

DEMYSTIFYING PUBLIC ART ■ SYMPOSIUM ■

FEBRUARY 16–17, 2019

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
ADELPHI, MARYLAND**

SPONSORED BY:

Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council

**M-NCPPC/Prince George's County Department of Parks
and Recreation/Arts and Cultural Heritage Division**

University of Maryland University College

Public art—art outside traditional galleries or museums—is present everywhere, but many artists have limited knowledge of the various factors involved in participating in public art projects. The goal of this symposium is to demystify the process by bringing together people active in the public art field to address these factors. The first day provides an introduction to public art through panel discussions geared to all levels of artistic experience. The second day offers a deeper dive into specific components of public art projects. This symposium will give attendees the opportunity to network and connect with presenters and each other. Public art is the art of collaboration, after all.

MODERATORS AND SPEAKERS



Alec Simpson is the countywide arts coordinator for the Arts and Cultural Heritage Division of the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation/Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He manages public art projects, supervises the Visual Arts Program, and serves on the Prince George's County Public Art Review Panel for new construction and renovation of county buildings.



Rhonda Dallas is the executive director of the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council. She manages the county's Art in Public Places program and other strategic initiatives and is actively involved in expanding Prince George's County's Gateway Arts District and other emerging cultural corridors, supporting adaptive restoration of vacant sites or underserved neighborhoods.



Eric Key is the director of the Arts Program at University of Maryland University College (UMUC). Since he joined UMUC, the university has added nearly 2,200 individual pieces to its collection. Key is responsible for the overall care, development, and future of the collection. He also leads UMUC's robust visual arts exhibition program, which features several new exhibitions in the Arts Program Gallery each year.



Todd W. Bressi is an urban designer, public art consultant, educator, and writer. Bressi consults with public agencies, civic and community groups, cultural organizations, and private developers throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has worked on numerous public art and arts district master plans, managed complex public art commissions, and teamed with artists on collaborative design projects.



Victor Ekpuk, a Nigerian-born artist based in Washington, D.C., is best known for his ephemeral large-scale wall drawings inspired by *nsibidi*, an ancient African writing system. His works are in many public and private collections, including those of the National Museum of African Art (Washington, D.C.), Krannert Art Museum (Champaign, Illinois), Newark Museum (New Jersey), and UMUC.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 9:30–10 a.m.** **What Is Public Art?**
Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Comments
Alec Simpson, Rhonda Dallas, Eric Key
- 10–10:50 a.m.** **Sponsors of Public Art**
Panelists: Sandra Bellamy, Management Analyst,
District of Columbia Government; Zolna Russell,
Art in Transit Manager, Purple Line Transit Constructors
Moderator: Alec Simpson
- 11–11:50 a.m.** **Access and Entry Points—My Introduction to
Public Art: Testimonials of Various Artists**
Panelists: Ronald Beverly, Artist/Instructor;
Mary Ann Mears, Sculptor; Valerie Theberge, Artist
Moderator: Rhonda Dallas
- Noon–12:50 p.m.** **Lunchtime Session: What Every Public Artist
Needs to Know**
Todd W. Bressi, Public Art/Placemaking/City Design
Moderator: Eric Key
- 1–1:50 p.m.** **Public Art Resources**
Patricia Walsh, Public Art and Civic Design Program
Manager, Americans for the Arts Public Art Network
Moderator: Alec Simpson
- 2–2:50 p.m.** **Public Art as the Art of Collaboration**
Panelists: Martha Jackson Jarvis, Artist, Jackson
Jarvis Studio; Alan Binstock, Sculptor/Architect
Moderator: Rhonda Dallas
- 3–3:45 p.m.** **Challenges of the Public Artist**
Panelists: Judy Sutton Moore, Artist; Margaret Boozer,
Director, Red Dirt Studio; Akili Ron Anderson,
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Art, Howard University
Moderator: Eric Key
- 3:45–4 p.m.** **Closing Remarks**
Alec Simpson, Eric Key
- 4:15–6 p.m.** **Evening Reception and Tour of Public Art Collection**
The Hotel at the University of Maryland
Rhonda Dallas

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- 9:30–10 a.m.** **Welcome and Introduction**
Alec Simpson, Rhonda Dallas, Eric Key
- 10–10:50 a.m.** **Public Art Solicitation and Budget Documents**
Panelist: Liesel Fenner, Public Art Program Director,
Maryland State Arts Council
Moderator: Alec Simpson
- 11–11:50 a.m.** **From Proposal to Fabrication: Making Public Art**
Panelists: Howard Connelly, Fabricator/Sculptor,
Howard Connelly Design; Wesley Clark, Artist/Installer
Moderator: Rhonda Dallas
- Noon–12:50 p.m.** **Lunchtime Session: My Life as a Public Artist**
Victor Ekpuk, Artist
Moderator: Eric Key
- 1–1:50 p.m.** **Public Art and Community Engagement**
Panelists: Erwin Timmers and Michael Janis, Co-Directors,
Washington Glass School; Curtis Woody, Artist
Moderator: Rhonda Dallas
- 2–2:45 p.m.** **Politics, Process, Publicity: Managing Important
Project Factors**
Amina Cooper, Public Art Manager and Curator,
Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County;
Deirdre Ehlen MacWilliams, Public Art Project Manager,
Arlington Public Art; Ryan Patterson, Public Art
Administrator, Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts
Moderator: Alec Simpson
- 2:45–3 p.m.** **Closing Remarks**
Alec Simpson, Rhonda Dallas
- 3–5 p.m.** **Evening Reception and Tour of the *Maryland High
School Juried Art Exhibition***
UMUC Arts Program Gallery
Eric Key

