

2020 Artist Opportunity Grant Panel

Jordan Knepper (Panel Facilitator) is the Executive Director of the Piqua Arts Council. Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio, Knepper thought his future was in educating young minds and unraveling the mysteries of mathematics for future generations. But after a brief foray into teaching, he reengaged with his passion for the arts and began applying his analytical background to arts event management and organizational stabilization. Today, when Knepper isn't working for the Piqua Arts Council, he's volunteering for the Ohio Watercolor Society as their Traveling Show Coordinator, serving as the Treasurer for the Jackson Center Greater Growth Association, which is responsible for community events in the Village of Jackson Center, Ohio, or assisting in the development of Fusion - Spiritual Community, a nonprofit community center.

Originally from Twin Cities, Minnesota, **DeMarcus Akeem Suggs** is a dance artist, educator, and arts administrator. A graduate of Belhaven University's dance program (BFA), his professional experience includes performing with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC), Dayton Ballet, Neos Dance Theatre, Verb Ballets, as well as collaborating with various project-based choreographers. His passion for building and sustaining a vibrant, equitable, and artist-centric culture sector has developed over the course of his 10 years serving in various leadership roles such as Program Director at The Victory Project (Dayton, OH); Coordinator of Education & Engagement at Victoria Theatre Association (Dayton, OH); as well as Director of Education & Outreach for Neos Dance Theatre. He has also served as a panelist for Ohio Arts Council and Dance/USA and was selected for Dance/USA's 2018 Institute for Leadership Training. DeMarcus currently serves as Resource Synergist for Alternate ROOTS, Graduate Assistant for The National Center for Choreography at the University of Akron (NCCAkron), and he is pursuing a Master of Arts in Arts Administration at the University of Akron.

Andrew Dailey received his MFA from Miami University, Oxford and his BFA from Wright State University. He has won numerous awards for his work in exhibitions throughout the region. He has a myriad of teaching experience and serves currently as the Cultural Arts Program Supervisor for the City of Kettering, where he plans and oversees over 400 programs for Rosewood Arts Centre each year. His initiatives, including community events for children and the arts, attract several thousand participants each year. His recent accolades include Distinguished Alumni Award from Wright State University, Special Way Award from the City of Kettering, and the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award.

Born in beautiful Springfield, Ohio, **Noah Dixon** graduated from Denison

University in 2014 with a Cinema major and a Music minor. From 2014–2016 he served with AmeriCorps as an Ohio College Guide in the Columbus City Schools. While working with AmeriCorps, he started Loose Films LLC with fellow Denison alums Ori Segev and Brett Reiter. Within Loose Films, Noah wears many hats. As Creative Director, he works on the creative process from pre-production to post-production. He also serves as lead editor, finalizing most content and sometimes composing/scoring music for projects.

Vicky Fanberg is passionate about art and community, currently serving as a member of the Arts Management faculty at Miami University. Vicky holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from East Carolina University and a Master of Public Administration from Wright State University. She has served on grant panels for a number of cultural organizations, including the North Carolina Arts Council, the Gateway Arts Council, and the Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District.

Desirae “The Silent Poet” Hosley is a spoken word artist and community organizer dedicated to creating spaces that help people speak their truth. During her time with AmeriCorps Volunteers of America, she worked with the Urban Appalachian Council (now known as the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition) in Lower Price Hill, which sparked a love for the nonprofit world. Since then, she has collaborated with Community Matters, helped to bring Louder Than a Bomb Poetry Teen Slam to Cincinnati, and founded SlamCatz, The University of Cincinnati’s spoken word poetry slam and dialogue team. As a performer, she’s taken the stage at the University of Cincinnati, Fringe Festival Cincinnati, Poetry Museum without Walls, the Aronoff Center, and many other venues. Most recently, she has created Social Therapy 2020, a virtual community where young adults and adults come together to bridge the social gap in this new pandemic world through writing and storytelling.

Kate Kennedy is the Chief Operating Officer of ArtsWave in Cincinnati. A seasoned fundraiser, Kate joined ArtsWave in 2012 and has held the roles of senior director, director, and manager with a focus on multiple areas, including philanthropy, business analytics, individual and leadership giving, and campaign management. Prior to ArtsWave, Kate was a Senior Associate for Major Gifts and Leadership Giving at United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Manager of Development Operations for the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, and Assistant Director of Development for the Greater Hartford Arts Council. Kate earned double bachelor’s degrees in Spanish language and arts administration with an emphasis in music from Butler University in Indianapolis. She is also a graduate of the Center of Philanthropy, having completed her master’s in philanthropic studies.

Lisa Shininger is a writer, editor, podcast producer, and digital marketing strategist who is passionate about creating a robust and diverse arts community in the Dayton Region. She has served as a fiction reader for *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* and Fireside Fiction Company. As a fiction writer, she gravitates toward subject matter involving pop culture, entertainment, feminism, nostalgia, and science fiction/fantasy.

Michelle VanHuss holds a BFA in Dance from New World School of the Arts/University of Florida and a Master of Public Administration from Wright State University. She has participated in conferences, professional development opportunities, and advocacy work with regional and national organizations, including Dance/USA, Arts Midwest, Americans for the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, Association for Performing Arts Professionals (APAP), and the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA). She was a 2016 Dance/USA Institute for Leadership Training Mentee, a 2017 Arts Midwest David A. Fraher Future Leader Award recipient, and a 2019 APAP Emerging Leadership Institute participant and ISPA Fellowship recipient. Locally, she has served as the Director of Touring and University Initiatives with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC), an Ohio Arts Council grant panelist, and a Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards adjudicator and serves as a member of the Centerville Arts Commission in Centerville, Ohio.