

**DEVOS INSTITUTE
OF ARTS MANAGEMENT**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**DeVos Institute of Arts Management
Announces New Class of Fellows**

**13 Executives from Six Countries Will Take Part in Arts Management Intensive,
June 27 – July 22, 2016**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland welcomes a new class of arts managers to its fellowship program, marking the first cohort to begin the program since the Institute transitioned to the University from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2014.

Next month, 13 arts managers from six countries will begin the Institute’s highly competitive fellowship program that provides practical training in arts administration. The class will be in residence in Washington, D.C. and College Park, Maryland for a month-long arts management intensive led by DeVos Institute executives, consultants, and experts from the field. The fellowship is a three-year program, and participants will return for one month in both 2017 and 2018. The fellowship program provides:

- Intensive academic training in nonprofit management, finance, planning, fundraising, evaluation, and marketing;
- Access to leaders of cultural institutions from throughout the United States, including site visits to select institutions; and
- Personalized mentoring, both during and between the month-long residencies.

“This year’s Fellows were selected in keeping with our mission: to train, support, and empower game changers in our field,” said DeVos Institute President Brett Egan. “In our opinion, these individuals are amongst the most talented arts managers working today. We will stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their pursuit to strengthen their organizations and communities.”

To date, the Institute’s fellowship program has served nearly 200 arts managers from 53 countries. DeVos Institute Chairman Michael M. Kaiser launched the fellowship program in 2001 during his tenure as President of the Kennedy Center. In 2008, the Institute introduced the current, intensive model of one month in residence each summer for three years.

More than 450 arts managers from around the world applied to begin the DeVos Institute’s fellowship program in 2016. Biographies of the Institute’s fellows are attached.

The DeVos Institute’s fellowship program is made possible with the support of the University of Maryland.

About the DeVos Institute of Arts Management

The DeVos Institute of Arts Management provides training, consultation, and implementation support for arts managers and their boards.

It operates on the premise that while much is spent to train artists, too little is spent to support the managers and boards who keep those artists at work.

At the same time, rapid changes in technology, demographics, government policy, and the economy have complicated the job of the manager and volunteer trustees. These changes continue to accelerate.

Organizations that have mastered these trends are flourishing—even leveraging them to their advantage.

For those that have not, however, the sense that “something’s not quite right” can seem unshakable. For too many, these changes have led to less art, decreased visibility, diminished relevance—even financial collapse.

These challenges inform our approach. Never has the need to balance best practices and new approaches been so urgent.

Institute leadership and consultants—all arts managers themselves—understand that, in today’s environment, there is no time or resource to waste. Therefore, Institute services are lean, direct, and practical.

The DeVos Institute has served more than 1,000 organizations from over 80 countries since Michael M. Kaiser founded it during his tenure as President of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. While environments, objectives, and disciplines vary, each of our clients shares the desire to create, market, and sustain exemplary cultural programs.

The DeVos Institute has designed its services to assist a wide range of institutions, from traditional performing and presenting organizations, museums, galleries, art schools, and libraries, to botanical gardens, glass-making studios, public art trusts, and nonprofit cinemas, to name a few.

In 2014, the DeVos Institute transitioned to the University of Maryland, where it continues to offer support to individuals, organizations, and—in collaboration with foundations and governments—to communities of organizations around the world.

For more information about the DeVos Institute, please visit www.devosinstitute.net.

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Contact:

Joseph Heitz
Director, External Relations
DeVos Institute of Arts Management
jeheitz@devosinstitute.net | 301.314.0957

DEVOS INSTITUTE OF ARTS MANAGEMENT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

DeVos Institute Fellowship Program 2016—2018 Fellows

Name	Position	Organization	City	Country
Iiris Autio	Managing Director	Tero Saarinen Company	Helsinki	Finland
Karim Baer	Executive Director	Alonzo King LINES Ballet	San Francisco, California	United States
Alison Clark	Director, North and National Director, Combined Arts	Arts Council England	Manchester	United Kingdom
Sigal Cohen	Director of International Relations and Development	Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv	Tel Aviv	Israel
DeAnna Cummings	Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder	Juxtaposition Arts	Minneapolis, Minnesota	United States
Elaine Delgado	Director of Development	The Hispanic Society of America	New York, New York	United States
Suha Khuffash	Arts Programme Manager	British Council	Ramallah	Palestine
Bryan Joseph Lee	Director of Marketing and Communications	Round House Theatre	Bethesda, Maryland	United States
Peter McDowell	Managing Director	Eighth Blackbird	Chicago, Illinois	United States
Stosh Mintek	Executive Director	Ghetto Film School	Los Angeles, California	United States
Debbie Ng	Development and Communications Director	Center for Asian American Media	San Francisco, California	United States
Steinunn Birna Ragnarsdóttir	Chief Executive Officer and Artistic Director	Icelandic Opera	Reykjavík	Iceland
Bradley Wade Renner	General Manager	Atlanta Ballet	Atlanta, Georgia	United States

Biographies of 2016 – 2018 DeVos Institute Fellows

Iiris Autio

Helsinki, Finland

Managing Director, Tero Saarinen Company

www.terosaarinen.com

Iiris Autio has led Tero Saarinen Company, one of Northern Europe's most prominent dance groups, as Managing Director since 2001. Exemplary shared leadership between Ms. Autio and choreographer Saarinen has been one of the key factors in the Company's international success. Today, TSC is one of Finland's leading cultural exports.

After receiving her Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Helsinki in 1992, Ms. Autio specialized in marketing, production, and management of contemporary dance. In 2000-2001, Ms. Autio worked as a dance expert coordinating *Race to the Finnish*, a large-scale Finnish contemporary dance season in London and completed a Master's degree in Arts Management at London City University.



Alongside her work, Ms. Autio has served as a specialist member on a number of creative economy and cultural export working groups for Finnish government ministries. She is currently on the Boards of the internationally renowned Savonlinna Opera Festival and Helsinki Dance House – a new organization and dance venue due to open in Helsinki in 2020. She also lectures regularly.

Karim Baer

San Francisco, California, United States

Executive Director, Alonzo King LINES Ballet

www.linesballet.org

Karim Baer serves as the Executive Director of Alonzo King LINES Ballet in San Francisco, California. Alonzo King LINES Ballet consists of an internationally touring dance company that performs the works of acclaimed choreographer Alonzo King; education programs including a summer program for youth, a training program for pre-professional dancers, a BFA program in collaboration with Dominican University of California; and a San Francisco-based dance center.

Previously, Mr. Baer served as the Director of Public Programs and Performances for the California Institute of Integral Studies, where he presented artists and public intellectuals from a variety of disciplines.



Mr. Baer has also held positions in the mental health and holistic health fields. He grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has made the San Francisco Bay Area home for the last 15 years. His time living in the South and the Bay Area has given him a sense for the importance of using the arts as a tool to bring communities together.

Alison Clark
Manchester, United Kingdom
Director, North and National Director, Combined Arts; Arts Council England
www.artscouncil.org.uk

Alison Clark is the Director for the north west of England and the national Director for Combined Arts (covering festivals, events and cross-artform venues) for Arts Council England in Manchester. Arts Council England is England's national development and funding agency for arts and culture.

She has previously held senior roles in festival development and in arts policy-making for local government, and was a director for the arts education program Creative Partnerships. She began her arts career in cross-artform venue and festival marketing. In her spare time she is a blogger, rower, and runner.



Sigal Cohen
Tel Aviv, Israel
Director of International Relations and Development, Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv
www.cameri.co.il

Sigal Cohen is the Director of International Relations and Development at the Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv. She is an Israeli art and culture curator and producer who specializes in the management of national and international public cultural events and institutions. Previously, she served as an Arts Officer at the British Council office in Tel Aviv and as Producer of the first Bat-Yam Biannual for Landscape Urbanism. She also founded and directed the International Department of Bat-Yam Municipality and founded the Cultural Green House "Art Factory" in Bat-Yam. In addition, Ms. Cohen directed the Israeli Actors Guild (SHACHAM) and Hazira- Interdisciplinary Arts Arena, Jerusalem.

Currently, Ms. Cohen is producing the International Exposure of Israeli Drama, the ISRADRAMA International Events, and The Israeli Pavilion at the Prague Quadrenela, on behalf of the Hanoch Levin Institute of Israeli Drama. Ms. Cohen also represents Barak Marshall, the acclaimed Israeli-American choreographer, whose work is produced internationally.



DeAnna Cummings
Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Juxtaposition Arts
<http://juxtapositionarts.org>

DeAnna Dodds Cummings is the CEO and Co-Founder of Juxtaposition Arts (JXTA), a cultural development center and teen-staffed design firm in North Minneapolis. Ms. Cummings creates authentic opportunities for people to exercise leadership and pursue self-sufficiency through hands-on engagement in the arts. Under Cummings' leadership, JXTA has shifted from an afterschool enrichment model to a social enterprise model that trains and employs youth as a springboard to higher education and careers in art and design.

She has presented about equity in the arts, locally rooted creative place-making, leadership, social entrepreneurship, and asset-based youth development at universities and museums across the country. Ms. Cummings is a 2016 Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal Women in Business Awardee. Minnesota Public Radio named Cummings a 2013 Arts Hero. She is a 2007 Archibald Bush Leadership Fellow and was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Archibald Bush Foundation in 2014. Ms. Cummings recently presented at the United Nations to millennial philanthropists interested in impact investing.

Ms. Cummings holds a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard University.



Elaine Delgado
New York, New York, United States
Director of Development, The Hispanic Society of America
www.hispanicsociety.org

Elaine Delgado became the first Director of Development at The Hispanic Society of America in New York City in 2015. She has a central role in strategic planning and development at the Hispanic Society, as the institution builds upon the strength of its collections and undergoes capital improvements that will foster a new era of increased programming and engagement with its constituency.

Ms. Delgado's previous work experience includes positions as Director of Marketing and Individual Giving at Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education (Bronx, New York), Director of the Visual Arts Program at the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (San Juan, Puerto Rico), and Capital Campaign Manager at the Museo de Arte de Ponce (Ponce/Guaynabo, Puerto Rico).



From 2008 to 2010, she helped raise \$6.6 million dollars for the Museo de Arte de Ponce's first capital campaign. During her tenure at Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education, Ms. Delgado helped increase fundraising at an average annual rate of 13 percent (from \$1.9 million in 2012 to more than \$3 million in 2015). She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree in Puerto Rican Studies from the Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe.

Suha Khuffash
Ramallah, Palestine
Arts Programme Manager, British Council Palestine
www.britishcouncil.ps/en

Suha Khuffash is the Arts Program Manager for the British Council in Palestine. She joined the British Council in Ramallah in 2000 and has managed the British Council Arts Programme for Palestine since 2008. Ms. Khuffash manages a portfolio of local and regional arts projects within the British Council's context of enhancing intercultural understanding and positive social change. Her projects include art and culture, disability arts, education, and society.

Ms. Khuffash has a bachelor's degree in English literature from An-Najah University, Palestine and a master's degree in international studies from Birzeit University, Palestine.



Bryan Joseph Lee
Bethesda, Maryland, United States
Director of Marketing and Communications, Round House Theatre
www.roundhousetheatre.org

Bryan Joseph Lee is the Director of Marketing and Communications at Round House Theatre, a 400-seat regional theater in Bethesda, Maryland with a \$5 million annual budget. He has worked with a wide variety of performing arts organizations, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and the SOURCE Festival for new plays in Washington, D.C. Mr. Lee is a graduate of Dartmouth College and holds a degree in Latin American Studies and Theatre.



Peter McDowell
Chicago, Illinois, United States
Managing Director, Eighth Blackbird
www.eighthblackbird.org

Peter McDowell is currently the Managing Director of Chicago-based, four-time Grammy-award winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird, which is currently engaged in a unique and highly successful year-long residency at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. Mr. McDowell has built a 20-year career on strategic, creative, and effective service to performing artists and arts organizations. He has held leadership positions at the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, New York's Opera America, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. Mr. McDowell is the Founder of Peter McDowell Arts Consulting, a company that provides the performance field with high-level public relations, website development, and career coaching. He holds degrees from the University of Illinois and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He serves on the board of the Beverly Blossom Foundation and is a documentary filmmaker.



Stosh Mintek
Los Angeles, California, United States
Executive Director, Ghetto Film School
www.ghettofilm.org

Stosh Mintek is the Executive Director of Ghetto Film School in Los Angeles. A 2003 graduate of Yale University with a double-major in English and Film Studies, Mr. Mintek has worked with Ghetto Film School (GFS) since 2004. As Program Director (2004-2008), he produced GFS international film shoots in France, Uganda, and Brazil, as well as hundreds of short films in New York City. As Director of Development and Special Projects (2008-2012), Mr. Mintek supervised the implementation of \$2.5 million in capital funding to build the South Bronx Post House and launched GFS Master Class, which delivers GFS' award-winning arts education model on a global scale. In 2012, Mr. Mintek became the Executive Producer of Digital Bodega, Ghetto Film School's in-house transmedia production company. Digital Bodega is staffed by top alumni from GFS and operates out of the South Bronx Post House, creating bespoke media solutions (including commercials, ethnography portraits, and trends reports) for such corporate clients as Sony, Nike, Atlantic Records, and JP Morgan. In 2014, Mr. Mintek relocated to Los Angeles to become the Executive Director of GFS LA, the West Coast division of GFS.



As an independent filmmaker, Mr. Mintek has written, shot, directed, edited, and produced numerous short films, music videos, animations, and documentaries that have screened in national and international film festivals, including "The Town Chernobyl Built" (2010), "Elementary Cool" (2010), "The Line" (2011), "End of the Season" (2012) and "Holding Up" (2014).

Debbie Ng
San Francisco, California, United States
Development and Communications Director, Center for Asian American Media
<http://caamedia.org>

Debbie Ng is the Development and Communications Director at the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) in San Francisco, the nation's largest Asian American media arts organization. Ms. Ng leads a development team effort to raise corporate, foundation, individual, and public support for a \$3.5 million budget. She spearheads high-profile fundraising activities, including CAAMFest, the world's largest Asian American film, music, and food festival that attracts 27,000 audience members, and CAAMFeast Awards: Stories, Food and You, honoring Asian American culinary achievement. She also leads CAAM's institutional marketing, brand and communications strategy, strategic planning processes, and supports CAAM's national award-winning public television productions and broadcasts.



Prior to CAAM, Ms. Ng worked for the Center for Social Sector Leadership at the Haas School of Business (University of California, Berkeley) overseeing its rebrand and model experiential learning program that prepares MBA students for nonprofit board leadership. In 2006, Ms. Ng co-produced the award-winning film *Kieu*, a modern-day telling of the 19th century Vietnamese poem, *The Tale of Kieu*. She graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a bachelor of arts degree in women's studies.

Steinunn Birna Ragnarsdóttir
Reykjavík, Iceland
Chief Executive Officer and Artistic Director, Icelandic Opera
www.opera.is/en

Steinunn Birna Ragnarsdóttir has been the CEO and Artistic Director of the Icelandic Opera in Reykjavík since June 2015.

Ms. Ragnarsdóttir was born in Reykjavík and studied music from an early age. She earned a master's degree in piano performance from New England Conservatory in 1987. She has performed frequently in many international festivals and appeared in concerts in Europe and the United States, earning various awards for her performances. A dedicated performer of solo and chamber music, she has also recorded several albums. Her recordings as a pianist with the Iceland Symphony include an album that earned her the 1998 Icelandic Music Award for the year's best classical CD.



Ms. Ragnarsdóttir is the founder of the Reykholt Music Festival and was its Artistic Director until she took on the position of the Music Director of Harpa Concert Hall in Reykjavík. She was a member of the City Council of Reykjavík from 2002 to 2004 and the Vice President of the Cultural committee of Reykjavík. She currently sits on the boards of the International Society for the Performing Arts and the Icelandic Performing Arts Association, and appears frequently as a lecturer and panelist at various international conferences.

Bradley Wade Renner
Atlanta, Georgia, United States
General Manager, Atlanta Ballet
www.atlantaballet.com

Bradley Renner is the General Manager of Atlanta Ballet, where he manages the financial and administrative business for the production department. He assumed this role in April 2014 after holding the position of Company Manager for three years. Mr. Renner is active in the theater community in Atlanta and sits on the committee for the Georgia High School Musical Theater Awards for the Arts Bridge Foundation at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

Previously, he was a professional actor and performed with the Alliance Theater, Atlanta Lyric Theatre, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, and Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre. Mr. Renner received his master's degree in arts administration from Shenandoah University and received a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts with a minor in Dance from Point Park University.

