The Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville leverages and unites the unique resources of the arts and business communities to create a thriving, sustainable creative culture in Nashville. We accomplish this through five main programs: Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts, Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training, Fiscal Sponsorship, Education for the Creative Community, and Arts Board Matching, among many other resources and opportunities. For more information, visit www.abcnashville.org.

ABOUT CREATIVE EXCHANGE

Creative Exchange brings together artists, arts administrators, creative entrepreneurs, and business professionals to build community across genres; inspire thought-provoking dialogue; and provide high-quality, practical tools to galvanize the creative economy.

Through inspiring keynote presentations, collaborative panel discussions, and informative breakout sessions, Creative Exchange addresses common challenges in the creative industries and sparks innovation to tackle those challenges head-on.

Most importantly, Creative Exchange is about expanding your network and forging connections with fellow artists, makers, and creative organizations to cultivate a robust, thriving creative community in Middle Tennessee.

ABOUT THE THEME “BRIGHT FUTURES”

“Bright Futures” isn’t a prediction of a better world. It’s a call to action to foster the kind of creative community we want today. That means having tough conversations. It means doing the hard work to build a more equitable creative community. Bright futures don’t just happen. They are made when we work together and take action in the here and now. They are made by tearing down old institutions that won’t change and building new economic and social systems that benefit the many, not just the few. In the garden we tend—Nashville’s creative community—we aim to be the catalyst for creating a thriving and sustainable creative culture, and we need it now. It’s time to work together to create the future we all want and all deserve.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ayumi Fukada Bennett, Brooke Hoffert, Cameron Mitchell, Jami Creel, Jill McMillan Palm, Jonathan Harwell-Dye, Kamilah Sanders, and Stephanie Reid.
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Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
LOUNGE
CONFERENCE
CHECK-IN
STAGE
BREAKOUT ORANGE
SPEAKER GREEN ROOM
CO-WORKING CENTRAL
REST ROOMS
FOOD & BEV
MAIN STREET GALLERY
POP-UP
All sessions are Central time zone. Session times, titles, and presenters are subject to change.

Saturday, October 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>MAIN STAGE/COURTYARD</th>
<th>ORANGE</th>
<th>TEAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Check-In</td>
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<td>Opening Keynote: Josh Black</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Arts Start-Ups</td>
<td>Digital Marketing Tips &amp; Tricks</td>
<td>How to Pitch the Media</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Artist Advocates</td>
<td>Creative Freedom: Home Ownership &amp; Financial Planning</td>
<td>Articulating Value as a Creative</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Periscope Alumni Meet-Up</td>
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<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Keynote: Navigating Nashville’s Bright Future in the Black</td>
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<td>MOCAN Artist Talk</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Don’t Brace for Impact.. Embrace Impact</td>
<td>Beyond the Elevator Pitch/Business Development</td>
<td>MOCAN Pop-Up Open Viewing Hour</td>
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<td>Networking &amp; Social Hour</td>
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FULL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE & SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:30 A.M. | CHECK-IN OPENS
Enjoy coffee and light breakfast goodies from Frothy Monkey before Opening Keynote Speaker Josh Black takes the stage at 9 a.m.

8:30 A.M. – 5 P.M. | CREATIVE EXCHANGE X MOCAN POP-UP
Location: Teal/Main Street Gallery
Curated by the Museum of Contemporary Art Nashville (MOCAN), this pop-up exhibition features artwork in conversation with this year’s conference theme: Bright Futures.

Artist
Alicia Thompson
Keisha Lopez
Keith Josiah
Tree Lily Butcher

Artist
Yanira Vissepo
Curator
Brooke Hoffert

9 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. | OPENING KEYNOTE
Location: Main Stage
Local artist, comedian, and East Nashvillian cover star Joshua Black has taken social media by storm with his refreshing, riveting, and genuinely funny takes on Nashville. His stand-up act has garnered praise far and wide including a residency at Zanie’s Nashville as well as a monthly feature in the Nashville Scene. The comedian grew up in North Nashville where his passions were cool sneakers, trap music, fried fish sandwiches and storytelling. He brings his unique take on our arts community and gift for storytelling to our main stage as the opening keynote.

Speaker
Josh Black
Digital Marketing Tips & Tricks for Small Businesses  
*Location: Orange*  
Learn the essentials of digital marketing for small businesses including tips on getting started with Search Engine Optimization (SEO) by using keyword research for your website and content strategy. We’ll walk through where to implement keywords on your e-commerce or service-based websites by using title tags, page descriptions, and photos to attract organic traffic. These strategies can be simple to implement and, with the right strategy, impactful. In addition, you’ll learn how to set up your Google local business listing and improve your rankings through positive reviews.

*Speaker*  
Kelly Savoca-West

Arts Start-ups: What Creative Entrepreneurship Really Looks Like  
*Location: Main Stage*  
Ever thought about starting an arts organization? Curious how others have done it? In this panel discussion, individuals who have worked at the ground level to launch Nashville arts organizations — Nashville Design Week, TMPproductions, Museum of Contemporary Art Nashville, and Free Fyre — discuss the process from idea to reality. They’ve helped create something from nothing and they’re here to share how it got done and what they’ve learned along the way.

*Panelist*  
Elliott Roche  
Jami Creel  
Tosha Marie

*Moderator*  
Cameron Mitchell

How to Pitch the Media  
*Location: Teal*  
A hands-on workshop using one tool that creatives can’t live without, Our Phones! In this workshop, Publicist LaKeithea Nicole will walk you through how to craft a story to sell to the media and prepare to pitch it. We will take a look at the vital information you must include in your pitch and how to send a pitch email, and most importantly, we will discuss how to use your phone to research, network, and build a credible media list. This session will include an informational sheet with tips on how to pitch, how to get your brand pitch ready, and the opportunities to secure press coverage.

*Speaker*  
LaKeithea Nicole
11 A.M. – NOON | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Choose one of three breakout sessions.

Articulating Value as a Creative

Location: Teal

Whether submitting for a government grant or landing a corporate client, knowing how to articulate your art's value is crucial in landing the engagement. The panelists will share some insights into how they were able to pitch their value to the prospective entity and general advice.

**Panelist**
- Kristen Chapman
- Susannah Felts

**Moderator**
- Ayumi Fukuda Bennett

Creative Freedom: Home Ownership & Financial Planning

Location: Orange

Learn how freelance artists, musicians & creatives can gain more creative freedom through homeownership and financial planning! Why own your own home? Outside of the obvious of simply having a place to call your own, you may not realize that owning a home can actually increase your wealth over time. What about a retirement plan? Think financial planning is only for corporate executives? Everyone who works hard deserves to know that they will be able to sustain themselves and their families. In this session, our speakers will dispel the myth that getting a home loan or saving for retirement are impossible if you don’t have a standard 9-5 job. It’s actually easier than you think! Join them to learn how you can qualify to purchase your first home, put your money to work for you, and begin building a future with the creative freedom to pursue the work you love.

**Speaker**
- Christopher Brophy
- Jacob Jones
Artist Activists: How Creatives Can Advocate for Change in their Communities

**Location: Main Stage**

What does it mean to be an artist-activist? This panel conversation focuses on the real-world impact of creatives who use their art and their platforms to advocate for change in their communities. This work can look very different for a visual artist than a musician than an artist organizer. Whether mobilizing grassroots efforts or leveraging their own social capital to advocate for change, you’ll learn how each panelist raises awareness about the issues and causes they care about. We hope you'll walk away with more tools to help you make a difference in the world through your art.

**Panelists**

- **Courtney Adair Johnson**
- **Marlos E’van**
- **Micheala Anne**
- **Nuveen Barwar**

**Moderator**

**Kadeem Phillips**

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**Noon – 2:00 P.M. | LUNCH IN THE COURTYARD**

*Enjoy a delicious lunch provided by our friends at Mojo’s Tacos!* The Mojo’s Tacos truck is rolling up to the conference with a variety of taco options to suit all tastes, and keep you fueled throughout the day!

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**Noon – 1:00 P.M. | PERISCOPE: ARTIST ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING ALUMNI MEET-UP**

**Location: Courtyard Gathering Area**

*Calling all graduates of the Arts & Business Council’s Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training program!* We've set aside some space and time for alumni across all class years to meet, connect, and network. Not an alumni but interested in the Periscope program? Swing by the gathering area to ask your questions to participants who have been through it!

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**1 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. | ARTIST TALK**

*Creative Exchange X MOCAN Pop-up*

**Location: Teal**

Curated by the Museum of Contemporary Art Nashville (MOCAN), the pop-up exhibition features artwork in conversation with this year’s conference theme: *Bright Futures*. Join exhibition curator, Brooke Hoffert, and three of the featured artists in conversation about their work.

**Panelists**

- **Alicia Thompson**
- **Keisha Lopez**
- **Keith Josiah**

**Curator**

**Brooke Hoffert**
1:45 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. | KEYNOTE PANEL
Join us in the courtyard for the keynote panel.

Navigating Nashville's Bright Future In the Black

Location: Main Stage
Whether referring to the accounting term or as a demographic identifier, attempting to navigate our city's growth trajectory as an artist in the Black is a unique experience. As long-time Nashville artists, curators, and arts-based entrepreneurs, panelists will share context and insight about the past, present, and future states of the creative community. We'll discuss both imaginative and practical ways for the city to continually move towards more equitable, just, and artist-friendly practices.

Moderator
Stephanie Pruitt Gaines

Panelists
Betty Turney-Turner
Carlton Wilkinson
Elisheba Mrozik
Michael Ewing

3 P.M. – 4 P.M. | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Choose one of three breakout sessions.

Beyond the Elevator Pitch: How Business Development Can Take You to New Levels
Location: Orange
This co-presented session with Ellevated Outcomes + New Hat Projects will focus on the transformative practice of business development. Two years ago, New Hat reached a business growth plateau. Though they believed in their product's value, they didn't know how to get the right projects, price them correctly, and were exhausted. After hiring EO as their business advisors, things began to shift.

Recommended: Complete this short handout prior to the session.

Speakers
New Hat
(Kelly Diehl & Elizabeth Williams)
Don’t Brace for Impact... Embrace Impact

**Location: Main Stage**

In this inspirational and actionable session Kamilah Sanders, creative leadership and marketing strategy consultant, walks you through how to maximize your impact on the world whether through your organization or as an individual. We’ll discuss debunking leadership myths, developing your vision statement, overcoming mindset blocks, building community, and leaning into your strengths. This session will encourage you to take a proactive approach, disrupt systems, and not Brace for Impact but Embrace Impact.

**Creative Exchange x MOCAN Pop-up Open Viewing Hour**

**Location: Teal**

Curated by the Museum of Contemporary Art Nashville (MOCAN), this pop-up exhibition features artwork in conversation with this year’s conference theme: *Bright Futures*.

**Artist**
- Alicia Thompson
- Keisha Lopez
- Keith Josiah
- Tree Lily Butcher
- Yanira Vissepo
- Brooke Hoffert

4 P.M. – 5 P.M. | NETWORKING & SOCIAL HOUR

**Location: Courtyard**

Relax and unwind in the courtyard before heading out to the First Saturday Art Crawl.
ALICIA THOMPSON is an artist and creativity coach who lives in Nashville, TN. Alicia uses materials diverted from landfills to create sculptures which speak to issues of value, transformation, and formalism. Alicia’s work creates a dialogue about consumerism as a substitute for spirituality and the many ways that Western culture encourages acquisition as a determination of status and self-worth. She received her BFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the University of Pennsylvania and her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is a member of COOP Gallery, Nashville’s longest running artist-run project space.

BETTY TURNLEY-TURNER has been a glass artist and glass art teacher for just over 20 years. The Nashville native is the owner of This Little Light Glass Art, located in Old Hickory, TN. She traveled extensively to study glass art techniques with internationally renowned glass masters and art glass pioneers. Betty has also hosted many of those same artists in to teach at her studio. Her primary passion and greatest reward in her glass art career has been launching the Glass Freedom Project, which offers glass art and education classes to local school children and special needs adults at absolutely no cost to participants. Glass art education, and accessibility to glass art resources are a priority, along with continuing to learn and push the known boundaries of working with glass.

BROOKE HOFFERT is MOCAN’s Curator, developing and implementing exhibitions featuring a range of contemporary artists and engaging target audiences. Brooke holds a master’s degree in History of Art from University College London, where she specialised in Queer South African photography. She started her career in art working at Tate Modern and Whitechapel Gallery in London. She also writes for Floorr Magazine, an artist-run, London-based publication spotlighting emerging and established creatives. Her goal for MOCAN is to create a space where inclusivity, connectivity, and thought-provoking art can thrive.

AYUMI FUKUDA BENNETT is an information illustrator who draws on her experience as a business/technology journalist to turn wisdom into art, often in real time. She incorporates the visual language in amplifying the insights of a variety of partners, from small business, public companies, non-profit organizations, facilitated workshops to conference sessions. Ayumi’s work has been seen in places like the Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville Jazz Workshop, and Education Week.

CAMERON MITCHELL is the founder and executive director of Free Fyre, in which he uses his voice to renew the mind so people can live a transformed lifestyle and empower others. In addition to mentoring youth, Cameron has presented at Creative institutions, Arts organizations, High school graduations, Regional and National Conferences including Lipscomb University, NAACP, and The TN State Museum to name a few. As the Actor Laureate of Murfreesboro he has acted in performances like “Ghost” at the Nashville Children’s Theater, as well as creating his own works of art like the one-man show “Blackbird,” and poems that were published in the Murfreesboro Majesty Calendar. Cameron is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University who has been featured in the Nashville Scene, The Tennessean, & The Daily News Journal.

CARLTON WILKINSON

CHRIS BROPHY is a financial advisor with Shoemaker Financial, based in Nashville TN. Originally from Texas, he has called Nashville home since 2016. Prior to working in the financial services industry, he was a band director for two public schools in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, and had a short career managing restaurants here in town. When he’s not spending his time working with clients to achieve their financial goals, you can find him trying out a new wine bar around town, or getting as much time as possible outdoors.
COURTNEY ADAIR JOHNSON is the Gallery Director of the Department of Art and Design at Tennessee State University and Co-Build of McGruder Social Practice Artist Residency (M-SPAR). She is an artist and curator who incorporates community, history, and sustainability into the projects and programs that she builds. A self-proclaimed reuse artist whose passion is creating conversations on consumption and waste habits. With her public and academic work, she finds importance in information sharing and working on topics of social justice, history, and cultural and neighborhood preservation. BACK

ELISHEBA ISRAEL MROZIK is a fine artist and International award-winning Tattooist. In 2011, Elisheba became the first licensed black tattoo artist in Middle Tennessee and opened One Drop Ink Tattoo Parlour and Gallery in Nashville, TN. She has shown fine art at the Frist Art Museum and Fisk University’s Carl van Vechten Gallery among others. Elisheba is an active member of the community sponsoring charitable events, teaching classes, supporting schools and other community building endeavors. Elisheba is also one of the founding members of the Jefferson Street Art Crawl and North Nashville Arts Coalition. Now the 2020 Nashville Emerging Leaders Award winner is expanding her artistic practice into more public and interactive art with an aim to teach and be taught by the humanity that binds us all while exploring her own personal struggles of consciousness and the black feminine image. BACK

ELLIOTT ROCHE, a Nashville native, is a board member and Director of Operations for Nashville Design Week. NDW promotes idea sharing, engages the public, and strengthens Nashville’s design culture and impact through a week-long series of events hosted each year in the fall. As Director of Operations, Elliott manages the business side of NDW and oversees the 40 person all volunteer team that brings Design Week to life each year. Elliott is a software engineer and designer by day. He was previously a partner at Cohub and is currently the CTO of the Nashville startup BillFixers. BACK

JACOB JONES has lived in Nashville for over thirteen years and he’s loved watching this community grow. He started his family here and he’s looking forward to watching his two boys grow up here as Music City continues to progress and evolve. Having been a business owner several times over with an innate entrepreneurial spirit, Jacob has a deep network of friends and colleagues in the greater Nashville area to help achieve your goals, whether buying or selling, as you work together to make it happen. A real estate transaction is often one of the largest you’ll ever make and Jacob loves helping negotiate and navigate that process with his clients. As a Realtor, he brings more than a decade-plus of experience in marketing, networking, and customer service to bear so you can not only get the right deal done but have a good time in the process. BACK

JAMI CREEL is the founder and executive director of MOCAN, facilitating its mission to inspire artistic ideas, spark analytical conversation and bring the community together. Jami is an experienced marketing and business professional with a bachelor's degree focused in business administration in marketing from Middle Tennessee State University. In addition to her role at MOCAN, Jami is a strategic marketing consultant with clients across the U.S. She has served on the marketing committee for Nashville Design Week and Nashville Entrepreneur Week, the planning committee for Creative Exchange hosted by the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville, and the advisory committee for Nashville Voice Conference. BACK

JOSH BLACK grew up in North Nashville where his passions were cool sneakers, trap music, fried fish sandwiches and storytelling. While storytelling is most definitely the root of his promising career in comedy, it was also the root of the “disruptive behavior” that led to his forced exit from several elementary schools. He remembers teachers complaining that if they left the room, they would often return to the class in an uproar and all eyes glued on Josh. He’s is known in social media circles as Sir Joshua Black, and Zanies Nashville has just given their hometown comedian a monthly residency at the famed comedy club in response to his soaring popularity online. Josh’s fame, firmly illustrated by his more than a quarter of a million internet views, is the result of his riveting and genuinely funny bits about Nashville, warts and all. BACK
**JULIE SELLERS** founded Ellevated Outcomes to offer a new service for creative entrepreneurs: customized business strategy and advice that will change the trajectory of their businesses and lives. In early 2017, Julie completed her Executive MBA in Paris, France while building a multi-million-dollar financial services business in London, England. Before London, Julie resided in Boston, Massachusetts where she advised c-suite executives on how to expand their business internationally, what new products they should add to their company’s portfolio, and how to streamline sales and operations to increase revenue while decreasing effort. In 2017, Julie moved to Nashville: the ideal place to build a company that married Julie’s love of business and international experience with a longing to work with creative entrepreneurs. As a lifelong student of business, Julie asks “Why?”... a lot, taking no assumptions for granted. Most importantly, she revels in helping others visualize a future that is aligned with personal and professional goals, then devising a strategy, actions, and accountability plan to get them there. Her strategy superpower is Money & Operations.

**KADEEM PHILLIPS** founded Power Enrichment Group in 2015 offering free access to high-end ACT prep and College Preparatory workshops to high school students in Knoxville, TN. In 2016, he launched Power Entertainment, a full-service music company dedicated to developing and creating entrepreneurs by focusing on music and songwriting as a stream of income. By relentlessly shining a light on the lack of opportunities for Black people in the music industry, his work led him to contribute to Creatives’ Day, a nonprofit in Nashville, TN. As he continued his work to foster relationships between emerging artist and resources, Kadeem was called to become the Executive Director of Creatives' Day in 2020 after serving as the Program Coordinator for the Artist Development Residency. Through his countless efforts to combat inequalities in the music industry, Kadeem continues to support dynamic small charities, works with donors on smarter giving and campaigns for greater transparency, and diversity in the music industry. In 2020, Mr. Phillips successfully challenged the music industry over its authority to limit diversity in many of its core financial pockets, creating new opportunities for emerging artists and student artists who are faced with obstacles to better their music careers.

**KAMILAH SANDERS** is the Founder and CEO of Greater Than Equal, an international vision-based leadership consulting and marketing strategy agency Making Impact Easy for creative social impact founders and using a systems change approach to disrupt the fashion industry supply chain to create a sustainable, equitable model. She is an award-winning professional with 20 years of experience in marketing and executive leadership. Remake Ambassador and Climate Reality Leader, Kamilah is a speaker, mentor, event curator, and creative producer focusing on sustainable fashion, art, equity, and climate justice.

**KEISHA LOPEZ** is an artist living in Nashville, Tennessee. Her work explores themes of transformation, femininity, and duality by creating liminal spaces rooted between landscape and psychological musings. She has shown work nationally and internationally with a recent group show at Cheekwood Estate in Nashville. She is represented by The Roaring Artist Virtual Gallery with an upcoming Solo Exhibition: "Ancestral Wisdom". After completing her B.S. in Painting and Minor in Psychology, Lopez participated in Stay Home Gallery Residency and Brushes with Cancer: Art Therapy Philanthropy. Within her creative and academic pursuits, she explores creativity as a mode of healing, growth, and neurogenesis.

**KEITH JOSIAH** is a 24-year-old artist from Memphis, TN now based in Nashville. Art is his form of self-expression, and his goal is to impact people around the world by provoking self-reflection.

**KELLY SAVOCA-WEST’s** background encompasses many years of design, small business, and marketing experience. She attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, and spent 10 years working in the fashion industry. She came to realize the many issues that come along with designing and manufacturing in the fashion industry, both environmentally and ethically. From there she moved to Nashville, TN and started a garden lifestyle business called Cotton & Moss. The brand started with an initial focus on beautifully crafted garden goods and has now transitioned to focus more fully on experiences that center around gardening and plant craft. During her time operating the small business Kelly continued to hone her marketing skills by attending workshops, completing Google certifications, and going back to school at Georgetown University for Digital Marketing Strategy. Now, she wants to share some of her knowledge with small business owners and artists to help attract more customers – things she wished she had done sooner!
KRISTEN CHAPMAN works as a multi-disciplinary artist in Nashville, Tennessee. With a focus on stories, asset-mapping, and community engagement, Kristen is passionate about co-creating resilience. Whether on the page, the stage, a classroom or a place well-loved, she brings decades of experience and a deep commitment to collaborative practice.

LAKEITHA NICOLE is the founder of For Us. The Agency, a PR firm that prides itself on offering innovative, authentic, and new-age approaches to PR. A leader in consumer and brand communications with particular experience in launching new brands to market. She has managed top-tier features in Essence Magazine, The Tennessean, Bronze Magazine, Washington Post, New York Live TV, Access Atlanta, USA Today, and more. Currently, LaKeithea manages marketing and publicity for the new docu-series, The Unlearning of US. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Textiles Merchandising Design with a concentration in Fashion Merchandising and a minor in Mass Communication, all from Middle Tennessee State University.

MARLOS E’VAN is a visual artist living/working in Nashville. From street art to canvases; from performance art to filmmaking, Marlos E’van interweaves different mediums such as painting, performance art, and filmmaking to create a space in which their art lives. E’van’s work has garnered recognition from publications such as Hyperallergic and New Art Examiner. In addition to their work as an artist, E’van cofounded/co-designs M-SPAR, McGruder Social Practice Artist Residency out of the McGruder Center in North Nashville. Marlos received their BFA from Watkins College of Art, Design, and Film; is also represented by the Red Arrow Gallery in Nashville.

MICHAELA ANNE is a professional recording and touring musician and songwriter. She has released multiple albums of original music, currently with Yep Roc Records and has toured throughout the U.S., EU and UK. She has been critically acclaimed and featured in publications such as the New York Times, Boston Globe, Rolling Stone Country, NPR, Billboard and others. Her essay writing has been published in Refinery29 as well as the academic journal Rock Music Studies. In addition to touring and recording, Michaela has been an educator and private music instructor for over a decade. Michaela holds a BFA in Jazz Vocal Performance from the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music as well as a BA in Social Inquiry from Eugene Lang College in New York, NY. She has worked in New York City public schools through various arts programs including Brooklyn Philharmonic’s SmartArts, providing music classes to under-served students ages kindergarten through 8th grade. In addition to private lessons, Michaela has regularly offered workshops and lectures around the country on songwriting, vocal performance and technique as well as vocal health. Combining both of Michaela’s degrees, her topics can range from strictly music based to having a broader focus including lectures on caring for yourself, nurturing self-esteem and using music and one's voice as a creative outlet and a vital, healthy source for expression. She has largely focused on working with young girls and women, developing confidence through music and supporting each other to combat bullying and negativity. She has multiple Vocal and Songwriting instructional books published by Mel Bay Publications. Michaela is currently based out of Nashville, TN where she offers private lessons.

MICHAEL EWING

NEW HAT (Kelly Diehl & Elizabeth Williams) is a surface design studio specializing in custom wallcoverings, pattern development, and original artwork. Founders Kelly Diehl and Elizabeth Williams began working together in 2016 out of a shared passion for creating environments that both pay homage to traditional decorative forms and present a fresh vision of contemporary living. Their designs are built from unconventional color palettes, rich textures, and an evolving mixture of temporal and geographic influences. Elizabeth and Kelly’s collaboration as graphic designer and fine artist, respectively, often finds them bridging the gap between branding and interior design for the client who wants something they can’t find anywhere else. In 2018 New Hat launched Collection One, a product line of wallpapers, home goods, and wearables showcasing a range of bold patterns built from the interior problem solving of their custom work practice. In 2020, they designed a collection of removable wallcoverings and flooring for Chasing Paper based on their unique blend of thoughtful design and fine art. Elizabeth and Kelly are active members of Nashville’s art & design community and relish any opportunity they have to advocate for it or to challenge the status quo.
NUVEEN BARWARI is a visual artist who employs collage to reflect and explore conditions of assimilation, colonial amnesia, and the fragmented state of diasporic living. She received a Bachelor of Science in Studio Art from Tennessee State University in 2019 and is a 2022 MFA candidate at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Barwari’s expansive studio practice involves gathering and repurposing artifacts from her community such as worn Kurdish clothes, used rugs, family photographs and sometimes Hot Cheeto bags. She paints, screen prints, cuts, and sews with these materials to create discrete objects and larger immersive installations that investigate the politics of display, painting, fashion, and sculpture. Barwari has worked with and completed projects with the Frist Art Museum, Oasis Center’s Art and Activism Series, Coop Gallery, and McGruder Social Practice Artist Residency. She has exhibited in numerous locations such as Kurdistan’s first Fashion Week (2018) in Erbil, Kurdistan region of Iraq, the Frist Art Museum (2019) in Nashville, TN, the University of Michigan (2019), Sugar Gallery (2019) in Fayetteville, Arkansas, Zg Gallery (2020) in Chicago, 21c Museum Hotel (2021) in Nashville, Tennessee, NGBK Gallery in Berlin Germany (2021) and Duhok Gallery (2021) in Duhok, Kurdistan. Barwari is represented by The Red Arrow Gallery in Nashville, TN.

SARAH PATTON is a dynamic and passionate relationship-building, events professional. You’ll remember her vividly by her bigger-than-life smile and memorable southern hug. Sarah attended Vanderbilt University, where she created her own major in Social Interaction. Sarah has created a deep and wide, loyal network of people who know, love, and trust her work. She has eight years of small business ownership experience. Sarah is a thoughtful and active member of the Nashville community, who is passionate about racial reconciliation. Sarah’s love for learning, attention to detail, and ability to navigate tough conversations allows her to continuously ask: What can we learn from this? What she does is impressive, but how she does it makes her a true star. Her strategy superpower is Business Development.

STEPHANIE PRUITT GAINES has worked as a poet, social practice artist, and creative strategist for the last 20 years in Nashville. She earned her MFA in creative writing at Vanderbilt University where she also taught arts education. The native Nashvillian has published poems as public art at a baseball stadium, on walkways and walls, in vending machines, and on restaurant menus. Stephanie knows that adding the arts to any equation makes it more balanced -- be it health, education, business, or relationships. She’s currently obsessed with joy and the mental and economic health of her community. Stephanie gets happy dance excited about appropriate boundaries, puppies with underbites, and not having to clean the kitchen after laughter-filled meals with friends/family.

SUSANNAH FELTS is the co-founder and co-director of The Porch, a literary arts organization based in Nashville, Tennessee. She edited The Porch’s recent anthology, Reckoning, and her essays and fiction have appeared in publications such as The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2018, Joyland, Guernica, Catapult, Literary Hub, Vol. 1 Brooklyn, Longreads, StorySouth, The Oxford American, and others.

TOSHA MARIE has a passion for performance and has been dancing, singing, and acting since the age of 5 on stage and screen. She has been in numerous stage productions, industrials, commercials, TV shows, music videos, and films throughout her career. Although she enjoys performing, Tosha’s focus is on dance education as well as choreographing, producing, directing, and creating in the Musical Theatre world. She has taught at many universities, schools, and studios in Nashville and beyond. This year, Tosha opened a collaborative performing arts complex called TMProductions. It is a community of driven artists and entrepreneurs whose goal is to not only survive, but thrive in the Nashville Arts scene. With its membership options for professionals, TMProductions provides an equitable one stop shop with training and opportunities for those who have been struggling to establish themselves. It gives access to networks and resources that Tosha has spent the last 15 years building. TMProductions exists to facilitate growth and foster new ventures of traditionally marginalized groups. You can keep up to date with all things going on by following @tmproductions.online on both Instagram and Facebook. Visit www.tmproductions.online to learn more about this new exciting space.

TREE LILY BUTCHER worships moments — the moment several images from different times and places, cut and pasted, are transformed into a completely new identity; the moment a plant pushes out a new leaf; the moment her firstborn son was placed on her chest. Her vision is to capture and nurture of these precious moments. Tree Lily currently lives in East Nashville with her wonderful husband, infant son and elderly cat. Despite swearing up and down she would never end up back in her hometown, she has come to experience a loving and inspiring community of people around her and built a life beyond her wildest dreams.
YANIRA VISSEPO is an artist working primarily with woodblock prints with non-toxic, natural materials. Vissepo studied Mokuhanga (Japanese woodblock printmaking) in Kyoto, Japan and has taught printmaking workshops at Frist Art Museum and the Nashville Public Library. She was the Artist-in-Residence at COOP Gallery in Nashville, TN and now is a curatorial member with COOP.