

- **Shanequa Gay, Visual Artist:** *Shanequa is an Atlanta native and one of ten selected artists for OFF THE WALL, a city-wide Mural initiative led by WonderRoot and the Atlanta Super Bowl Host Committee. In 2013, Gay was chosen by The Congressional Club to be the illustrator for the First Lady's Luncheon hosted by Michelle Obama. Gay's work includes features in the Lions Gate film Addicted, the BET television series Being Mary Jane and Zoe Ever After, and the OWN series Greenleaf. Shanequa also serves as a ARC Arts Plan advisory committee member. Solo exhibitions include the Hammonds House Museum, Atlanta, GA (2015); Anne O Art Gallery, Atlanta, GA (2016); Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC (2017); Mary S. Byrd Gallery, Augusta University, Augusta, GA (2018); Sumter Gallery of Art, Sumter, SC (2018); and Milliken Gallery, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC (2018). Group exhibitions include Xhibiting Blackness, Evolve the Gallery, Sacramento, CA (2014); WonderRoot CSA: Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA (2015); Personal Politics: Artist as Witness, Memory Keepers, & Social Conscience, Hudgens Center for the Arts, Duluth, GA (2016); New Painting, The Southern Gallery, Charleston, SC (2016); 5 Perspectives, Steffen Thomas Museum, Buckhead, GA (2018). Residencies include Independent Study, Iwakuni, Japan (2014); The Creatives Project Artist-in-Studio Program, The Goat Farm Arts Center, Atlanta, GA (2015-2017); and Baldwin's Room Artist in Residence, Johannesburg, South Africa (2017). Public Collections include The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Sham Shui Po, Hong Kong; The Georgia Cyber Innovation and Training Center, Augusta, GA; The Chattanooga African American Museum, Chattanooga, TN; and Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, Atlanta, GA; and Oglethorpe University Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA. [www.shanequagay.com](http://www.shanequagay.com)*
- **Kirsten King; Arts Education Advocate, Youth & Teen Program Consultant, Dad's Garage Youth Programs Director:** *Kirsten is the proud product of an Army family. She attended Auburn University and graduated with a BFA in Theatre Performance and after graduating, attended the Circle In The Square Professional Summer Theatre Conservatory in NYC. Kirsten has lived in for almost 15 years. Her acting work in Atlanta, includes time with Georgia Shakespeare's Children's Tour, The Center for Puppetry Arts, The Center for Civic Innovation, Ansley Park Playhouse, Blankstage Productions, Actor's Express, Laughing Matters, Dark Side Of The Room, Dad's Garage, and The Home Depot. She has also held positions working as a Teaching Artist with the Alliance Theatre Education Dept., has taught in public, private, charter, and homeschool systems, The Brink, Kate's Club, spent time as one of the hosts of The Moth Atlanta, completed the 2019 ALMA program, and is the creator, director, and lead teacher for the youth & teen programs at Dad's Garage.*
- **Natalie Smusz-Mengelkoch, Kimley-Horn Senior ITS Engineer:** *is a civil, structural, and intelligent transportation systems engineer with a diverse background within TSMO/ITS engineering and planning – having led projects within all implementation phases from programming, planning, and preliminary engineering to design, integration, and operations. She takes pride in making things happen; has a strong sense of urgency and owns every task. Builds relationships and understands how to efficiently accomplish goals, leveraging connections and information from partners to progress the industry together.*
- **Doug Hooker, Executive Director, Atlanta Regional Commission:** *In his career, Doug Hooker has worked for public sector and private sector organizations, among them: the City of Atlanta's Department of Public Works (serving as the Commissioner who led the agency through the 1996 Olympic Games); the State Road & Tollway Authority, SRTA (Executive Director); Director of Finance and Administration with Bio-Lab, Inc., and Vice President for Business Development and Marketing with Atkins Engineering (formerly PBS&J). He began his career with*

*Georgia Power, having worked as a design engineer, project manager, section supervisor, and as a technology policy analyst. Through the different facets of his career he has been able to work on important regional and local projects in the areas of energy, education, transportation, transit, and water.*

*Doug is involved in several aspects of the community and his profession, including board service on the Council for Quality Growth, the Georgia Tech (President's) Advisory Board, the Ivan Allen College (of Georgia Tech) Advisory Board, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra board, the board of the Atlanta Music Project, and the board of the Aurora Theatre. He serves on the advisory board for Atlanta Tech, Agnes Scott College, and CHRIS 180 (formerly CHRIS Kids). He is currently on the Executive Directors' Council of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and he is an active member of the Major Metros Seminar group. Recently, he has joined the national advisory board for SPARCC (the Strong Prosperous, And Resilient Communities Challenge).*

*Doug composes music, plays oboe in a community band. He loves to travel with his wife, Patrise Perkins-Hooker, spend time with his grandchildren, and read.*

- **Josh Phillipson, 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 leads 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.*