

2020 Artist Participants



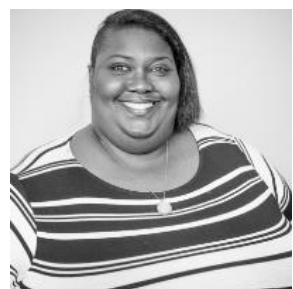
Malaz Elgemiabby

Malaz Elgemiabby is the founding Principal of ELMALAZ, a Design studio in Cleveland, Ohio. As a designer, photographer, and professor, her work creatively utilizes skills and tools carefully cultivated through international and multicultural architectural experiences to align design with community needs. Malaz's recently completed the design of Riverview Welcome Center, part of the \$40 million Irishtown Bend development. She is also an advocate for community engagement and was appointed as the Designer in Residence for Cleveland Foundation Creative Fusion 2019. Malaz Elgemiabby is from Sudan, and holds MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Bachelor of Interior Architecture and Design from London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom.



Amanda King

Amanda D. King is the founder and creative director of Shooting Without Bullets. Her artistic practice involves artistic activism, art direction, analog photography, and public art. She uses her law degree, public platform and creative talents to advocate for systemic change in Cleveland's public policy and arts ecosystem.



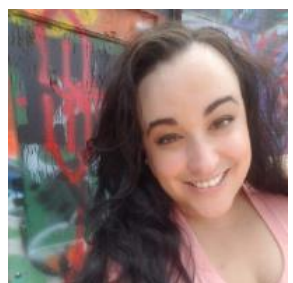
Meredith King

Meredith L. King makes words and sounds collide on stage, including work as a playwright, performer, lyricist, and composer. Meredith is currently a creative producer with Maelstrom Collaborative Arts in Cleveland, Ohio where her artistic work spans the boundaries of music, theatre and performance installations. Other credits include work with Cleveland Public Theatre's Entry Point & Station Hope Programs, Talespinner Children's Theatre's PLAYground, and Round House Theatre's Heyday Players. Meredith received a B.A. from Stanford University and an M.B.A. from Yale University, and she is passionate about theater that serves as a catalyst for connection and community building.



Valerie Mayén

Valerie Mayén is the CEO, lead designer, fearless leader, and chief of awesome behind Yellowcake Shop. She is an award-winning, multi-talented artist, and one of the kindest souls you'll ever meet. As a sustainable designer, she values that the clothing she creates is not only beautiful, but also purposefully functional. Her mission is to help women simplify their wardrobe and ease the stress of getting dressed by providing key staples that will last for years to come. Valerie is also a community champion, a mentor to everyone she meets and a consultant to small business owners and fellow entrepreneurs.



Devon Sauve

Devon is a self-taught artist from Toronto who calls Cleveland home. At a very young age she found her passion for art but as a young adult she strayed from it for many years. After leaving a long-term relationship, art became a catalyst for self-discovery. In recent years, Devon has curated art events, dabbled in different media and has made it a point to use her art for feminist expression. It is her belief that our creations are an extension of us, so it is important that we allow them to speak our truths, and for those who relate to them.

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Chris Seibert

Chris Seibert is a writer, director, performer and educator who creates original performance works in collaboration with professional and community artists. Chris' work has garnered her recognition and support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Ohio Arts Council, Chesterfield Writer's Film Project (LA), and DirectorsLabChicago. For 15 years she was a core artist with Cleveland Public Theatre, where she served as Director of Education and developed over 40 original performances with Cleveland youth, immigrant and refugee teens, and adults in recovery. Chris is a recipient of the CAC Creative Workforce Fellowship, and was a 2019 Gordon Square Artist-in-Residence.



Ron Shelton

Ron Shelton has become acutely aware of the plastic problem on our planet; his recent installations at CAN Triennial 2018, Lakewood Light in sight 2018, Firefish 2018 and 2019, and Rooms to Let 2018 and 2019, all addressed this plastic epidemic. He is the curator/publisher at www.highartfridays.com (HAF), an online art magazine, which features artists who share a familiar contemporary art aesthetics, many of whom address social and environmental components in their work. Ron has also been the recipient of several Ohio Arts Council grants. Ron has a BA degree in Cinematography from OSU.



Julia Rosa Sosa

JULIA ROSA SOSA, is an El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez native now Cleveland based. Upon graduating from The University of Texas at El Paso, Julia has focused on theater projects that resonate with her community. And has been part of Oregon Shakespeare Festival Mojada: Una Medea in Los Angeles by Luis Alfaro (Assistant Director), and Native Gardens at Cleveland Play House to Robert Barry Fleming (Assistant Director). Her work in Spanish productions in the USA; En el Tiempo de las Mariposas and Marisol at Cleveland Public Theatre. She is a proud member of the music duo Lúnatic.



Darnell Weaver

Darnell Weaver is passionate about the arts and youth development. He is widely known in Cleveland, Ohio for his teaching methods in dance, music, and theater. For many years Darnell has taught and performed around the country. He has given lectures at Baldwin Wallace and Case Western Reserve University on youth development, resiliency, brain development, and classroom management. In 2015, Darnell became the Dance Program Manager for Rainey Institute where he created and ran the Dance Mastery Program. Its mission is to provide access and opportunities in the discipline of dance to increase the social and emotional awareness of youth from grades 3-8.



George Williams

Art and artistic expressions have always been an integral part of my life from my childhood in Cleveland, through my travels and experiences in over 20 countries to my return to Cleveland. Although the techniques have changed and matured, my love for bright brilliant colors and impressionistic expressions have been consistent. My influences are primarily from everything I see, hear, feel and experience. But I also admire and have learned by studying the classic impressionist artists and native island artists both in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. I create my art as an expression of my own thoughts and feelings but ones that resonate in each person regardless of race, creed or religion. This allows communion between the viewed and the viewer. My goal is to facilitate such communication through shapes, colors, and designs.

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Karen Williams

Karen Williams graduated summa cum laude from Cleveland State University with a personally designed major in "Humor and Healing" as well as a Master of Education degree. Founder and CEO of the International Institute of Humor and Healing Arts, Karen has successfully branded HaHA Institute as the go-to resource network for humor education programs, workshops and seminars. Karen is known for her insightful commentary, audience rapport, and sheer likeability! She is a comic craft master, gifted actor, multitalented writer, and inspirational lecturer. Armed with her "healing with humor" philosophy, Karen is a modern-day alchemist whose audiences revel in her cathartic laughter!



Ann Yu

A native of Hudson, Ohio, twenty-three-year-old violinist Ann Yu draws inspiration from her faith and her surroundings. A multifaceted musician, Ms. Yu teaches and performs in solo, chamber, and orchestral programs throughout Northeast Ohio. Her biggest passion is creatively serving the community through music, serving as Co-Artistic Director and Communications Director of Renovare Music, a nonprofit string ensemble that shares music and story to bridge the gap between divided communities in Cleveland. Ms. Yu received her master and bachelor degrees in violin performance studying with Jaime Laredo and Jan Sloman at the Cleveland Institute of Music.