

# High Museum of Art Convening on Arts and Aging

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta

## Agenda

### **9 a.m. Coffee and Registration**

Robinson Atrium, Stent Family Wing

Please sign up for three afternoon breakout sessions.

### **9:30 a.m. Welcome**

Hill Auditorium

Rand Suffolk, Nancy and Holcombe T. Green, Jr., Director, High Museum of Art

Andrew Westover, Eleanor McDonald Storza Director of Education, High Museum of Art

Laurel Humble, Head of Creative Aging and Lifelong Learning, High Museum of Art

### **9:45 a.m. Opening Remarks**

Hill Auditorium

Pearl Cleage, Distinguished Artist in Residence, Alliance Theatre

### **10 a.m. Panel: Why do we care about arts and aging?**

Hill Auditorium

Kay Sibetta, Associate State Director, Community Outreach, AARP Georgia

Katherine Jentleson, Merrie and Dan Boone Curator of Folk and Self-Taught Art, High Museum of Art

Ali John Zarrabi, Assistant Professor, Division of Palliative Medicine, Emory Healthcare

Followed by a discussion moderated by Andrew Westover, Eleanor McDonald Storza Director of Education, High Museum of Art

### **11 a.m. Coffee Break**

Robinson Atrium, Stent Family Wing

Please sign up for three afternoon breakout sessions.

### **11:15 a.m. Case Studies: How can arts and aging work contribute to better civic life in our communities?**

Toya Northington, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Speed Art Museum

Jessica McCracken, Director, Creative Spark, Front Porch

Mary Jane Knecht, Manager, Creative Aging Programs, Frye Art Museum

Laurel Humble, Head of Creative Aging and Lifelong Learning, High Museum of Art

### **12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**

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## **1:30–4 p.m. Breakout Sessions: How can we approach arts and aging work?**

Breakout sessions are participatory in nature and last forty-five minutes. Sign up for three sessions in the Atrium during registration and the morning coffee break. Breakout sessions take place throughout the Stent Family Wing, including the Education Center workshop spaces in the Lower Level and in the galleries. Please note the specific times and locations for each breakout session below.

### **1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Breakout #1: What motivations do we bring to this work?**

Blue Workshop, Education Center, Lower Level

Carlton Mackey, Assistant Director, Community Dialogue and Engagement, High Museum of Art

In this session we will explore the values, motivations, and inspiration that drive us to do our work in this field. We will also examine the ways our motivations may consciously or unconsciously shape our understanding of both the work we do and the humans we serve. Through a series of dynamic exercises, participants will reflect on the kind of world we want for ourselves and the folks we love and will assess how we are shaped by and shaping that world.

### **1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Breakout #2: How can conversation about the visual arts foster reflection and dialogue?**

Stent Family Wing, Third Level

Laurel Humble, Head of Creative Aging and Lifelong Learning, High Museum of Art

We all approach artworks with a unique perspective that is shaped by our backgrounds, experiences, values, and interests. Conversations around artworks allow these unique perspectives to come to the fore in a safe space—one that allows us to connect with ourselves and others both past and present. In the Museum's galleries, we'll explore art as individuals and as a collective through a series of inquiry-based conversations that provide a lens through which we can examine our personal and professional lives.

### **1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Breakout #3: How can we determine better program goals and measure success?**

Yellow Workshop, Education Center, Lower Level

Jeanine Ancelet, Principal, Audience Focus

Using a "hands-on, minds-on" approach, this breakout session will examine several questions: How can we frame useful questions to guide our inquiry? What does success look like? How do we align our program goals with audience outcomes? What needs should we consider when conducting evaluations with older adults? What evaluation tools and frameworks already exist that could help provide inspiration? This breakout session provides an opportunity for attendees to build skills in evaluative thinking as practitioners look to measure and refine their programs and experiences for older adults.

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## **2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Breakout #4: How can making art strengthen social connections?**

Robinson Atrium, Stent Family Wing

Jaffia Royes, Teaching Artist, High Museum of Art

Through this hands-on studio workshop, participants will create multilayered collages independently and in collaboration with fellow participants. Through a series of guided activities—including drawing, mark making, and collage—participants will connect with each other, create together, and exchange experiences. We will finish with a reflective discussion on the unique ways that creativity can bring people together.

## **2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Breakout #5: How can we build welcoming spaces and age-friendly communities?**

Red Workshop, Education Center, Lower Level

Kay Sibetta, Associate State Director, Community Outreach, AARP Georgia

Jessica McCracken, Director, Creative Spark, Front Porch

This conversational session will explore ways we can advance the well-being of people of all ages living in community settings by creating accessible opportunities for lifelong cognitive, social, and physical activities. Participants will learn about local efforts to create a more inclusive community through safer, more connected neighborhoods and infrastructure improvements, reflect on how to engage and partner with individuals living in communities experiencing greater risk of loneliness due to marginalization, and find out about related grant opportunities to support this work.

## **1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Breakout #6: Blue Lights in the Basement: What were we like before we were old?**

Green Workshop, Education Center, Lower Level

Pearl Cleage, Distinguished Artist in Residence, Alliance Theatre

Patrick McColery, Director, Palefsky Collision Project, Alliance Theatre

Pearl Cleage and Patrick McColery will lead participants through a series of hands-on writing, directing, and performing exercises that introduce text exploration and play-creation methods. The two have used these methods for fourteen years while working with young artists as part of the Alliance Theatre's Palefsky Collision Project.

## **4:15 p.m. Closing Remarks: Where can we go from here?**

Hill Auditorium

## **4:30–5:30 p.m. Reception**

Anne Cox Chambers Wing Lobby

Mingle with colleagues and enjoy a glass of wine and passed hors d'oeuvres