



## HERE/NOW: STRATEGIES TO STABILIZE

Thursday, June 11, 1-2:30 p.m. (EDT)

### Speakers

#### Heena Patel

Heena Patel is the founder and CEO of MELA Arts Connect, a multifaceted organization whose mission is to nurture the ecosystem around South Asian performing arts and its practitioners. Over the years and through MELA, she plays a diversity of roles including that of a South Asian programming consultant, booking agent, artist manager, and advocate for diversity in the performing arts on and off stage. More recently, she's donned the cap of producer and artistic director of the larger than life stage show Bollywood Boulevard. A sanitation engineer turned tabla player and performing arts entrepreneur, she started off in the arts as a dancer and choreographer of Indian dance. Originally from Toronto, Canada, Heena now splits her time between North America and India. Heena is an APAP Leadership Fellow, ISPA Fellow, a board member for NAPAMA (North American Performing Arts Manager and Agents), and proud member of WOCA (Women of Color in the Arts).



## Chad Herzog

International arts curator and leader Chad Herzog works for the University of Arizona as the executive director of UA Presents. Herzog oversees all aspects of UA Presents, the UA's performing arts presenter, by providing creative vision for the organization and curating programming.

Herzog was most recently the co-executive director and director of programming for the International Festival of Arts and Ideas in New Haven, Connecticut, where he was responsible for the overall artistic vision, conceiving, developing, and implementing artistic and humanities events.



For over 10 years, Herzog was the director of performing arts at Juniata College in Huntington, Pennsylvania. There, he successfully developed innovative programming that grew participation by elevating the arts as a means of teaching and learning, integrating arts and culture into all aspects of campus life. Herzog created a model for artists and audiences to interact with one another not only through performance, but by commissioning new works and offering world-premiere performances. As a result, participation in Juniata Presents increased by 250 percent and student engagement rose by 700 percent.

In 2015, he joined the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, which produces more than 300 events per year and attracts artists, thinkers and leaders to New Haven from around the world, including Angelique Kidjo, Rosanne Cash, George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic, the National Theatre of Scotland Bassem Youssef, Kronos Quartet and Claudia Rankine, among others.

Herzog's career began at Juniata College in 1999 as the assistant director of development for major gifts, where he served as chief fundraiser for the arts. In this role, he led a major capital campaign to expand and renovate the performing arts center. He was promoted to roles in event management and alumni relations before serving as director of performing arts in 2005.

Herzog is a frequent speaker, panelist and invited international delegate to numerous arts and culture forums including: Americans for the Arts National Arts Marketing Project; Association of Performing Arts Professionals; danceNYC; Edinburgh Festival; Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; New England Foundation for the Arts; Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; and South by Southwest.

He created and developed the community-supported arts program articulture, served as executive producer on the feature film *Spell*, and was the original producer of *One Radio Host*, *Two Dancers: Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass in Concert*.

Herzog has a Master of Fine Arts in interdisciplinary arts from Goddard College and a bachelor's in arts administration and communication from Juniata College.

## Ronee Penoi

Ronee is a Producer with Octopus Theatricals. Founded by creative producer Mara Isaacs, Octopus Theatricals collaborates with artists and organizations to foster an expansive range of compelling theatrical works for local, national and international audiences. With Octopus, Ronee has worked with artists and companies such as Phantom Limb Company, Ripe Time, DeLanna Studi, Lisa Peterson, Denis O'Hare, Christine Jones, Lola Arias (Argentina), Song of the Goat Theater (Poland), and more. She is affiliated with Groundwater Arts, an effort to advance climate justice in the arts, and is at work on two new musicals with collaborator Annalisa Dias, including The Carlisle Project and #RESIST. Ronee is a 2016 Theater Communications Group (TCG) Rising Leader of Color and is part of the third cohort for APAP's Arts Leadership Program, the Leadership Fellows Program. She was a 2018 ISPA Global Fellow. Ronee has a BA in Music with Certificates in Theater and Vocal Performance from Princeton University and is Laguna Pueblo and Cherokee.



## Clyde Valentin

Clyde Valentín was born and raised in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. He is the Co-founder and former Executive Director of Hi-ARTS (formerly known as the Hip-Hop Theater Festival). He is the inaugural Director of *Ignite/Arts Dallas: People, Purpose + Place* the community engagement initiative at SMU Meadows School of the Arts. The mission of *Ignite/Arts Dallas* is to challenge the imaginations of students and citizens to envision more just and vibrant communities through art and culture experiences. Clyde was a 2015 Community + Culture Fellow of the National Arts Strategies' Chief Executive Program. Valentín is an advisory committee member of the Latinx Theater Commons and has served as a consultant or panelist for numerous national arts organizations including Creative Capital, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP), YouthSpeaks/Brave New Voices, the New England Foundation for the Arts, Theater Communications Group (TCG), the National Association of Latino Arts & Culture (NALAC), the National Performance Network (NPN) and AlternaterROOTS. He most recently joined the Local Advisory Board for Year-Up DFW and the Board of Texans for the Arts, the statewide advocacy organization for public funding in the Arts in Texas.



## Katy Clark

Brooklyn Academy of Music President Katy Clark joined the renowned performing arts institution in July, 2015. She leads an adventurous organization that engages with 750,000 audience members each year, presenting live performances and films from around the world. From 2010-2015, Katy Clark served as president and executive director of Orchestra of St. Luke's (OSL)—one of America's foremost and most versatile ensembles. She joined OSL in 2005 as director of development. Prior to her career in arts management, from 1994 to 1999 Clark was a violinist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from Jesus College, Cambridge University; a master's degree in violin performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and a Certificate in Arts Management from Birbeck College, University of London. Clark was born and raised in Wales. She and her family reside in Brooklyn.

