

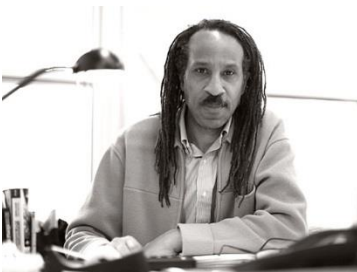
INVESTING IN PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

The Pittsburgh Region Artists Program

2017 National Panelists



JOSE DIAZ, a native of Miami, is the Chief Curator at The Andy Warhol Museum and was recently included in Artsy's list of "20 Most Influential Young Curators in the United States". Diaz is organizing the first museum solo exhibition of Iranian artist Farhad Moshiri opening this October at The Warhol. Prior to this he was the Curator of Exhibitions at the Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach where he curated new artist commissions by *Athi-Patra Ruga*, *Sylvie Fleury* and the travelling exhibition *GOLD*. At the Bass he has organized the exhibitions: *Rachel Harrison/Voyage of the Beagle*, *One Way: Peter Marino*, *Vanitas: Fashion and Art*, and *Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui*. Diaz also organized *Temporary Contemporary*, a public sculpture program, which partners with the Art Basel Miami Beach *PUBLIC* sector each year. Prior to joining the Bass Diaz worked at Tate Liverpool and the Liverpool Biennial. Diaz received a MA in Cultural History from the University of Liverpool, and a BA in Art History from San Francisco State University. In 2003 Diaz tenured as a curatorial intern at The Rubell Family Collection and launched a nomadic curatorial project called *Worm-Hole Laboratory*.



LOUIS MASSIAH is an independent film maker whose films often explore historical and political subjects. His award winning works, which have been widely seen on public television and at film festivals internationally, include **W.E.B. Du Bois - A Biography in Four Voices** (producer/director), a documentary on the life of the great scholar and political activist and **Louise Alone Thompson Patterson: In Her Own Words** (producer/director), an oral history portrait of the political activist and Harlem Renaissance cultural worker. His five channel video installation for the National Park Service's President's House Site focuses on the nine enslaved Africans that George and Martha Washington brought to Philadelphia.

Massiah is the recipient of a five year MacArthur Foundation fellowship, in addition to two Rockefeller-Tribeca Fellowships and a Pew Fellowship in the Arts. He has received awards from Columbia-DuPont, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Global Village Documentary Festival, the National Black Programming Consortium, the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and several Emmy award nominations. He was awarded the Paul Robeson Award for Social

Justice from Philadelphia's Bread and Roses Community Foundation. In 2016, he was elected to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Documentary Division). Massiah received a B.A. (College Scholar) from Cornell University and an M.S. (Architecture – Visual Studies –Documentary) from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Aside from teaching regularly at Scribe, he has also been an artist-in-residence and visiting faculty at City College of New York, Princeton University, New York University, Haverford College, the Center for Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. He was the Eugene Lang Professor of Social Change at Swarthmore College.

EILEEN J. MORRIS is artistic director of The Ensemble Theatre. The Ensemble Theatre is the largest and oldest African American professional theatre company in the Southwest that owns and operates its facility. She is a director, actress and educator in which her art reflects her ministry. As Artistic Director of The Ensemble Theatre, she has produced over 84 productions which include six world premieres, over 60 regional premieres and directed over 80 productions throughout her career. She received the 2016 Houston Press Theater Award for Best Director of August Wilson's **Fences**. Under her artistic leadership, The Ensemble Theatre performed at The Winston Salem- National Black Theatre Festival for the past 10 years, toured within the State of Texas and California, and enjoyed numerous collaborations. Her directing credits include the 2016 Houston Grand Opera world premiere- **What Wings They Were: The Story of Emeline** and the 2010 Alley Theatre's production of **I, Barbara Jordan**. In Pittsburgh, she has directed for the New Horizon Theater (co-founded by August Wilson), Pittsburgh Playwright's Theatre, City Theatre and Kuntu Repertory Theatre. In 2017 she was recognized as one of Houston's Top 50 Black Professionals and Entrepreneurs by D-MARS.com. She is a 2016 recipient of the PACE Foundation Community Award, received the 2016 Houston Community College- Central Campus Unstoppable Leaders Award, and received the Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award from the National Black Theatre Festival. Currently, she sits on the board of the Theatre Communications Group, board member, secretary and Cultural Arts Committee Chair of the Midtown Management District and is a board member of the Black Theatre Network. A graduate of Northern Illinois University, Eileen holds the distinct privilege of being the **ONLY** woman in the country to direct eight plays of the August Wilson Ten Play Cycle. This August Wilson quote embodies her creative journey: ***"Art does not change the world; it changes people; and people change the world."***



HARRY PHILBRICK is Founding Director of Philadelphia Contemporary, a nonprofit visual and performance art space currently in initial development. Their most recent project was a series of one-to-one performances by artist Emma Sulkowicz in January. From 2011 – 2016 he was Director of the Museum at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He was Director of The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum from 1996 – 2010. Philbrick trained as an artist. He lived and worked in Connecticut, New York, London, and Tokyo before coming to Philadelphia.



NICOLE SEALEY, born in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. and raised in Apopka, Florida, is the author of *Ordinary Beast*, forthcoming from Ecco in fall 2017, and *The Animal After Whom Other Animals Are Named*, winner of the 2015 Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. Her other honors include an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *The American Poetry Review*, a Daniel Varoujan Award and the Poetry International Prize, as well as fellowships from CantoMundo, Cave Canem Foundation, MacDowell Colony and the Poetry Project. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker* and elsewhere. Nicole holds an MLA in Africana Studies from the University of South Florida and an MFA in creative writing from New York University. She is the executive director at Cave Canem Foundation.



SEAN SHEPHERD - "An exciting composer of the new American generation" (New York Times), composer Sean Shepherd has gained admiration and return engagements with major ensembles and performers across the US and Europe. Recent residency posts with the Cleveland Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic have coincided with multiple commissions each from Carnegie Hall, the National Symphony and Ensemble intercontemporain. Winner of a 2016 American Academy Arts and Letters Award in Music and a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship, Shepherd was named as the 2011 USA Van Dusen Fellow by United States Artists. He won the 2009 triennial Benjamin H. Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, was the 2008 Deutsche Bank Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin, and a first-prize winner in the 2005 international Lutoslawski Award. Upcoming premieres include a new work co-commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Gewandhausorchester with conductor Andris Nelsons, a new work for the New York Philharmonic and soprano Julia Bullock, and a cello and piano work for Anssi Karttunen and Nicolas Hodges. Shepherd's (b.1979) education includes degrees in composition and bassoon performance from Indiana University, The Juilliard School, and Cornell University. He lives in New York and his music is published by Boosey & Hawkes.



DAVID SHIMOTAKAHARA performed with the Atlanta Ballet, Boston Repertory Ballet, Kathryn Posin Dance Company, and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater. He was a member of Ohio Ballet under the direction of Heinz Poll from 1983-1998. In 1998 he founded GroundWorks DanceTheater, for which he is Executive, Artistic Director. Based in Cleveland the company is committed to creating and producing new work in dance. Mr. Shimotakahara has received 7 Individual Artist Fellowships for Choreography from the Ohio Arts Council between 1996 to 2012. In 1998, he received a McKnight Foundation Fellowship from the Minnesota Dance Alliance to create new work in the Minneapolis, St. Paul communities. Mr. Shimotakahara was awarded the 2000 Cleveland Arts Prize for Dance. In 2002 his work with GroundWorks DanceTheater was voted “One of 25 to Watch” by Dance Magazine. In 2007, he received the OhioDance award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of the Dance art form. In both 2010 and 2014 Shimotakahara was awarded a Creative Workforce Fellowship, a program of the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, funded by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Regional Panelists

DANA BISHOP-ROOT, co-founder, Transformazium

MARK BURRELL, assistant professor of dance, Point Park University

LENKA CLAYTON, artist and founder of An Artist Residency in Motherhood

KIM EL, playwright, poet and actor

SHERRIE FLICK, writer and faculty member in Creative Writing at Chatham University

DIVYA RAO HEFFLEY, senior program manager, Carnegie Museum of Art’s Hillman Photography Initiative

AMY WILLIAMS, associate professor, Department of Music, University of Pittsburgh

Foundation Staff



MARILYN COLEMAN is project consultant for the Investing in Professional Artists program. She has worked as an executive, consultant, and fundraiser for nonprofit organizations for more than 25 years. Her firm provides strategic and business planning; board development/board training; fundraising strategy; organization capacity assessments and capacity-building plans; merge exploration facilitation; meeting/retreat facilitation; executive director coaching.



JANET SARBAUGH is senior director of the Arts & Culture Program for The Heinz Endowments. Under Janet's leadership, this program has focused on three major goals: expanding opportunities for arts learning and participation, building regional creative capital and advancing Pittsburgh as a cultural center. Highlights of her work in these three areas include continuing development of the Pittsburgh Cultural District; operating support programs for major institutions; establishing initiatives to advance small arts organizations and multicultural arts groups; and encouraging new efforts in civic design, arts education, artist training and arts in community settings. The program distributes approximately \$8 million annually. In 2003, she was named Pittsburgh's number one cultural force by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



JEANNE PEARLMAN, Ph.D., senior vice president for Program and Policy, leads the Program department at The Pittsburgh Foundation and is responsible for the Education and Environmental grants portfolios. She manages multiple special projects including the *Change Agents in Education Program* at the Foundation's Center for Philanthropy, which seeks to empower students and teachers to transform public education through human-centered design. She works with colleagues to design and implement the Foundation's social and racial justice initiatives and serves as a resource to Foundation donors through Impact Giving Circles and co-creation projects. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Pearlman worked with the Animating Democracy Initiative of the Ford Foundation, served as Executive Director of Three Rivers Arts Festival and was an assistant professor at Carlow University, where she held a dual appointment in Women's Studies and Business Management.