



Cultural and
Ethnic Arts
Executive
Leadership
Certificate
Program
(CEA)

2016-2017 Cohort



Kim Chan has worked extensively producing, fundraising, managing, and curating for artists working in music, poetry, dance, theater, and special events since 1985 and is currently the General Manager for PEN America's World Voices Festival of International Literature. She is a board member for Ping Chong + Company, an ensemble theatre company whose mission is to explore the intersections of race, culture, history, art, media and technology in the modern world and for the Pick-Up Performance Co(s), a dance and theater collective lead by choreographer David Gordon and playwright/director Ain Gordon. She serves on the selection committee for the New York Dance and Performance Awards, a.k.a. the Bessies, and the advisory committees for GALA Hispanic Theatre and the Maplewood (NJ) Arts Council.

Previously, Ms. Chan was development director for Harlem School of the Arts and Paul Taylor Dance Foundation and a multi-disciplinary producer and curator at Washington Per-

forming Arts, where she co-produced DC's first hip hop festivals and produced extended residencies with artists such as Yo Yo Ma and his Silk Road Ensemble, the Nuyorican Poets, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, White Oak Dance Project, Bill T. Jones, Pomo Afro Homos, Savion Glover, Bernice Johnson Reagon and Sweet Honey in the Rock. She was a board member at Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) for 10 years before joining its staff for 3½ years. At APAP she oversaw the APAP conference, re-granting programs with the Wallace Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and worked on the start-up of two of New York's most prominent international festivals, Globalfest and Under the Radar. She has worked as a panelist and site visitor for funders including New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, New York State Council on the Arts, and Americans for the Arts' Animating Democracy Initiative.



Kim Chan

Maplewood, NJ

General Manager,
PEN World Voices
PEN America

**Curious, Passionate,
Driven**

Focus area: Perform-
ing arts, cultural equi-
ty, community en-
gagement, artist em-
powerment

Mary Chen currently serves as the Director of Institutional Giving at the Museum of Chinese in America, where she is responsible for grant writing. With over ten years of institutional fundraising experience in arts organizations, she previously worked as the Development Manager at Studio in a School and the Director of Development at The Town Hall. Mary launched her career working for Asian art curators at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has also served as a writer for Lincoln Center Education, The Center for Traditional Music & Dance, The China News, and Condé Nast China.

Born in Taiwan and raised in the U.S. and Canada, Mary has a Master's in Public Policy (with a concentration in the nonprofit sector) from Harvard Kennedy School and a Master of Arts in Chinese art

history from the University of Chicago. She also has a Bachelor of Arts from Cornell University with a double major in art history and Asian studies. A music enthusiast, Mary studied classical piano for 13 years and received a certificate from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.



Mary Chen

New York, NY

Director of Institutional Giving

Museum of Chinese
in America

Holistic, Expansive,
Humanistic

Focus area: Visual
and Performing Arts,
Development (grant
writing)

Philadelphia native James Claiborne is a multidisciplinary artist, curator, administrator and arts advocate. After spending 8 years with the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance working to develop its community engagement and advocacy campaign, Claiborne went on to serve as the editor of Philly360.com, a multicultural tourism campaign based out of the office of Visit Philadelphia.

Currently, James Claiborne is the Public Programming Manager for the African American Museum in Philadelphia -- where he is charged with building thoughtful, relevant programs for adult audiences.

As a curator, James has led the gallery program of black arts institution Art Sanctuary, including the exhibitions by James Dupree, Amber Arts, Richard Watson, Deborah Wil-

lis and Barkley Hendricks. James also serves as a consultant and board member for several cultural group's throughout the city, including Art Sanctuary, Philly Youth Poetry Movement, Mural Arts Program and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.



James Claiborne

Philadelphia, PA

Public Programming
Manager

**The African American
Museum in Phil-
adelphia**

**Focused, Passionate,
Creative**

**Focus area: Black
Culture & Community**

Evonne is a working artist, as well as the co-founder and Artistic Director of Gallery Aferro and formerly Gallery/Education Director at City Without Walls, both in Newark, NJ. Originally from the Woodstock, NY area, she studied at School of Visual Arts and Cornell University.

Evonne has curated independent and affiliated exhibitions for the past 14 years in innovative as well as traditional settings, including a vacant lot in Coney Island and the back of a 1978 Volvo. Her goal is connect any willing audience with cultural experiences. Other locations include The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Valley Arts, Ironworks Gallery, Brooklyn Borough Hall, Studio 411, Red Saw Gallery, Arts Guild of New Jersey, Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster,

NJ, Print Making Center of NJ, Seton Hall University, and 207 Gallery, among many others. Her 2002 exhibition, Nostalgia and Decay, which originated in Coney Island, Brooklyn was moved to Borough Hall at the invitation of the Brooklyn Borough President. This exhibition focused on the ways that artists and residents were inspired by the now-demolished Thunderbolt Rollercoaster, a functional ride and also the caretaker's family home. Other relevant community-led history work includes videography for WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution, the major 2007 exhibition on feminist art and activism 1965-80. Evonne worked on interviews for the NYC-based artists, recording their testimonies.



Evonne

Davis

Newark, NJ

Artistic Director

Gallery Aferro

Enthusiastic, Skeptical, Passionate

Focus area: Contemporary visual art and multidisciplinary social practice

Rodney Gilbert is the founder and CEO of Yendor Productions, a Newark-based firm that consults, develops, and produces arts education programming and events. Yendor Productions was founded in 2003 to meet the challenges for the underserved artists and communities.

Mr. Gilbert has worked in professional theatre for over thirty years. He is a graduate of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where he earned a BFA. He has been serving the arts community through acting instruction for various institutions and organization as one of the leading teaching artists in the tri-state area. He presently oversees the theatre program for Newark Public Schools, Extended Day and serves as the lead teacher and liaison to its Drew University Theatre partnership for which he co-created the curriculum.

At Drew University he is an Adjunct Professor for the Theatre Department teaching acting, directing, and introduction of speech with a focus on extemporaneous speaking. He is an Arts Educator for the Kennedy

Centers' Wolftrap program here in NJ, as well as the Director of the Writers program for Playwrights Theater. He developed for Yendor Productions the afterschool arts education program "ZOOM" for the city of Newark.

He is the Director for the Newark Murals Program, which Yendor is the Lead Arts organization which manages this program. He has developed numerous workshops on arts education including symposiums for Steve Adabato's Stand and Deliver program, developing their current curriculum. He has conducted workshops as far as Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr. Gilbert is also a member of the Actors Equity Association, the Co-Chair of the City of Newark's LGBT Commission, a Leadership Newark Fellow, Emerging Leader – Victoria Foundation, Executive Team Member of NAER and an Audelco Award Nominee. He was recently presented with an award in Civic Engagement by Drew University.



Rodney Gilbert

Newark, NJ

Executive Director
Yendor Productions/
Yendor Arts

Passionate, Hand-
worker, and Loyal

Focus area: The performing and visual arts—theatre, public arts, and curatorial work

Jennifer Gonzalez-Bohnert, a native of Mexico City, has lived in St. Petersburg since 2002. Jennifer has been the Corporate & Group Sales Manager at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts since January 2014. Prior to working at the Straz Center, she focused on fundraising for 10 years at the Straz

Center, as well as Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Mahaffey Theater. Before living in St. Petersburg, Jennifer lived in Orlando, where she worked at Universal Orlando and Casa de Mexico. She believes that the arts should be accessible to all.



Jennifer Gonzalez- Bohnert

St. Petersburg, FL

Corporate and Group
Sales Manager

David A. Straz Center
for the Performing
Arts

High energy, Curious,
Open minded

Focus area: Commu-
nity engagement and
awareness

Emery Grant joined the staff of Stonewall National Museum & Archives (SNMA) in October 2013 as an arts and cultural worker and transgender activist. Emery is responsible for programming, community partnerships and communications with an LGBTQ focus at the museum and library spaces, and for the Stonewall National Education Project annual Symposium. In its first year of work, the SNMA staff saw a 229% increase in revenues fueled by a 223% increase in individual support. Prior to his tenure in Florida, Emery was Director of Marketing and Communications for the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC from 2009-2013. Memora-

ble performances included We Are One: Concert for the Inauguration of President Barack Obama, and the National Equality March for gay marriage equality.

With undergraduate studies in gender and media from the University at Buffalo, he brings a combined professional background of over 15 years in not for profits arts and cultural institutions. Emery currently serves on organizing committees for SoFlo TransMen's Caucus, PUSH/Ladyfest Miami, TransCon 2016 and was recently invited to serve on the Board of Directors of The Association of American Cultures.



Emery Grant

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Director of Community engagement

Stonewall National Museum & Archives

Driven, Thoughtful, Introverted

Focus area: LGBT history and culture, including literature

Jeremy Johnson is a connector and collaborator, driving numerous New Jersey efforts related to cultural development, philanthropic partnerships and public-private initiatives.

Jeremy was named Executive Director of the Newark Arts Council in March 31, 2016 to help champion the city's burgeoning arts scene, which is experiencing tremendous growth, accompanied by billions of dollars in economic investments in the downtown and neighborhoods.

For eight years, Jeremy served as Newark's first philanthropic liaison. He worked in the administrations of then Mayor Cory A. Booker (now the US Senator from New Jersey) and current Mayor Ras J. Baraka. Jeremy brought together local and national funders to benefit Newark. Funded by the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, his non-partisan office leveraged \$50 million from public and private sources. Jeremy's office attracted philanthropic attention and resources for multiple causes, from lead poisoning prevention to prisoner reentry to early childhood development to college access.

Jeremy is active in the movement to raise the percentage of Newarkers with college degrees to 25% by 2025. In this role, he co-chairs the "Newark City of Learning Collaborative."

Jeremy served on the leadership team of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center for twelve years. At NJPAC, he raised awareness and funds for the \$187 million cultural complex which opened in 1997 as a catalyst for Newark's revitalization. He solicited and stewarded grants from the Geraldine R. Dodge, Ford, Victoria, Wallace and Doris Duke Charitable Foundations.

He has presented on public-private partnerships at the University of Southern California, New York University, and Rutgers University. Jeremy serves on the Newark Youth Policy Board, Newark Public Library board, and the Newark Museum Business and Community Council. Jeremy hails from Cleveland, OH and resides in Newark, NJ. He received his BA from Kenyon College in Ohio and his MFA from the University of Iowa.



Jeremy Johnson

Newark, NJ

Executive Director
Newark Arts Council

Passionate about
Newark

Focus area: Arts
and culture as drivers
of economic,
educational, and
social progress in
Newark

With nearly 20 years' experience in the nonprofit sector, Marshall Jones Kumahor's career has been marked by an aptitude for building strategic partnerships among diverse stakeholders. She has leveraged a broad base of skills and experience in community engagement, arts education program design, team leadership and general management to forward the mission of the NJSO.

Since Kumahor joined the NJSO in 2009, the Education & Community Engagement Team has increased the statewide reach of its offerings by more than 40%, nearly tripled its earned revenue, launched two nationally recognized programs, and garnered the department's first ever endowed chair.

An alumna of the LEAD New Jersey Class of 2015 and recipient of the 2015 Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award, Kumahor serves on the Steering Committee of the

New Jersey Arts Education Partnership and the Executive Committee of the Newark Arts Education Roundtable. She was recently invited by the National Endowment for the Arts' Director of Education to serve on the 2016 NEA Art Works grant review panel.

Prior to joining the NJSO, Kumahor led all aspects of single - and multi-year grantmaking at The Center for Arts Education in Manhattan. In this role, she helped to ensure that nearly \$10 million in grant funds to support arts education was disbursed to more than 350 public schools and 250 arts and cultural organizations across the five boroughs.

An avid yoga practitioner, proud "newlywed" of fifteen years and mother of two boys, Kumahor holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University and a Master of Arts degree from the University of California at Berkeley.



Marshall Jones Kumahor

Montclair, NJ

Vice President of Education & Community Engagement

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Persistent, compassionate, courageous

Focus area: Performing arts

Since 2005 with SAG, and now SAG-AFTRA, Adam Moore is responsible for developing and implementing a national diversity plan of action to achieve accurate representation of those groups historically excluded from the entertainment and news media. Such efforts include the creation of educational programs, conferences, and workshops; development of public relations strategies; and the enforcement of non-discrimination and diversity provisions as outlined in the Union's contracts.

In addition to facilitation and moderation of scores of panel discussions for various film festivals and industry organizations, as well as city, state and federal agencies, Moore has guest lectured at colleges and high schools throughout the United States. His insight and perspective has been shared around the world including through The New York Times, Rolling Stone, Wall Street Journal, BBC.com, NPR, the Los Angeles Times, the Hollywood Reporter, Backstage, Variety and Washington Post. He is proud to have served on

President Barack Obama's Disability Policy Committee during the 2008 Presidential Election and as liaison to the New York City Task Force on Diversity in Film, Television and Commercial Production.

After being awarded the first-of-its-kind Administrative Fellowship in the New York Theatre Workshop (NYTW) Early Career Artist Fellowship program, Moore joined a handful of others to found the NYTW Fourth Street Bar Association, a network of diverse young professionals in their 20s and 30s who actively support the artistic vision of theater and introduce philanthropy to a new generation, with an eye towards grooming the arts' board leaders of tomorrow. Born in Ames, Iowa, and raised in California's Bay Area, Moore has spent the past 15 years in New York and currently lives with his wife and son in the Lower Hudson Valley.



Adam Moore

New York, NY

National Director, EEO & Diversity

SAG-AFTRA

Curious, Open, and Empathic

Focus area: Ensuring equal access, demanding greater levels of inclusion and providing protection for those professionals who are excluded from entertainment and news media, and working with member-driven committees representing people with disabilities, people of color, women, seniors, LGBT and Native Americans

My career in television development evolved from a passion for education and the arts. The Hollywood journey included 14 years at NBC, and 20 years at Sony Pictures Television which I left in 2014 as Senior Vice President of Television Movies and Mini-series, to return to those roots.

I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended Harvard University in Massachusetts. Earning a Master's Degree in Education from Lesley University, I taught in three very distinct environments-- an elite private elementary school in Cambridge, an inner city arts school in Roxbury, and a bilingual 1st grade classroom in Ponce, Puerto Rico. I was intrigued by one thing these kids all had in common: They all watched a lot of TV. I entered the PhD program in Television and Film through the Communications Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This led to an internship at the local NBC affiliate in Madison, and later to NBC's management training program in Los Angeles.

I enjoyed 8 years in NBC Children's Television division; supervising the writing and production of cartoons, After School Specials and Family Primetime programs. Later I moved to the area of "Movies for Television."

Leaving NBC for Sony Studios, I continued developing both commercial and critically acclaimed movies and miniseries, while also raising two children. In 2015, I completed a fellowship in Harvard's Advanced Leadership Initiative, a year program designed to help business leaders transition to social impact work.

Keeping alive my interest in both arts and education I have served on many non-profit boards. I also sing with the Angel City Chorale. Following a passion for music, I found my way to work with the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles where I hope to expand their educational programs.



Winifred Neisser

Los Angeles, CA

Arts Education and
Media Consultant

**Inner City Youth Or-
chestra of Los Angeles**

**Open-minded, Com-
passionate, Collabora-
tive**

Focus area: Arts
(performing and visual)
Education as a means
for nurturing creative,
Innovative thinkers as
well as happier individ-
uals and stronger com-
munities

NICOLE E. REINER is a strategic planner, fundraiser and writer dedicated to developing holistic strategies to achieve nonprofit organizational success and sustainability. Nicole has worked for many years at global museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and MoMA PS1 but her greatest passion is for advancing the work of community based organizations like the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, where she currently serves as Director of Development overseeing a major expansion and capacity building project.

Nicole holds an M.A. in Museum Studies from New York University and a B.A. in Art History from Grinnell College and her work has been published in the International Journal of the Inclusive Museum (2013), Rutgers Art Review (2016) and the Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy (2016).



Nicole Reiner

Astoia, NY

Director of Development

**Caribbean Cultural
Center African Diaspora
Institute**

Driven, Critical, Earnest

Focus area: Institutional advancement, Fund development, Strategic planning, Cultural and fiscal equity, Advocacy, Public

Valerie Riles is Vice President of Board and Government Relations for the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County. As a member of the senior executive team she is responsible for nurturing and maintaining the Center's relationship with a number of governmental bodies from the federal and state government to the Center's most substantial partner Miami-Dade County. She also manages the relationship with the Performing Arts Center Trust Board of Directors, a volunteer group of 41 South Florida community leaders who have a broad portfolio of responsibilities, including fiduciary, governance, policy setting and advancement activities.

Valerie joined the Arsht Center in December 2002 from the Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida. As Executive Director of the Black Archives and project manager for the Historic Lyric Theater, she was responsible for the day-to day management of the research center and served as general manager of the theater.

Valerie has worked within South Florida's cultural community for over 20 years.



Valerie Riles

Miami, FL

Vice President, Board and Government Relations

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Tenacious, Trustworthy, and Focused

Focus area: Board Governance and Government relations

Desi P. Shelton is the Founding Artistic Director of the Camden Repertory Theater (CRT) located in Camden, New Jersey. Prior to founding Camden Rep she served as the Artistic Director of the Walt Whitman Arts Center. Recently she was selected as the South Jersey representative at the Sphinx Conference in Detroit, Michigan.

In 2015, she produced and directed the production of the Rapunzel, Rapunzel Let Down Your Locks that garnered the company the coveted 2015 Citation of Excellence from the NJ State Council of the Arts. Desi completed and received a fellowship for the Woman and Power Program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She has received the Valentine Foundation Award for regional female executives, and is a Geraldine R. Dodge Emerging Leader.

In 2008, she was the first Camden artists to receive the Lee-way Transformation Award given to social change artists who uses the arts to change community. As a playwright, Desi is most proud of increasing audience attendance by 200% and attracting first time theatergoers in the African American community. Desi has performed in countless plays and considers it a blessing to do what she loves.

As an artist, Desi uses theater to improve life and literature skills to at-risk children. She served on faculty at Cheyney University, the oldest HBCU in the country. She received her MFA in theater from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York, and her BA from Northeastern University in Boston, MA. Desi lives in Camden, NJ with her husband and two children.



Desi P. Shelton

Camden, NJ

**Executive Director
Camden Repertory
Theater**

Raw Reflective Relevant

**Focus area: Theater
Community Development**

Belinda Ann Tate is the Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. She works diligently to extend a broad welcome to all facets of the Southwest Michigan community, 100,000 of whom annually enjoy the KIA's warm, inviting space and explore traditional and contemporary works by artists from the United States, China, Japan, and Korea.

Ms. Tate received her undergraduate degree in Art History/Museum Studies from Yale University, and her MA in Liberal Studies from Wake Forest University. She served 15 years as director of the Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University, one of the

nation's top African American art galleries. At WSSU, she curated more than 50 exhibitions, including *Ascension: Works by African American Artists of North Carolina*.

She has traveled extensively to more than 17 countries in Europe and Africa, and served as a Fulbright-Hayes Fellow, evaluating South African public education a decade after the end of apartheid. From 2013-2016, she served as an at-large Commissioner of African American Heritage for the State of North Carolina.



Belinda Ann Tate

Kalamazoo, MI

Executive Director
**Kalamazoo Institute
of Arts**

**Compassionate, En-
ergetic, Leader**

Focus area: Commu-
nity Engagement and
Contemporary Art

Abigail Vega is a Latina actor, writer, deviser, director, producer, administrator, and theater maker who is a graduate of Emerson College and currently is the Producer of the Latina/o Theatre Commons (LTC). Previously, she was the Director of the Artistic Collective and an Ensemble Member of Teatro Luna: America's All Latina Theatre Company, with whom she performed in over twenty-five cities in four countries, including an appearance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland and at the 2014 LATC Encuentro:

A National Latina/o Theatre Festival in Los Angeles in the Fall of 2014, the first large scale Latina/o theatre festival in over twenty years. Her writing can be found in Michale Espinosa's "Monologues for Latino Actors" and in 2014, she was named one of Latino Leaders Magazine's "Latino Leader of the Future - Chicago 2014."



Abigail Vega

San Antonio, TX

Producer

Latina/o Theatre Commons (LTC)

Passionate about Newark

Focus area: I am an artist and administrator in the not for profit theatre, focusing on promoting the works of women and Latina/s/xs.