Creative Change Coalition Gathering 2025

Presenter & Artist Directory

Presenters

Keynote: Citizen Power: You're More Powerful Than You Think

Thursday, October 9th, 2:30pm

Eric Liu
Citizen University
Co-founder and CEO

Eric Liu is the co-founder and CEO of Citizen University, which works to build a culture of powerful and responsible citizenship in the United States. He is also the founding director of the Aspen Institute's Citizenship & American Identity Program. Liu is the author of numerous acclaimed books, including most recently You're More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen's Guide to Making Change Happen and Become America: Civic Sermons on Love, Responsibility, and Democracy — a New York Times New & Notable Book. He is featured in the PBS documentary American Creed and is a contributing writer at The Atlantic.

Liu served as a White House speechwriter for President Bill Clinton and as the President's deputy domestic policy adviser. He was later appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the board of the Corporation for National and Community Service. In 2020, Liu was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, where he serves on its Trust and is co-chair of its Our Common Purpose commission on democratic citizenship. He is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, and a member of the Yale University Council. Liu and his family live in Seattle, where he has served on the boards of the Seattle Public Library and the Washington State Board of Education, and co-founded the Alliance for Gun Responsibility. His work as a civic innovator was recognized in 2020 with an Ashoka Fellowship.

Make it Local: The Everyday Work of Building Creative Change

Thursday, October 9th, 3:30pm

Bethany Lacktorin
Little Theatre Auditorium
Executive + Artistic Director

Bethany Lacktorin is an arts based community organizer, developer and musician. Her practice is an exploration of how layers of a place are connected, forming deep collaborations and forging long term relationships with communities.

Bethany is the Executive+Artistic Director of Little Theatre Auditorium (LTA), a central Minnesota arts venue where arts and culture resources, food access, social justice and main street meet through public art events, performances and installations.

Motivated by a community need for spaces to gather, share creative and transformative experiences, engage in intergenerational connection, and have opportunities to practice equitable collaboration and cultural exchange, LTA is a host for creation, experimentation and presentation of original artistic works as a vehicle toward belonging, amplifying the storytelling of BIPOC artists and culture-bearers, those from our immigrant communities, and those identifying as LGBTQ2IA+.

Marc David Pinate

Borderlands Theater
Producing Artistic Director

Borderlands Theater strives to build equitable, joyful, and meaningful collaborations with the local community through innovative theater and responsive cultural programs ingrained in the heritage, narratives, and lived experiences of peoples rooted across the Sonoran Desert.

Marc David Pinate makes theatre in his ancestral home, the Sonoran Desert. Through theatricality and storytelling his productions deepen feelings of belonging and social connection. He created the Barrio Stories Project: a festival series grounded in oral histories and community collaboration using site-specific popular theatre and digital media to tell the story of Tucson's historic barrio heritage. His Barro Stories placekeeping efforts played a role in the renaming of the Alva Bustamante Torres Plaza at the Tucson Convention Center (Barrio Stories, 2016); the Oury pool reopening and reestablishment of the Barrio Anita Neighborhood Association (Barrio Stories in Barrio Anita, 2018), and the development of the Morley Avenue arts district (Barrio Stories Nogales, 2022). Pinate has worked with noteworthy theaters including: The Magic Theatre, Campo Santo, El Teatro Campesino, ShadowLight Productions, Steppenwolf, Cleveland Public, Milagro Theatre and the Kennedy Center for the Arts. Marc is the producing artistic director of Borderlands Theater. He received an MFA in Stage Directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Ismail Samad

Loiter
Co-founder

Loiter seeks to disrupt decades of disinvestment and a disparaging narrative have undermined and internalized local morale and diminished community expectations and aspirations, leaving a wake of distrust in civic institutions and the political process.

It is time to flip the script.

Loiter weaves a tight community network centered on the people's voices, experiences shared assets and talents. We are a collective of creative disruptors committed to reimagining what community life is like when we work, play, and play together as we ideate and deploy intentional strategies for the habitually excluded.

Symphony Swan-Zawadi, BFA, M.ED

THE CR8TV HOUSE
Founder and Executive Director

Symphony Swan Zawadi is a Milwaukee-based artist, educator, and arts advocate with more than a decade of experience as an arts administrator, principal, and philanthropic leader. In 2023, she founded THE CR8TV HOUSE INC. (pronounced THE CREATIVE HOUSE), a Black-founded and led, artist-centered organization rooted in her 99-year-old childhood home on Milwaukee's Northside. Following the passing of her father, Symphony was visited in a dream in which he urged her not to sell the family home. Honoring his words, she reimagined the house as a space of belonging for artists and community. THE CR8TV HOUSE provides residencies, studio space, and programs that support Black and Brown artists in deepening their practice while strengthening community connections. Signature initiatives include the Sankofa Artist Residency + Studio Practice Program, Memory Keeping and Community Archiving Workshops, Artist Events and workshops and the new CR8TV FUTURES Artist Fellowship. Through this work, THE CR8TV HOUSE continues to address longstanding inequities in Milwaukee's arts landscape by offering a culturally responsive and intergenerational space to think, make, and create. At its core, the mission of THE CR8TV HOUSE is to provide space for radical imagination, support, and collaboration.

Aviva Kapust
Mural Arts Philadelphia
Chief Advancement and Impact Officer

Aviva Kapust is a nationally respected nonprofit executive, designer, and cultural strategist with over 20 years of experience at the intersection of arts, equity, and community development. As Mural Arts Philadelphia's Chief Advancement and Impact Officer, she leads the strategic integration of fundraising, earned revenue, and institutional communications to support the organization's long-term vision, sustainability, and community impact.

Prior to joining Mural Arts, Aviva served as Co-Executive Director of the Culture & Community Power Fund, a $13.2 million national funders' collaborative advancing cultural strategies for structural change. She led trust-based grantmaking, translocal learning initiatives, and cross-sector partnerships designed to strengthen community-rooted cultural ecosystems.

Earlier, she served for over a decade as Executive Director of The Village of Arts and Humanities, transforming it into a nationally recognized hub for equitable development, creative youth leadership, and social justice through the arts. Her tenure included a multi-year revitalization of The Village's physical campus, the launch of award-winning programs, and a deep commitment to honoring the legacy of the organization's founders.

Aviva's early career includes roles as a Creative Director at major advertising firms in New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Temple University and is a sought-after public speaker on the role of arts in systems change. She holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where she was a Civic Scholar, and a BFA in Graphic Design and Photography from the University of Hartford.

Rooted in Philadelphia's cultural and social justice landscape, Aviva brings to Mural Arts a passionate belief in the power of creativity as a tool for equity, belonging, and public imagination.

Make it Last: Developing Your Creative Ecosystem
Friday, October 10th, 9:30am

Joseph Allen
Manoomin Arts Initiative
Executive Director

Joseph Allen is a photographer with over thirty years of experience in creating art. He is also a community organizer and served for eight years as the director of the Gizhiigin Arts Incubator, a project of the White Earth Nation's (WEN) Economic Development Division. He now works as the Executive Director of the Manoomin Arts Initiative (MAI). MAI supports artist-led initiatives and helps grow the arts economy in the WEN.

Gustavo Herrera
Arts for LA
CEO

Gustavo is the CEO of Arts for LA, LA's only cross sector, cross discipline arts advocacy organization, which leads communities, artists, and organizations to advocate for an equitable, healthy, and vibrant Los Angeles region through the arts. Prior, he was the Western Regional Director for Young Invincibles (YI), where he was responsible for leading YI's California offices, including its West Coast expansion. As director, he set strategic direction and advanced YI's policy priorities on health care, higher education, jobs, and civic engagement for the region.

Gustavo was formerly the Chief Operating Officer of L.A. Plaza de Cultura y Artes , overseeing the day-to-day operation of a county museum, including the oversight of a master plan committee responsible for strategically developing three acres of additional museum campus. Prior to this, he led the Maestro Foundation, a classical music and performance arts foundation, as the Director of Organizational Development and he assessed and recommended business growth strategies in the US marketplace for the global Fortune 500 Company, American Honda Motors, Co.

Gustavo holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from American Jewish University and a dual Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies with an emphasis in socio-politics and economics and Art History from the University of California Santa Barbara. Gustavo is co-chair of the board of CA Forward.

Louise Martorano

Community Arts Stabilization Trust Colorado
Managing Director of Colorado & National Initiatives

Louise brings 19 years of nonprofit arts and culture experience with a focus on building infrastructures of support to stabilize artists careers. Prior to joining the CAST team, Louise served 14 years as the Executive & Artistic Director of RedLine Contemporary Art Center, a non-profit contemporary art center and artist residency located in Denver, Colorado. In this position, Louise developed the Artist-in-Residence program, oversaw the installation of over 300 exhibitions, launched both regranting and fiscal sponsorship programs to make philanthropic funds more accessible to artists and community organizations, and launched a Satellite Studio initiative to negotiate affordable studio, commercial and live/work spaces for artists and arts and culture organizations. From 2019 – 2025, the Satellite initiative resulted in adding 79 affordable artists studios into the Denver Metro Area, 4 new live/work housing developments, and negotiated 8 new locations for arts & culture nonprofits that previously did not have their own space. In 2017, she was awarded a Livingston Fellowship for leadership from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. Louise holds a M.H. from the University of Colorado at Denver with a focus in Contemporary Art History & Music. She is a Trustee for the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Board Chair for the Harmony Hammond Trust, Board Treasurer for the National Performance Network and the Denver Center for African Art.

Omari Rush

CultureSource
Executive Director

Omari Rush engages the arts as a passion and profession, and in each mode, he enjoys discovery and deepening impacts. As executive director of CultureSource in Detroit, he advances efforts to have creative expression thrive in communities. His complementary civic service ranges from recently completing an appointment to the State of Michigan Arts and Culture Council (serving three governors, two as their council chair) and a term as chair of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, to currently working as a board member of SeaChange Capital Partners, the Song Foundation, and the Ann Arbor Treeline Conservancy.

Omari earned degrees in music from the University of Michigan and Florida State University and has extended his love for learning by now teaching at the University of Michigan, by completing fellowships with the Salzburg Global Forum and Association of Performing Arts Professionals, and by serving on research advisory committees for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Indiana University O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

A lapsed clarinetist, Omari now primarily plays on a Rivendell Clem-L bicycle, which he rides daily on streets and trails.

Make it Aligned: Community-Centric Fundraising

Friday, October 10th, 12:45pm

Mallory Mitchell
Aligned Strategy Group
Co-founder

Rapidly emerging as a sought-after keynote speaker, Mallory Mitchell is redefining fundraising leadership with her radically warm, community-centric approach. As Co-Founder of Aligned Strategy Group and CCF Minnesota, she has sparked transformational change in organizations nationwide by challenging the rules that hold fundraisers back.

With a proven track record spanning major gifts officer to director of development roles, Mallory understands the real challenges nonprofit leaders face. Her comprehensive curricula and strategic coaching create light bulb moments that shift team cultures toward abundance and equity.

Mallory's commitment to advancing racial equity in philanthropy earned her the 2021 National Philanthropy Day Award from AFP Minnesota. Featured in the Chronicle of Philanthropy and What the Fundraising, and as a former University of Minnesota professor, Mallory combines academic rigor with practical wisdom—helping fundraisers claim their confidence and redefine what's possible.

Make it Connected: Exchange with National Advocacy Networks

Friday, October 10th, 12:45pm

Althea Erickson
National Arts Policy Alliance
Co-Design Lead

Althea Erickson is a seasoned research and policy professional focused on labor and social protections for the self-employed, with over twenty years experience starting and leading advocacy teams in the corporate and nonprofit sectors. She is a Co-Design Lead for the National Arts Policy Alliance, an initiative incubated within United States Artists, which is dedicated to building collective power among arts workers to win economic rights and security for all. She also leads Working Matters, which conducts independent research, policy and advocacy to build systems of support that enable all people to thrive. Before founding Working Matters, Althea served as Director, Sol Center for Liberated Work at the Center for Cultural Innovation, Vice President of Global Advocacy & Impact at Etsy, and Director of Advocacy & Policy at Freelancers Union. Althea has testified before several Congressional committees, appeared on the CBS Evening News and other networks, and been quoted in major news outlets, including the New York Times and Washington Post. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her husband and three children.

Nate McGaha
Creative States Coalition
Co-Chair

The Creative States Coalition (CSC) is the only national initiative dedicated to the capacity and infrastructure of all state and local arts advocacy organizations across the country, empowering them to advance public funding and policy for the arts in their own states and communities while building the grassroots networks and congressional influence necessary to create change in Washington DC. CSC's national coalition —spanning 46 states and 124 organizations with 60 dues-paying members in 2025—utilizes peer networks, knowledge exchange, subsidized member funding, and research-informed policy development through convenings & national partnerships.

In addition to serving as one of three Co-Chairs of CSC, Nate McGaha has been the Executive Director of Arts North Carolina, the statewide advocacy organization for the arts and arts education, since 2017 where he works for public funding and policy for the arts and arts education.

Genna Styles-Lyas, Ed.D
Americans for the Arts
Director of Local Arts Agencies Community Engagement and Equity in Research

Americans for the Arts's mission is to build recognition and support for the extraordinary and dynamic value of the arts and to lead, serve, and advance the diverse networks of organizations and individuals who cultivate the arts in America.

Genna (she/her) brings over fifteen years of experience in arts education, community engagement, and equity-centered practice. She has served in leadership and teaching roles with organizations including Everyman Theatre in Baltimore and SPdp (Staycee Pearl dance project) in Pittsburgh, where she helped develop artistic standards for the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards. Genna currently serves as Director of Local Arts Agencies Community Engagement and Equity in Research at Americans for the Arts, a national advocacy organization. In this role, she supports hundreds of communities nationwide and informs policies that make the arts more accessible, inclusive, and impactful. She is also a trusted facilitator and a member of the advisory committee for The Leadership Institute for Compassionate Changemaking.

A former Maryland State Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster panelist, Genna holds a Doctorate in Education from the University of Pittsburgh, with a focus on Out-of-School Learning, a Master's in Early Childhood Education from Northcentral University, focusing on arts integration, and a BFA in Acting and minor in Musical Theatre from Point Park University. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Make it Yours: Program Models for Working with Artists

Friday, October 10th, 2:45pm

Michele Anderson
Springboard for the Arts
Rural Director

Michele Anderson is the Rural Director of Springboard for the Arts, where she stewards overall strategy and partnerships for Springboard's rural programs in support of rural artists and creative community development. Based in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, Michele leads Springboards Rural Team in their work and advocacy about the essential role artists and culture bearers play in rural places. These programs include the Rural Regenerator Fellowship, the Rural Futures Summit, Artists on Main Street, and the Falls Community Arts Exchange.

With more than 15 years of nonprofit experience in rural contexts, as well as experience in organizing and running political campaigns, Michele is passionate about cultivating multiracial and multi-generational pathways to new rural futures rooted in repair, stewardship and joy. Her work and ideas about the future of rural places have been featured in the New York Times, Huffington Post, NPR, the Daily Yonder, the Wall Street Journal, and more. Michele is also a mom, a writer, a pianist, and a songwriter.

Ricardo Beaird
Springboard for the Arts
Community Development Director

Ricardo Beaird leads the Community Development program at Springboard for the Arts, where they guide strategy, programmatic goals, and implementation to create pathways for artists to address community needs and foster cross-sector collaborations. Ricardo also leads cohorts of artists in creating work that strengthens communities, focusing on dispelling harmful narratives, bridging people, combating social isolation, and inspiring new ways of thinking.

With a decade of experience in collective visioning, workshop facilitation, and community organizing, Ricardo speaks nationally on the power of artists in social, environmental, and economic movements. Their theater background informs their approach, bridging artistic practice with community impact. Ricardo holds a BA in Speech and Theatre from Middle Tennessee State University.

Make Decisions: Tools for Defining Roles and Responsibilities

Friday, October 10th, 2:45pm

Jack Forinash
Blue Sky Center
Executive Director

As a rural dweller in his home community of the Cuyama Valley, California, Jack Forinash brings empathy and consideration to the practice of applied arts, architecture, community development, and good old-fashioned fun. He's a cultural producer, community connector, builder, list-maker, spreadsheet artist, and amateur stargazer. In his director role at the place-based rural nonprofit organization Blue Sky Center, he focuses on seeking a definition of Cuyama that is quantified, verified, and self-determined. With an attention to detail and a love of spreadsheets, Jack focuses rural development discussions on the importance of data in communicating the human experience of a place. For the past seventeen years, Jack has preferred to make his home in towns of 1,000 or less, believing that by having the opportunity to know everyone by face and name we have the best chance to exhibit a civil society.

William Pierce
Springboard for the Arts
Operations & Finance Director

As Operations & Finance Director, William champions the internal systems that make Springboard run. William oversees financial and administrative operations to support the sustainability of our programming, artist-led projects, and organizational health. You can find William across our work ensuring Springboard not only survives, but thrives.

William holds a Master's and a Bachelor's in Business Administration with accounting and nonprofit financial management certifications. He also has over 15 years of leadership experience in various management roles. William believes that great organizations start with great people and is passionate about mentoring, motivating, and developing future leaders.

Julia Taylor Paryas
Ana & Adeline Foundation
Program Manager

Julia Taylor Paryas is a passionate advocate for the arts, serving as Program Manager at the Ana & Adeline Foundation while nurturing a multidisciplinary creative practice of her own. She finds grounding though painting and poetry - acts of self-reflection and self-care. Originally from Louisiana, Julia's creative roots are deeply tied to New Orleans arts and culture. Now based in Atlanta, she continues to empower New Orleans artists by administering scholarships, grants, and community engagement opportunities through her work with the foundation. In 2018, she spearheaded the creation of the YAYA archive—digitizing over 10,000 print photographs to preserve and celebrate the legacy of young artists. Julia studied at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and earned her BFA from Loyola University New Orleans. She has exhibited and curated in galleries across New Orleans and Atlanta while advocating for a more just and compassionate world. Her passion for mental and physical wellbeing led her to becoming a Pilates instructor - another avenue through which she spreads joy and care.

Jun-Li Wang
Springboard for the Arts
Associate Director

Jun-Li Wang is a connector of people, places and ideas. Jun-Li leads strategy and programs at Springboard for the Arts with a focus on partnership development and community building. She additionally leads the Creative Change Coalition and other national consulting initiatives.

Jun-Li has extensive experience in asset-based community development, community organizing, neighborhood leadership, workshop curriculum design and implementation, and training. Over ten years, she both founded and led Springboard's Community Development program, including Irrigate, a nationally-recognized creative placemaking program designed to train and support local artists to address community challenges. Jun-Li holds a BA from Vassar College and MPS in International Development from Cornell University.

Cultural lineage activity with Spire and Base

Friday, October 10th, all day

Dominique Miller
Spire and Base
Co-Director

Seth Beattie
Spire and Base
Co-Director & Founder

Spire and Base exists to help the people that help make communities more just and more sustainable. We're committed to supporting learning, research and strategy that truly means something – that practitioners and residents can put to work right away. Their work helps people expand aspirations for the future of communities of color and communities with low incomes. They pair that emphasis on higher expectations for what communities deserve with approaches grounded in today's realities. Throughout, they try to make all of their work visible and accessible so that everyone is invited to contribute to a shared vision.

Artists

Elana Schwartzman, Fontlove Studio

Program cover and graphics and 'Words for Each Other' poster design
www.fontlovestudio.com

Elana Schwartzman (she/her) is a letterpress printer and community organizer in Minneapolis, MN. Her work focuses on the power of words to connect people to movements, to history, and to each other. Elana owns and operates Fontlove Studio, a traditional letterpress print shop and graphic design studio in Northeast Minneapolis. She creates prints, posters, cards and other ephemera using hand-set type and vintage printing presses. She has worked in politics, non-profits, and as an independent printer and designer for the last 20 years.

Hawona Sullivan Janzen

Writer and multidisciplinary artist
Welcome & Grounding on Thursday, October 9th

Hawona Sullivan Janzen is a St. Paul based writer and multidisciplinary artist who believes art is the only thing that can save us from ourselves. Her work has been read on National Public Radio, produced as a play at Mixed Blood Theatre, featured in 10-foot-tall broadsides for the "Poetry of Resistance and Change Project," and performed as a jazz opera at the Soap Factory Gallery . Her recent works include: "We Are Rondo" a poem etched into the Dale Street Bridge over Interstate 94, and "Love Letters for the Midway," a crowdsourced 100 line love poem printed onto lawn signs and hosted in neighborhood front yards and storefronts of the St. Paul Midway.

Kip Jones

Violinist-composer
Live music at lunch on Friday, October 10th

Kip Jones (b. 1980) is known for his buoyant, ebullient spirit in multiple musical contexts. His career highlights include performing original large-ensemble work with the Colorado Ballet, A Far Cry and the Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra, appearing as soloist at Carnegie Hall with bassist Ron Carter, and recording his compositions with banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck for children's audiobooks. With his string quartet ETHEL, he has also produced live outdoor recordings in Arizona's painted desert with indigenous artists Sihasin, and in Taos Pueblo with Robert Mirabal; he has also recorded and performed with Kaki King, Layale Chaker, Missy Mazzoli and Julia Wolfe, among many others. A native of Minnesota, Kip graduated from Berklee College of Music, and received an honorary doctorate from Denison University. In the last decade, he has focused on nested notation, a choose-your-own-adventure software-driven music system for large improvising groups.

DJ Mickey Breeze

DJ, producer, recording artist and educator
DJ at Opening Reception on Thursday, October 9th

Mickey Breeze is a DJ, producer, recording artist and educator who represents a generation of truly exceptional musical talent hailing from the Twin Cities. With over 12 years of experience in these industries he has comprised an impressive list of accomplishments including DJing at both local and national events such as SXSW, Soundset Music Festival, Twin Cities Pride, the Saint Paul Winter Carnival, and Paisley Park's "Crown Our Prince" Mural Reveal and Block Party.

He also performs and teaches as a resident DJ/teacher for the Deeper Learning Conference Series, Slam Academy and Minneapolis Public Schools. Mickey's incredible live show is interestingly different from his peers as he incorporates the use of a drum pad controller, to add percussion beats and transitions over the top of his unmatched turntablism, adding a unique experience for those in attendance.

Amelia Foster, Streetcorner Letterpress

Notebook cover & mini-poster design, letterpress activity on Thursday, October 9th

Amelia Foster is a letterpress printer and librarian living in Minneapolis. She has owned and operated Streetcorner Letterpress, a mobile printing project, since 2018. Through Streetcorner Letterpress, she puts the ethos of "preservation through use" into action, introducing new generations to the art of handsetting wood and metal type to create analog prints. Streetcorner Letterpress is a collaborative project with Jon Drew.

Thai Phan-Quang

Photographer, Thursday, October 9th

Thai Phan-Quang, also known as Thaiphy, is a professional event and portrait photographer, skateboarder and skateboard videographer who has helped capture images in the Twin Cities for over 20 years. He has covered everything from skateboarding to the social justice movement with his lens.

The Creative Change Coalition Team

The Creative Change Coalition Team includes Michele Anderson,* Ricardo Beaird,* Sara Sawicki, Jun-Li Wang,* and Laura Zabel.

**also presenters (you can find their bios under the "presenter" category)*

Sara Sawicki

Springboard for the Arts
National Program Manager

Sara Sawicki helps to steward the Creative Change Coalition as part of her role as Springboard's National Program Manager. Prior to joining Springboard, Sara has supported artists and their partners in creating original community-engaged projects across the country as a program manager with organizations such as the American Library Association (ALA) and Center for Performance and Civic Practice (CPCP). Sara is a theatre artist with a focus on devised and participatory work. A company member with Sojourn Theatre for over a decade, Sara also tours internationally with Emmy Award-winning cinematic puppetry company, Manual Cinema.

Laura Zabel

Springboard for the Arts
Executive Director

Laura Zabel is an advocate and champion of artists and their role in building healthy and just communities and systems. For more than 20 years, she has worked to imagine and grow a more durable ecosystem of support for creativity and culture in the U.S. A frequent writer and speaker on the power and value of culture and creativity, Laura's work has been featured by Stanford Social Innovation Review, Bloomberg News, The Guardian, PBS NewsHour, Aspen Ideas Festival and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Laura has been honored with numerous awards, including the YBCA 100, Gard Foundation Award of Excellence, Common Future Local Economy Fellowship, ASU Creative Placemaking Policy Fellowship and the Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship. Laura is the Past President of the Board for the Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers.