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 Ekpun, 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.
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