlight the beauty of their skin.

Matthew Putnam
CEO, Nanotranics

Matthew Putman is the CEO of Nanotronics, a company that is revolutionizing industry by combining Super-resolution, AI, and robotics to make the worlds most advanced microscope. Matthew holds a Ph.D. in Applied Physics from Columbia University. He has published over 30 papers and holds 8 patents for his work on devices, instrumentation, and software processes. Matthew is Chairman of the Board for Pioneer Works in Brooklyn, where he helps bring creative visionaries from many disciplines together to ignite novel new creations. Matthew is a jazz pianist, published poet, as well as an Executive Producer on several films and plays.
Fryad Rwandzi
Minister of Culture, Iraq

Born in 1957 in Erbil, Iraq, Rwandzi went on to receive a bachelor of chemistry from the University of Mosul and a diploma in translation and the competence of the press from the Cross Ankooij Institute in Canada. He has worked in the field of teaching for four years and then worked in journalism for more than 35 years. He was one of the founders of the newspaper Kordstani nuclei in 1992, and presided over the liberation from 1996 to 2000. He was also one of the founders of the daily Al Ittihad newspaper in 1993. Rwandzi is a member of the Global Association of Journalists and the Syndicate of Journalists of Kurdistan. He is also a member of the Iraqi Transitional National Assembly 2004-2005 Erbil Department, the Iraqi Council of Representatives for the first session 2005-2010 Erbil circle, the Committee on Constitutional amendments in the first parliamentary session and of the Supreme National Commission for national reconciliation, which was formed in the national unity government (2005-2010). He is fluent in Kurdish, Arabic, English, and Farsi.

H.E. Saif Saeed Ghobash
Director General, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority.

HE Saif Saeed Ghobash was appointed as the director general of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority in March 2016. Ghobash brings a world of knowledge and experience from the spheres of strategic development, investment, and media affairs. He has held numerous senior executive positions and was a member of several key government entities. Ghobash was a director in the Office of Strategic Affairs at the Crown Prince Court and was acting CEO and COO at Abu Dhabi Media. The director general is a member of the Economic Development Committee of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. In addition, Ghobash is deputy chairman of the board of directors of the Zoo and Aquarium Public Institution in Al Ain (Al Ain Zoo), Emirates Palace Co., Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Co. (ADNEC), Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management, and Agthia. Ghobash also is a member of the Higher Committee of the 2019 Special Olympics and the EMEA Executive Advisory Board at the Wharton School. The director general earned a B.S. in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and an executive M.B.A. from the IMD Business School.
Flavio Renegado
Artist
Flávio Renegado is a Brazilian artist who from the beginning of his career seemed to predict that his songs would impact the world. Born and raised in the favela of Alto Vera Cruz, in the city of Belo Horizonte in southeastern Brazil, he named “Do Oiapoque a Nova Iorque – From Oiapoque to New York” his first album. His music is a mix of hip-hop with Brazilian, Latin, and Jamaican rhythms. His music traveled throughout Brazil, Europe, Oceania and the Americas. His latest release, from 2016, is a contemporary urban album called “Outono Selvagem - Wild Autumn,” which reflects the conflicts related to the seven sins and virtues. Renegado is also the leader and founder of the NGO Arebeldia, which aims to empower young people from the suburban area of his city.

Aurora Robson
Artist
Aurora Robson is a multimedia artist known predominantly for intercepting waste streams. Her practice centers on subjugating negativity and shifting trajectories while formally referencing recurring nightmares she had as a child. Born in Toronto, Robson grew up in Hawaii then spent 20 years in New York City until recently relocating to the Hudson Valley. Robson completed a double major (B.A.) in visual arts and art history at Columbia University. She is a recipient of The Pollock Krasner Grant, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture, a TED/Lincoln Re-Imagine Prize, and a National Endowment for the Arts “Art Work Grant.” She is the founding artist of Project Vortex, an international collective of artists, designers, and architects utilizing plastic debris. She designed a curriculum called “Sculpture + Intercepting the Waste Stream” fostering creative stewardship through academia. It was the focus of her recent TEDx talk, “Trash + Love.”
Deborah Rutter
President, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Deborah F. Rutter began her tenure as president of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Sept. 1, 2014. Known for emphasizing collaboration, innovation, and community engagement, she is considered one of the most influential arts administrators in the nation. As president of the Kennedy Center, Rutter is the artistic and administrative director of the world’s busiest performing arts center. The center encompasses one of the nation’s largest arts education programs, reaching millions of people of all ages each year, and includes VSA, the international organization on arts and disability. She was president of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, employing her dynamic influence to enhance the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s reputation as one of the world’s most highly acclaimed orchestras. As CSOA president, Rutter oversaw the operations of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Center Presents, the Institute for Learning, Access, and Training (including the Civic Orchestra of Chicago), and the Chicago Symphony Chorus.

Cynthia Schneider
Distinguished Professor, Georgetown University

Cynthia P. Schneider, distinguished professor in the practice of diplomacy at Georgetown University, teaches, publishes, and organizes initiatives in cultural diplomacy. She co-directs the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics at Georgetown, as well as the Los Angeles-based MOST Resource (Muslims on Screen and Television). Additionally, she co-directs the Timbuktu Renaissance, an innovative strategy and platform for countering extremism and promoting peace and development, which grew out of her work leading the Arts and Culture Dialogue Initiative within Brookings’ Center for Middle East Policy. Schneider teaches courses in diplomacy and culture in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown, where, from 1984-2005, she was a member of the art history faculty and published on Rembrandt and 17th-century Dutch art. From 1998-2001, she was U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, during which time she led initiatives in cultural diplomacy, biotechnology, cybersecurity, and education.
Kyla-Rose Smith
Performer

Kyla-Rose Smith is an acclaimed performer, violinist, and multimedia artist. She is best known for her work with Freshlyground, South Africa’s premier Afropop band. She has toured extensively inside and beyond South Africa with Freshlyground, which has garnered many awards, including seven South African Music Awards, an MTV Europe Award, and four METRO, and collaborated with Shakira on the FIFA 2010 World Cup Song and subsequent global chart topper, Waka Waka (This Time for Africa). Smith was also a recipient of the Glamour Woman of the Year Award 2011. As a member of South Africa’s top touring band, Smith has developed a keen interest in the art of performance and how musicians interact with their audience through the medium of sound and music, while bridging cultural divides. She is the co-artistic director and artist facilitator of Hear Be Dragons, a sound mapping project and community-based artistic exchange program.

Sibylle Szaggars Redford
Founder, President, and Artistic Director, The Way of the Rain

Sibylle Szaggars Redford is a German born Multimedia Environmental Artist. She has dedicated her life’s work to creating art informed by her spiritual consciousness of our connection to life, the land, and the world by raising awareness of our environmental unsound practices for almost three decades. Redford’s inspirations stem from nature, ancient cultures, or as in her most recent work the unbalanced monsoons. Since 2012, Szaggars Redford had created site-specific staged art performances titled, “The Way of the Rain,” in which she explores climate change. This live performance art experience of multidisciplinary art forms is a homage to planet Earth. In 2015, she founded The Way of the Rain Inc., a nonprofit organization.
Ana Tijoux, MC
One of the most respected MCs in any language, Ana Tijoux has constantly set the standard for not only female rappers or Rap en Español, but for the hip-hop genre, breaking all barriers and connecting with audiences from different generations, backgrounds, and voices. Born in France, Tijoux became a household name in Chile with her first band, the critically acclaimed late 1990s rap trio Makiza, as well as voicing the main character in the popular animated series Los Pulentos. Now a Grammy-winning solo artist, her biting lyrics have resonated with fans across the globe as her activism has grown. She is now just as likely to be seen on Al-Jazeera or Democracy Now as she is at Lollapalooza or Roskilde. With the intention of re-connecting with her roots and fighting for a continent, she somehow became a global spokesperson not only for the next generation of Latinos, but for forgotten people all around the globe.

Jeremy Thal
Co-Director and Co-Founder, Found Sound Nation
Found Sound Nation co-founder and co-director Jeremy Thal is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, and organizer. Found Sound Nation is a New-York based music organization that leverages the power of collaborative sound-making to build community across cultural divides and amplify movements for social justice. He has recorded and toured with indie rock heavyweights Neutral Milk Hotel and The National, and leads his own band, Briars of North America.
Ana Cristina Vargas
Architect

Vargas is an architect based in Caracas, Venezuela. Her work focuses on projects related to architecture, urbanism, and participatory urban design, as well as research and publications. In 2015, she established an architecture practice. Vargas founded Tracing Public Space (Trazando Espacios), an NGO focused on teaching children urban design skills to transform public spaces within their communities. Trazando Espacios has done projects in India, Chile, the United States, and Venezuela, where it is based.

Professor and researcher, Urbanism Institute, Architecture Faculty, Universidad Central de Venezuela; created and teaches a course on participatory design for graduate students. Has presented work at events in Caracas and internationally. Vargas is a recipient of honors and awards, including: Dubai International Award for Best Practices U.N.-Habitat for graduate thesis Tracing Public Space; Impact Hub Caracas and IDB (InterAmerican Development Bank) Fellowship for social entrepreneurship and award from Metropolitan Municipality of Caracas for contributing to a safer and more integrated city, for Trazando Espacios.

Adejoke Tugbiyele
Artist

Adejoke Tugbiyele is an award-winning, LGBTQ, black artist and advocate. She is a recipient of the 2016 Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant. In 2015, Foreign Policy described her as one of 100 Leading Global Thinkers for her sculptural work addressing the criminalization of LGBTQ individuals in Nigeria. She is a 2014 U.S. Fulbright Student Alumni and her artwork can be found in significant public and private collections, including the Brooklyn Museum, Newark Museum, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, and Credit Suisse Bank. While a graduate student at Maryland Institute College of Art, Tugbiyele was awarded the Amalie Rothschild ’34 Rinehart Award in 2012 and the William M. Phillips ’54 Scholarship for Best Figurative Sculpture in 2013. She received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 2002 and in 2013 graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art.
Mariët Westermann  
**Executive Vice President, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

As executive vice president of the foundation, Mariët Westermann directs the grant-making programs and works closely with the president and her fellow officers on strategic directions and initiatives. Prior to taking up her position in 2010, Westermann was the first provost and chief academic officer of New York University Abu Dhabi, charged with directing the development of the new campus and overseeing the design of the academic program and recruitment of the faculty. At NYU, she had previously served as director and Paulette Goddard professor at the Institute of Fine Arts. Earlier in her career, Westermann held positions as associate director of research at the Clark Art Institute and as assistant and associate professor at Rutgers University. Her collaborations with museums include her *Rijksmuseum Dossier: Johannes Vermeer* (Waaanders, 2004) and curatorship of the exhibition *Art and Home: Dutch Interiors in the Age of Rembrandt* (Denver Art Museum and Newark Museum, 2001).

Darren Walker  
**President, Ford Foundation**

Darren Walker is president of the Ford Foundation, the nation’s second-largest philanthropy, and for two decades has been a leader in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. He led the philanthropy committee that helped bring a resolution to Detroit’s historic bankruptcy and chairs the U.S. Impact Investing Alliance. Prior to joining Ford, he was vice president at the Rockefeller Foundation, where he managed the rebuild New Orleans initiative after Hurricane Katrina. In the 1990s, as COO of Harlem’s largest community development organization, the Abyssinian Development Corp., Walker oversaw a comprehensive revitalization program of central Harlem, including over 1,000 new units of housing. He had a decade-long career in international law and finance at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton and UBS. He is a member of the Commission on the Future of Riker’s Island and serves on the boards of Carnegie Hall, New York City Ballet, the High Line, the Arcus Foundation and PepsiCo.
Dustin Yellin
Founder, Pioneer Works

Born in California in 1975 and raised in Colorado, Dustin Yellin is a visual artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York. In the past year, Yellin’s seminal Psychogeographies, have been commissioned for public exhibition at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Lincoln Center in New York City for the New York City Ballet Art Series. A series of these sculptures were also installed permanently in Los Angeles on Sunset Boulevard. In 2010, Yellin founded Pioneer Works, a social sculpture and nonprofit institute for art and innovation in Red Hook. Through a broad range of educational programs, exhibitions, performances, and arts and science residencies, Pioneer Works seeks to transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries, foster community, and provide a space where alternative modes of thought are supported and activated in tangible ways.