

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

---

## State Arts Agency Arts Education Managers 2022 Professional Development Institute

### Keynote Presenter



**Yorel Lashley, Ph. D.**

Founder & Director, Drum Power  
Director of Programs for PLACE and Director of Student  
Empowerment for the Center for Arts Education and Social and  
Emotional Learning  
UW-Madison School of Education

Yorel Lashley is the Director of Arts in the Office of Professional Learning and Community Education at UW-Madison's School of Education and Director of Student Empowerment for the Center for Arts Education and Social and Emotional Learning. He is a developmental psychologist interested in self-efficacy and social-emotional learning in arts, academic and integrated environments as well as the Founder/Director of Drum Power. Drum Power uses learning West African Traditional, Afro-Brazilian and Afro-Cuban percussion to help young people develop and practice social-emotional skills—discipline, community and leadership. The program has supported more than 4,000 young people from New York City, Denver and Madison, Wisconsin to date. Lashley, who also provides professional development, created the Relationships First framework for building and maintaining healthy classroom culture, and developed the STAY framework for fully integrated SEL and academic learning. Yorel is also a professional musician who trained with the Kankouran West African Dance Company in Washington, DC and the Harbor Conservatory for the performing arts in Spanish Harlem and led bands in New York City.

**Speaker & Artist Bios**  
(in alphabetical order)



**Tyrone Aiken**  
**Chief Artistic Officer**  
**Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey**

Tyrone Aiken is the Chief Artistic Officer for Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey. He is a graduate of the Ailey School with a Certificate in Dance and Hollins University with an MFA in Dance. Tyrone has danced with Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Jubilations! Blue Mercury, and Ethos...a dance theater company. He has Choreographed for Virginia Johnson, and the Dance Theater of Harlem Ensemble. He is a member of the African American Artist Collective and serves on the Municipal Arts Commission of Kansas City Missouri. His awards include the Pinnacle Award for Arts Excellence, Neighborhood Hero Award from Bank of America, the Robert A. and Dr. Phyllis Bernstein Humanitarian Award from the Jewish Family and Children Services Kansas City.



**Jennifer Allen-Barron**  
**Arts Education Director**  
**Oklahoma Arts Council**

Jennifer Allen-Barron has served as Arts Education Director at the Oklahoma Arts Council for eight years. Prior to joining the Oklahoma Arts Council, Allen-Barron spent twelve additional years in Oklahoma's arts nonprofit sector, in staff, board, and volunteer roles, including as Executive Director of the Paseo Arts Association and as Community Arts Program Director at the Arts Council of Oklahoma City. She is also a practicing visual artist, working primarily in acrylic paint, and she holds degrees in Fine Arts and French from the University of Oklahoma. At the OAC, Allen-Barron works with arts education programs in public schools across the state as well as overseeing the Council's Teaching Artist Roster. At home, she enjoys exploring her state's hidden gems with her wife and son, and continues to perfect her hummus recipe.



**Harlan Brownlee**  
**Focus 5 Inc. Arts Integration Consultant**  
**Kennedy Center Teaching Artist**  
**Nationally Credentialed Teaching Artist, Young Audiences**  
**Arts for Learning**

Harlan understands the transformational power that the arts have to improve the quality of life for individuals and the community. He possesses a passion for the arts, guided by a disciplined approach to change. Brownlee has worked for 38 years in the arts education field as a performing artist, teaching artist, and an arts administrator. During his career he has served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, the President and CEO for ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council, developing community partnerships dedicated to insuring access to the arts and cultural development for the region. And served as the Executive Director for Kansas City Young Audiences. In 2019, Mr. Brownlee joined the Focus 5 team. He is on the Kennedy Center's national touring roster for

the Partners in Education program. He has conducted workshops and residencies extensively throughout the United States.



**Martin English**  
**Executive Director**  
**Kansas City Young Audiences**

In 2009, Martin English began his work as Executive Director of Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA). KCYA's mission is to engage all youth in the arts, promote creativity and inspire success in education. As Executive Director, Martin is responsible for strategic and financial planning; overall management of programs and services; and management of staff and teaching artists. From 2000-2009 Martin served as the Executive Director for Accessible Arts, a non-profit agency that unlocks the arts for children with disabilities and advocates access to the arts. Martin is one of the founders of the Kennedy Center's Leadership Exchange in Arts & Disability and former Chair of the Kansas Citizens for the Arts. He received the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Kansas State Board of Education and Accessible Arts, Inc. for his work with children in the arts. From 1997 to 2000, Martin served as the Executive Director for FilmFest Kansas City and the KAN Film Festival. With an MFA in Acting/Directing from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and a BFA from Arizona State University, he has extensive experience in theatre including the creation and performance of many workshops in Kansas and Missouri schools. Martin has more than 33 years of experience in arts education and program delivery. Martin currently serves as Vice-Chair of the National Young Audiences Executive Director Council and as a member of the Main Street CID Board of Directors.



**Denisse DeLeon**  
**Director School Programs and Partnerships**  
**The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**

Denisse DeLeon (she/her) is the Director, School and Community Programs and Partnerships at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. New to Kansas City, she is passionately committed to the museum's DEAI work, supporting classroom educators, and making art accessible to all. Her previous roles include school programming at The Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, FL and Glazer Children's Museum in Tampa, FL.



**Sheila Dean Ross**  
**Program Officer, Arts Education and Accessibility**  
**Delaware Division of the Arts**

Sheila Dean Ross arrived at the Delaware Division of the Arts in January of 1996, accepting the newly created position as the Technical Assistance Program Manager for the Division—and in 2001, Accessibility/ADA/504 coordinator responsibilities were added. As the Technical Assistance/Accessibility Coordinator, Ms. Ross created and managed grant programs designed to serve arts constituents of Delaware in the areas of technical assistance (strengthening the capacity of arts organizations to operate) and accessibility (ensuring that people with disabilities are equally able to access the arts in Delaware). In October of 2006, Ms. Ross changed job titles within the Division and became the Program Officer for the Division’s Arts in Education and Accessibility programs and continues in the position presently. Responsibilities include management and oversight of all arts education programming that will serve schools, organizations with extra-curricular goals of serving the youth in the arts and projects that support life-long learning in the arts. From 2018-2015, Ms. Ross was assigned the special task of managing and having oversight of the Poet Laureate program, working closely to promote the calendar, schedule and event opportunities for the 16<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate, JoAnn Balingit. Ms. Ross is originally from Washington, D.C. where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Howard University (May 1982) and a Master of Arts in Arts Management from The American University (May 1991). In addition, she holds a Certificate in Arts Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (1990).



**Leslie Forrester**  
**Executive Director**  
**Springfield Regional Arts Council**

Leslie Forrester has served as Executive Director at the Springfield Regional Arts Council for nearly 9 years. The SRAC aims to transform lives and enrich the community through the arts by making the arts a vital part of life in southwest Missouri. Through advocacy, collaboration, and education, the SRAC serves a wide audience from preschool students to adults as well as hobbyists, mid-career and professional artists, writers, musicians, patrons, and more. Prior to her appointment in 2013, Leslie served for two years as a Program Specialist at the Missouri Arts Council in St. Louis. Leslie also teaches courses in art history and arts administration for Ozarks Technical Community College, Drury University, and Culver-Stockton College. In her spare time, Leslie is chasing her marvelously independent young children, Evie and CJ.



**Stephanie Haines**  
**Arts Education and Accessibility Manager**  
**Indiana Arts Commission**

Stephanie Haines is the Arts Education & Accessibility Manager at the Indiana Arts Commission. Stephanie oversees the IAC's arts education program PACE (Partnering Arts, Communities, and Education) as well as Poetry Out Loud, Indiana State Poet Laureate program, and Regional Operating and Project grant program; she is also the agency's Accessibility Coordinator. Stephanie earned a Master of Arts in Arts Administration degree from Indiana University, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Visual Art Education from the University of Indianapolis. She has more than ten years of experience working with teaching artists and arts integration programming with specialties in professional development and artist lesson planning. Stephanie is a visual artist primarily in the mediums of painting and drawing.



**Julie Hale**  
**Program Specialist, Arts Councils, Dance and Arts Education**  
**Grants for PK-12,**  
**Missouri Arts Council**

Julie Hale manages the Arts Education program for the Missouri Arts Council. She partners with colleagues at the state department of education to develop grants and programs for school districts and arts organizations.



**Meghann Henry**  
**Executive Artistic Director**  
**Mesner Puppet Theater**

Meghann Henry is an arts leader, teaching artist, and director with 18 years of experience in theatre for young audiences (TYA), community partnerships, and nonprofit management. She is currently the Executive Artistic Director of Mesner Puppet Theater, in Kansas City, where she is leading the 35 year old company through visioning a new future after the founder's retirement. Previously Meghann served as the Program and Partnerships Director for Mirror Image Arts (Denver, CO) and Director of Education at The Coterie Theater (Kansas City, MO). For ten years, she also served as Associate Editor of TYA Today, a trade magazine focused on trends in theatre for and with youth. She holds a BFA in Theatre from Emporia State University and an MFA in Theatre for Young Audiences from the University of Central Florida where her research focused on devising non-verbal movement-based theatre for 2-5-year-olds.



**Roger Kelley**  
**Arts Education Director**  
**Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Roger Kelley is in his fourth year as the Arts Education Director for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. While his top priority is the arts teachers of Missouri's schools, he also enjoys his work with the Missouri Arts Council and the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education. Previously he was the Director of Fine Arts Kansas City Public Schools and for Liberty Public Schools. Mr. Kelley holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Vocal Music Education from Northwest Missouri State University. Mr. Kelley enjoys freelance work as an adjudicator, clinician, and consultant in arts education, musical theater, and vocal music.



**Jenny Mendez**  
**Cultural Arts Director**  
**Mattie Rhodes Arts Center and Gallery**

Jenny Mendez was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. Growing up in a neighborhood filled with family and friends on Kansas City's West Side. As a young girl Jenny enjoyed hearing stories from her grandmother, these stories were such an inspiration to Jenny in her love of her culture and heritage. Jenny attended the Kansas City Art Institute majoring in painting, she also studied both printmaking and photography. She was involved in community mural projects as a high school student and into college. She has always given back to her community. She has been employed with the Mattie Rhodes Center for the past twenty-five years and is responsible for all arts programming for the agency as the Cultural Arts Director. Through her work she is able to educate the community on the Latino culture through art. Being able to inspire children through art is what she is most passionate about – giving children and young artists a place to learn, create, express themselves, imagine, and grow in the arts. She has served and participated on many boards and committees through the years advocating for the arts and community. Her most valued appointment was to the board of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC). Most recently in March of 2020 as part of Women's History Month she was awarded the Nuestra Latina Award for the Arts by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Her work in the community is valued and shows her commitment to being a voice for the Latinx artists, students and individuals. Showing her expertise in the creative process and authenticity to arts and culture through her work and partnerships with the Kansas City Museum and the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art. She is very committed to continue to be a voice for the Latinx and arts communities at large.



**Aaron Money**  
**Director of Fine Arts**  
**Liberty Public Schools**

Aaron Money attended The Swinney Conservatory of Music at Central Methodist University. He was a dual major and earned a B.M.E in Voice as well as Theater/Speech Education. He holds a Master of Science degree in Curriculum from Southwest Baptist University and an Education Specialist degree in Superintendentcy from William

Woods University. Throughout his educational career he has served in rural, urban and suburban school districts. Currently, as the Director of Fine Arts for Liberty Public Schools he has been recognized in the state as having a robust program of arts integration and partnerships. He serves as the Midwest Regional Advisor for the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts Partners in Education Program. Additionally, has been recognized twice as the "Administrator of the Year" from the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education and Speech/Theater Association of Missouri, and Teacher of the Year in Blue Springs School District.



**Chiquita Mullins-Lee**  
**Arts Learning Coordinator**  
**Ohio Arts Council**

Chiquita Mullins Lee is an Arts Learning coordinator for the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) where she serves the diverse needs of teachers, students, teaching artists, schools, and community organizations. A former teaching artist on the OAC artist roster, she initiated the Ohio Teaching Artist Mentorship program that pairs incoming and experienced teaching artists on the Ohio Teaching Artist Roster. She has served as the chair and Mid-West regional coordinator for the Arts Education Working Group, in association with NASAA and on review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and other state arts agencies. Chiquita won individual artist/excellence awards in fiction, non-fiction, and playwriting from the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the OAC. Published in national and international literary anthologies, Chiquita was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her background is in public television production and programming, and she hosted the Emmy award-winning program, *Traditions - Ohio Heritage Fellows*. Last year, her poetry was among the work selected by former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey to be featured in PBS American Portrait REMIX: FOR MY PEOPLE and her work as a playwright and actress has been featured onstage in Columbus-based theater productions. Chiquita earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama/Film and Psychology from Vassar College and Master of Arts Degrees in telecommunications management from Ohio University and journalism from Ohio State.



**Phyllis Pasley**  
**Executive Director**  
**Missouri Alliance for Arts Education**

Phyllis Pasley became Executive Director of the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education (MAAE) in July, 2020 after 30+ years as an arts educator. She retired in 2019 from her duties as an elementary music specialist serving students K-5, and as lead resource teacher serving vocal/general music teachers K-12 for Pattonville Schools in northwest St. Louis County, and soon thereafter accepted the challenge of leading MAAE. With a passion for the arts and arts education, and a commitment to personal and professional growth, her work in support of arts education and arts integration aligns with both MAAE goals and her personal beliefs, resulting in a positive impact on the lives of students, teachers and citizens across the state of Missouri. Phyllis lives in Maryland Heights, MO with her husband of 37 years, Tom, and her 99-year-old mother-in-law, Dottie.



**Christopher Peacock**  
**Director of Arts Education**  
**Kansas City Young Audiences**

Christopher Peacock discovered a passion for the art of dance after observing a rehearsal for a school-wide program and began his formal training with Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA), Kansas City Ballet, and continued studying various styles of dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is a graduate of Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, and received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Speech Communication. After graduating, he had the opportunity to direct the Young Entrepreneurial Spirits (YES) Program as the Entrepreneur/Business Instructor and Dance Director at Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy. In 2003, Christopher joined the roster of Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA) as a dance teaching artist. His choreography was featured in the opening of Kansas City Public Television's (KCPT) "Get Smart with the Arts" TV special. He also assisted in organizing and choreographing flash mobs as one of many pop up performances during various community-wide arts events. In 2007, he pursued a professional dance career and began traveling to New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Denver to further cultivate his technique and artistry as a performer and choreographer. In 2013, Christopher served as the Arts Coordinator at Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts where he managed the audition process, developed arts and business partnerships, implemented recruitment strategies, and more. He is currently the Director of Arts Education and his primary responsibilities focus around the teaching artists, the current programs, and developing new programs that demonstrate the educational power of arts integration. In addition to managing teaching artists and program quality, Christopher is the lead representative in the Kennedy Center Partners in Education program. This partnership between Liberty School District, Shawnee Mission School District, the Midwest Trust Center at Johnson County Community College and KCYA provide free professional development to teachers to enhance their understanding and utilization of arts integration programming. With each new role, he continues to promote creativity, and inspire success in the arts and education.



**Elizabeth Shapiro**  
**Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums**  
**Connecticut Office of the Arts**

Liz has had the pleasure of serving as the Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums since August 2018. In this position, she directs and coordinates the work of the Connecticut Office of the Arts, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the four historic sites and museums operated by the SHPO; the Henry Whitfield State Museum (Guilford), the Prudence Crandall Museum (Canterbury), the Eric Sloane Museum (Kent) and Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine (East Granby). Prior to her position with the state, Liz spent six years as the Executive Director of the Connecticut League of History Organizations, the professional networking and support organization for volunteers and professionals working in public history in Connecticut. Liz served as Executive Director of The Sharon (CT) Historical Society for twenty years and has worked as a consultant to nonprofit organizations in the areas of governance and strategic planning. She has worked in various capacities at The Museums and Gallery at Babson College, Wellesley, MA, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, and The Academy of Natural Sciences,

Philadelphia, PA. Liz is a former board member and president of the Connecticut League of History Organizations and the Light Opera Company of Salisbury (CT) and currently serves as a board and/or steering committee member for Connecticut History Illustrated, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, New England Foundation for the Arts, and the Connecticut Digital Archives. Liz attended Haverford College and received a Masters' degree in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.



**Jarred Small**  
**Arts Learning Coordinator**  
**Ohio Arts Council**

Jarred Small joined the Ohio Arts Council in 2017 as the agency's second arts learning coordinator, together overseeing Arts Learning grant programs including those that support artist residencies, student visits to arts experiences, partnerships between organizations and schools conducting projects with arts learning at their core, and other special initiatives and activities for learners of all ages and abilities. Jarred has a diverse background spanning education, program management, consultation, research, and evaluation. Prior to his role at the OAC, he served in a variety of capacities with the DeVos Institute of Arts Management, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Policy and Analysis, and the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Jarred earned a master's degree in arts policy and administration from The Ohio State University and a bachelor of music in instrumental music education from Western Michigan University. He regularly plays oboe with the Columbus-based wind quintet, Alt5 Winds, at venues and events around Central Ohio.



**Bonnie Thomas**  
**Manager, Educator Programs and Resources**  
**The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**

Bonnie Thomas (she/her) is the Manager, Educator Programs & Resources at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, where she conducts professional development programming for teachers, manages the museum's Educator Resource Center, and produces resources to connect museum objects with classroom learning across all grade levels and subject areas. Her previous roles include school programming at the John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida and student tours at the Newark Museum of Art in Newark, New Jersey.



**Jean Tokuda Irwin**  
**Arts Education Manager**  
**Utah Division of Arts and Museums**

Jean Tokuda Irwin is a visual artist, believes in *kintsugi*, the value of *tsundoku*, global travel, saving this planet, learning. She is AE Manager for Utah Arts & Museums. Service includes NEA, IMLS and President's Committee for Arts and Humanities Youth Arts panels. Served on NASAA AE

Leadership Advisory Group (90's); As a non-indigenous representative-Utah American Indian/Alaskan Native Education Committee, currently in partnership with BYU Native American Curriculum Initiative. Served on Coalition for Minorities Advisory Council/State Board of Education; on the National PTA Diversity Committee and NPTA board; piloted dance, film/video for Reflections, later adopted by NPTA. Awards: SLC Mayor's Individual Arts; Human Rights Award/Utah Counselor's Association, Ruby Chacon Award-Arts & Social Justice, Sorensen Legacy Award- Lifetime Achievement in Arts Education, Special Recognition Award/Utah Cultural Alliance; Arts Education Award-Americans for the Arts - 2020. Holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Texas - Permian Basin. Photo by Kent Miles.



**Janelle Velten**  
**Director of COCAedu**  
**Center of Creative Arts (COCA)**

Janelle Velten is an educator, arts administrator and advocate of equitable arts education for all. As an educator, she has had many years of experience teaching in both theater and general education classrooms. In her current role as Director of COCAedu, Janelle works in partnership with schools and districts across the St. Louis area and beyond. She collaboratively designs arts learning experiences, arts integration residencies and professional development workshops for teachers using arts based strategies. Janelle oversees the partnership with the School District of University City through The Partners in Education program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She served on the Partners in Education Advisory Board from 2018-2021. Janelle spends her life with her husband Matt and feline friends Pinhao and Pidge living in South St. Louis.



**Kimberly Washburn Motte**  
**Arts Education Director**  
**South Carolina Arts Commission**

Kimberly Washburn Motte is the Arts Learning Director at the South Carolina Arts Commission. As a certified visual arts teacher and former museum educator, her passion for education in and through the arts drives her work for statewide equitable access to arts learning opportunities across the age spectrum. Kimberly is the 2021 South Carolina Art Education Association Museum Educator of the Year.

## 2022 Arts Education Working Group



**Anne Alston, Mid-America Region Representative  
Program Specialist  
Nebraska Arts Council**

In her role as a Program Specialist for the Nebraska Arts Council, Anne works to ensure that all Nebraskans have opportunities for lifelong learning in the arts, including arts education in schools. She also oversees the Poetry Out Loud program for the state of Nebraska and manages special NAC initiatives to advance the arts throughout the state. She currently serves on the Nebraskans for the Arts Education Committee and Poetry from the Plains website advisory committee. In 2018 the National Council of Teachers of English and the Nebraska Language Arts Council honored her with an Intellectual Freedom Award. Prior to NAC, she was a teaching specialist at Joslyn Art Museum and headed outreach programs at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts.



**Maryjane Dorofachuk, Western Region Representative  
Arts Learning Specialist  
Nevada Arts Council**

Maryjane Dorofachuk is Nevada Arts Council's Arts Learning Specialist. She has been working in the field of arts and culture for over three decades with experience in arts education, community arts development, cultural tourism, public art, exhibitions, grants, and non-profit administration. A graduate of the University of Arizona, with a degree in Art History and Business Administration, Dorofachuk came to Las Vegas in 2006 and began her work with NAC as the Community Arts Development Associate. Prior to moving to Las Vegas, she worked as the Community Arts Development Manager for the Tucson Pima Arts Council in Tucson, Arizona.



**Monica Grable, Western Region Representative  
Arts Education Director  
Montana Arts Council**

Monica Grable currently serves as Arts Education Director for the Montana Arts Council, having joined the staff in February of 2017 following more than twenty-five years as an arts educator and performing arts presenter. Monica holds a BA degree in Art and a MA in Education and has held secondary level visual art teaching positions in Minnesota and Montana, taught college level Art Methods courses for elementary educators, and throughout her career has engaged arts learners of all ages in a variety of community settings. In addition to background as a visual artist, Monica has maintained a lifelong interest in performing arts, a passion that ultimately led to her former position as founding Executive Director of the Bitterroot Performing Arts Council, a community-based multidisciplinary arts presenting organization in Montana's Bitterroot Valley.

**Julie Hale, State Arts Agency PDI Host Representative  
Program Specialist, Arts Councils, Dance and Arts Education Grants for PK-12,  
Missouri Arts Council**



**Troy Hickman, New England Region Representative  
Arts Education Programs Manager  
Vermont Arts Council**

Troy Hickman is the Arts Education Programs manager in Vermont. Leveraging collaborations with artists, teachers, and statewide partners, he advocates for learning in, about, and through the arts. Since 2017, he has administered the Council's education-related grant programs, which includes the Artist in Schools and Head Start Arts Integration programs. During this time, he has managed Vermont Poetry Out Loud and the Council's Teaching Artist Roster. Troy's creative background includes literacy and writing instruction. He has published poetry and has exhibited photography and non-functional ceramic forms.



**Jennie Knoebel, Midwest Region Representative  
Arts Learning, Capacity Building and Humanities  
Iowa Arts Council**

Jennie Knoebel is the Program Manager overseeing Arts Learning, Capacity Building and Humanities for the Iowa Arts Council. She has been with the agency since 2016. Prior to that position, she was the Executive Director of Austin Area Arts in Austin, MN and the Communications Coordinator for the University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. Jennie has a M.L.S. degree with a focus in Arts Administration from the University of Minnesota and a B.A. in Theatre Arts and Communication Studies from UW - La Crosse.



**Christine Leahy, Mid-Atlantic Region Representative  
Program Director, Arts in Education  
New York State Council on the Arts**

Christine Leahy is a Program Director at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), in charge of the Arts Education and Facilities Programs. Initiatives started under her tenure include the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Orchestras and Classical Music (DinO) collaboration with the Music program, the New York State Creative Aging Pilot and the NYS Youth Media Symposium. In previous positions at NYSCA she served in the agency's Literature, Visual Arts, Museum, Architecture + Design and Folk Arts programs. Christine formerly worked for the artist Jenny Holzer and in the Education department at the Williams College Museum of Art, and has written for The New York Times and National Public Radio. She is a graduate of Williams College.

**Elizabeth Shapiro, Executive Director Representative  
Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums  
Connecticut Office of the Arts**



**Nancy Daugherty**  
**Arts Education Specialist**  
**National Endowment for the Arts**

Nancy Daugherty has been an Arts Education Specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts since June 2000. Through the agency's arts education program she has worked with applicants in all arts fields and disciplines, and is currently focused in the disciplines of dance, literature, theater and musical theater. She also advises the Arts Education Working Group, which designs professional development for state arts agency arts education managers, serves on the Advisory Committee of the Arts Education Partnership, and the intergovernmental team that manages the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. From 2004 through 2007 she managed the agency's Summer Schools in the Arts program, a national initiative designed to assess student learning and offer potential models of rigorous, standards-based arts education. Prior to her federal service she was the Arts Education Coordinator for the WV Commission on the Arts where she also served as the Coordinator for the Governor's Task Force on Arts in Basic Education. For the Center for Economic Options she developed training and marketing opportunities for sector-specific micro enterprise networks, such as the Appalachian Flower Network. She has served as a facilitator, presenter, consultant, panelist, and conference planner for many state and national arts organizations. She is a graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Sociology & Anthropology.



**Susan Oetgen**  
**Professional Development Institute Manager**  
**National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Susan Oetgen is the Professional Development Institute (PDI) Manager for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. In addition to managing the PDI, her consulting portfolio currently includes co-designing and managing NASAA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mentorship pilot program; and serving as Project Director for the Young Audiences National Residency Teaching Artist Credential project. Prior to joining the NASAA staff, Susan served as an arts manager, educator and facilitator with a variety of performing arts organizations, including The Field, Stamford Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra and Tribeca Performing Arts Center. She also has served as a teaching artist/coach with the Everyday Arts for Special Education (EASE) program, coaching New York City special education teachers and paraprofessionals on EASE's unique arts-integration curriculum for children with autism and emotional disturbance. Born and raised in the Washington, D.C., area, Susan holds a B.A. in theology from Georgetown University, an M.M. in classical vocal performance from the Catholic University of America, and a certificate in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University.