



Americans for the Arts 2005 Emerging Leader Preconference

Emerging Leadership: Vision. Action. Evolution.

Speaker and Presenter Biographies

Jennifer Armstrong

Jennifer Armstrong is the executive director of 40 North/88 West—the Champaign County Arts, Culture & Entertainment Council. She serves on the board of The Association of American Cultures, is a member of the Illinois Local Arts Network Committee, and is co-founder of individuals together. Jennifer is also a founding board member of young professional organizations formed by both the Urban League of Champaign County and the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce. She has served as the program coordinator for the Herberger College Department of Dance at Arizona State University and as the director of the Peoria Area Arts Council in Peoria, IL. Jennifer studied arts and business administration, theater, and dance at Millikin University in Decatur, IL.

Amanda Ault

Amanda Ault is currently membership and program associate at the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture (NAMAC). She helps keep NAMAC connected to its members and produces NAMAC's biweekly eBULLETin, an email newsletter that reports on what's happening in and around the field of media arts. In 2002, Amanda co-moderated a series of interactive workshops on the topic of leadership development and emerging leaders at NAMAC's national conference in Seattle and at the Americans for the Arts Emerging Arts Leadership preconference in Portland, OR. Prior to joining NAMAC's team, Amanda worked as a video editor at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, OH. Her experience in the arts also includes exhibiting her own work and curating a number of public programs. She holds a B.F.A. in painting from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Barbara Schaffer Bacon

Barbara Schaffer Bacon co-directs Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts, Institute for Community Development and the Arts, funded by the Ford Foundation. Barbara has worked as a consultant since 1990, prior to which she served as executive director of the Arts Extension Service at the University of Massachusetts. Ms. Schaffer Bacon has written, edited, and contributed to several publications, including the revised edition of *Fundamentals of Local Arts Management* and *The Cultural Planning Work Kit*, published by the Arts Extension Service. She serves as a primary instructor for the Fundamentals and Advanced Management seminars, guest lecturer for the New York University Graduate Program in Arts Management, and a senior faculty member for the Empire State Partnerships Summer Institute in Arts Education. She is president of the Arts Extension Institute, Inc., and a board member of the Fund for Women Artists.

Jerry Coltin

Jerry Coltin is the executive director of the Center for Arts Management and Technology (CAMT) at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University. He also teaches graduate courses in the Master of Arts Management (MAM) program at the Heinz School and is the faculty advisor to Future Tenant, a multidisciplinary art space in downtown Pittsburgh administrated by students from the MAM program. Prior to installment as chief administrator for CAMT, Jerry was the executive director of Sweetwater Center for the Arts (Sewickley, Pennsylvania), a multidisciplinary regional arts facility in western Pennsylvania.

Erin Eisenberg

Erin Eisenberg is pursuing a dual master's degree in public affairs and radio-television-film, with a portfolio in nonprofit and philanthropic studies at UT-Austin. She is also the founder of Policy Coalition on Culture: Advocating the Arts in Public Affairs.

Warren Hood

Warren Hood is one of the hottest fiddlers in the Texas music scene. He has played with such luminaries as Little Feat, Lyle Lovett, Robert Earl Keen and Asleep at the Wheel and is currently playing regularly with Bob Schneider, Kelly Willis, and Toni Price, as well as heading up his own band, the *Hoodlums*. Warren is the son of the late, great Austin musician Champ Hood. Champ was a member of the seminal Austin group Uncle Walts Band with Walter Hyatt and David Ball, then went on to be in the original Lyle Lovett's *Large Band*, followed by about ten years as one of Toni Prices' indispensable sidemen and leading the weekly Threadgill Supper Sessions.

Margie Johnson Reese

Margie Johnson Reese has been an arts professional and administrator for 28 years. She is currently the General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. As Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs for the City of Dallas, she brought greater visibility to the arts and secured increased funding for the city's programs from both public and private sectors. Margie is a member of the Americans for the Arts Board of Directors.

Marialaura Leslie

As chief of information and outreach for the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Marialaura Leslie's responsibilities include grant administration, marketing initiatives, and outreach programs. Marialaura oversees the International Cultural Exchange Program and co-administers the Dance Miami Choreographers' Fellowship Program. A native of Puerto Rico, She currently serves as vice chair for the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leader Council and is a member of the National Arts Marketing Steering Committee. She has served as a grants panelist for the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs, the Miami-Dade County Parks Department, and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Robert Lynch

Bob Lynch is the president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, where he has served since the organization's inception in 1996. Previously, he was executive director of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies for 12 years, and managed the successful merger of that organization with the American Council for the Arts to form Americans for the Arts. He has delivered and presented more than 1,000 speeches and workshops in 49 states and eight countries, for audiences ranging from Native American tribal gatherings to the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe, to the President of the United States. He is currently on the boards of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund and the United Arts Organization of Washington, DC.

Deborah Margol

Deborah Bookspan Margol joined the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs in 1986 and has served as Deputy Director since 1992. Debbie is the department's chief financial officer, managing its \$13.4 million annual operating budget and its oversight of \$80 million of county capital investments in cultural facilities. She is responsible for the development and implementation of local, regional, and national multimedia marketing initiatives; manages the financial and programmatic initiatives of the South Florida Cultural Consortium, a regional coalition of the local arts agencies in Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties; and, as the department's public information officer, is its media point person. She has served as a grant panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Prior to joining the Department of Cultural Affairs, she served as festival coordinator of Festival Miami at the University of Miami, as assistant to the executive director of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and as a management intern with the National Symphony in Washington, DC.

Paul Menzel

Paul Menzel is a corporate consultant, trainer, facilitator, and mediator. For the last 20 years, he has created corporate communications and learning projects for dozens of clients, including several Fortune 500 companies. Part of his consulting work involves writing special theater pieces for business meetings, ranging from murder mysteries to comic business projections, to retirement tributes. Paul is also an experienced mediator, facilitating disputes in families, communities, and organizations. He is a principal partner at Business Stages in Houston, TX.

Layton Payne

Layton Payne is a corporate innovation consultant, facilitator, trainer, and performer. He has over 22 years of corporate experience in training and development, organizational development, business development, technology, and geosciences. His primary focus is in helping organizations increase intellectual capital through systemic ideation, from concept-to-customer. He has facilitated groups ranging from small teams to large group interventions (Future Search). The majority of his professional experience revolves around the Energy and Technology industries, training and coaching individuals and facilitating groups in experiential team-building, creative problem solving, sales and communication training, and visual thinking. Mr. Payne is a principal partner at Business Stages in Houston, TX.

Steven D. Spiess

Steven Spiess is the executive director of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, a leading New York City law firm, where he is responsible for worldwide operations. Steve is currently chairman of the board of Americans for the Arts. He is a past winner of the Michael Newton Award for Excellence in United Arts Fundraising. Steve served as a board member and treasurer of the American Council for the Arts (ACA), and was a member of the team responsible for managing the formation of Americans for the Arts through the merger of ACA with the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies. Today, he is involved in community service projects in the New York metropolitan area, working regularly with The Fresh Air Fund, Everybody Wins!, and New York Cares, among others. Previously a board member and treasurer of the Arts Council of Rockland, NY, he helped found the Arts Fund for Rockland, a united arts fund benefiting the county's major arts organizations. Steve is also on the board of The Martha Graham Dance Company.

Seth Walker

Raised by musician parents in rural North Carolina, Seth Walker held his first instrument at the age of three. By 1995, he migrated from the Tar Heel motherland to the music mecca of Austin, TX, where he honed his chops along side world-class musicians and began performing in a variety of venues throughout the Lone Star state. In 1997, he released his first album, *When It Rains, It Pours*, an homage to the cornerstones of his influence: blues and jazz. His second offering, *Meet Me in the Middle*, is a testament to an impassioned urgency to explore uncharted territory, combining eclectic styles in the album's 12 original songs. His musical journey continued on his third album, *Restless*, a collection of songs that prove to fans and critics alike that he is more than a Texas guitar slinger. His new release, *On the Outside*, is a collaborative effort with his band the Differentials. Creative and adventurous, this band breaks new ground breeding a sound that is so deeply rooted in traditions from all over the world. The CD was recorded at Dangerous Studios in New York, NY.