



## Speakers | Oct. 7, 2020 | COVID Track

### Keynote | Dr. Ebony Lumumba



Dr. Ebony Lumumba is Associate Professor of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communication at Jackson State University where she chairs the department and teaches courses in global and American literatures. She received her Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Mississippi, a Master of Arts in English from Georgia State University, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Spelman College with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Dr. Lumumba specializes in postcolonial literatures of the Global South and black mothering as resistance in her research, academic publications, and instruction. She was named the 2013 Eudora Welty Research Fellow by the

Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Eudora Welty Foundation and was honored as Tougaloo College's Humanities Teacher of the Year in 2014.

Dr. Lumumba is also an avid supporter of education and the arts. Her zeal for both are evidenced in her participation in various community projects. She currently serves as a board member for the Foundation for Mississippi History, the Mississippi Humanities Council, The International Ballet Competition, New Stage Theatre, and The Mississippi Book Festival and participates on the national advisory boards of the Eudora Welty Foundation and the Mississippi Museum of Art. She is the founder of Mothers Obtaining Justice and Opportunities (MOJO)—a non-profit organization that supports mothers pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. In her spare time, she hosts episodes of "Write On, Mississippi"—a literary podcast sponsored by the Mississippi Book Festival.

### Preparing for and Coping with Emergencies Facing the Arts

#### Tom Claeson



Tom Claeson is Project Director of Performing Arts Readiness, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to help performing arts organizations protect their assets, sustain operations, and prepare for emergencies. He serves as Senior Consultant for Digital & Preservation Services at LYRASIS, consulting internationally on preservation, disaster preparedness, digitization, funding, strategic planning, and advocacy for arts and cultural organizations.



## Carrie Cleveland

Carrie Cleveland is the Education + Outreach Manager at CERF+ where she has held various positions since 2008. During this time, she has participated in all aspects of the organization's work to help artists have resilient careers.

**Moderators: Kristen Brandt**, MAC Arts Industry Director and **Maria Zeringue**, MAC Folk and Traditional Arts Director

## Bridging the Distance: The Arts in the Time of Corona



### Wayne Andrews - 1

Wayne Andrews serves as the Director of the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council in Oxford and the Chair of the Mississippi Presenters Network.

### Kwame Braxton - 2

Kwame Braxton is a visual artist as well as maker, who is currently the anchor at a digital fabrication/print shop called the Community Production Cooperative (CPC). He has participated in multiple art initiatives to beautify disenfranchised communities in Jackson, Miss.

### Shanina Carmichael - 3

Shanina Carmichael is a teaching and performing artist specializing in the songs, rhythms and dances of West Africa, afro-modern dance and modern dance. Carmichael fuses dance instruction with cultural exploration and history while making connections to grade appropriate Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards.

### Kinney Ferris - 4

Kinney Ferris is the Executive Director for Visit Oxford, the tourism and marketing arm of the City of Oxford. Kinney has worked in the tourism and hospitality industry for 16 years, ten of those with Visit Oxford.

## **Erin Mulligan - 5**

Erin Mulligan serves as the Interim Executive Director at ArtPlace Mississippi in Greenwood. She is currently a member of the teaching artist roster with the Mississippi Arts Commission.

## **Francine Thomas Reynolds - 6**

Francine Thomas Reynolds has been the artistic director at New Stage Theatre, a professional theatre in Jackson, Miss., since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 31 years.

## **Moderator: John Bateman - 7**

John W. Bateman is an award-winning writer and filmmaker as well as Executive Director of the Starkville Area Arts Council. John's day career has been in philanthropy for 15 years, working with both private family foundations and public charities.