



ALMA Workshop 2021

Biographies

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Team Indigo



Jennifer Hogan (she/her)

Director, Town Center Alliance

As the Director for the Town Center Community Alliance (Alliance) the nonprofit partner of the Town Center CID, Jennifer Hogan develops and manages strategies to enrich the CID’s integral infrastructure projects with beautification and quality of life programs by engaging a broader community and fostering philanthropic investments. Jennifer leads the organization with a distinct vision for the creative placemaking initiatives within the community that activate the physical and social environment.

With nearly 15 years of non-profit experience, she has held positions with the Center for Family Resources, O’Neill & Associates, and Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Originally from Texas, Jennifer was raised in the Marietta area and is now a dedicated member of the community. She is a member of the 2020/2021 Honorary Commanders class, a 2015 graduate of Leadership Cobb and has held board positions with the Rotary Club of Marietta and Cobb Young Professionals.

Jennifer graduated magna cum laude from Kennesaw State University with a B.S. in Human Services and Nonprofit Management. She holds designation of Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), Certified Volunteer Administrator (CVA), and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt (LSSGB). Jennifer now resides in Holly Springs with her husband Scott, and their children Brecken and Adelyn.



Vanita Keswani (she/her)

Guest Experience Manager and Art Educator, City of Kennesaw/Smith-Gilbert Gardens

Vanita has a background in Art Education which became a stepping stone to community arts. She implemented and managed art programs for Cobb County for their Cultural Affairs Unit for 15 years and helped establish Cobb Arts VIBE, an economic development initiative with Cobb Travel and Tourism.



Adria Kitchens (she/her/hers)

Director of Equity & Activism, Out of Hand Theater

Adria Kitchens has supported women in transforming their lives for over a decade. She specializes in working with self-actualizing women, executives, experienced coaches, therapists, local and global leaders. Adria is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University, a Certified Cultural Competency Facilitator, and a Certified Feminine Power Coach and Facilitator specializing in women’s Transformational Leadership.

Adria is currently the Director of Equity & Activism and Co-designer for the Institute for Equity Activism leading a network of impassioned leaders to connect our communities, bring awareness to inequities, and activate anti-racism action. Adria has many years’ experience supporting the growth and

development of new and emerging organizations. Ms. Kitchens began her career in Neuroscience at Yerkes Primate Center at Emory University. She holds a Faculty Appointment with the Feminine Power Global Leadership Program, an international women's leadership program serving thousands of women globally in transformational virtual training and workshops. She has master's degrees in accounting & financial management and business administration and a BA in Natural Sciences. Her passion is supporting women in catalyzing their leadership.



Kelly J Nelson (she/her)

Founder / Creative Director / Circus Mamma and Cat Herder at L.E.D. Experience Design

I am the founder of L.E.D. Experience a dynamic, full service, strategy based experience engineering agency that designs and produces live events and entertainment-driven projects for corporations, associations, not-for-profits, public programs, venues and private individuals.

At L.E.D. all of our solutions are based on a strategic platform of purposeful design. We craft our solutions to reflect positioning and messaging of our client's unique attributes.

We leverage engaging tactics to speak a message to audiences, connect them emotionally, and ultimately move them to a desired behavioral outcome.

More personally, I am an award-winning experience designer with over 30 years experience in entertainment and live event design and production in the private and public sectors. ^[1]_[SEP]

Additionally, I am an immersive theater conceptual artist and live show author and designer. I am the creator of the breakthrough public show "Luminocity" performed in Downtown Atlanta in November 2010 which utilized the urban landscape as a canvas for a migrating, immersive lighted performer procession and video mapping displays. I am currently in the funding process for our unique layered reality, experiential theatre facility which will house a long running immersive theatre show for adults and an immersive education enrichment program for elementary to middle learners planned for launch in Atlanta in 2022.

In addition to integrated conceptual arts design for live experiences, I am trained in behavioral psychology techniques, strategy based experience design, and entertainment marketing. I have degrees in Communications, Fine Arts and British Studies.



Tarika Peeks (she/her)

Director of Planning and Zoning, City of Fairburn

Tarika Peeks is the Director of Planning and Zoning for the City of Fairburn, overseeing the planning office's day-to-day operations and managing and implementing all aspects of short and long-range planning processes, zoning, permitting, code compliance, and land development review. Tarika is a native of Atlanta, GA, and a graduate of Georgia State University, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies with a concentration in Planning and Economic Development, and Troy University, where she received a Master of Science in Management. During her tenure at the City of Fairburn, Tarika has led several planning processes, such as an audit and rewrite of the Zoning

Ordinance, establishing the city's first public art initiative with the creation of the Creative Placemaking Strategy, a Lightning Community Housing Assessment and Zoning Audit, Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Program, and Downtown Master Plan. Also, Tarika has been instrumental in the revitalization efforts of distressed communities within Fairburn, and she continues to use valuable resources and opportunities to ensure Fairburn is a vibrant community where you can live, work, and play.

Before her work at Fairburn, Tarika started her career in municipal government with Fulton County Government as a Planner for five years, gaining valuable experience that she still uses today in her current role at the City of Fairburn. She served her community as the Co-Chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission for the City of Union City for ten years. Tarika is a member of the American Planning Association, Georgia Downtown Association, and Georgia Association of Zoning Administrators.



Liberty Rudo (he/him)
Producer/Recording Artist

Liberty Rudo: Atlanta-based record producer and singer. Rooted in funk and rock, Liberty's music incorporates elements of blues, house, hip-hop, and world sounds. A music historian in his own right, one can sense the influence and almost spiritual brotherhood between Liberty and James Brown, Prince, Michael Jackson, Bob Marley, and Rick James. His musical style and live show continues the rich tradition of performers who exude excellence in their artistic capabilities and put a premium on presentation. Liberty is inspired by natural beauty and the belief that positive music that makes the world sing and dance can raise the vibration of the planet and make the world a better place. In 2012 he released a group project and toured southern Africa while studying political science and international relations. Since then he has busked and performed in venues in Boston and Atlanta, worked in government at the city and state levels, and taught yoga. 2021 marks the release of his debut solo project --Libertymusic.

Team Azure



Michelle Alexander (she/her)
Director of Planning, The Collaborative Firm

Michelle Alexander has over 20 years of community development, strategic planning, and development policy experience. She has a proven track record of capacity building and organizational development in both private and public sector. She spent ten years working in international development prior to moving to the Atlanta metro-area. She speaks fluent Spanish and enjoys conducting energized, community outreach to inform urban design efforts and master planning. She has prepared numerous comprehensive land use, transportation, housing and revitalization plans, leading teams of architects, engineers and landscape architects. She serves as City Planner for College Park and as on-call staff for several other cities in the south-metro area, where she currently leads two planning efforts that include a focus on creative placemaking and the arts. Her favorite event is her street's annual Mead Road Mardi Gras Parade, which has raised over \$35k to fund music and arts in the Decatur schools. Education: MS - Development Studies, Cornell University; BA - UW-Madison and Friedrich Wilhelm Universität, Germany.



Diamond Bradley (she/her/queen)

Founder + Arts Director, The Primary Movement

Diamond Bradley, is a curator, organizer, and visionary. A New Orleans native her experience in arts and culture stems from her leadership roles throughout her collegiate career. Diamond created The Primary Movement on Feb. 24th, 2018. The Primary is a creative collective that build sustainable careers and community for black creatives in Atlanta. She serves as the Artistic Director for Peaches to the Polls. Her curatorial work ranges from educational programming to solo exhibitions. Bradley, has a background in art, history, and community organizing. Bradley earned her A.A in art at Atlanta Metropolitan State College in 2017. Currently she is completing her B.A in History at Georgia State University. Where is serves as member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Her hobbies consist of yoga,reading, and mediating.



Kimberly Hawkins (she/her)

East Point Cultural Enrichment Commission - Board Member

Kimberly Hawkins likes to use the word hyphenated to describe herself because she is more than one thing.

Her current interests include understanding how diversity, project management, creative problem and creative placing making can work together to help solve some of the most challenging and complex problems of our times. Her personal passion includes serving on the East Point Cultural Enrichment Commission where she was the immediate past Chair. She has also previously served on the board for Avondale Estates Arts Alliance as the interim Secretary.

She has an undergraduate degree in Sociology and Philosophy from Hamilton College and a Masters in Industrial Labor Relations from Cornell University. Additional she holds a graduate certificate in project management from Grantham University.



April McKown (she/her)

Planning Manager, City of Douglasville

April McKown has served the citizens of the City of Douglasville for the past 7 years. Prior to her work in Douglasville, April worked for the City of Suwanee and the City of Lawrenceville.

Since joining the City of Douglasville team, April served in various capacities such as Main Street Manager, Economic Development Manager and now Planning Manager. During her time at the City of Douglasville, April has managed several planning studies and projects, all in hopes of creating synergy in Douglasville.

She also represents the City of Douglasville by serving as a volunteer with the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce and as a board member of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County. Those key relationships have earned her accolades such as the 2016 Top Young Professional of Douglas County, University of West Georgia's 30 under 30 award, the honor of being a 2018 Leadership Douglas class member and selected as West Georgia Magazine's 40 Under 40.

April is a proud graduate of the University of West Georgia where she specialized in Urban and Regional Planning. She currently serves her alma mater as a member of the Board of Directors for the University of West Georgia's Alumni Association and the Recruitment Advisor for the Phi Kappa chapter of Chi Omega.

When she is not serving the citizens of Douglasville, April enjoys spending time with her husband and two beautiful children, Allie Kate (5) and Hank (10 months).



Daviorr Snipes (he/him/his)

Actor/Director of Diversity, Equity & Engagement, Alliance Theatre

Daviorr Snipes is a theater graduate from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He is also a 20 year member of the Actor's Equity Association. He currently serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity & Engagement for the Alliance Theatre and is a 2018 graduate of the ALMA program. As a professional actor he has appeared Off-Broadway and has toured nationally with Theaterworks USA. He is a Peabody Award winner for his work on the NPR Podcast, Buried Truths, and has also appeared in the BET tv series, American Soul. In addition to his work at the Alliance he regularly performs around Atlanta with companies such as Vanguard Repertory Theatre and Working Title Playwrights. He volunteers with the group IDEA ATL whose focus is providing arts based workshops and trainings to create a more diverse and inclusive arts community in Atlanta.

Team Pink



Katrina DeBerry (she/her)

Program Officer, Thriving Communities, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

Katrina DeBerry serves as Program Officer for Thriving Communities. Katrina's commitment to the Atlanta region is aimed at uplifting and amplifying resident voice in decision-making to advance social and economic mobility in their communities. As the manager of the Thriving Communities pillar within the Foundation's Equity of Opportunity framework, Katrina provides vision and leadership that support the preservation and development of affordable housing, uplifts community centered economic development, strengthens equitable transportation access and promotes safe and inclusive neighborhoods as a right for all metro Atlanta communities. Katrina manages initiatives like the Neighborhood Fund that provides grant and coaching supports to resident-led groups seeking to have greater impact at the local level. Before joining the Foundation, Katrina worked as Principal Program Specialist in the Community Partnerships Division at the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Katrina earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Georgia State University and her Master's in Public Administration from Walden University.



Lynn Deutsch (she/her)
Mayor, City of Dunwoody

Lynn Deutsch was elected Mayor of Dunwoody in November 2019 after serving as a City Council person for 8 years. She graduated from the University of Texas with bachelors' degrees in Government and Journalism. She also earned a master's degree in City Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a graduate certificate in Gerontology from Georgia State University.

Before her election to the Dunwoody City Council, Lynn served on the Dunwoody Planning Commission and boards of her neighborhood Women's Club as well as the Dunwoody Homeowners Association. Lynn was Council Chair at Chesnut School and served in a variety of leadership roles at Chesnut, Dunwoody Elementary, Peachtree and Dunwoody High School.

A long-time education advocate, Lynn was appointed by then-Governor Sonny Perdue to the Master Teacher and Academic Coach Implementation Committee as his parent representative. She also served as the Vice-Chair of the Citizen Planning Task Force for DeKalb County Schools.

Lynn ran on a platform of moving Dunwoody forward and building a stronger community. Public art is a top priority. She recently appointed the City's first Art Commission.

She has been married to her husband, Barry, for 32 years. They have three children; Benjamin, Michael, and Rebecca and a rescue dog Boomer.



Tamara Irving (she/her)
Educator/Atlanta Public Schools & CEO, TMI Design & Consulting LLC

Dancing in the halls of her school or even the grocery store aisles is where you may find her. After graduating from Howard University with a Marketing degree, she was a dancer with the Atlanta Hawks Dance Team and resident choreographer for the Atlanta Hawks Jr. Dance Team. Tamara Irving was in the premiere casts of both the Hamburg Germany Company and the Cheetah US National Tour of Disney's The Lion King. She has also been a featured dancer with The Atlanta Opera. Mrs. Irving currently is the dance director at North Atlanta High School as well as owner of TMI Design & Consulting LLC. In addition to being a professional dancer and choreographer, Tamara is also a proud wife and mom of 2 beautiful daughters and a son! Mrs. Irving was proud to be North Atlanta High School's 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year. Tamara received her Master of Arts in Dance Education from University of North Carolina at Greensboro in May 2017.



Sonia Linton (she/her)
Planner II, Forsyth County

I've had the opportunity to live, work and study in international and multicultural environments for over twenty years. After working my way through a political science degree and multiple languages, I've found my way to urban planning and have really been enjoying everything it entails. Side hobbies include horse riding, motorcycles and running.



Tiffany LaTrice Williams (she/her)

TILA Studios, National Black Arts

Tiffany LaTrice is a visual artist, executive director and founder of TILA Studios. She also services as the Artistic Director of the National Black Arts. TILA Studios is tackling one of the most glaring statistics in the art industry - Black women artists make up only 4% of art professionals across the United States. Tiffany LaTrice has been featured in the New York Times, Huffington Post, Forbes, and NPR for her work and impact in the art industry and empowering black women artists.

She is the recipient of the 2020 Martha Richards Visionary Leadership Awards, 2019 Arts Innovation Luminary Award, 2018 Artist Entrepreneur of the Year Award by C4 Atlanta and was a finalist for the Center for Civic Innovation #GoodTrouble Award. TILA Studios is the recipient of the 2018 Best of Atlanta Award for Atlanta Magazine and the Atlanta Tribune.

She is a 2019 Civic Innovation Resident, 2018 Civic Innovation Fellow. She received her undergraduate degree in International Relations and Fine Art from the University of Southern California and her Masters in Women's History at Sarah Lawrence College.

Team Scarlet



Lauren Bohn (she/her)

Program Manager, Placemaking and Public Art, MidtownAlliance

Lauren Bohn is the Program Manager of Placemaking and Public Art at Midtown Alliance. As a member of the Urban Design team, she's worked on the most recent update to Midtown's master plan, Blueprint Midtown; has assisted in updates to Midtown's design guidelines and zoning; and provided staff support to the Midtown Development Review Committee. More recently, Lauren has focused on defining the organization's public art and placemaking program, in addition to contributing to plans for a robust open space network. Developing collaborative relationships with property owners and district stakeholders to transform underutilized plazas has been critical to creating active and engaging publicly-accessible spaces.

Midtown is the proud home of numerous arts and cultural organizations and thus, creative placemaking is a key component of each project. In 2020, Lauren helped launch Midtown Heart of the Arts, an arts umbrella program that includes the creation of arts residencies in Midtown in addition to ongoing commissions for public space and community-centered arts programming. Heart of the Arts marks Midtown Alliance's renewed commitment to intentionally investing in Atlanta's arts economy and making space for underrepresented voices at the same time it enriches the public sphere with arts experiences.



Katherine Dirga (she/her)

Director of Art in Transit, MARTA

Katherine Dirga is a public art specialist with 18 years' experience. After beginning her career at Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis, MO, Katherine served as a program manager of Atlanta Airport's public art program, where she commissioned and implemented \$3.5 million in large-scale artworks for the Maynard Jackson International Terminal, as well as curating temporary exhibitions and annual live music series. Katherine was brought to MARTA in 2017 to develop an Art in Transit program: "Artbound", comprised of permanent and temporary visual artworks as well as live music, theater, and dance presented in a transit environment.

Katherine has a deep interest in community and was a founding curator of the Cabbagetown Art Wall, working with other local curators, artists, and the CSX Railroad to produce what is now an annual rotating exhibition and event with over 40 artists and 25 murals in one of Atlanta's most eclectic and walkable neighborhoods. She served as founding Board Chair for Dashboard, an Atlanta-based, national curatorial team, leading the Board as the organization scaled from local and regional to national projects during her four-year tenure.

Katherine received her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Washington University in St. Louis, and her Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Georgia State University. She is a member of Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA) and has served on the Board and Advisory Councils for various local non-profits including Living Walls, Dashboard, and Cabbagetown Initiative.



Mark Kendall (he/him)

Comedian

Mark Kendall is an Atlanta-based comedian. His one person show, "The Magic Negro and Other Blackness" was produced by Dad's Garage Theatre and the Alliance Theatre. He completed the Comedy Central Chris Rock Summer School Program, where he pitched jokes at "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report." He was the Readers Pick for Best Comedian in Creative Loafing Atlanta in 2019.



Oshun Layne (she/her)

Director of Operations, Dashboard

Oshun Layne was born and reared in Brooklyn, NYC with a passion for visual arts and its ability to communicate a sense of inclusiveness across cultures, genders, and generations. Over the last decade, she has developed and nurtured an extensive career in arts leadership that includes institutional, gallery, and non-profit project management experiences. Through arts education, programming, artist development, strategic partnerships, and mentorship, she has been successful in bringing multicultural and multidisciplinary art forms to diverse populations.

Oshun she is the Director or Operations for Dashboard, a creative art's agency based in Atlanta, GA, and is also pursuing a master's degree in Urban Policy and Planning with an emphasis on Non-Profit Management at Hunter College. Merging cultural studies, art, and policy, she seeks to create innovative pathways to bridge gaps between urban communities and private interests with a focus on arts awareness, cultural competency, and community partnerships.



Katie O'Connor (she/her)

Senior City Planner, City of Woodstock

Katie O'Connor, AICP, is the Senior City Planner for the City of Woodstock, Georgia, where she has lived and worked since 2010. She has recently overseen the 20-year update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, and also manages the public hearing caseload, other long-range planning efforts such as the new Smart Woodstock plan, and frequently authors zoning code amendments. Katie serves as the City's Sustainability Program Manager, including responsibility for the Bronze (2010), Silver (2011), and Gold (2015, 2019) certifications from the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities program for the City. Because of Katie's efforts, Woodstock has received certification three times as a PlanFirst Community by the GA Dept. of Community Affairs.

Katie holds a Bachelor of Fine Art degree in Sculpture and Master of Art degree in Design for Sustainability from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and her current creative exploration is with printmaking. Katie also serves as Vice President on the Board of Directors for Elm Street Cultural Arts Village, a non-profit arts organization local to Woodstock. Elm Street has recently completed construction of the Reeves House, a new cultural arts center that will contribute significantly to Downtown Woodstock's already distinctive sense of place.

Team Seafoam



Liz Hall-Dukin (she/her)

Director, Fayette Environmental Education Center

Liz is completing her Master's Degree in Art History with a concentration in Museum Studies at the City College of New York. She is the Director of Development at Southern Conservation Trust and the Director of the Fayette Environmental Education Center (FEEC), a project of the Southern Conservation Trust, where she is spearheading the FEEC Environmental Art Program. Liz is also the chair of the board of directors for Backstreet Community Arts.



Hank Houser (he/him)

Architect

A founding Partner with Houser Walker Architecture, Hank has worked in the construction industry as an architect, builder, and developer since 1990. Hank has expertise in the design of arts and cultural buildings, museums, galleries, places of assembly, places of worship, historic settings, planning for construction, sustainable building technologies, daylighting, and durable buildings.

Houser Walker Architecture is a boutique architecture practice with a reputation for designing beautiful civic spaces that creatively reflect their community, place, time and history. The firm's work focuses on places where people gather. Houser Walker's projects have won numerous design awards across the southeast. The firm was named AIA Atlanta's 2015 Firm of the Year for design excellence.

Hank grew up in Dalton and Atlanta, Georgia, attending The Westminster Schools. He graduated from The University of Georgia in 1990 with a Bachelor's of Journalism and from The Georgia Institute of

Technology in 1997 with a Masters of Architecture. Hank enjoys tennis, cycling, and raising his two boys with his wife, Margot.



Tinashe Kajese-Bolden (she/her)

BOLD Artistic Director Fellow, Alliance Theatre

TINASHE KAJESE-BOLDEN (Actor, Director, and Producer). She is the BOLD Artistic Director Fellow and Line Producer at the Alliance Theater. Her position includes being a member of the EDI Task Force (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) and Managing the Spelman Leadership Intern and Fellowship Program. She serves on the ARTSATL Artist Advisory Council. Tinashe received The Princess Grace Award 2019 Winner for Directing and the prestigious Map Fund Award to develop her devised new work ALL SMILES for Theater for the Very Young, centering the experience of children on the Autism Spectrum. Recent directing productions include School Girls (Or the African Mean Girls Play) at Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre, Ghost at The Alliance Theater, Native Gardens (Virginia Stage Company), Pipeline (Horizon Theater), Nick's Flamingo Grill (World Premiere at The Alliance Theatre, Hertz Stage), Eclipsed (Synchronicity Theatre, Best Director Suzi Bass Award). Upcoming projects: The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison at Synchronicity Theater and a co-production of Toni Stone at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and The Alliance Theatre for their 2021-22 Season. As an actor, she has worked On and Off Broadway, at numerous regional theaters, as well as TV and Film. "My mission is the pursuit of what connects our different communities and how we create art that serves that."



Deanna Murphy (she/her)

Director of Planning, Sizemore Group

Deanna Murphy is an urban designer, planner, and architectural designer who works to enhance our cities through community-oriented place-making and sustainable design. Deanna has worked as a designer and planner in the private, non-profit, and public sectors over the past 17 years, including positions at the Georgia Conservancy, G.H.Forbes and Associates, and the City of Atlanta. Currently, she is Director of Planning at Sizemore Group, where she leads planning and architectural projects throughout the state. Deanna is a certified member of the American Planning Association, an expert in Tactical Urbanism - short-term, inexpensive placemaking strategies, a 2016 alumni of Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA) and a 2019 alumni of ULI Center for Leadership (CFL). Deanna co-founded PopATL, a tactical urbanism braintrust that works to create excitement and possibilities through temporary installations that highlight how we can improve our everyday spaces.



Jacquelyn Pritz (she/her)

Operations Manager, DanceATL and Dance Artist

Jacquelyn (Jacque) Pritz is an Atlanta based choreographer and dancer. She graduated from the University of Florida with her BFA in Dance and BSBA in Marketing and is now the Operations Manager of DanceATL and Arts Administrative Associate at Emory University's Center for Creativity and Arts. Most recently, she provided administrative support for the Arts and Social Justice Fellows program. She also teaches dance at Druid Hills Dance Center. Her choreography largely researches the portrayal of women in marketing and advertising in American history and includes elements of humor and mixed movement vocabulary. Her choreography has been presented at Breaking New Ground: New Dance at the Decatur Arts Festival, 3 Contemporary Dance Projects, Core Dance's Field Work, Dance Canvas' Palette Project, FEMMEFest, CO:VID 48 Hour Video Experiment, Fall for Fall, and various other festivals. She has worked with Beacon Dance, Bau Tanz, Catherine Messina, John McFalls, and Leo

Briggs. In her free time, Jacque also trains in Judo, Krav Maga, and Muay Thai and enjoys snuggling with her bearded dragon, Remi.

Team Shamrock



Irasema Concepcion Gonzalez Vargas (she/her)

Respected Community Leader in the Georgia community and an employee at AT&T Prepaid Portfolio working in Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Initiatives.

Mexico saw me born, but the world has seen me grow. From a very early age, I had to face adversities that led me to start a path of interiorization, search, and overcoming by going inside my Being. This inner journey led me to emigrate to the US, where I found a world of personal contrasts, ranging from the greatest satisfaction to the greatest challenges that motivate me to have to raise my voice before a society reluctant to accept multiculturalism, adversities that define my purpose in life, and I became a tireless promoter of diversity, inclusion, and peace through art.



Heidi S. Howard (she/her)

Artistic Director, 7 Stages Theatre

Heidi S Howard (Artistic Director of 7 Stages) served as Education Director and Production Manager for over a decade before taking the reins in 2014. She collaborates locally, nationally and internationally sharing best practices. By aligning education programs with all programming, she strives to create a brave space to connect everyday life to the creative process. She loves creating devised performances, directing new and classic plays, and teaching arts-based curriculum. During the pandemic, she focused resources towards producing HUMAN -multiplatform arts festivals and Home Brew @ Home -original film projects. Directing highlights include Waiting for Godot featuring founder Del Hamilton, Michael Molina's Mass Transit Muse and Lauren Gunderson's The Revolutionists. She has toured throughout the USA as well as to Israel, The Netherlands, Serbia, and China. She is the founder of Youth Creates an international training and performance program for teenagers. She initiated Art of Activism -a community dialogue with shared brunch, Service Saturdays -community drives and distributions, and The Big Read -curating artistic responses to literature. She is an Artistic Associate with Synchronicity, served on the Board of The Atlanta School, and is a National Performance Network representative. "When we create together, we remind ourselves that anything is possible regardless of our differences."



Sheoyki Jones (she/her)

Program Manager, Creative Industries, Invest Atlanta

Ms. Sheoyki Jones holds a Bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies from the University of Mississippi. She is currently the Program Manager of Creative Industries, Invest Atlanta. Here she has thrived in the management of creative industry projects city wide and supports the Mayor's Office of Film and Entertainment efforts. She has implemented and maintained all aspects of Invest Atlanta's creative industries strategies, policies and procedures. Ms. Jones strives to convey all aspects of diversity, equity and inclusion throughout her various Creative Industries projects and works.

In her role as the Program Manager, Ms. Jones has reinvented the execution of creative industries tactics as they relate to the overall creative industries strategy, and ensures that

all creative industries business links and supports Invest Atlanta's brand strategies and initiatives. Within the scope of this role Ms. Jones has established and built Invest Atlanta's brand in the entertainment industry globally, created and oversaw Creative Industries Exchange, attracted 500+ creative industries jobs in the City of Atlanta, spoke on over 30 panels, including international panels, and created and executed Invest Atlanta's Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards highlighting and honoring local small businesses.

Ms. Jones has maintained an impeccable reputation in the business, hospitality, and entertainment industry since completing college. She has gained extensive experience in customer service, through her 7-year career in the hospitality industry as a guest services representative and night auditor, at Best Western Executive Suites and Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort. Project management skills is a very strong asset that she possesses. Ms. Jones' legal career began as she served as a paralegal for Norris Injury Lawyers specializing in personal injury and asbestos claims. Simultaneously, Sheoyki launched her first entrepreneurial venture as a Talent Manager, Ms. Jones managed the career of an aspiring model turned international model. Ms. Jones landed her talent jobs in New York Fashion Week, Mercedes Benz Fashion Week, HBO Bessie, national and international campaigns, and International Milan Fashion Week. As a talent manager, Ms. Jones took the initiative to work alongside production teams to execute high level fashion shows in both New York, Atlanta, and Milan, in which she gained event planning experience. Following Norris Injury Lawyers, Ms. Jones served as the Senior Legal Assistant at Invest Atlanta.



Catherine Rowell (she/her)

Councilwoman - District 1, City of South Fulton

Dr. Catherine Foster Rowell is the Councilwoman for District 1 of the City of South Fulton, Georgia and served as the city's first Mayor Pro Tem. In addition to her elected duties, she is an insurance agent with Primerica Financial Services. She has also been employed with Fulton County Schools as a Parent Liaison; Executive Director of Operation PEACE; Senior Government Grants Manager for Families

First; and Senior Program Director with Enterprise Community Partners. Additionally, she has held leadership roles in a number of public-sector consulting firms to include Beacon Analytics, the Bronner Group and MAXIMUS consulting firm. Dr. Rowell is published and has served on numerous volunteer boards which include but are not limited to the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter, Georgia Chapter of the Conference of Minority Public Administrators and the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators (ASPA). She holds bachelors' degrees in Sociology and Social Work from Cleveland State University and a Masters of Public Administration and doctorate of Political Science from Clark Atlanta University.



Victoria Walsh (she/her)

Architect, Perkins&Will / Board Member, Freedom Park Conservancy

Having spent most of her architectural career in New York City where designers are abundant but space is not, Victoria developed a vision for transforming space amidst rigid constraints and developed an appreciation for the permanence and complexity of the built environment. Working with existing structures requires

'listening to what the buildings are telling us' as their inherent DNA often unlocks the design challenge of transforming space into a new use.

While Victoria leads the adaptive reuse practice at Perkins&Will, she has a broad definition of what reuse means. Spanning scales from urban infrastructure to interior repositioning, reuse projects are interesting because they do not start with a blank page. Starting from a baseline that is imbued with history and defined by physical limitations forces us to be better listeners and enriches the designs we put into the world.

When she is not solving architectural challenges, Victoria spends her time exploring every nook and cranny of Freedom Park with her four-year-old son Xander. As a board member and Arts Committee chairman for Freedom Park Conservancy, Victoria is responsible for the vision and planning of art installations in Freedom Park, Atlanta's Arts Park, in alignment with the recently completed master plan.



Sherri Washington (she/her)
Rockdale County Commissioner

I am a county commissioner entering into my second term of office. I am also a practicing attorney that enjoys all genres of art.

The Jurors



Amir Farokhi (he/him)
District 2 Councilmember, City of Atlanta

Elected in 2017, Amir Farokhi represents Atlanta's District 2 which includes Downtown, Midtown, Old Fourth Ward, Inman Park, Poncey-Highland, and Candler Park. Professionally, he works for CARE USA. From 2011-2013 and in 2018, Councilmember Farokhi was named among the Most Influential Georgians by Georgia Trend Magazine. He is an Aspen Civil Society Fellow, a 2011 Marshall Memorial Fellow, and graduate of LEAD Atlanta (2006) and Leadership Atlanta (2013). Councilmember Farokhi is a graduate of Duke University and Duke University School of Law and was the first Iranian-American elected official in the American South.



Shanequa Gay (she/her)
Visual Artist

Shanequa Gay, an Atlanta native, attended The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) for her BA and Georgia State University for her MFA.

Gay was one of ten selected artists for OFF THE WALL a city-wide Civil Rights and Social Justice Mural initiative led by the Atlanta Super Bowl Host Committee (2019). Her most recent exhibitions include Lit Without Sherman, Hammonds House Museum, Atlanta (2019); Adorned, Mccoll Center for Arts and Innovation, Charlotte (2020); Holding Space For Nobility: A

Memorial For Breonna Taylor, Ackland Museum, Chapel Hill North Carolina (2020); and Atlanta Biennial, Atlanta Contemporary (2021).

Gay has exhibited her works and held residencies in the United States, Japan, and South Africa. Gay has been the recipient of the Do Good Fellow awarded to individuals working towards a better South and an Emory University Arts and Social Justice Fellow a program which explores racial injustice and other inequities in the wider community (2020).

In 2021 Gay will participate in Le Monde Bossale, Montreal, Canada. Shanequa Gay is based in Atlanta, Georgia.



Miranda Kyle (she/her)

Program Manager of Arts and Culture, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.

Miranda Kyle is the Program Manager of Arts and Culture for Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) and Chief Curator of the annual Art on the Atlanta BeltLine Public Art Exhibition. Kyle holds an MFA in Sculpture from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and a Post Graduate Degree in Painting and Drawing from the Edinburgh College of Arts. She was awarded the 2013 Lee Kimche McGrath Fellowship for Arts & Sciences for her research in utilizing 3D printing technologies within traditional foundry practices, in 2014 she was awarded the StarSeed Fellowship to research the intersection of Public Art, Performance and Space in Riga and Pedvale, Latvia, and in 2017 won a coveted curatorial residency with Hambidge Art Center. She currently serves on the Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Advisory Council. She has curated exhibitions locally and internationally over the last ten years, ranging in disciplines from performance to public art. She is passionate about the preservation of Atlanta's graffiti culture, and the intersection of Indigenous land rights, sovereignty, and monuments. When not consumed by everything BeltLine art, she is working to dismantle racist monuments with Stone Mountain Action Coalition and Toppled Monument Archive.



Dorian McDuffie (she/her)

Public Art Project Manager, Public Space Studio, City of Atlanta Department of City Planning

Dorian's passion is devoted to the arts in Atlanta. If she had her way, citizens of and visitors to this great city would not go a block without experiencing the art that is our cultural heartbeat. As an arts administrator with over 15 years' experience, she is the recipient of several awards for her work with public art installations and initiatives. An award she is particularly proud of is the "Women of the Year Award" given to her by Atlanta's Mayor Shirley Franklin. When not making art happen, Dorian can be found out and about enjoying the fruits of the labors of artists and other arts administrators.



Josh Penny (he/him)

Director of Corporate Citizenship, Mailchimp

Josh Penny is Director of Corporate Citizenship at Mailchimp, an all-in-one marketing platform for growing businesses. He leads the company's community investments, sponsorships, and programs. Mailchimp's multi-million dollar partnership portfolio focuses on growing nonprofit organizations, social entrepreneurs, and creatives who are changing the world. During his tenure, Josh has led relationships with over one-hundred organizations and has personally initiated a total of \$6 million in grants. Previously, Josh managed student retention programs at the Posse Foundation and Georgia State University. He grew up in metro Atlanta and graduated from Yale University with a degree in history.

Josh is passionate about helping small, creative organizations grow their impact. In addition to his sponsorship work, he supports his partners informally as an ally and thought partner. He's served on strategic planning committees for VOX ATL and the Partnership for Southern Equity's Just Business Roundtable. Josh is a member of the 2020 class of LEAD Atlanta.



Doreen Williams (she/her)

Commissioner, Rockdale County

After graduating from high school, Doreen Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and a minor in Psychology from Brigham Young University. After her five children were grown, Dr. Williams continued her education earning a Masters of Science in Education degree from Walden University followed by a Doctor of Education degree from Georgia Southern University. After a 30 year career in education she retired in 2012.

In 2014 Williams campaigned for and won the Rockdale County Commission, Post 2 seat and in 2018 she was re-elected to a second term. In that capacity Commissioner Williams spearheaded a long-range strategic planning process, greater access to the arts in Rockdale County, and two initiatives related to mental illness. One, to educate and bring awareness of the effects of mental health issues in the community and Two, to reduce the number of inmates in the Rockdale County Jail who have a diagnosed mental illness and facilitate their getting treatment and other services instead of incarceration. In this effort she has championed the Stepping Up Initiative, a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail.

Association memberships and volunteer activities: (National, state, and local level)

- National Association of Counties, (NACo) Health Steering Committee, member
- Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Health and Human Services Legislative Policy Committee, Past Chair
- Georgia Community Service Board Association, Policy Committee, vice-chair
- View Point Health, Board of Directors, 1st Vice-chair
- Atlanta Regional Commission, Community Resource Committee, member
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Communication Specialist for six counties

She and her husband John have lived in Rockdale County for 27 years. They are the parents of five children and grandparents of twelve grandchildren. One thing she has learned over the years is that

accomplishing goals sometimes takes much longer than she ever thought. Patience and persistence are not to be underestimated.

The Panel

2021 ALMA Workshop Participants



Lynn Deutsch (she/her)

Mayor, City of Dunwoody

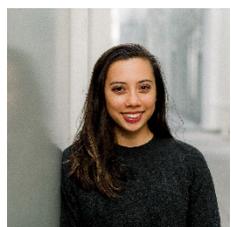
Lynn Deutsch was elected Mayor of Dunwoody in November 2019 after serving as a City Council person for 8 years. She graduated from the University of Texas with bachelors' degrees in Government and Journalism. She also earned a master's degree in City Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a graduate certificate in Gerontology from Georgia State University.

Before her election to the Dunwoody City Council, Lynn served on the Dunwoody Planning Commission and boards of her neighborhood Women's Club as well as the Dunwoody Homeowners Association. Lynn was Council Chair at Chesnut School and served in a variety of leadership roles at Chesnut, Dunwoody Elementary, Peachtree and Dunwoody High School.

A long-time education advocate, Lynn was appointed by then-Governor Sonny Perdue to the Master Teacher and Academic Coach Implementation Committee as his parent representative. She also served as the Vice-Chair of the Citizen Planning Task Force for DeKalb County Schools.

Lynn ran on a platform of moving Dunwoody forward and building a stronger community. Public art is a top priority. She recently appointed the City's first Art Commission.

She has been married to her husband, Barry, for 32 years. They have three children; Benjamin, Michael, and Rebecca and a rescue dog Boomer.



Jacquelyn Pritz (she/her)

Operations Manager, DanceATL and Dance Artist

Jacquelyn (Jacque) Pritz is an Atlanta based choreographer and dancer. She graduated from the University of Florida with her BFA in Dance and BSBA in Marketing and is now the Operations Manager of DanceATL and Arts Administrative Associate at Emory University's Center for Creativity and Arts. Most recently, she provided administrative support for the Arts and Social Justice Fellows program. She also teaches dance at Druid Hills Dance Center. Her choreography largely researches the portrayal of women in marketing and advertising in American history and includes elements of humor and mixed movement vocabulary. Her choreography has been presented at Breaking New Ground: New Dance at the Decatur Arts Festival, 3 Contemporary Dance Projects, Core Dance's Field Work, Dance Canvas' Palette Project, FEMMEFest, CO:VID 48 Hour Video Experiment, Fall for Fall, and various other festivals. She has worked with Beacon Dance, Bau Tanzt, Catherine Messina, John McFalls, and Leo Briggs. In her free time, Jacque also trains in Judo, Krav Maga, and Muay Thai and enjoys snuggling with her bearded dragon, Remi.



Daviorr Snipes (he/him/his)

Actor/Director of Diversity, Equity & Engagement, Alliance Theatre

Daviorr Snipes is a theater graduate from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He is also a 20 year member of the Actor's Equity Association. He currently serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity & Engagement for the Alliance Theatre and is a 2018 graduate of the ALMA program. As a professional actor he has appeared Off-Broadway and has toured nationally with Theaterworks USA. He is a Peabody Award winner for his work on the NPR Podcast, Buried Truths, and has also appeared in the BET tv series, American Soul. In addition to his work at the Alliance he regularly performs around Atlanta with companies such as Vanguard Repertory Theatre and Working Title Playwrights. He volunteers with the group IDEA ATL whose focus is providing arts based workshops and trainings to create a more diverse and inclusive arts community in Atlanta.



Victoria Walsh (she/her)

Architect, Perkins&Will / Board Member, Freedom Park Conservancy

Having spent most of her architectural career in New York City where designers are abundant but space is not, Victoria developed a vision for transforming space amidst rigid constraints and developed an appreciation for the permanence and complexity of the built environment. Working with existing structures requires 'listening to what the buildings are telling us' as their inherent DNA often unlocks the design challenge of transforming space into a new use.

While Victoria leads the adaptive reuse practice at Perkins&Will, she has a broad definition of what reuse means. Spanning scales from urban infrastructure to interior repositioning, reuse projects are interesting because they do not start with a blank page. Starting from a baseline that is imbued with history and defined by physical limitations forces us to be better listeners and enriches the designs we put into the world.

When she is not solving architectural challenges, Victoria spends her time exploring every nook and cranny of Freedom Park with her four-year-old son Xander. As a board member and Arts Committee chairman for Freedom Park Conservancy, Victoria is responsible for the vision and planning of art installations in Freedom Park, Atlanta's Arts Park, in alignment with the recently completed master plan.

ARC Community Engagement and Arts Team

Part of the ARC's Community Development Group



Tatiana Bell (she/her)

Community Engagement and Arts Intern, Atlanta Regional Commission

Tatiana Bell is an interaction designer and visual artist currently in her final semester pursuing her BS in Interactive Design at Kennesaw State University. Meanwhile, she is interning with the Community Engagement and Arts team at Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), working at the Zuckerman Museum of Art, leading community-based design projects, and pursuing her artistic career. Her work at the ARC so far has centered around a research-based approach to the creation of the Metro Atlanta Artist Survey which will inform the agency on artists who are experienced and interested in a civic practice and ways to integrate arts and culture into ARC's program, processes, and policies. Through Tatiana's work—whether in physical spaces, on screens, or on paper—her intention is to create meaningful and exciting experiences that explore the possibilities of design and amplify marginalized voices to the greatest extent.



Marian Liou (she/her)

Community Engagement and Arts Program Manager, Atlanta Regional Commission

Marian Liou is the Community Engagement and Arts Program Manager for the Atlanta Regional Commission's Community Development Group. In this role, she is responsible for inclusive and equitable community engagement and supervises the agency's arts and culture and creative placemaking initiatives. Marian formerly managed the ARC's annual LINK leadership and policy program.

She is the founder of We Love BuHi, a nonprofit organization that serves and celebrates metro Atlanta's multicultural Buford Highway community through storytelling, art, and public events.



Josh Phillipson (he/him)

Principal for Arts, Culture and Creative Placemaking, Atlanta Regional Commission

Josh Phillipson is the Principal for Arts, Culture and Creative Placemaking at the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). In this role, he manages the Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta leadership development program, the ARC's cultural forums, and the implementation of the ARC's Arts, Culture, and Creative Placemaking strategic plan. Through the plan, the ARC seeks to encourage a metro Atlanta that values arts and culture as essential for building a thriving, inclusive, and economically healthy region, and recognizes the transformative role of art in addressing broader civic issues.

Prior to the ARC, Josh worked at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta on the Foundation's Metro Atlanta Arts Fund, which provided grants and capacity-building assistance to metro Atlanta's small and mid-sized arts organizations. In addition, he managed the Foundation's Grants to Green program providing grants to improve the water and energy efficiency of nonprofit's buildings and served as a liaison for philanthropic work throughout the 23-county region.

Josh has a theater degree from Emory University and has since served as the board chair for the Theater Emory board. He was a Southeastern Council of Foundations Hull Fellow and is an Arts Leaders of Metro

Atlanta graduate. He is currently on the board of Dad's Garage Theatre Company and is the chair of MARTA's Artbound advisory committee.



Samyukth Shenbaga (he/him)

Manager, Community Development Group, Atlanta Regional Commission

Samyukth Shenbaga is manager of the Community Development Group at the Atlanta Regional Commission. In this role, he leads a team of planning professionals working with cities and counties throughout metro Atlanta on a range of issues ranging from housing affordability to historic preservation. Some of the most locally impactful programs within ARC including the Livable Centers Initiative, Community Development Assistance Program, and Community Planning Academy are led by his group.

Shenbaga comes to ARC from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), where he served as a principal planner in the agency's local planning division. Prior to CMAP, Shenbaga worked at private consulting firms in Chicago and Madison, Wis., where he helped private developers and municipalities develop neighborhood and site-specific plans.

Born and raised in New Delhi, India, Shenbaga holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in architecture from the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi. Shenbaga is a LEED accredited professional and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).



Rachel Will (she/her)

Senior Planner, Atlanta Regional Commission

Rachel Will is a Senior Planner in the Community Development group at the Atlanta Regional Commission. In this role, she is involved with the Community Development Assistance Program, Livable Centers Initiative, Comprehensive Plan Updates, and Community Engagement and Arts work. Rachel also leads an equity and community engagement group within Community Development, and is part of an interagency Climate Action Group. Throughout her work, Rachel strives to center equity and meaningful community engagement.

Prior to joining ARC, Rachel received her doctorate in Geography and Integrative Conservation from the University of Georgia. Her research was informed by critical and feminist methodologies and focused on the intersections of urban planning, urban ecology, climate, gentrification, and social justice. Concurrently, Rachel was an instructor at UGA, conducted stormwater management and public art research for Athens-Clarke County GIS and Planning departments, and worked at an environmental nonprofit. She also holds a master's degree in Geography, and a bachelor's degree in Social and Environmental Geography and Art History. Outside of work, Rachel is an active cyclist and dabbles in art.