RAISING THE VALUE OF ARTISTS IN EVERY COMMUNITY.

ARTISTS THRIVE

ARTISTS THRIVE SUMMIT 2020-2023 STEERING COMMITTEE

--- LARRY BARRON | Winston-Salem, NC ---

Larry Barron, also known as, LB the Poet, was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Larry began writing when he was a student attending Clemmons Middle School. He revealed that the day after his grandmother died, his principal pulled him out of class and encouraged him to write down everything he was feeling at the time. Larry expressed from that day forward he’s always taken time to write. He began performing over 10 years ago when he performed a poem called “The Letter” in Greensboro and from that moment he knew he had discovered what he was destined to be, LB the Poet.

Through poetry and other forms of literary expression, Larry Barron has been able to influence and inspire younger generations to remain focused and flourish in their future aspirations. Larry’s latest intellectual collaboration is called Word Academy. Ashley Academy, Winston Salem Street School, Parkland Magnet High School, Reynolds High School & Wake Forest University have entrusted him to creatively cultivate his unique teaching techniques with the students from their schools. Dedicating years of hard work Larry has now transformed his gifts into a source of therapeutic relief and resourceful literary education. Not only has his powerful words motivated the minds of children and adolescence, but he has also created platforms for other poets/non-poets to be able to speak their truth. Larry has traveled and performed throughout North Carolina, as well as, surrounding states being the voice of inspiration and to empowerment.

--- J. COTTLE | Boston, MA ---

J. is an educator, arts administrator, musician, writer, and the Founder/Executive Director of Dunamis. He has worked as an arts-educator at the Boston Arts Academy, Dorchester Academy, Boston University/Malden Public Schools Reach For The Stars Academy, and BELL.

As an arts-administrator he has supported the Community Music Center of Boston, BPS Performing Arts Department, and the Berklee College of Music. J.’s work specializes in designing curriculum and O.S.T. programs using integrated arts techniques and youth development practices to facilitate transformative growth. J. has a B.A. in Music and Arts Administration from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and a M.Ed. in Arts, Community, and Education from Lesley University. He is a 2019 National Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellow.

--- ROBERT DONNAN | Hazard, KY ---

Robert is an independent community and economic development consultant who focuses upon entrepreneurship, creative placemaking, and community/economic development initiatives in both metropolitan and rural locations. He is the Kentucky Coordinator for a three-state ARC POWER initiative called Energizing Entrepreneurial Communities, a collaboration among the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, the Brushy Fork Institute at Berea College, the national Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, and, in Kentucky, five coal-impacted communities which are developing community-based networks of support for local entrepreneurs. Robert also coaches individual entrepreneurs, conducts creative economy assessments, researches comparative case studies, facilitates community meetings, advises community-based initiatives, and facilitates strategic planning efforts for community-based and regional organizations.
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--BETH FLOWERS| Fredrick, MD--

Beth has more than twenty-five years of executive level experience with non-profits, governmental agencies, broadcast media, and the arts. She is a visionary thinker and a talented communicator. Beth has created messaging and strategies for victorious political candidates and issues, inspired citizen participation in government, managed public planning efforts, repositioned struggling organizations, and developed innovative programming that connects people. Beth is a national leader in the fields of arts professional development, community development, and entrepreneurship. As the creator and Executive Director of the AIR Institute, she is at the forefront of connecting artists and creatives to their communities in new ways that truly raise the value of art and creativity.

--CHERYL HARRY| Winston-Salem, NC--

Cheryl is a cultural curator whose mission is engaging the community in the preservation and celebration of black heritage. She develops educational and outreach programming to spawn dialogue among people of all backgrounds and ethnicities.

It has been her aim to foster and cultivate a love for African-American culture, in which its preservation and perpetuity is priority. To that end, she founded the Triad Cultural Arts, which presents various programs and initiatives geared to the promotion of African-American history, art, and culture. The organization hosts the Triad Juneteenth Festival annually. Cultural enrichment for youth and exposure for local artists are at the heart of Triad Cultural Arts, and Cheryl works to ensure that their voices are heard.

For more than twenty years, Cheryl Harry has used her broad-based experience to positively impact the lives of others. From grassroots organizations to national nonprofits, she has worked with such prestigious organizations as the Maya Angelou Research Center, The Arts Council, The YMCA, Winston-Salem State University, The National Black Theatre Festival, The Urban League, and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. She has served on several boards, which include Arts Based Elementary School, Black Philanthropy Initiative, Creative Corridors, Mayor’s Design Review Committee, Amanie Foundation, Liberian Organization of the Piedmont. Her affiliations include Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASLAH); Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture – Charter Member; the Association of African-American Museums; and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

--LUANN PURCELL JENNINGS| Waco, TX--

Luann runs the artist professional development programs at Creative Waco, the local arts agency in Waco, Texas. Luann became interested in arts entrepreneurship as a theatre director in Atlanta, Georgia, when she realized that if she wanted to choose what she worked on she’d need to start a theatre company. She helped launch another theatre company in New York City, where she lived for 14 years, and recently started InSite (www.insitewaco.com), which produces plays that reflect Waco’s issues and people in found spaces downtown. Luann loves helping artists make more money so they can make more art.

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ARTISTS

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-- HOONG YEE LEE KRAKUER | Astoria, NY --

Hoong Yee believes in the power of the arts to mobilize and transform community. She was a member of the Transition Team for Mayor DeBlasio, serves on Tony Bennett’s Exploring the Arts Foundation and sits on many grant panels across the country. Hoong Yee holds a M.M. in Piano Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, a B.A. from Oberlin College, and attended the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Her children’s picture book, Rabbit Mooncakes, was published by Little, Brown & Company.

-- LYNDA SUMMERLIN LOTICH | Winston-Salem, NC --

Lynda Summerlin Lotich is the Interim Executive Director of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts at the UNC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, NC. Educated in the performing arts in music, she brings to her position over 30 years of experience around leadership roles in arts administration collaborating with artists, effectively achieving fundraising goals and developing and implementing strategic plans.

Previously, Lotich was the Associate Director for the Kenan Institute for 17 years, serving as Interim Director from 2011-13. She has also served as Director of Development and Special Projects for the Eastern Music Festival, Program Director of the A+ Schools Program and Administrator in the development of Pack Place Education, Arts and Science Center, a cultural complex of museums and performance and exhibition spaces. She has also held several positions as board member and president of non-profit arts organizations.

-- JORDAN C. MEDLEY | Winston-Salem, NC --

Jordan C. Medley is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he received the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in contemporary dance. Since attending UNCSA, Medley has been a North Carolina based dancer and choreographer and has performed in productions that have given him an opportunity to work with nationally recognized dance world professionals.

Medley has his own dance company, Medley of Moves, and has performed, choreographed and premiered work at NC Theater in Raleigh NC, High Point University, Dance Project, Wake Forest Dance Festival, and musical theater productions in the region.

-- ROSA OTERO | Winston-Salem, NC --

Dr. Rosa Otero was born and raised in Puerto Rico where her family still resides. She attended undergraduate school in Puerto Rico and every year she visits with her family to observe major holidays. Several years ago, she took a group of students to experience what her country has to offer. She has also traveled to other islands of the Caribbean and to Central America and Europe.

Her passion is design of the twentieth century, most especially mid-century architecture. Her dissertation focused on Henry Klumb, a German architect and a student of Frank Lloyd Wright who practiced in Puerto Rico from 1944 to the early 1980s. From his work, she developed a system to classify walls according to their permeability. This system looks at the relationship created between interior and exterior space as a means to explain how architects develop solutions that connect their buildings to a specific location. She has presented this research on several occasions, including an appearance on a TV show in Puerto Rico entitled “Prohibido Olvidar.”

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-- DARA SILVER | Winston-Salem, NC --

Dara Silver is the Vice President of Grant Programs & Partner Relations at The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Last year, she oversaw 8 grant and target initiative programs that made 78 awards totaling $1.2 million. Special projects she has worked on include Americans for the Arts’ Arts and Economic Prosperity Study 5, City of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County’s Public Art Commission, City of Winston-Salem’s STAR Community Program, and Family Services’ Family Violence Prevention Initiative. She currently serves on the Americans for the Arts’ Emerging Leaders Council, ArtsNC Board (NC Arts Advocacy), and Arts Based Elementary Charter School Board.

In 2015, she received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young Dreamers’ Award from the City of Winston-Salem’s Human Relations Commission for her efforts in making a more inclusive arts community. This work includes reaching out to historically underserved parts of the community and non-traditional partners to ensure that Arts Council grant applicants and panelists mirror those of the whole community.

Dara earned her MPA from Appalachian State University, BA in Anthropology and Art History from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University. She currently resides in Winston-Salem with her husband Mike Silver, Deputy Commissioner with the NC Industrial Commission, and their children, Miriam and Israel. Dara was born in Lima, Peru and raised in Fayetteville, NC.

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-- C. MITZI SINNOTT | Flatwoods, KY --

Carmen Mitzi Sinnott ignites change in communities through her own art and the art created by those who work with her. “Start with Art and heart” is the guiding motto for her company All Here Together productions as they do the work of making lasting social change, in community, organizations corporations, and universities. Named in the “Top 5 Best Diversity Speakers in America,” by Campus Activities Magazine. Mitzi’s personally familiar with the complexities of racial identity, mental illness, and the legacy of war. She’s presented her unique family saga “SNAPSHOT: a true story of love interrupted by invasion,” featured repeatedly on PBS nationwide, and on stage in South Africa, Scotland, Sweden, Brooklyn, and campuses across. In 2020, she received the Tanne Foundation Artist Award. Mitzi was born in West Virginia raised in Kentucky in the Ohio River Valley, and developed her artistic career in New York City.

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-- AZUCENA “SUSIE” TREJO WILLIAMS | Campbellsville, KY --

Azucena Trejo Williams is an interdisciplinary artist working in installation, photography, video and sound. She graduated from the University of North Texas with a B.A. in Photojournalism, Post-Bac coursework in art and art education from Campbellsville University, and M.F.A. in Studio Art at Maryland Institute College of Art. Trejo Williams’ experience in photography spans over 20 years including a career as a photojournalist and a photo editor in various national newspapers. She taught at the Dallas Museum of Art and Beijing University of Agriculture, and presented in The Arts in Society’s 9th International Conference.

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Magalie, an alumnus of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, is a conscious entrepreneur and community leader that has a passion for social enterprises. Magalie currently serves as Interim Executive Director and Board Chairwoman of HUSTLE Winston-Salem, an organization dedicated to leveling the playing field for entrepreneurs with a focus on women, people of color, and marginalized business districts.

She is the owner of SO-IN Forsyth, a socially innovative oil company that is building community equity through sustainability. Magalie’s motivation for SO-IN Forsyth is deeply rooted in creating a local bio-economy with a circular model that benefits all people. Magalie is also the CEO of YES Strategies & Solutions, a cost effective event consulting firm helping nonprofits and corporations accomplish successful programming to carry out their missions. Giving back to the community even through her businesses is essential to the core of who she is.

Magalie serves as Board Vice-Chair of Forsyth Futures and Board Communications Chair for Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts, Inc. She is an active member of the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Charlotte-Metro Chapter of the FAMU National Alumni Association. Magalie is a 2018 graduate of Leadership Winston-Salem, 2018 City of Winston-Salem Martin Luther King Jr. Young Dreamers Award recipient, 2020 Winston-Salem Chronicle Business of the Month, 2020 Winston Under 40 Awardee, 2020 HOPE Outreach MLK Wome’s Day Awardee, the 2020 recipient of the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Arts Council R. Phillip Hanes, Jr. Young Leader Award, and a 2021 Triad Business 40 Under 40 Honoree.