



FIND YOUR VOICE
CREATIVE
CONNECTION • EDUCATION • ENTREPRENEURSHIP
EXCHANGE

NASHVILLE, TN
OCTOBER 1, 2022



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 abcnashville.org.

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CONTACT

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Nashville, TN 37212

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 info@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.

CREATIVE EXCHANGE CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lokelani Alabanza, Kyshona Armstrong, Ayumi Fukuda Bennett, Rhonda Cammon, Jami Creel, Ted Drozdowski, Susannah Felts, Tina Gionis, Erin Holcomb, Kat Jones, Judith Hill Levenson, Tosha Marie, Kadeem Phillips, Kamilah Sanders, Stephanie Simkin, Ty Swint, Lisa Valeri, Lindsay Walker, Carlton Wilkinson

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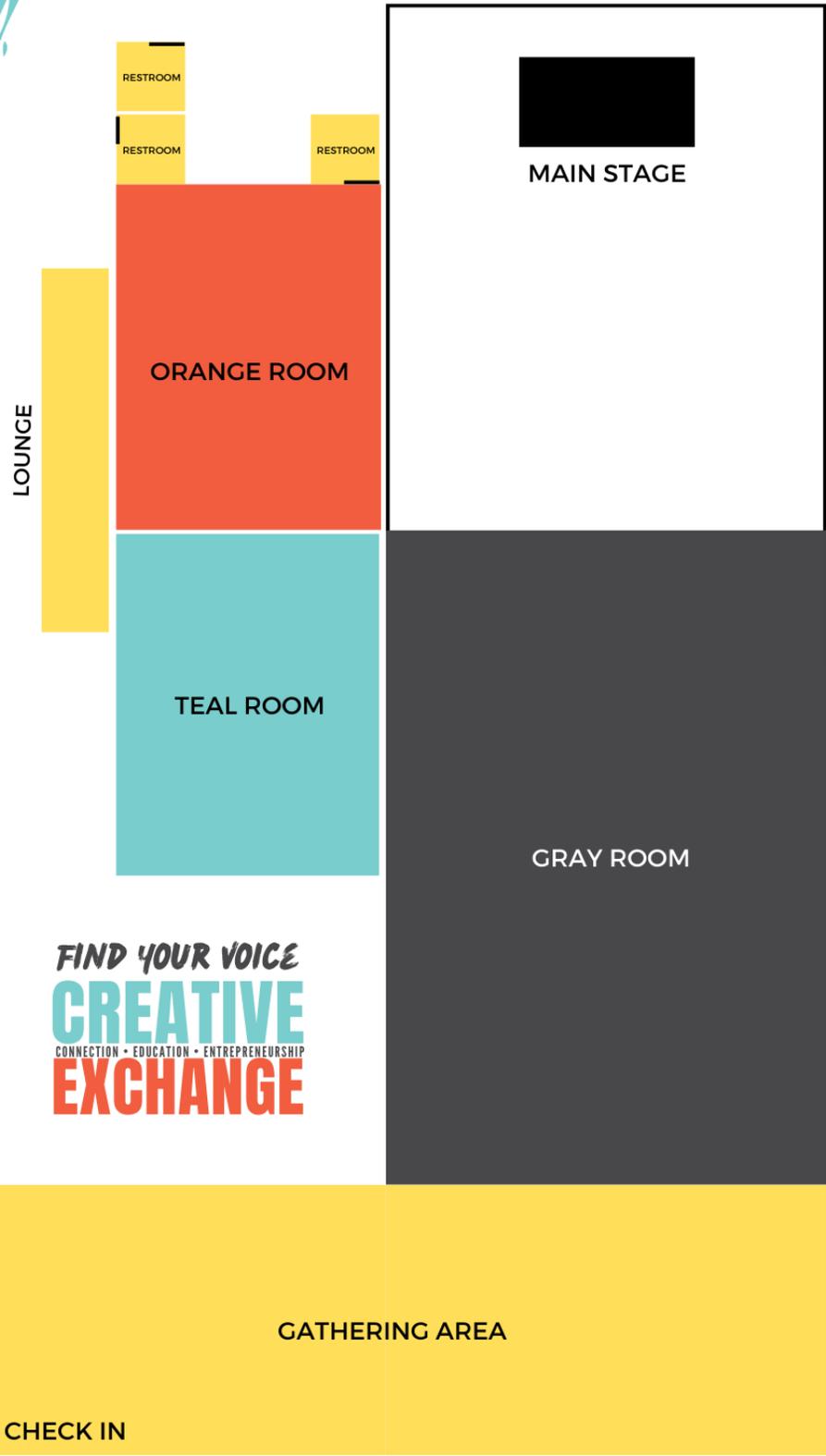
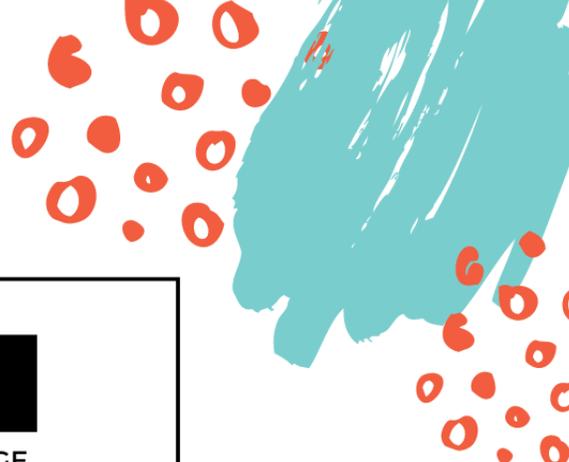


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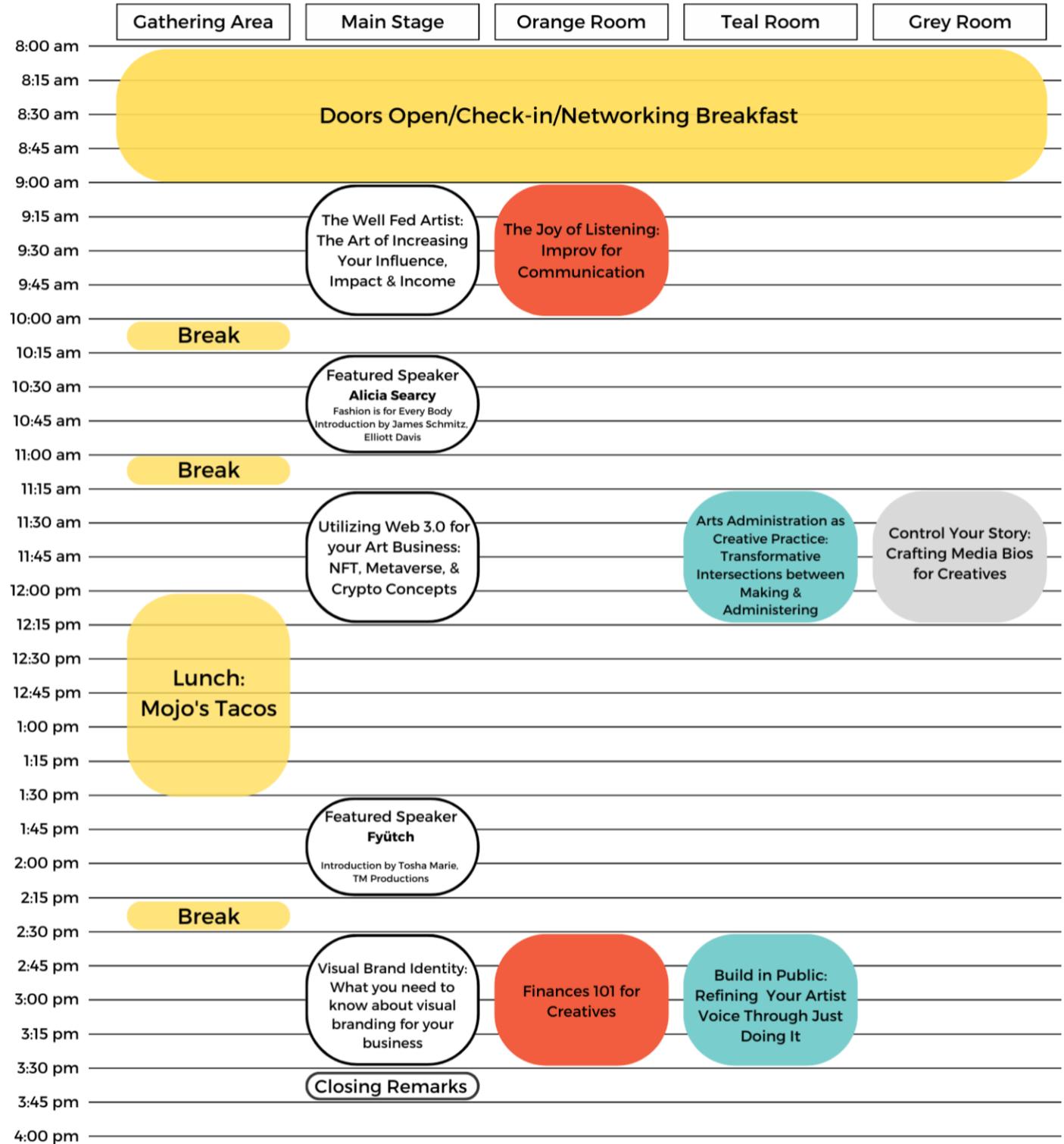


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SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

All sessions are Central time zone. Session times, titles, and presenters are subject to change.



FULL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE & SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:00 A.M. | CHECK-IN OPENS

Enjoy coffee and bagels before heading into the first Breakout Session of the day at 9 a.m.

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1

Choose one of two breakout sessions.

The Well Fed Artist: The Art of Increasing Your Influence, Impact & Income

Location: Main Stage

You are a creator. You create paintings, sculptures, music, or performance pieces. You've spent years and years honing your craft and had the courage to bring it into the world. You want to make an impact, but you also need to have a sustainable income so you can continue to do what you love. To both ends, this means increasing your audience to increase your sales. To do so requires a focus on your audience's individual buying style. This workshop will provide you with unique insights into the best ways for you to identify your selling style, and how to maximize your strengths and neutralize the challenges in selling. By sharing with you a five-point strategy for improving sales within each of the four primary buying styles, this workshop will help you create a unique and effective action plan to grow your creative business, and make that impact you so want to achieve.

Speaker: [Danny Pippin](#)



The Joy of Listening: Improv for Communication

Location: Orange Room

Through joyful and embodied improv exercises, participants will awaken their capacities for deep listening and discover the confidence that comes from existing in the present moment. Improv isn't about telling jokes or being funny (though the laughter is inevitable!) - it is about connecting with others, remaining present in the process, and responsive engagements. An improv teaching artist will lead participants in improv theater exercises, while providing space and opportunity to reflect on the experience throughout.

Facilitator: [Anne Veal](#)



10:15 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. | FEATURED SPEAKER



[Alicia Searcy](#)

Location: Main Stage

Alicia Searcy is a blogger, inclusive fashion model, and Co-Founder & Executive Director of *Fashion is for Every Body*. She has channeled her passion for fashion into a career advocating for body-positivity, inclusion, and self-esteem for all ages, races, sizes, gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical abilities. Introduction by **Jim Schmitz** of our presenting sponsor **Elliott Davis**.

11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2

Choose one of three breakout sessions.

Utilizing Web 3.0 For Your Art Business: NFT, Metaverse & Crypto Concepts

Location: Main Stage

Explore NFTs, Metaverse, Web 3.0, Crypto, DAOs, join this practical discussion on what these concepts are and how an artist can use them in their art business. This will feature a series of fireside chats with diverse creatives who are currently leveraging these technologies to advance their business and promote artist solidarity. This series of Fireside Chats will be a live podcast recording moderated by Kamilah Sanders, creative industry business consultant; marketing strategist; and host of Crypto for Creatives; Digital Assets and Metaverse; and Fashion Futurist Podcast. Attendees will work through a worksheet that will help them brainstorm how they can use these technologies in their own art business.

Guest:

Keith Josiah



Guest:

Roy "Futureman" Wooten



Host:

Kamilah Sanders



Arts Administration as Creative Practice: Transformative Intersections Between Making & Administrating

Location: Teal Room

What if arts administration was inherently an extension of the creative space? The creative process is iterative and so are the processes to build, implement, and sustain thriving creative ecosystems. Utilizing artistic and administrative processes from dance, music, visual arts, theater, and arts education, panelists will examine "best practices" through the lens of experimentation, curiosity, and creativity. Whether you are an artist, administrator, or arts/nonprofit leader, join the conversation on reimagining divisions of labor, getting curious on how these spaces intersect, and de-siloing artists and arts administrators to create a more collaborative arts community

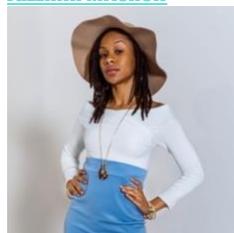
Panelist:

Kenny Dozier



Panelist:

Jazzmin Mitchell



Panelist:

Michelle Sipes



Panelist:

mikewindy



Panel Moderator:

Jonathan Harwell-Dye



Control Your Story: Crafting Media Bios for Creatives



Facilitator: **Ted Drozdowski**

Location: Gray Room

Every art project—an album, an installation of paintings, a dance, a piece of sculpture, a mural, a film, a book, the fruit of the jeweler's craft—deserves recognition in the world at large. Perhaps the most important tool to achieve that recognition is the media bio. A smartly crafted bio that explains a creative work with clarity, depth and concision sets the tone for how press, radio, TV and online media present your work to the world. It summarizes what makes your work distinctive and important—ideally with just a quick glance by an editor or content provider, while also making your deeper story available, to convey the distinctive creative character of yourself and your work. This session is structured to instruct artists on how to author their own project bios by crafting introductions that summarize all the essentials and to explain the key takeaways that media readers need to ensure that conversations about works remain rooted in the artist's viewpoint.

NOON – 1:00 P.M. | LUNCH

Location: Gathering Area

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!

10:15 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. | FEATURED SPEAKER



Fyüitch

Location: Main Stage

Fyüitch is a Grammy-nominated music and social justice artist, educator, and content creator. He uses Hip-Hop, spoken word poetry, and visual storytelling to create unique all-ages experiences that promote racial equity and liberation. Introduction by **Tosha Marie** of **TMProductions**.

11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. | CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3

Choose one of three breakout sessions.

Finances 101 for Creatives

Location: Orange Room

As Steven Pressfield wrote, "Turning pro is a mindset." By turning pro when it comes to your finances, you will continue to have a sustainable creative career for the rest of your life. Come ready to get your business to the next level and see your finances in a whole new light. This workshop will be an engaging and participatory session where you will learn a variety of tips to manage your creative business from a profit and loss perspective. We will unpack any limiting beliefs about finances, cover a few financial statements to be familiar with, and look at various accounting software to help you with your business. From this workshop, you will walk away with a financial roadmap of what to do to get started in the right direction, tips for managing your creative business with confidence and financial wisdom, and feel more prepared and less stressed when it comes to tax time.

Facilitator: **Stephie Gee**



Build In Public: Refining Your Artist Voice

Location: Teal Room

"Inspiration does exist, but it must find you working." - Pablo Picasso

As creatives, we may be tempted to wait for that perfect moment to create, but studies show that quantity really leads to quality, even in art. But how do we motivate ourselves to take that moment daily? The panelists will share how they started small to build something much bigger than when they first started, whether it's a business or a gallery show. When we choose to share our work in progress, we get better on the journey, and also end up finding our cheerleaders and clients.

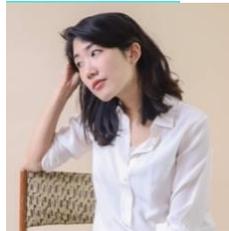
Panelist:

Amanda Mazzo



Panelist:

Yurina Yoshikawa



Panel Moderator:

Ayumi Fakuda Bennett



Brand Identity: What You Need to Know About Visual Branding for Your Business

Location: Main Stage

What is the difference between Brand Identity and Brand Strategy and why is it important? This presentation helps entrepreneurs on every level understand the basics of what should be included in your Brand Identity and why it matters. This session will help business leaders understand what to ask for when working with a designer and how to navigate deciding what type of brand identity they want for their business.

Speaker: [Patty McAvoy](#)



3:30 – 3:45 P.M. | CLOSING REMARKS

Location: Main Stage



[Erin Holcomb](#)

Erin Holcomb manages NowPlayingNashville.com at the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, a website helping visitors Middle Tennessee find Where to Go & What to Do.



[Michelle Reeves](#)

Michelle Reeves is a Nashville-based painter with a passion for florals. She is the 2022 Artober Featured Artist, and will be the Arts & Business Council's Artist of the Week on The Nashville Sign for the week of October 3rd.

SPEAKERS, PANELISTS & ARTISTS

Listed alphabetically by first name.

ALICIA SEARCY

CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | FASHION IS FOR EVERY BODY Alicia Searcy was born with Cerebral Palsy that affects her fine motor skills and limits her ability to walk. She began paying attention to her appearance when she noticed a direct correlation between the intentionality of her clothing choices and the way the general public treated her. In 2012, at age 51, she started what was then the only disabled fashion blog in the Southeast called [Spashionista](#). In 2016, Alicia decided to apply her message to benefit as many people as possible in her community, create self-esteem and connect a broad spectrum of individuals with the common language of fashion. She is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Nashville nonprofit [Fashion is for Every Body](#), whose mission is to normalize inclusion in fashion and in life. The organization holds an annual runway show in September featuring adult models of all ages, races, sizes, gender identities, sexual orientations and physical abilities wearing collections by Nashville designers. Under Alicia's tutelage, FIFEB also provides adaptive clothing advice and resources to designers in an effort to normalize adaptive and universal design for people with disabilities and older people with diminishing dexterity. In 2021, just shy of her 60th birthday, Alicia was signed by Tribe Talent Management as their first model with a disability. She lives in Nashville with her better half, two wonderful dogs and not enough closet space for all the glorious clothes she's lovingly collected. [BACK](#)

AMANDA MAZZO

CREATIVE DIRECTOR & COO | MAZZO MEDIA: As Creative Director & COO of Mazzo Media, a creative studio owned & operated with her husband, Amanda Mazzo works with people, brands, and organizations to help tell their stories through videography, photography, graphic design, and social content. Amanda is active in the Nashville community as an alumnus of the Young Leaders Council and Leadership Nashville. She has been honored as Nashville's Top 30 Under 30 and is a recipient of a Nashville Emerging Leader Award in Arts, Entertainment & Music Business. She currently serves as a Purpose Mentor for Belmont University, Board Member of the W.O. Smith Community Music School, and volunteers with community art initiatives. [BACK](#)

ANNE VEAL

CREATOR | EDUCATOR | PERFORMER Anne Veal (she/they) is a creator / educator / performer who specializes in improvised and ensemble-devised theatre, as well as an intuitive storyteller and healer. She teaches and performs with Third Coast Comedy Club, is a teaching artist with local nonprofit Unscripted, and develops bespoke corporate workshops in improv for leadership and organizational adaptability.

Before moving to Nashville, Anne taught improv in NYC, helped run a start-up theatre, and developed a training program that gave over 300 performers access to stage time and curated feedback to develop as artists. She has performed across the country and internationally, leading ensembles to develop literary adaptations, immersive theatre, and dozens of improvised shows.

Whether working in the performance or healing realm, her work is rooted in connection, compassion, and communication. They are a proud student of the Compassion Institute and this grand human experiment. [BACK](#)

AYUMI FUKUDA BENNETT

INFORMATION ILLUSTRATOR Ayumi Fukuda Bennett draws on her experience as a business journalist to turn wisdom into art, often in real time. She incorporates the visual language in amplifying the insights of a variety of partners and their settings, from small business webinars, public company leadership meetings, a non-profit's social media campaigns, and more. Ayumi's work has been seen in places like Sprinkles, the Tennessee Department of Health, VetsWhoCode, Education Week, Cubic Corporation, The New Humanitarian, PolicyLink, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Born in Japan and raised in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Ayumi lives in Nashville, Tenn., with her husband and their three-year-old son. She is a 2020 cohort member of ABC Nashville's Periscope artist entrepreneur training program. [BACK](#)

DANNY PIPPIN

STRATEGIST & COACH | PIPPIN LEADERSHIP SERVICES Danny Pippin is a Nashville-based Business Consultant, Strategist & Coach helping entrepreneurs, business leaders and organizations clarify their purpose, vision and goals, increase sales and profitability, and build high performing teams. Over the past 20 years, Danny has networked, recruited, interviewed, hired, trained, and developed over 70 leadership and sales teams across the country between his Telecom & Corporate Retail career. He's led highly profitable multimillion dollar businesses and has consulted with over 50 global brands such as Google, Pepsi, Home Depot, Salesforce, Shell, ESPN Radio, and GE. He's an Executive Programs Trainer & Certified Behavioral Specialist for the world's most extensive training and development organization, Maxwell Leadership, and has been trained and mentored by the #1 Leadership Expert John C. Maxwell and his world-class faculty. He is certified to facilitate, speak, coach, and train on The Maxwell Methods of:

- Coaching
- DISC Behavioral Analysis
- Leadership
- Speaking
- Selling

Danny is the COO of Couture Technologies, a deep technology company, empowering apparel brands to seamlessly integrate virtual try on technology to reduce returns, increase conversion, improve sustainability, and elevate online shopping experiences.

Danny believes in giving back to the Nashville Community and serves as:

- TEDx Nashville - Vice Chair & Lead Speaker Coach
- Nashville Chamber of Commerce - Business Studio Speaker & Small Business Committee Member
- Nashville Arts & Business Council - Periscope Teacher
- Nashville Entrepreneur Center - Advisor, Mentor & InFlight Teacher
- MTSHRM - Mentor & Leadership Development Program Teacher

[BACK](#)

ERIN HOLCOMB

MANAGER | NOW PLAYING NASHVILLE Erin Holcomb manages NowPlayingNashville.com, a website helping visitors and locals to Middle Tennessee find Where to Go & What to Do. She is responsible for day-to-day management of the website, building strategic relationships with partners, implementing marketing strategies, developing revenue streams through advertising and overseeing the Artober Nashville program each October. Before joining NowPlayingNashville.com, Erin worked in public relations in Memphis, TN where she received one of the highest team member awards, the Bravo Zulu Award, from her client FedEx. Erin is a 2004 graduate of The University of Mississippi, where she majored in Broadcast Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations. [BACK](#)

FYÜTCH

MUSIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE ARTIST | EDUCATOR & CONTENT CREATOR Fyütch is a Grammy-nominated music and social justice artist, educator and content creator of choice for live events, corporate workshops, and classrooms. His work has been seen on the Today Show, Nick Cannon Show, New York Times, PBS, and NPR. He uses Hip-Hop, spoken word poetry, and visual storytelling to create unique all-ages experiences that promote racial equity and liberation. Fyütch began his musical career in Nashville, TN as the lead singer of Hip-Hop band Biscuits and Gravy, opening up for Kanye West and Pharrell. After pursuing a solo career, Fyütch created the viral web series Fyütchology, combining social commentary and music, landing him on MTV TRL. In 2021, Fyütch released his debut all-ages album Family Tree, a collection of spirited songs that celebrates coming together, family history, Black joy and accomplishments. His mission to educate, entertain, and empower the next generation through music has simultaneously topped the charts on Sirius XM Kids Place Live and been used in the classroom. Fyütch currently resides in the Bronx, NY with his 5-year-old daughter. [BACK](#)

JAZZMIN MITCHEL

CO-FOUNDER & ASSISTANT DIRECTOR | FREE FYRE Jazzmin Mitchell, Master's of Science in Social Work (MSSW) Candidate, is an artist who merges her Social Work background with her musical abilities to inspire healing and transformation in her audiences. Mitchell has 12 years of experience in vocal performance. Her 6 years of nonprofit experience has led her to become the Co-Founder and Assistant Director of Free Fyre, an arts organization fiscally sponsored by the ABC of Greater Nashville. Jazzmin sings at her place of worship, Bethel Community Church, and has performed at conferences and showcases in Nashville, Memphis, Chicago, and New York. As a Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellow, Jazzmin's research is to merge the arts & spirituality to create organizational interventions for non-arts spaces to impact all levels of the organizational structure, including clients served. [BACK](#)

JONATHAN HARWELL-DYE

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS | ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL OF GREATER NASHVILLE Working at the intersection of art and business, Jonathan Harwell-Dye is passionate about supporting artists and arts organizations, building equitable communities, and living a creative life. Trained as a scientific illustrator, he's found purpose for nearly two decades as an arts administrator, communications professional, graphic artist and editor. Jonathan aligns his passion and purpose as director of programs for the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville overseeing the overall strategy and day-to-day management of key programs that provide resources, opportunities, and education for Nashville's thriving creative sector. [BACK](#)

KAMILAH SANDERS

ACTIVIST | SPEAKER | EVENT CURATOR | CREATIVE PRODUCER Speaker, Event Curator, Creative Producer, [Kamilah Sanders](#) is founder and CEO of [Greater Than Equal](#) whose focus is to disrupt creative industries using a systems change approach that includes marketing strategy and leadership development consulting; using Web3 technologies for global collective impact; advancing entrepreneurship and tech in emerging markets; and creating a paradigm shift among citizens through visual and audio storytelling. As a Web3 Marketing & Leadership Strategist, Kamilah Sanders serves creative social impact founders turning their visions to reality and helping them maximize their impact on the world. Kamilah is also co-host on Crypto for Creatives Podcast; Digital Assets and Metaverse Podcast; The Sustainable Fashion Podcast; Fashion Reimagined Clubhouse and regularly speaks on Web3, Sustainable Fashion, Art, and Equity. [BACK](#)

KEITH JOSIAH

PAINTER | MUSICIAN | POET [Keith Josiah](#) is a 25-year-old painter, musician, and poet from Memphis TN. "My art is my own self-expression. He uses art as a way to personify figurative language and concepts and depict the conversations that I have with myself. I use shapes and colors to reflect the different perceptions, thoughts, feelings, emotions, and opinions that I have and how they look within my own imagination." Recently Keith's art has been centered around the topic of love and the many sides and dimensions of what it means to love and be loved. [BACK](#)

KENNY DOZIER

FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | KENNIE PLAYHOUSE Kenny Dozier is the Founder and Artistic Director of [Kennie Playhouse Theatre](#) (KPT). He is also the Producer at Nashville Shakespeare Festival. He is a Producer, Director, and Actor. In other words, Kenny is busy! Kenny recently, Summer of 2022, conducted a successful "Kidz Kravings" Youth Acting Camp. The camp focuses on FITNESS-NUTRITION-ACTING. Kenny as Artistic Director of Kennie Playhouse Theater is happy to announce our 2022-2023. Season theme "Ladies and Laughter". KPT will be producing the hilarious comedy "The Dance on Widow's Row" by Samm Art Williams. As part of the Juneteenth Celebration for 2023 KPT will also produce "Front Porch Society" by Melda Beaty. Both plays will be Directed by Kenny. Look for a few more theatrical surprises too. This upcoming season 2022-2023 you can catch Kenny in Nashville Children's Theater production of "The Diary of Anne Frank". You can also see him in Nashville Repertory production of "August Wilson's Fences." We welcome your support as we seek to impact the Nashville community with the medium of theater. To Learn more about KPT or Kenny, show your support by visiting our website and sign up on our mailing list or social media. [BACK](#)

MICHELLE REEVES

PAINTER | 2022 ARTOBER FEATURED ARTIST

A self-taught painter in Nashville, Michelle Reeves is inspired by what she sees in nature. "I don't paint what I see, but rather the impression, color and movement of the subject or imagined content. I like to paint with a 'what if' mentality while taking risks." Michelle has been published in 10 media publications, won 27 international awards, awarded 2 overseas artist residences, most recently in France, and is licensed with 2 major retailers. Michelle will be featured as Artist of the Week on The Nashville Sign the week of October 3rd. [BACK](#)

MICHELLE SIPES

CHOREOGRAPHER-DANCER | EDUCATOR | ARTS EDUCATOR

Michelle Sipes is a choreographer-dancer, educator, and arts administrator with interests in cross-disciplinary collaborations, intimate storytelling, and curating conversational spaces. Michelle has an MFA in Dance from the Ohio State University and a BFA in Dance from Belhaven University. Michelle performed and toured with Inlet Dance Theatre (Cleveland, OH) as a Company Member for five seasons where she taught and choreographed for Inlet's many education programs including residency programs, masterclasses, festivals, and conferences across the country. Along her artistic practice, Michelle has worked as a Program Director for the Tennessee Arts Commission helping to fund and manage arts education initiatives in Tennessee. Before her work at TAC, she worked as a Development Associate for the Wexner Center for the Arts and served as an artist-in-residence at the Wexner Center for two of their Learning and Public Practice programs. Additionally, Michelle taught a variety of movement practice and arts management courses for OSU's Department of Dance and published works in Risk is a Relative Term, a collaborative anthology between the Performing Arts department at the Wexner Center and OSU. Michelle believes in the transformative power of the arts and is committed to aiding artists and nonprofits as a consultant, fundraiser, and educator. [BACK](#)

mikewindy

ARTIST | ARTS EDUCATOR

mikewindy is an artist and arts educator living in Inglewood. He is the interim board chair for Number Inc. and the editor of the Young Art Writers project for Number Inc. that collaborates annually with TSU and the Educators Cooperative to host the TSU Arts Writing Symposium. mikewindy was recently named a Crayola Creativity Ambassador, one of 75 nationwide and the only CCA for the state of TN. He just completed the Smithsonian Museum of American Art Teacher Institute on-site in Washington DC and also sits on SAAM'S REACH advisory committee and will co-present with that committee at the National Alliance of Rural Schools. [BACK](#)

PATTY MCAVOY

OWNER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER | PATTY MCAVOY DESIGNS

Even as a little girl, I always had a vivid imagination. Creating elaborate stories, singing made-up songs under the bed into my walk-man and playing characters on the stage. That love for the dramatic is what I chased from my sleepy hometown of Newark, Ohio to the bright lights of New York City where I attended the Manhattan School of Music for undergrad, majoring in Opera. In an effort to support my vocal career (dresses are expensive!) I started working in the food and beverage industry. It was here I had a chance to discover my love for design. Luckily, I was introduced to Adobe products in high school on the yearbook team, and that experience paid off 6 years later when the restaurant I was working for promoted me to handle their branding and design in-house. I had an opportunity to work directly with the CEO and Chef to build 9 high-end brands that opened around the world. For 7 years, I honed my skills working for restaurants, musicians, and small businesses, constantly teaching myself new techniques. In 2016, I made the leap to start my own business and I am the proud owner of my own design studio, Patty McAvoy Designs. Since starting my business 6 years ago, I've had the privilege of working with over 180 entrepreneurs and businesses including Sesame Street, celebrity food host Padma Lakshmi, Kiehls, Audemars Piguet, L'Oreal, and Nashville based author, speaker, and DEI coach Brittany N. Cole, just to name a few. Patty McAvoy Designs is a full-service branding and design agency providing clients with custom, top-quality creative services. I focus on brand development, graphic design and creative strategies for the modern creative entrepreneur who wants a crafted experience and authentic design aesthetic. I am dedicated to elevating brands through strategic thinking and compelling design. I work one-on-one with my client's to quickly and intuitively capture a brand's personality with flawless design and powerful content. [BACK](#)

ROY "FUTUREMAN" WOOTEN

DRUMMER | INVENTOR | MUSICIAN | COMPOSER Best known for his role in Grammy Award winning and grassroots group Béla Fleck and The Flecktones, Roy "Futureman" Wooten continues to defy the norms of music, not just being on the cutting edge, but creating it. His never-ending curiosity and art and science approach to music theory caused him to create new instruments like the Drumitar (often played with The Flecktones), or his most recent creation the "RoyEl", a Pianosq instrument based on the periodic table of elements and the golden ratio. As a longtime artist advocate, Wooten continues to research and vocalize his views on artistic freedom and importance of intellectual property ownership. He believes NFT and Blockchain technology can play a pivotal role in helping musicians not only maintain ownership of their masters, but empower and partner with their communities to make a difference. He admits that it is still early, but if he wasn't the world might not call him "FutureMan". Check him live in concert, on a panel discussion or giving a keynote speech as a speaker and advisor with NFT Nashville, a growing community empowering artists, entrepreneurs and creatives to have access to education and to trusted people paving the way in blockchain and NFT technology. [BACK](#)

STEPHIE GEE

LICENSED CPA | MUSIC EDUCATOR | SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR | MUSICIAN In addition to being a music educator and social entrepreneur, Stephie Gee is a drummer and percussionist, currently performing with local Nashville artists. She is also a licensed CPA in the state of Tennessee, with over 10 years in accounting and auditing. When she's not performing or teaching, she aims to serve the Nashville creative community through educating freelancers and creative entrepreneurs on how to get comfortable with their finances and take their businesses to the next level. Stephie's experience in the Nashville community has included serving the financial needs of local businesses, social enterprises, non-profits, and startups such as Social Enterprise Alliance, Everly, Ordinary Hero, and ABLE. [BACK](#)

TED DROZDOWSKI

MUSICIAN | JOURNALIST | CONSULTANT Every art project—an album, an installation of paintings, a dance, a piece of sculpture, a mural, a film, a book, the fruit of the jeweler's craft—deserves recognition in the world at large. Perhaps the most important tool to achieve that recognition is the media bio. A smartly crafted bio that explains a creative work with clarity, depth and concision sets the tone for how press, radio, TV and online media present your work to the world. It summarizes what makes your work distinctive and important—ideally with just a quick glance by an editor/content provider, while also making your deeper story available, to convey the distinctive creative character of yourself and your work. This session is structured to instruct artists on how to author their own project bios by crafting introductions that summarize all the essentials and to explain the key takeaways that media readers need to ensure that conversations about works remain rooted in the artist's viewpoint. [BACK](#)

YURINA YOSHIKAWA

WRITER | EDITOR | INSTRUCTOR Yurina Yoshikawa holds an M.F.A. from Columbia University and teaches fiction and non-fiction writing at The Porch Writers' Collective. Her work has appeared in NPR, Lit Hub, The Japan Times, The New Inquiry, Hyphen Magazine, and elsewhere. She was the winner of the 2020 Tennessee True Stories Contest and a 2021 recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission. She has lived in Tokyo, Palo Alto, and New York before settling down in Nashville, Tennessee, where she lives with her husband and two sons. [BACK](#)