



## Speakers | Oct. 8, 2020 | I.D.E.A. Track

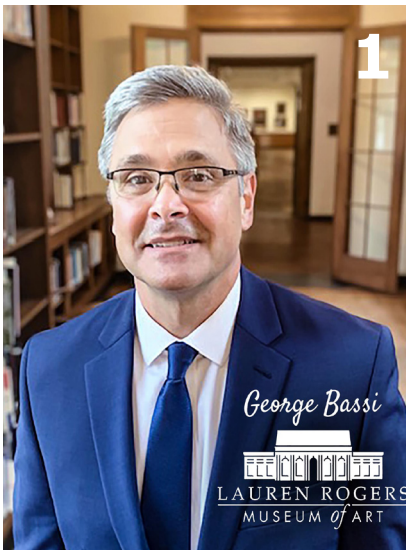
### Keynote | Aimee Nezhukumatathil



Aimee Nezhukumatathil, a professor of English in the University of Mississippi's MFA program and 2020 recipient of a Literary Artist Fellowship in non-fiction from the Mississippi Arts Commission. Author of four poetry collections, her first entitled *Miracle Fruit* was widely recognized receiving both the 2003 Tupelo Press Prize and the Global Filipino Literary Award in Poetry in addition to being named the Fore Word Magazine Book of the Year in Poetry. She is also the author of *At the Drive-In Volcano*, *Oceanic* and her most recent book *World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other*

*Astonishments* was published in September 2020. Acclaimed in her field, Nezhukumatathil has been awarded a 2020 Guggenheim Fellowship in poetry, included in the Best American Poetry series, received a 2009 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in poetry, and a Pushcart Prize for the poem "Love in the Orangery." Nezhukumatathil also serves as poetry editor for *Orion* magazine.

### Facing Change: Advancing Museum Board Diversity & Inclusion



## George Bassi - 1

George Bassi has more than thirty years of non-profit management and arts administration experience working at the Delta State University Alumni & Foundation, the University of Southern Mississippi Foundation and the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel where he currently serves as the Executive Director, a position he has held since 1994.

## Betsy Bradley - 2

Betsy Bradley was appointed director of the Mississippi Museum of Art in December, 2001. Bradley has overseen significant growth of the institution, shepherding two capital campaigns, totaling \$20 million, that resulted in a move to a completely renovated facility, and the creation of The Art Garden, the first new public green space in downtown Jackson since the 1970s.

## Katie Mills - 3

Katie Mills became the interim Executive Director of the Museum of the Mississippi Delta in March 2020 and was named permanently to the position in June of the same year. Prior to becoming the Executive Director, Mills practiced law for fifteen years.

## Andrew Plumley - 4

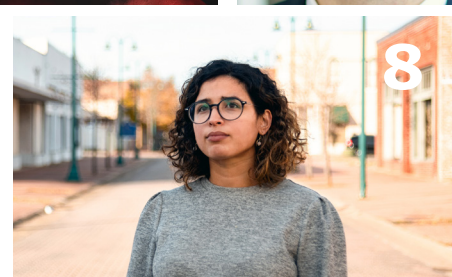
Andrew Plumley is Director of Inclusion at the American Alliance of Museums where he oversees both AAM's internal DEAI (diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion) work, as well as the Ford, Walton, and Mellon foundation funded Facing Change Initiative—Advancing Museum Board Diversity and Inclusion.

## Okola Rashid - 5

Okola Rashid is Co-founder and President, International Museum of Muslim Cultures. She was born in Mississippi, the daughter of sharecroppers, and grew up in America's turbulent era of overt segregation and racial oppression. She has, thus, been a life-long advocate of humanity, dignity, social and economic justice, and racial harmony.

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

## Public Art + Civic Practice



## **Talamekia Brice - 1**

Talamekia Brice is an award-winning artist, photographer and visual storyteller. She is inspired by her hometown of Kilmichael, Miss., Michelangelo, and Maya Angelou. With her camera, wicked design skills and the point of view of a small-town brown girl, she is a bit of a Kil-Michel-Angelou, if you will.

## **Travis Crabtree - 2**

Crabtree currently acts as a Creative Director at the Ecoshed, Project Manager for the Fertile Ground Project, and Urban Designer for the City of Jackson Department of Planning and Development. Crabtree values interdisciplinary systems thinking that brings many professionals together to achieve new experimental experiences and environments.

## **Eli Childers - 3**

Eli Childers, is a visual artist, event coordinator, and muralist from the Jackson area. His work focuses on the human condition and expressing through emotion.

## **Thomas Gregory - 4**

Thomas Gregory is the State Coordinator for the Mississippi Main Street Association, where he leads the organization's administrative, advocacy and development efforts. A certified community planner, Thomas' involvement with Main Street began as a member of the board of directors for Main Street Greenwood, a position he held for eight years.

## **Rob Hill - 5**

Rob Hill serves as state director of HRC Mississippi. As part of the Human Rights Campaign's Project One America, Rob and his team lead the effort to bring equality to LGBTQ people throughout Mississippi. Using the resources of HRC and collaborating with local organizations, he works each day to help change hearts and minds, advance enduring legal protections and build more inclusive institutions in the Magnolia State.

## **Ricardo Moody - 6**

Ricardo teaches art and art appreciation to junior high and high school students at Presbyterian Christian High School in addition to his own art practice. Ricardo has created work most notably for the Atlanta Belt Line in Atlanta, Ga., the Fertile Ground Project in Jackson, Miss., and Hattiesburg Alliance for Public Art (HAPA) in Hattiesburg, Miss.

## **Heidi Pitre - 7**

Heidi Pitre is a visual artist who has made the entire south her home, and her canvas. She has lived across the south, creating along the way, finding the Southern Peculiar in every aspect of her work.

## **Salam Rida - 8**

Salam Rida is an Urban Designer for the City of Jackson Department of Planning and Development. In 2016, Salam and her partner Travis Crabtree started an interdisciplinary design practice called Carbon Office and moved to Jackson for an entrepreneurial venture called The Ecoshed. Salam's multidisciplinary approach to design intersects tactical urbanism, environmental sustainability, and economic development.

## Candice Salyers - 9

Candice Salyers is a choreographer and performer whose work explores how site-specific dance can contribute to environmental awareness, humanitarian service and ethical citizenship. She is an Assistant Professor in the School of Performing and Visual Arts at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her dance performances have been shown in landscapes and stages in the U.S. and internationally.

**Moderators: Leslie Barker**, MAC Director of Arts-Based Community Development and **Melody Moody Thortis**, MAC Director of Grants

## Voices at the Table: Reflecting Your Community through Your Season and Programming



## Ekundayo Bandele - 1

In 2006, Ekundayo Bandele founded Hattiloo Theatre, a non-profit Black repertory theatre, in Memphis, Tenn., where he currently serves as CEO. He has worked with Tony Award-winning director Ruben Santiago Hudson, and he co-led a theatre management course at the University of Orduman in Khartoum, Sudan. Ekundayo is a Fellow at the DeVos Institute of Arts Management.

## Sara Guice - 2

Sara Guice joined the Board of Directors for The Friends of Mary C organization in 2018 and became the Interim Executive Director in October 2019. Since that time, she has broadened the scope of the organization's art programming through creative community outreach and prioritizing diversity in patronage.

## Francine Thomas Reynolds - 3

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.

## **Anthony Siracusa - 4**

Anthony Siracusa is the Director of Community Engagement at the University of Mississippi. Since 2010, he has worked at the intersection of campus and community in Tennessee, Colorado and Mississippi. He publishes regularly in the field of American History and Civil Rights, and his first book, *Nonviolence Before King: The Politics of Being and the Black Freedom Movement*, will be published in the Spring of 2021.

## **Moderator: Monique Davis - 5**

Monique currently works as the Managing Director for the Center for Art and Public Exchange (CAPE) at the Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) and also serves as the Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer. Monique is responsible for creating brave spaces that expand visitors' perspectives and reveal our shared humanity. Monique is deeply committed to the belief that art has the power to transform and inform us.

## **Moderator: Sharon Miles - 6**

Sharon Miles is an actor, singer, director, playwright and the Education Director at New Stage Theatre. Her original script, *If Not Us Then Who: Freedom Rides to Freedom Summer* chronicling the freedom rides of 1961 and freedom summer of 1964- toured throughout the state of Mississippi through New Stage's Theatre's award-winning Education Program.