



Cuyahoga Arts & Culture Creative Culture Grants 2013 Panelist Biographies

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's Creative Culture Grants program will bring large-scale, transformative projects to Cuyahoga County residents by awarding two grants worth up to \$150,000 each. Below is the independent panel of experts from outside Northeast Ohio who evaluated and scored the 12 initial applications to this program. The top six scoring organization from this process will move forward to a public vote in February 2013. The public vote will help decide which projects will be brought to life in our community. For more information, visit <http://www.cacgrants.org>.



Roberto Bedoya (Tucson Pima Arts Council, Tucson, AZ)

Roberto Bedoya has served as the executive director of the Tucson Pima Arts Council since November of 2006. He is also a writer and arts consultant who works in the area of support systems for artists. As an arts consultant, Bedoya has worked on projects for Creative Capital Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation and the Urban Institute. From 1996-2001 he was the executive director of the National Association of Artists' Organizations, a national arts service organization for individual artists and artist-centered organizations, primarily visual and interdisciplinary. Bedoya's poems, essays and reviews have appeared in numerous publications including *The New Gatekeepers Emerging Challenges to Free Expression in the Arts* (Columbia University Press, 2003), *CMYK*, *EOAGH* and the *Los Angeles Times*.



Christine Harris (Christine Harris Connections, Milwaukee, WI)

Christine Harris is chief executive officer of Christine Harris Connections, a consulting firm dedicated to building creative capital throughout communities to generate a more connected, inspired and innovative society. Recent clients include Creative Alliance Milwaukee, National Endowment for the Arts, National Creativity Network, Arts Alliance Illinois, Art Serve Michigan, Arts Wisconsin, Americans for the Arts, among others. She was president of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF) from 2002 to 2007 and has 25 years of arts administration experience, including director of marketing and education for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Prior to joining UPAF, Harris was the executive director of the Milwaukee Ballet. Harris had a career in corporate retailing which included working for 10 years with large retailers in the United Kingdom. Harris earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Craig Piper (Denver Zoo, Denver, CO)

Craig Piper has served as president and chief executive officer of Denver Zoo since 2007 after having served as vice president for education and volunteer services, vice president for planning and capital projects and executive vice president and chief operating officer. Prior to joining Denver Zoo, Piper worked for twelve years at Zoo Atlanta in animal management, environmental education, environment design research and exhibit design and construction. He serves on the board of directors for The Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the National Elephant Center, The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and Visit Denver. Piper received a Bachelor's degree in architecture with a minor in zoology and a Master's degree in architecture from the University of Michigan. He has completed Ph.D. coursework in environment and behavior from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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Diane Ragsdale (Erasmus University, Netherlands)

Diane Ragsdale is currently attending Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands, where she is researching the impact of economic forces on U.S. nonprofit regional theaters since the 1980s and working towards a Ph.D. in cultural economics. For the six years prior to moving to Europe, Ragsdale worked in the performing arts program at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, where she had primary responsibility for theater, dance, and technology-related strategies and grants. Previously, she served as managing director of the contemporary performing arts center On the Boards (Seattle, Washington) and executive director of a destination music festival in the resort town of Sandpoint, Idaho. Prior work also includes stints at the Sundance Film Festival, the Seattle Film Festival, Peter Gabriel's WOMAD USA, and Bumbershoot, Seattle's Arts Festival. She has worked as a consultant for both nonprofits and for profits, as adjunct faculty at Boise State University, and, early in her career, as an actor, director and independent producer.



Dennis Scholl (Knight Foundation, Miami, FL)

Dennis Scholl is the vice president of the arts program for the Knight Foundation. He oversees the foundation's national arts program, including the Knight Arts Challenge and Random Acts of Culture. He is well known as a collector of contemporary art for over three decades. Scholl is also the founder of a series of initiatives dedicated to building the contemporary art collections of museums, including the Guggenheim, the Tate Modern and the Miami Art Museum. He is a three time regional Emmy winner for his work in cultural documentaries. He is also the co-founder of Betts and Scholl, an award winning wine project. He is currently a Harvard University Advanced Leadership Fellow, focusing on the role of culture in community engagement. Previously he was a practicing attorney and CPA.



Regina Smith (Kresge Foundation, Troy, MI)

Regina Smith has worked in support of the nonprofit arts and cultural sector for more than 20 years. She has served on the arts and culture team as a senior program officer at the Kresge Foundation since December 2008. Prior to joining Kresge, she held leadership positions at public and private arts grantmaking agencies including the Arts & Science Council, Indiana Arts Commission and Culture Works in Ohio. Smith began her career as an educator at the Cleveland Children's Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Art. She received a M.A. in arts administration from Winthrop University and studied art history at the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently the board president of Grantmakers in the Arts, a national service organization.