Letty Bassart (lettybassart.org) is a maker, choreographer/director, performance artist/improvisor, researcher, teacher, and passionate servant of the arts whose work takes many forms. Since beginning to formally infuse energy into performance making in 2003, Letty has made more than 40 short and long-form works. These efforts have received recognition through a National Endowment for the Arts dance writing fellowship, four Miami-Dade Independent Choreographer Fellowships; a Knight Arts Challenge Award; and with generous grant, commission, and presentation support. Highlights include: Highlights include Un/Nameable One, Two, Three (originally commissioned by Miami Light Project for Here & Now), A Symphony Apart, orchestral installation by Musicians of the Charlotte Symphony, Surplus Reiterations Exhibition at FAU’s Ritter Art Gallery and Schmidt Public Space; Some Ways to Continue?, long form performance installation for UCLA’s Room 200; and GOOD, GOD, GO, evening length dance theater work for Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

Among other projects, Letty is currently developing a work for Miami Light Projects' 2023 Here & Now Festival (opening May 2023). Her experiences also include performing nationally and internationally, as well as nearly 30 years of teaching in public, private, community and academic settings. Most recently she has served as a Teaching Artist with Arts for Learning/Miami and as a Guest Artist at the University of Florida, University of Miami and at the National YoungArts Foundation. She holds an MFA from UCLA’s Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance. Letty's unwavering aspiration is to imbue every crevice of cultural production with love, rigor, and compassion.
Dr. Chad Bernstein is a husband and father of four amazing kids, Co-Founder/CEO of Guitars Over Guns, and a professional musician who has been instrumental in the evolution of the “Latin Funk” sound of Miami. Chad received a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Miami in 2012, turning the focus of his dissertation to Guitars Over Guns’ research-based methods.

In 2015, Chad was honored as a CNN Hero for his work, and has since been featured by the Steve Harvey Show and People Magazine. Most recently, Chad was named an inaugural recipient of The Elevate Prize, selected from among thousands of global changemakers. Chad is currently serving as a Governor on the board of the Recording Academy, focusing on advocacy and education. In addition, he remains among South Florida’s premier Latin, jazz, and funk artists, performing with the Latin Grammy-nominated Spam Allstars and Miami-based Latin-funk band, Suénalo.
BETH BOONE
ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MIAMI LIGHT PROJECT

Beth Boone is the Artistic & Executive Director of Miami Light Project. Her 35-year career in the field of art and culture includes extensive experience and accomplishment in programming, fundraising, organizational development, and public advocacy while holding executive positions encompassing corporate, higher education, and nonprofit sectors.

During Beth’s 25-year tenure at Miami Light Project, she has distinguished herself as a visionary leader in Miami’s growing art and culture community at the forefront of nurturing and elevating contemporary performing artists and their work.

Beth’s passion for the arts was cemented early in life, which led to her earning a B.A. in Fine Arts from the College of Charleston in South Carolina and an MFA in Theater Arts from Brandeis University in Boston, MA. Following a year as artist-in-residence at Brandeis, Beth moved to New York City to pursue a career in theater. In addition to co-founding two Off Broadway theater companies, New York Rep and Pulse Ensemble Theater, she served for six years as a Program Associate in the Arts & Culture Program of the AT&T Foundation.

In 1995, Beth relocated to Miami. Prior to her tenure at Miami Light Project, Beth was the Associate Director of Development for Florida Grand Opera and the Deputy Director, followed by Interim Director, for the Department of Cultural Affairs at Miami Dade Community College, Wolfson Campus. Recognition for Beth’s work includes Best Promoter of Cultural Diversity (Miami New Times), 40 to Watch in the Arts (Miami Herald), Women Ruling the Arts (Miami Herald), and the Howard Kleinberg Award for Contributions to Art and Culture (Carbonell Awards/Theater League of South Florida).

As an advocate and change-maker in the field, Beth facilitated the establishment of many Miami-based cultural organizations including Nu Deco Ensemble, Teo Castellanos D-Projects, and Rosie Herrera Dance Theater. Beth has also served as panelist, speaker, and evaluator for the National Dance Project, Japan Foundation, Ford Foundation, Association of Performing Arts Professionals, MAP Fund, Knight Foundation, Australia Counsel, and Goethe-Institut, among others.
DEJHA CARRINGTON
CO-FOUNDER & EXEC. DIRECTOR
COMMISSIONER

Dejha Carrington is an arts leader dedicated to exploring pathways rooted in community and collaboration.

In 2017, Dejha co-founded Commissioner, an innovative art membership program that helps people collect the work of contemporary artists in their cities. She consults on strategy, programming, artist commissions, and storytelling for nonprofits and social impact initiatives. Clients include the University of Miami’s Center for Global Black Studies, New Art Dealers Alliance, On Running, and Edelman PR.

From 2015 to 2022, Dejha served as Vice President of Strategic Communications for YoungArts, the national foundation for the advancement of artists. Previously, she consulted on public relations for client projects, including the Kimball Art Museum, the Medellín Biennial in Colombia, and the National Film Board of Canada. As a recognized speaker, Dejha frequently presents on topics around the arts, access, and building community with groups such as the U.S. Presidential Scholars Foundation, Netflix, and Americans For The Arts.

Dejha is a board trustee of national performance arts funder MAP Fund; a professional advisory committee member of Miami-Dade Art In Public Places; and shares her time with The Black School, an experimental schoolhouse in New Orleans.

A Montreal native and McGill University graduate, Dejha calls Miami her home base.
ADRIENNE CHADWICK
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART NORTH MIAMI

Adrienne Chadwick is an artist and arts administrator who has dedicated 29 years to reimagining art museums in South Florida. She is currently the Director of Community Engagement at the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami (MOCA). Previously she served in roles at Pérez Art Museum Miami, Nova Southeastern University Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, and Young At Art Museum.

She volunteers on selection panels including National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), National Congressional Art Competition, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Pinellas County Cultural Affairs, among many others. A studio art practice focused on mixed media installation compliments her arts administration work. Chadwick earned a BFA from New World School of the Arts/University of Florida, and MPA from Nova Southeastern University. Born in Toronto, Canada and a citizen of Belize, Central America, Chadwick is an avid traveler who has visited all seven continents. She is devoted to supporting cultures and customs across her local communities.
DARIUS DAUGHTRY
EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ART PREVAILS PROJECT

Darius V. Daughtry is a poet, playwright, director, and educator. He is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of Art Prevails Project, a performing and literary arts organization cultivating community and creating equitable access to the arts through performance, arts education, and community engagement.

Darius understands how exposure to and participation in the arts can impact individuals and help shift cultural landscapes to transform communities. He has been commissioned to write, perform, and conduct workshops for various organization, such as the U.S. Naval Academy, TEDx, the University of Florida, the Poetry Foundation, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, the Adrienne Arsht Center, Broward, Miami-Dade and various municipalities throughout South Florida.

Through various modes of storytelling, Darius’ work is both creative and critical. His series of multidisciplinary performance projects, The Happening: A Theatrical Mixtape, Volumes 1-4 explore the intersectionality of society issues and have been presented at Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the African American Research Library and Cultural Center. Darius’ theatrical writing, directing and producing credits also include From Whence We’ve Come, A Love Like This, Seeking and a recent reimagining of a Shakespearean classic, Merchants of Venice. His collection of poetry, And the Walls Came Tumbling, is an introspective poetic memoir and cultural critique. Equal parts praise dance and eulogy, And the Walls Came Tumbling is full of vulnerable, introspective poems that explore race, class, gender through a brutally unforgiving lens.

MEET THE 2023 ADVISORS
Amy Galpin is the Chief Curator of the Frost Art Museum at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. She has previously served as the Curator of Rollins Museum of Art, and the Associate Curator, Art of the Americas, at the San Diego Museum of Art. Her exhibitions include Alfredo Ramos Martinez: Picturing Mexico in California at the Pasadena Museum of Art and Translation Revolution: U.S. Artists Interpret Mexica Muralism at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. In 2010, she worked with the Museum of Contemporary San Diego, the Timken Museum of Art, and the San Diego Museum of Art on an exhibition and publication titled, Behold, America! Art of the United States from Three San Diego Museums. At both the Frost and at Rollins College, Galpin curated numerous group and solo exhibitions of contemporary art including In the Mind’s Eye: Landscapes of Cuba, Displacement: Symbols and Journeys, Cut: Abstraction in the U.S. from the 1970s to the Present, and solo projects with Patrick Martinez, Rafael Soldi, Liu Shiyuan, and Jess T. Dugan, among others. Her exhibition projects and collections research focus on modern and contemporary art. She teaches courses on the art of the United States and Latin America.
ADAM GANUZA
CHIEF OF STAFF
THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L.
KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Adam Gnuza is chief of staff for the president’s office at Knight. He joined Knight in 2016 as program officer on the Knight Arts team and led the administration of the Knight Arts Challenge, an open call for transformative ideas in the arts.

He has held various positions in healthcare administration and policy analysis, engineering research, and in film, television, live music and festival production.

He is a graduate of the Council on Foundation Career Pathways program, a leadership development program that advances excellence, equity, and inclusion in philanthropic organizations. He is also a graduate of the National Urban Fellows program, an academic and leadership development program that focuses on increasing diversity in the public and nonprofit sectors.

He earned a Bachelor of Science from Brown University, a Master of Science from the University of Michigan, and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College.

Ganuza is a Miami native, where he currently lives with his wife and two children.
ROSIE GORDON-WALLLACE
PRESIDENT | CURATOR
DIASPORA VIBE CULTURAL ARTS INCUBATOR, INC (DVCAI)

Rosie Gordon-Wallace is a recognized curator, arts advocate, community leader and pioneer in advancing contemporary Caribbean diaspora art. She founded the Diaspora Vibe Culture Arts Incubator (DVCAI) to serve as a local and global laboratory dedicated to promoting, nurturing and cultivating the vision and diverse talents of emerging artists from the Caribbean Diaspora, artists of color and immigrant artists. Twenty-seven years later, DVCAI is recognized as a global resource and one of the region’s leading platforms dedicated to providing diaspora artists with a venue to explore and experiment with new forms and themes that challenge traditional definitions of Caribbean and Latin American art. Her awards include the Knight Foundation Cultural Award, The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Third Annual Calabash Amadlozi Visual Arts Award, International Businesswoman of the Year, One of South Florida’s 50 Most Powerful Black Professionals to name a few.

In 2021, she was recognized by the Perez Art Museum Miami’s International Women’s Committee as International Woman of the Year. Her recent curations include Inter|Sectionality: Diaspora Art from The Creole City at The Miami Design District, and Illuminate Coral Gables: A City Looks to Light, city of Coral Gables, Florida, and more recently “Chromatic Cogitations: Rhythm Reboot” alumni artist in residence exhibition at Redline Contemporary Arts in Denver, Colorado, “I M(O)ther: Threads of the Maternal Figure” Katrina Coombs, solo exhibition at Sarasota Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida, “ORDER MY STEPS: There are No answers Here, Move on” Roscoë B. Thické III at Oolite Arts, in Miami, Florida, and “Depth of Identity: Art as Memory and Archive” at Green Space Miami, Florida. Organized International Diasporic Curatorial Cohort Program in Hambidge, GA. Twenty years of International Cultural Exchange Programs to Caribbean Islands, most recently to Paramaribo, Suriname with fifteen BIPOC artists & scholars @dvcai.

MEET THE 2023 ADVISORS
NADEGE GREEN  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH & STORYTELLING 
BLACK MIAMI-DADE & COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

Nadege Green is a researcher, writer, editor, and community historian based in Miami. Her work centers the lived experiences of Black people in South Florida. Her practice and approach to art and storytelling is deeply rooted in history and first-person narratives that explore and connect issues around race, culture, climate justice, and displacement.

She is the founder of Black Miami-Dade, a visual history and storytelling platform that resists the erasure of Miami’s Black past.

Most recently, Nadege led and curated the first ever exhibit on Miami’s Black queer history “Give Them Their Flowers: An Exhibit of Black LGBTQ+ History. (www.blackmiamidade.com/givethemtheirflowers).

She leads the art and narrative initiatives at Community Justice Project, a local nonprofit that supports state-wid grassroots organizing for power, racial justice and human rights with innovative lawyering, research and creative strategy tools. Her reporting has appeared on NPR, WLRN News, Marketplace and in the Miami Herald, The Atlantic and Harper’s Bazaar.
MIRIAM KING
OWNER
EVE CONSULTING FIRM

King is the founder of the E.V.E. (Empowerment Via Education) Consulting Firm, a professional development consultancy whose work and philosophy are centered on closing generational gaps between creatives, professionals, and capacity builders. As a leadership development coach, King works with organizations and their leaders to foster purpose-driven impact, leadership, and cultural safety in the workplace. Miriam King is an artist, educator, community leader, and advocate. Nearly 20 years of her professional career were committed to education as a teacher before she became a consultant.
CATHY LEFF  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BAKEHOUSE ART COMPLEX

Cathy Leff, Executive Director, and Director Emerita of The Wolfsonian-FIU, is a seasoned cultural professional and creative entrepreneur with more than four decades experience working at the intersection of culture and community-building. In 2018, she assumed the leadership of the 35-year-old Bakehouse, its community of 100 working artists, Board of Directors, and other stakeholders on a 5-year strategic plan, which prioritized the renovation of the organization’s former Art Deco-era bakery as a model center of contemporary cultural production and the addition of affordable housing for artists to its underutilized 2.3-acre campus. Leff also focused on diversifying the artist community, building subsidy funding to ensure affordability for artists, while also building a team and expanding the organization’s programmatic offerings.

Prior to arriving at Bakehouse, Leff worked with Harvard Graduate School of Design from 2017 to 2019 on its Future of the American City | Miami initiative, an experience that impacted her thinking about Bakehouse’s greater role in the community, including its ability to address affordability, mobility, and resiliency/sustainability. In 2021, following a community-driven vision plan with Bakehouse’s participation, the City of Miami approved the Wynwood Norte Neighborhood Revitalization District, paving the way for Bakehouse to achieve its vision to become a community-embedded, live-work, cultural anchor.

Leff has served on many cultural and community boards, including the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, City of Miami and City of Miami Beach Planning Advisory Boards, City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places Committee, Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council, ArtTable, Greater Miami Visitor and Convention Bureau, Cintas Foundation, Lotus House Shelter, Association of Art Museum Directors, and American Association of Museums. She is a member of the International Conference of Museums and emerita member of Association of Art Museum Directors.

Leff received her BA from Sophie Newcomb, Tulane University, completed coursework towards an MBA at University of Miami; received a certificate in non profit leadership from Harvard Business School, and was a fellow for non profit cultural leaders at NAS at Stanford University, receiving a certificate from that program.
DEBORAH LEHMAN DI CAPUA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FRINGE PROJECTS

Deborah Lehman Di Capua (b. Miami, Florida) is Executive Director of Fringe Projects, a nonprofit that commissions site-specific, temporary public art. Deborah is committed to furthering the discipline of public art by presenting new narratives, investigating alternative sites, and creating new ideas at the threshold between art & architecture.

Before Fringe, Deborah earned a bachelor’s in art history from the University of Florida, a master’s degree in architectural design from the Southern California Institute of Architecture (Sci-Arc) in Los Angeles and then pursued a PhD in Critical Studies at UCLA. Fundamental to her vision of public art was her work under the mentorship of Professor Miwon Kwon, author of the seminal book, One Place after Another: Site-Specific Art and Locational Identity (MIT Press). Deborah enjoys sharing all her work with her husband Paul, and three daughters, Noa, Pascale, & Rafaella, all of whom are critical to her psycho-social and intellectual development.
NERISSA MANELA  
PHD STUDENT IN MUSIC EDUCATION, FROST SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
DIRECTOR, MIAMI JAM SESSIONS

Nerissa Manela is a doctoral student in Music Education at the Frost School of Music. She has experience teaching chorus, strings, and modern band instruments to students of all abilities in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. She conducts the Young Mozarts orchestra and serves as Education Coordinator with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony and runs Miami Jam Sessions, a free music therapy socialization group and mentoring program for neurodiverse teens and young adults. Nerissa’s research interests include neurodiversity, creativity, and music teacher training.

A life-long learner, Nerissa is undertaking Kodály certification teacher training at Midwestern State University. She was recognized by the Florida Music Educators Association as a 2020 Emerging Leader, was the 2021 Miami-Dade County Public Schools Rookie Teacher of the Year, and is a featured member of the Yamaha “40 Under 40” Music Educators class of 2023. Nerissa holds a Bachelor of Music in music education and music therapy from the University of Miami and a Master of Philosophy in Arts, Creativity, Education and Culture from the University of Cambridge (UK).
DEBORAH MARGOL
CONSULTANT

Deborah Bookspan Margol is an independent arts consultant with more than 35 years of experience in the arts industry. Deborah was a leader and senior executive of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs from 1986-2018, serving as Deputy Director and chief financial officer.

Deborah helped set the strategic direction for Miami-Dade’s cultural evolution, building the Department over three decades into a national model for leading local arts and community development, work that has positioned Greater Miami among the most transformed cultural capitals in the country, constituting a local industry impact of more than $1.4 billion annually.

Deborah was directly responsible for developing and managing the Department’s (then) more than $40 million annual operating budget and the County’s nearly $1 billion investment in arts and cultural facilities. She directed all financial operations of the Department, and with the Director led all planning, marketing and communications, Board relations, constituent services, policy and legislative development, local and national public and private sector partnerships, program management, training and talent development, and crisis/disaster recovery initiatives.

Deborah was the architect of the Department’s portfolio of 20 competitive grants programs, recognized for its equitability, accessibility and accountability in grant making. This approach to public investment catalyzed growth in the arts sector at every level, from individual artists to neighborhood cultural groups and activities to major cultural, museum and performing arts institutions.
KATHRYN MIKESELL
CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOUNTAINHEAD ARTS

In 2008, Kathryn Mikesell co-founded The Fountainhead Residency, an artist’s residency program, the first of its kind, in the heart of Miami burgeoning art scene. Later that same year, she opened The Fountainhead Studios, providing affordable, flexible studios to Miami based artists. In 2019, Fountainhead inaugurated a new program Artists Open, the only countywide open studios event. Kathryn serves on the Miami Dade Art in Public Places Trust Board. Prior to launching Fountainhead she worked in technology for companies including ADC and IBM, and co-founded a children’s enrichment center, Skipping Stones, which continues to operate today. She has been featured on CNN, HGTV, Telemundo and in Departures, Indulge, Opulence, MIAMI, Ocean Drive and Cultured.
JAIRO ONTIVEROS
VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
ARSHT CENTER

Jairo Ontiveros is the Vice President of Arts Education and Community Engagement at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, where he oversees a multifaceted portfolio of programs that engage more than 80,000 K-12 students and adult learners a year in meaningful arts learning experiences. His work focuses on outreach to populations historically underserved by the arts. Under his supervision, the Arsht Center’s programs have achieved national recognition, including AlileyCamp Miami, which received the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, the nation’s highest honor for out-of-school creative youth development programs. Ontiveros also creates artist access to professional development and mentoring opportunities for local artists, producing new artistic works that amplify the voices of local South Florida artists on a national scale. Ontiveros has served the National Endowment for the Arts on its Arts Education, and Literary Arts Panels including the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Grants.

Ontiveros has more than 17 years of experience delivering fine arts programming to communities. Born in Aguascalientes, in northern Mexico, he was raised in North Texas. Ontiveros holds degrees in Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Latin American Studies – from the University of Texas, Austin. He has studied theory of cinema at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona and is a Texas Performing Arts, Arts Management Fellow. He also is trained in ADA/504 compliance.

In 2007, Ontiveros joined the Adrienne Arsht Center, where he supervises such cornerstone education programs as Learning Through the Arts, an arts integration initiative that reaches all fifth, seventh and ninth-graders in Miami-Dade County Public Schools with live theater; Jazz Roots Sound Check, which provides high school music students behind-the-scenes interaction with the world’s finest jazz musicians; Accessing the Arts, a residency program that sends teaching artists into public schools and adult centers to promote music, movement and theater learning among students and adults with disabilities; and AlileyCamp Miami, a summer camp for at-risk middle school students held in cooperation with the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation. Along with master classes and teaching residencies led by visiting artists, Ontiveros produces free family friendly performances every year to connect young families to the performing. The effort has drawn a new generation to the Arsht Center and earned a “Kids Crown Award” from South Florida Parenting magazine.

Ontiveros previously served on the International Performing Arts for Youth Board of Directors and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Pioneer Winter Collective and Green Space Miami Advisory Committee. He is a current member of the National Association of the Latino Arts and Cultures, The Trevor Project and The Broadway League, the national trade association for the Broadway industry, serving on its Audience Engagement Committee. In 2014, he was the recipient of the “40 under 40” South Florida Business Journal award for his work in bridging the arts and the business sector and the Beacon Council’s Education & Workforce Award in 2018.
ESTHER PARK
VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING OOLITE ARTS

A journalist for over 15+ years, Esther Park has been a contributing writer for many reputable publications such as Vice, Spin, Miami New Times, and the Village Voice, and held the title of editor-at-large for the respected underground hip-hop magazine Elemental from 1999-2004.

Her move to Miami in 2003 resulted in Esther becoming the Director of Public Programs for the Museum of Contemporary Art. There she programmed events, curated series in music and art and worked closely with the local community. After her tenure at MOCA, she became the Director of Programming at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. After five years there, Esther became Director of Alumni and Public Programs at the National YoungArts Foundation. Currently, Esther is the Vice President of Programming for Oolite Arts and oversees their robust programming portfolio, which includes ongoing exhibitions, public programs and the studio residency program. She is a proud national board member of ACA (Artist Communities Alliance).
KATHERINE REVELL
CULTURAL PROJECTS ADMINISTRATOR
MIAMI DADE COUNTY DEPT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Katherine Revell has more than twenty-five years of experience as an arts administrator and grants writer. She joined the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs in May 2018 as Cultural Projects Administrator for the Summer Arts and Science Camps for Kids grant program. She is also part of a team which creates programming for the County’s All Kids Included (AKI) initiative which makes the arts accessible to young people of all abilities through a variety of year-round activities. In addition, AKI offers professional development workshops on inclusive practices to teaching artists and arts administration professionals.

After a decade working with Miami City Ballet as Capital Campaign Grants Writer, Foundation and Government Relations Manager, and Development Manager, she spent several years as an arts consultant with Melissa Chaykin Consulting, Inc. Her clients included Miami City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Blowing Rock Community Arts Center, Miami Music Festival, and Miami Theater Center.

Prior to coming to Miami, she worked at The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, which manages Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home in Charlottesville, Virginia. Katherine was the first recipient of the Gilder Research Fellowship at the International Center for Jefferson Studies, a joint venture between The University of Virginia and Monticello. As Gilder Fellow, she researched domestic life at Monticello, focusing on the women who lived there and Jefferson’s relationships with them. She also worked as a Curatorial Assistant at Monticello where she researched the collection and provided art-handling support.

Katherine graduated with a BA in English from Davidson College and an MA in Art History from the University of Delaware. Inspired by her son, Katherine is a parent advocate for individuals on the autism spectrum and active in local and national autism support and awareness organizations, including Autism Speaks and Spectrum Dance Therapy: Arts for Autism. Her passion is making the arts accessible to everyone, especially children with special needs.

MEET THE 2023 ADVISORS
Daphna Streilitz is a British import to Miami, having moved in 2014. She is a museum development professional with 10+ years of experience in grants, fundraising, donor relations, and member experiences as both an employee and volunteer. Daphna currently works as Development Manager at The Bass where she leads all aspects of the grants lifecycle, as well as fostering relationships with funders. Prior to this, she managed and grew The Bass’ membership program and led the museum’s renowned Bass Art Pass initiative. Daphna received her first-class B.A. Hons. degree in History of Art with Museum Studies from the University of Leeds in the UK. She enjoys live music, good coffee, investigative podcasts, and more than anything, spending time in nature with her husband Matthew, toddler, and dog Mimi.
Ashlee K. Thomas is a multi-hyphenate creator that specializes in writing dynamic stories through song, music and dance.

A Miami native, Ashlee has had the privilege to take her alchemist journey. After graduating from Florida State University, she took her sojourn to Los Angeles where she danced professionally with Los Angeles based company, CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater. Independently, she created full length choreographic works workshopped at Disney Concert Hall and premiered at the prestigious Highway Theater in California. She has written and produced 3 original plays, 3 youth shows and served as a lead choreographer in Latin-grammy nominated music video, Licenciado Cantinas ft. Enrique Burnbury. She also served as co-founder and festival director of Melbourne Webfest, Australia's first web-series festival. In 2014, she returned to Miami and developed her career in arts administration and education. She has served as the marketing manager at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (2014), the manager of education and community outreach at the Adrienne Arsht Center (2016) and as the Drama magnet teacher at Charles Drew K8 Center ('19-'20). She is a published blogger and Host for creative and corporate events. [the creative hustle is real ;)]

Ashlee is a graduate of NYU, Tisch School of the Arts, graduate musical theater writing and has seamlessly integrated her creative passions and professional career. She is an award winning grant writer and co-founder of MUCE, an arts production company that brings brands and ideas to life with art. Follow her @ muce305 and @thebusybees_musical
Mette Tommerup (b. 1969, Denmark; lives in Miami) is a painter whose use of raw uncut canvases and pigments are meant to develop the work through a process, including, but not limited to, exposure to natural elements, and a pilgrimage from inception to completion. Her large-scale art is characterized by exploration, liberation, deconstruction, and immersive performance activation.

Tommerup received a BFA from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and MFA from School of Visual Arts, NYC. Awards include the Hassam, Speicher, Betts and Symons Purchase Fund at the American Academy of Arts and Letters, NYC 2010.


In New York, Tommerup has exhibited at Exit Art, the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Chelsea Art Museum in New York City. In Miami, at The Bass, Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) and The FIU Frost Museum of Art.

Publications include Miami Contemporary Artists, Miami Arts Explosion, 100 Degrees in the Shade and Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze. Subject of essay collection, Trilogy, by Eleanor Heartney. and exhibitions have been reviewed in Art in America, Artnet.com, and The Miami Herald among others.

Tommerup was recently commissioned by Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Art in Public Places Trust to complete two projects. The first project is a custom exterior aluminum mural, Sky of the First Water 2022 in Coconut Grove and additionally an interior 185’ wide painting, Ocean Contour 2022 located in Terminal F, PortMiami.
DEREK WALLACE
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT & OPERATIONS
NU DECO ENSEMBLE

Derek Wallace currently serves as the VP of Advancement & Operations for Nu Deco Ensemble. In this role, he oversees all facets of the organization's external marketing and development initiatives, as well as the day-to-day operations of the organization, and serves as the Board Liaison.

Outside of Nu Deco, Derek has had the pleasure of serving as a Discipline Coordinator for YoungArts during both their Miami and New York program weeks. Derek graduated Summa Cum Laude from Florida Southern College with a Bachelor of Science in Music Management and a business minor. Before joining Nu Deco, Derek worked at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; Yellow Barn Music Festival in Putney, VT; and the Ithaca College School of Music in Ithaca, NY.
Ms. Womble is a Miami native and passionate arts leader with more than 20 years of experience. She excels at team building, managing change, strategic planning, and fundraising. Her vibrant approach to all tasks and thoughtful analysis of opportunities helped her drive a significant period of growth and transition at Arts for Learning, increasing the annual budget by more than 55% in one year as a result of program expansions and evaluation initiatives. Under her leadership, Arts for Learning developed programs to serve children and youth from infancy through high school, providing Miami’s youth more opportunities to grow up with the arts. Prior to helping establish and lead Arts for Learning, she managed the Ruth & Richard Shack art collection and handled artist and community relations and marketing services for ArtCenter/South Florida (now Oolite Arts). She studied at the Institute for American Studies in Aix-en-Provence, France and holds a degree in Art History & Anthropology from the University of Miami.