

Rural Arts & Cultural Wealth

Collaborations in Practice & Scholarship Convening

Supported by the
Ewing Marion Kauffman
Foundation and the
United States Department
of Agriculture

March 23-24, 2022

Virtual Convening



EWING MARION
KAUFFMAN
FOUNDATION

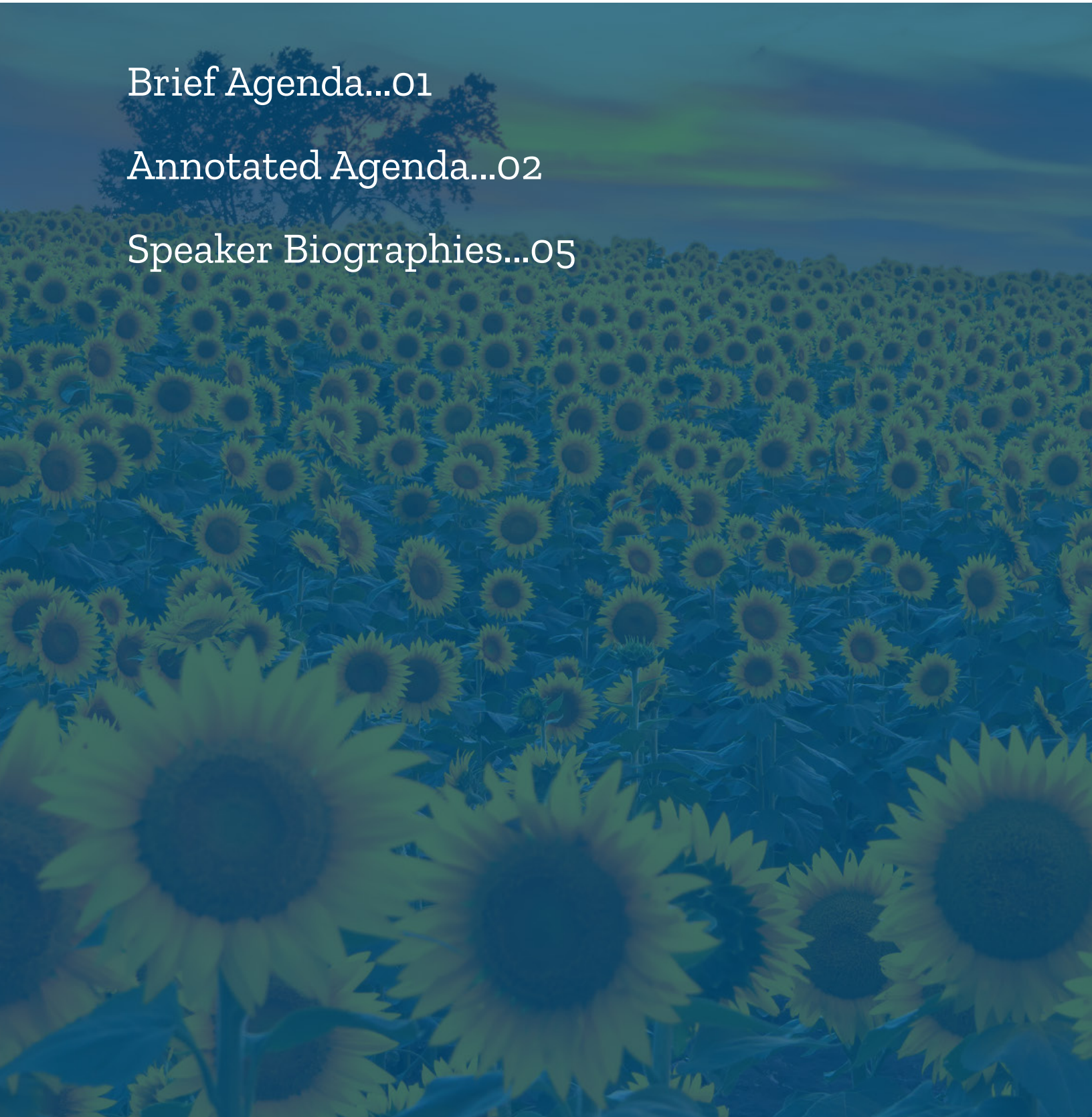


Contents

Brief Agenda...01

Annotated Agenda...02

Speaker Biographies...05





The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) provides unbiased analysis and information on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America.

RUPRI's mission in support of this vision is to: Provide unbiased analysis and information on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America. Spur public dialogue and help policymakers understand the impacts of public policies and programs on rural people and places.

Brief Agenda

March 23-24, 2022

March 23

12:30 pm ET / 11:30am CT / 10:30 am MT: *Welcome and Day 1 Opening Remarks*

1:15 ET: *Plenary Session with Brandi Turner, SIPP Culture*

2:00 ET- 3:30 ET: *Artist Practitioners & Scholars/Polycymakers Presentations*

3:45 - 4:20 ET: *Meaning Making Conversation*

4:30: *Day 1 Concludes*

March 24

12:30 pm ET / 11:30am CT / 10:30 am MT: *Welcome and Day 2 Opening Remarks*

12:50 ET: *Check-in from Day 1*

1: 00 ET - 2:30 ET: *Artist Practitioners & Scholars/Polycymakers Presentations*

2:45 ET: *Plenary Session with Julie Garreau, Cheyenne River Youth Project*

3:15: *Policy Panel*

4:00 ET: *Meaning Making Conversation*

Annotated Agenda

March 23

Day 1 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87802726521>

12:30 pm ET / 11:30am CT / 10:30 am MT: **Welcome**

- Jocelyn Richgels & John Davis - RUPRI
- Edith Parker - Dean, College of Public Health, University of Iowa (Recorded)
- Lara Arnold - Marion Ewing Kauffman Foundation
- Keith Mueller - Director, RUPRI

12:45 pm ET: **Framing Our Time Together** - Tom Johnson - RUPRI & Jamie Horter, Conference Facilitator

1:15 pm ET : **Keynote Session** with Brandi Turner, SIPP Culture

1:45 - 1:55 pm ET: **Break**

1:55 - 3:30 ET: **Artist & Scholar/Polycymaker Sharing** (Break Included)

- Tom Johnson - RUPRI
- Erika Nelson - Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission
- Leslie Finer & Nick Benson - Office of Community Engagement, University of Iowa
- Jay Salinas - Wormfarm Institute
- Maura Pilcher - Art Wood Colony, University of Iowa
- Holly Doll - Native Artists United
- Emily Wornell - Ball State University & RUPRI
- Cariel Klein & Travis Coe - Double Edge Theatre

3:30 - 3:45 pm ET: **Break**

3:45 - 4:20 pm ET: **Meaning Making Conversation** - Jamie Horter

4:20 pm ET: **Next Steps & Closing**

Annotated Agenda

March 24

Day 2 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87802726521>

12:30 pm ET / 11:30am CT / 10:30 am MT: **Welcome**

- Jocelyn Richgels & John Davis - RUPRI
- Edith Parker - Dean, College of Public Health, University of Iowa (Recorded)
- Lara Arnold - Marion Ewing Kauffman Foundation

1:15 - 2:30 pm ET: **Artist & Scholar/Policymaker Sharing** (Break Included)

- Lisa Overholser - University of Missouri, USDA Extension Office
- Susan DuPlessis - South Carolina Arts Commission
- James Hale - Colorado State University
- Maria Sykes - Epicenter
- Tom Johnson - RUPRI Calvin Phelps - Pike School of Art, Mississippi

2:30 - 2:45 pm ET: **Break**

2:45 - 3:15 pm ET: **Keynote Session** with Julie A. Garreau, Cheyenne River Youth

Project 3:15 - 4:00 pm ET: **Policy Panel**

- Lyz Crane - Moderator
- Anne Katz - Arts Wisconsin
- Bob Reeder - Reeder & Associates

4:00 pm ET - **Meaning Making Conversation** - Jamie Horter

4:30 pm ET - **Closing Comments**

Speaker Biographies

Welcome Speakers

Jamie Horter – Conference Facilitator

Jamie Horter (she/her) is a rural advocate, community engagement artist, and facilitator based out of Lyons, NE (pop. 851). Jamie uses art practices and facilitative methods for people to engage in conversations and decisions impacting their communities and organizations. She works to create collaborative spaces that are artful, positive, accessible, and highly participatory.

Website: <https://jamiehorter.xyz/>

Jocelyn Richgels – RUPRI Director, National Policy Programs

Jocelyn Batko Richgels, MPP, is the director of national policy programs for the Rural Policy Research Institute. She joined RUPRI in September 2004 as the associate director of national policy programs. Richgels was born and raised on a family farm in rural southwest Wisconsin and her understanding of rural America stems first-hand from this experience. She has extensive public policy experience, beginning her career as staff to a Member of Congress from Minnesota, who represented one of the most rural Congressional districts in the country at the time.

Twitter: [@ruptripolicy](https://twitter.com/ruptripolicy)

John Davis – RUPRI Senior Fellow

John Davis has over 30 years of experience with rural creative social change work. His innovative work in New York Mills, MN (pop. 1,199) has been recognized as a national model for rural economic development in the arts, and New York Mills was twice recognized as one of the top 100 small arts towns in America. His work with the Lanesboro Arts Campus initiative resulted in the city's selection as one of the top 12 Small Town Artplaces in America. In 2018, Mr. Davis received a Bush Fellowship to study and advance the field of rural arts and rural sustainability and is currently a Senior Policy Fellow with the Rural Policy Research Institute.

Speaker Biographies

Edith Parker – Dean, College of Public Health – University of Iowa

Edith Parker, DrPH, MPH, serves as Dean of the College of Public Health and Professor of Community and Behavioral Health at the University of Iowa. Prior to being named Dean in 2018, she served as Departmental Executive Officer in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health. Dr. Parker's research focuses on health equity – specifically on the design, implementation and evaluation of community health promotion interventions to improve health status and reduce disparities in health. She is an expert in community-based participatory research (CBPR), which emphasizes the active involvement of community members in all aspects of the research process. Her expertise also includes translating and disseminating research findings for program and policy change. She has consulted on community-academic partnerships nationally and globally, and has published extensively on the use and evaluation of such partnerships. Her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Lara Arnold - Kauffman Foundation

Lara Arnold is a program associate in Entrepreneurship at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, where she manages a portfolio of grants focused on researcher engagement and network building. She develops opportunities for engaging academic organizations and supporting early-career scholars through a variety of professional development activities. She seeks to build connections with a wide range of disciplines conducting research relevant to entrepreneurship and works to diversify the pipeline of entrepreneurship scholars.

Prior to joining the Kauffman Foundation, Arnold was a marketing specialist at Clinical Reference Laboratory. She earned a MBA from Baker University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Kansas.

Keith Mueller – Director, RUPRI

Keith J. Mueller, Ph.D., is Gerhard Hartman Professor and head of the Department of Health Management and Policy, University of Iowa. He is also the Director of the RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis and Chair of the RUPRI Health Panel. He has served as President of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) and as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services. He has also served on national advisory committees to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. He has published more than 220 scholarly articles and policy papers, and received awards recognizing his research contributions from NRHA, RUPRI, and the University of Nebraska. In 2016, he received the University of Iowa Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. His PhD is in Political Science from The University of Arizona, and he completed a faculty fellowship with The Johns Hopkins University.

Speaker Biographies

Plenary Speakers

Brandi Turner – SIPP Culture

Brandi Turner, born in Michigan and raised in New Orleans, LA and Oxford, MS. Brandi is a Co-Founder and Co-Director for the Mississippi Center for Cultural Production in Utica, MS. She is also a member of the 2021 Peoples WPA Cohort, a Board Member of the Utica Institute Museum and an active member of her community, who utilizes her skills of culinary artistry as a cultural and creative engagement practice.

Brandi resides in Utica, MS with her husband Carlton Turner and their three children, Jonathan, Xiauna, and Tristan.

Website: <https://sippculture.org/>

Instagram, Facebook and Twitter: @sippculture

Julie A. Garreau - Cheyenne River Youth Project

Julie Garreau (Lakota name Wičha pi Epat an Win) is executive director of the nonprofit Cheyenne River Youth Project in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. Since 1988, she has taken CRYP from a small youth center to a campus that includes youth and teen centers, art institute, garden, and several social enterprises.

In addition to completing several high-profile fellowships over the years, Julie has been recognized with such prestigious awards as the Bush Prize for Innovation, Spirit of Dakota Award, Presidential Points of Light Award, and Tim Wapato Public Advocate of the Year Award. She is currently a 2022 Vital Village Fellow.

Website: www.lakotayouth.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LakotaYouth>

Speaker Biographies

Artists, Scholars, & Policymakers

Day 1

Tom Johnson – RUPRI, Professor Emeritus University of Missouri

Prior to retirement Dr. Johnson had a joint appointment in Agricultural Economics and the Truman School of Public Affairs. He was director of the Community Policy Analysis. His research areas included the causes and consequence of rural economic development, fiscal and economic impact analysis, local government finance, renewable energy, rural entrepreneurship, land use and rural transportation.

Erika Nelson – Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission

Erika Nelson is an independent artist and educator, examining contemporary art in the public realm. She took to the road full-time, exploring the nooks and crannies of the United States, seeking out the odd and unusual, gathering stories of people building roadside vernacular architecture known as World's Largest Things. She developed her own traveling roadside attraction featuring The World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things, settling in Kansas as a geographically central home base. Her artwork manifests itself in a series of public art projects that incorporate Art into the Everyman's everyday experience.

Website: <https://erikanelson.cargo.site/>

Facebook and Instagram: @worldslargestthings

Leslie Finer – Office of Community Engagement, University of Iowa

In her role as Director of Arts & Humanities, Leslie works to enhance community vitality by utilizing the University of Iowa's arts and cultural resources. She also oversees the Arts Share program, which has been facilitating arts outreach and engagement initiatives for over 25 years. Leslie received her bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and a PhD in musicology from the University of Iowa. Before working at the University of Iowa she taught music history and piano at Coe College.

Nick Benson – Office of Community Engagement, University of Iowa

Nick serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Community Engagement and provides leadership on campus for community engaged teaching and learning and community engaged research. Nick has worked for eight years in various community engagement roles at the University of Iowa, including as Director of the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities and Director of Community Development and Outreach. Prior to his time at Iowa, Nick worked for the City of Iowa City in community and economic development and at Leff Law Firm. He holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and Juris Doctorate from Iowa.

Speaker Biographies

Jay Salinas – Wormfarm Institute

Jay Salinas is an artist, farmer, and co-founder of Wormfarm Institute based in rural Sauk County, WI. He is Director of Special Projects and coordinates the Artist Residency program, the Rural/Urban FLOW initiative, and leads a broad range of community outreach activities. Since 2011 he has helped design and implement Fermentation Fest and the biennial Farm/Art DTour and serves as Food Chain coordinator, working with entrepreneurs to utilize on the Roadside Culture Stands, custom-made mobile vending platforms. Jay has operated a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm since 1995. He has worked nationally for food justice and sustainability issues and was a director at Growing Power in Milwaukee from 2006-09. Trained as a sculptor, Jay holds a BFA from University of Illinois-Champaign and an MFA from University of Cincinnati.

Website: <https://www.wormfarminstitute.org>

Maura Pilcher – Grant Wood Art Colony, University of Iowa

Maura Pilcher currently serves as the Director of the Grant Wood Art Colony. She holds a Bachelor's of Art in Anthropology and Art History from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has over 15 years of experience in the museum industry including The Phillips Collection (Washington, DC), The Field Museum (Chicago, IL), and The Snite Museum (Notre Dame, IN). She has participated on arts engagement and preservation-related panels and provided workshops for national audiences.

Website: <https://grantwood.uiowa.edu/>

Holly Doll – Native Artists United

Holly lives in Mandan, North Dakota and is a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She is the founder and president of Native Artists United and program coordinator for Department of Public Transformation. Holly has a background of 10+ years in nonprofit work, cultural education, and equitable grantmaking. Most importantly, Holly is an artist, specializing in traditional Lakota forms of beadwork and quillwork, modern watercolor painting, and occasionally writing poetry. Her mother taught from the age of two everything she knows when it comes to art, and she has kept it up ever since.

Website: <http://nativeartistsunited.com/>

Speaker Biographies

Emily Wornell – Ball State University & RUPRI

Emily J. Wornell, PhD, is an assistant professor of research at the RUPRI Center for Local and State Policy (CLASP) at Ball State University. A rural sociologist and demographer, her areas of specialization are inequality and population change in rural communities. Her research explores household livelihood strategies; community and economic development; and immigration in rural communities. Emily also has a strong interest in the intersection of research and policy, and she regularly works with communities and policy makers to better understand and utilize research to develop more sustainable and efficacious policy.

Cariel Klein – Double Edge Theatre

Cariel Klein (They/Them, She/Her) has an urge to find a creative community that would work towards a just world and is an antagonist in an imperialist world and an accomplice in an anti-racist, multi-generational, artistic movement. Klein is most passionate as a producer and co-leader of Art Justice residency and practice throughout Double Edge, as well as representing rural multi-generational work on the national and international scene.

Website: www.doubleedgetheatre.org

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/doubleedgetheatre/>

Instagram: [@doubleedgetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/doubleedgetheatre)

Travis Coe – Double Edge Theatre

Travis Coe (He/Him/His) pushes his desires and dreams forward unapologetically through work that speaks to his identity, his culture, and his perspective as the youngest member of the DE Ensemble.

Website: www.doubleedgetheatre.org

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/doubleedgetheatre/>

Instagram: [@doubleedgetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/doubleedgetheatre)

Speaker Biographies

Artists, Scholars, & Policymakers

Day 2

Lisa Olverholser – University of Missouri, USDA Extension Office

Susan DuPlessis – South Carolina Arts Commission

Driven by opportunities to showcase the rich diversity of South Carolina through its people, places and stories, Susan DuPlessis' career spans more than 30 years working as a documentary photographer, writer/advocate, arts administrator and program creator.

Grounded in respect for people, place and stories, she has developed and led a nationally recognized initiative called The Art of Community: Rural SC and its corresponding program, CREATE: Rural SC. Working with some of South Carolina's most creative, bold rural residents, she and team at the South Carolina Arts Commission have facilitated a network through which rural community leaders implement new ways to address health, education, community and economic development challenges using arts and culture as powerful tools.

James Hale – Colorado State University

James Hale, PhD, is a sociologist who specializes in studying the socio-cultural, community, and governance dimensions of food systems, especially as it relates to sustainability, livelihoods, health, and food security. Recently, Dr. Hale has been a postdoctoral research fellow at Colorado State University as well as the University of Otago's Centre for Sustainability in New Zealand. Dr. Hale is originally from Colorado where he has had extensive involvement in a variety of community-based projects such as community gardens, cooperatives, and urban agriculture collaborations. Before this, he was a Peace Corps agroforestry extension agent in Malawi.

Speaker Biographies

Maria Sykes – Epicenter

After graduating from Auburn University's College of Architecture+Planning, a program known for a focus on rural work, Maria Sykes sought after a community where her skills and passion could be utilized for good. Following a visit to rural southeastern Utah, she moved to the town of Green River in 2009 to co-found Epicenter, a non-profit organization focused on rural investment through arts and design. Her work has been honored many times including by former Utah Governor Herbert. Sykes is the Executive Director of Epicenter and has a contagious passion for working with small communities from Utah to East Iceland and beyond.

Website: ruralandproud.org

Instagram: [@ruralandproud](https://www.instagram.com/ruralandproud)

Lyz Crane

Lyz Crane works at the intersection of comprehensive community development, philanthropy, and systems change. Most recently, Crane was the Deputy Director for ArtPlace America, where she led grantmaking, capacity-building and knowledge-building strategies focused on advancing the role of arts and culture within community development practices. She has held previous roles at ArtHome and Partners for Livable Communities, was a 2009 Next City Vanguard, and has an MPA in Policy Analysis from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University.

Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lyz-crane/>

Twitter: [@lyzcrane](https://twitter.com/lyzcrane)

Calvin Phelps – Pike School of Art – Mississippi

Calvin Phelps is founder and director of Pike School of Art – Mississippi (PSA-MS), a space in the Deep South for creative experimentation. The mission of PSA-MS is to enrich and empower a thriving community built by artists and allies in Southwest Mississippi. PSA-MS values collaboration, understanding, respect, inclusivity, equity, and unconventional spaces. PSA-MS offers community programming and exhibitions; artist residencies; workshops and talks; and space for art-making. PSA-MS has received generous programming support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, South Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Website: www.calvinphelps.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/calvinphelps>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cphel>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/calvinphelps/>

Speaker Biographies

Anne Katz – Arts in Wisconsin

Anne Katz is the executive director of Arts Wisconsin, Wisconsin's community cultural development organization, whose mission is to grow Wisconsin creatively and ensure investment in the arts and creativity as a force for economic, workforce and community success. In partnership with a dedicated board of directors and advisors, she is currently guiding the evolution of the organization into Create Wisconsin as of 3-31-22, a new identity building on past work and future promise.

Website: <https://www.artswisconsin.org/>

Bob Reeder – Reeder & Associates

A connector, creative community builder and resource developer, Bob Reeder's career spans rural America and includes a variety of cross-sectoral approaches (e.g. Disaster Response, Criminal Justice Reform, Healthy Housing and Food Access and Creative Placemaking) in assisting community development organizations and hundreds of rural towns and communities across the country.

Most recently with Rural LISC, he created and implemented the Arts and Culture-Based Creative Economic Development Grant through which nearly \$1 million was disbursed to over 50 communities for development and implementation of arts and culture-based economic development projects. He recently launched Reeder & Associates Consulting, where he will offer innovative tools and insights to community builders, community development corporations, state and local governments and municipalities.