

CREATING HOPE TOGETHER

FRIDAY 19
JANUARY 2024

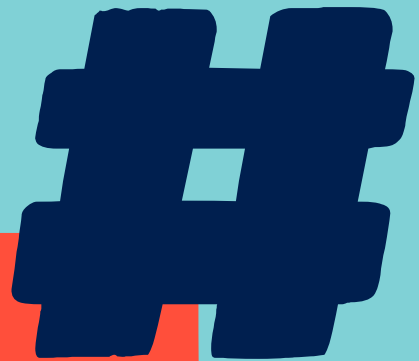


**IMP
ACT**

TRANSFORMING
CONFLICT WITH ARTS
AND CULTURE



At a time when many people around the world are facing instability and oppression, we offer an online space to connect with each other, share and learn together, and find hope and creative inspiration.



THE AGENDA INCLUDES:

- 1.** Welcome and introduction from IMPACT
- 2.** Messages of Hope videos
- 3.** Interactive breakout rooms
- 4.** Open discussion on pressing topics
- 5.** Inspirational speakers from around the world

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Please note this event is happening in two time zones – each event is repeated in both timezone 1 (tz1) and timezone 2 (tz2).

In some cases the speaker will change based on the timezone, but the topic will remain the same.



TIMING	TITLE OF SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS	WHERE?
<p>Timezone 1: 9AM CET 5PM JST</p> <p>Timezone 2: 11AM EST 5PM CET</p>	<p>Welcome to IMPACT: Creating Hope Together - Find out about our mission and values, and why we are hosting this global event in today's world</p> <p>TZ1: Dessa Quesada-Palm*, IMPACT Board Member TZ2: Lee Perlman*, Board Chair of IMPACT</p> <hr/> <p>Messages of Hope Campaign - hear from members of the IMPACT community and add your voice</p> <hr/> <p>What's cooking? Discover our advocacy activities and opportunities to engage with IMPACT</p> <p>TZ1 and TZ2: Rosanna Lewis*, Senior Advocacy Manager, IMPACT</p>	<p>Main room</p>
<p>Timezone 1: 9.15AM CET 5.15PM JST</p> <p>Timezone 2: 11.15AM EST 5.15PM CET</p>	<p>LET'S MEET How to amplify diverse voices through networks and platforms? Meet those connecting and contributing to arts, culture and conflict transformation</p> <p>TZ1: Rosanna Lewis* (facilitator); Lorenzo Angelini, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office; Vana Filipovski, Imagining Peace; Kyoko Okumoto*, Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute</p> <p>TZ2: Ana Cabria Mellace, Fundación Cambio Democrático (facilitator); Anis Barnat, Community Arts Network; Jason Ferenczi, UnRival Network; Ellada Evangelou, Buffer Fringe Festival (2019-22)</p>	<p>Break Out Room 1 (40 minutes)</p>
	<p>LET'S MEET How can funders trust quality over quantity? Find out about trust-based relationships and approaches, and how to place people at the heart of impact</p> <p>TZ1: Ezgi Yilmaz, SALT Online (facilitator); Laura Alexander, Prince Claus Fund; Kai Brennert, edge and story; Angela Maria Pérez Mejía, Cultural Affairs of Central Bank of Colombia (video)</p> <p>TZ2: Rosanna Lewis* (facilitator); Jesse Eaves, Humanity United; Michael Orlove, National Endowment for the Arts, USA; Cecilia Campos Villafani, Illa Organization, Bolivia; Angela Maria Pérez Mejía, Cultural Affairs of Central Bank of Colombia (video)</p>	<p>Break Out Room 2 (40 minutes)</p>
	<p>LET'S MEET How to apply systems theory in practice in ACCT? Learn how arts and culture can make a difference by engaging in complex contexts and ecosystems</p> <p>TZ1: Ameer Shaheed, Interdisciplinary Consultant (facilitator) Kitche Magak*, Maasai Mara University, Kenya; Dijana Milosevic*, co-founder DAH Theatre, Serbia</p> <p>TZ2: Cindy Cohen, IMPACT Senior Fellow and the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts (PBA) Affiliate, Brandeis University (facilitator); Polly Walker, IMPACT Senior Fellow and Professor Emeritus Juniata College</p>	<p>Break Out Room 3 (40 minutes)</p>

* IMPACT Board Members

TIMING	TITLE OF SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS	WHERE?
5 minutes before the hour	BREAK -Harsha Bhamidipati's presentation of "Stories of Water" Walking Tour in Bangalore, India (video)	
Timezone 1: 10AM CET 6PM JST Timezone 2: 12PM EST 6PM CET	Keynote Message from John Paul Lederach, Practitioner-Scholar of Peacebuilding, Senior Fellow of Humanity United, USA (video) TZ1: Dessa Quesada-Palm TZ2: Lee Perlman	Main room
Timezone 1: 10.15AM CET 6.15PM JST Timezone 2: 12.15PM EST 6.15PM CET	LET'S TALK In Times of Crisis: how to form resistance through arts during live conflicts? Explore the power of arts for activism, wellbeing and connection in challenging contexts TZ1: Lee Perlman* (facilitator), Igal Ezraty, co founder and co director, Jaffa Theatre; Seba Kourani, Artists with Elbows, Lebanon TZ2: Lee Perlman* (facilitator), Sinai Peter, Palestinian and Jewish Arts Solidarity group; Sarra Saeed, Sudanese Artist, Shoghakat Vardanyan, Filmmaker, Armenia, Armine Avetisyan, IMPACT and Brandeis University	Break Out Room 1 (40 minutes)
	LET'S TALK Power vs People: How do artists and cultural workers address rising authoritarianism? Take part in an open discussion on where priorities lie and our role TZ1: Dijana Milosevic*, DAH Theatre, Serbia; Kitche Magak*, Maasai Mara University, Kenya, Asena Günal, Anadolu Kültür, Turkey TZ2: Cindy Cohen, IMPACT Senior Fellow and PBA Affiliate, Brandeis University (facilitator); Bonface Beti, IMPACT and Consultant, Kenya, Otieno Ombok, Kenya	Break Out Room 2 (40 minutes)
	LET'S TALK How can we creatively confront gender-based violence? Listen to local stories and perspectives, and exchange ways forward TZ1: Susan Kilonzo, Maseno University, Kenya (facilitator); Onna Rhea Quizo, Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation (GWAVE), Philippines, Lama El-Amine, Seenaryo, Lebanon TZ2: Toni Shapiro-Phim, PBA, Brandeis University (facilitator); Amina Seck, Les Cultur'elles, Senegal; Emilie Diouf, Brandeis University; Marina Kabo, Dafadoy Collective, Senegal	Break Out Room 3 (40 minutes)
Last 5 minutes	WRAP UP - Thank you and invitation to join the IMPACT community TZ1: Dessa Quesada-Palm* TZ2: Lee Perlman*  IMPACT Board Members	Main room

BIOS SPEAKERS

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

*WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE ADDED
LATER

LAURA ALEXANDER

MEL Coordinator, Prince Claus Fund (Netherlands)

Laura Alexander is the coordinator of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning at the [Prince Claus Fund](#), where she is responsible for the collecting and analysing of information on the impact of the Fund. She is particularly focused on developing collaborative ME&L practices that provide insight into the needs of practitioners working at the intersection of arts and societal change based on the relationships between the organisation and its partners, and on critical reflection on the position and power of funding bodies in society. Laura began her career at the Prince Claus Fund in 2017 as a researcher, and was a core member of the working group for the Forces of Art project. During this time she also completed a master's degree in Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam. Laura has co-developed IMPACT's theory of change on Advocacy for arts, culture and conflict transformation.

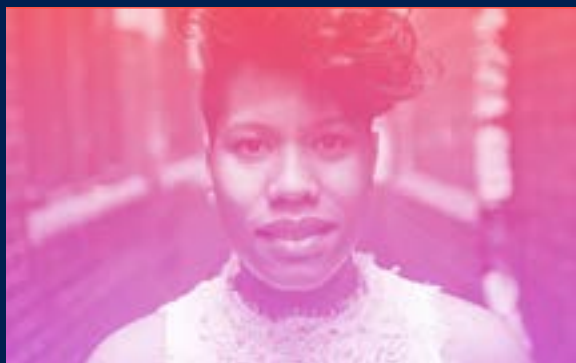


LAMA AMINE

Head of Arts, Seenaryo (Lebanon/Jordan)

Lama is a performer, choreographer, movement director, teacher and activist. As Head of Arts in Lebanon, Lama Amine manages all of [Seenaryo's](#) theatre programmes between Lebanon and Jordan. She has directed several plays such as "While We Were Dreaming", "The Metamorphosis after Franz Kafka", "What's Far is Near", "I See My Ghost Coming from an Afar" (nominated as the best performance at the Youth Festival in Germany - Schwabishall 2023) and "Tilka."

Lama also participated in the Shubbak Festival in London in 2023 as a director of the play Dreamer with Dalal Chachno. She was part of Kahraba's production touring in the world premiere of Cabaret Migrants Directed by Eric Deniaud. She is also part of TNT British Company and performed in the world premiere of My Sister Syria in Europe. She has worked as a movement director and a physical theatre tutor with first and second-year BA students at CSSD and Saint Mary's University in London. In 2023, she received a scholarship from the Goethe Institute to participate as an artist in the Theatertreffen Festival in Berlin, where she worked with artists worldwide.



She holds a Master's of Fine Arts in Movements Directing and teaching from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama - London. In 2016 she worked on RISE production with The Old Vic New Voices as an assistant movement director. In 2015 she was selected to participate in the Home Grown Theatre Project, a collaboration with the Kevin Spacey Foundation in Sharjah, UAE. Lama has worked on two operas with Robert Wilson in New York. She has also been a dancer with Sima Dance Company in Dubai.

LORENZO ANGELINI

Senior Policy Officer, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) (Belgium)

Lorenzo works as Senior Policy Officer for the [European Peacebuilding Liaison Office](#) (EPLO). Since 2017, he has been coordinating EPLO's activities on conflict sensitivity and on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. He also coordinates EPLO's work on the linkages between the climate crisis and peace and conflict issues, on cultural heritage, and on EU-Africa relations. Prior to joining EPLO, Lorenzo worked as a Research Fellow for the Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS), focusing on the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy as well as on EU policies and initiatives involving the linking of security and development objectives.



ARMINE AVETISYAN

Program Manager, IMPACT (Armenia/USA)

Armine is a peacebuilding practitioner focusing on creative approaches. She has been involved in nurturing trusting relations and creating spaces for dialogue among diverse groups from Armenia and Turkey, including grassroots communities, artists, nonprofits, local authorities, and others, to work together for building more just and peaceful societies. Armine co-directed the [documentary "Haven't We Shared Much Salt and Bread?" \(2017\)](#) where conflict transformation, food, and gender intersect. Currently, Armine works as program manager at the [Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts](#) and [Global Community Engagement](#) at the Samuels Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation at Brandeis University. She holds dual MA in conflict resolution and coexistence from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and cultural management from Turkey's Istanbul Bilgi University.



ANIS BARNAT

Managing Director of Community Arts Network (CAN) (Greece)

Anis is a multi-cultural citizen of the world with experience and journeys in the private sector, public administration, private-public institutions. A social entrepreneur committed to a core life's mission as co-founder of El Sistema Greece, Anis believes in community arts projects as a tool for social inclusion.

Aside from his role at El Sistema Greece, he also is the Managing Director of the [Community Arts Network \(CAN\)](#). CAN aims to enable, engage and empower individuals, organizations and communities through arts and unlikely alliances and works on advocacy for the role of Arts in responding to our current global challenges.



BONFACE BETI

Artist-peacebuilder, educator, cultural leader and IMPACT Board Member (Kenya)

Bonface is an international artist-peacebuilder, educator and cultural leader who applies theatre-based interventions with individuals and communities to create a story of peace. He integrates and applies theatre-based processes into larger structural transformational issues as a language for social justice, decolonization and peacebuilding. He holds a MA degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Manitoba, Canada, and is currently working on his PhD there. Widely published in field of the arts and peacebuilding, he hosts international workshops and is part-time instructor at Canada's University of Winnipeg.



HARSHA BHAMDIPATI

Sustainable Development Practitioner (India) - video

Harsha Bhamidipati is an analytical professional with a focus on youth development and education. Skilled in data analysis and visualization, Harsha has contributed to educational and environmental policy reform, notably through the 'Stories of Water' project in Bangalore. A passionate advocate for community cohesion, Harsha has also been instrumental in initiating an Ultimate Frisbee program in India. With a Master's degree in Sustainable International Development & Conflict Resolution from Brandeis University, Harsha combines technical expertise and a commitment to social impact in his work.



KAI BRENNERT

Founder of edge and story (Germany/Cambodia)

Kai Brennert is the Founder of [edge and story](#), an evaluation, research and policy consultancy at the intersection of culture and sustainable development. Currently based in Cambodia, he has worked in more than 20 countries across four continents on partnerships, strategy and evaluation in arts, culture, and the creative industries. Kai is also the author of [curious patterns](#), a newsletter of curated news around arts and culture, impact and evaluation, sustainable development and regenerative futures, and where these all intersect.



ANA CABRIA MELLACE

Executive Director, Fundación Cambio Democrático (Argentina)

Ana Cabria Mellace is a Lawyer and Specialist in Mediation and Conflict Transformation. For the last 20 years she has been working in conflict transformation and peacebuilding. She is a researcher, a practitioner and a trainer and has worked with the public and private sector and with different community sectors on dialogue, participation and collaborative advocacy processes for social change. She is director of the [Fundación Cambio Democrático](#) in Argentina, member of Partners Network, and also consultant for the UNDP on various initiatives in the LaTAM region related to participation, peacebuilding programs, networking for change. In the last years she has been focused on the complexity of conflict transformation in environmental issues and their connection with the human rights of indigenous people. She has participated in IMPACT as practitioner, facilitator and during 2022 served as member of the transitional board.



CECILIA CAMPOS VILLAFANI

Cultural manager, Social Communicator and Lawyer (Bolivia)

Cecilia has performed cultural management tasks, being in charge of national competitive funds linked to cooperation internationally, being responsible for the Cultural Fund of the Embassy Switzerland in Bolivia for 5 years. She has directed and coordinated art projects linked to social development and Human Rights mainly in rural municipalities and intermediate cities throughout the country; she's a founding member of the Illa Organization developing artistic projects and processes aimed at social innovation, intercultural dialogue and cultural research. She is co-author of the Creative Guide for LanzArte, a tool to promote youth participation processes from the artistic platform, addressing issues of human rights, citizenship and democracy. She has been invited several times as a jury for the evaluation of cultural projects in national and municipal calls for the promotion of culture, responsible for Cultural Programming at the La Paz International Book Fair and was a collaborator in the Willaqniykuna bulletin of the Bolivian Studies Association (AEB) and Rascacielos magazine.



CYNTHIA COHEN

IMPACT Senior Fellow and Affiliate of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at Brandeis University (USA)

Cynthia Cohen (Cindy) is a community oral historian and a scholar/practitioner devoted to strengthening the contributions of arts and culture to the creative transformation of violent conflict. Currently, she is a Senior Fellow with IMPACT, Inc., and affiliate of the [Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts](#) at Brandeis University. She was a co-editor of the *Acting Together* anthologies, and a co-creator of the accompanying film and toolkit. She was the lead author on IMPACT's report [Invite | Affirm | Evoke | Unleash](#): How artistic and cultural processes transform complex challenges. She supported the African-American cultural worker, educator and musician, Jane Wilburn Sapp, to create her book *Let's Make a Better World: Stories and Songs of Jane Sapp*, and has written extensively on the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of peacebuilding. Cindy has worked as a coexistence facilitator with communities in the US, Middle East, Central America and Sri Lanka, and is focusing now on strengthening the contributions of arts and culture to movements opposing rising authoritarianism, both in the US and globally. She currently lives in Wilmington, North Carolina with her wife Ann and their beloved cat, Eleanor Roosevelt (Ella).



EMILIE DIOUF

Brandeis University (Senegal/USA)

Emilie Diouf is an assistant professor of English at [Brandeis University](#). She specializes in Anglophone and Francophone postcolonial African literatures and film with an emphasis on gender, feminist theory, trauma and cultural memory. Her publications have focused on the interdisciplinary study of the relationship between narrative, trauma, and human rights. She is interested in culturally specific approaches to engaging the trauma of gender-based violence in public memory. She interrogates how gender-based violence figures in perceptions of political injury, justice and public memory. She is currently completing a book manuscript that analyzes strategies deployed to contest conceptualizations of trauma that have failed to address human rights abuses against forcibly displaced women in Uganda, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cameroon. Attuned to African women's experiences of violence, forced displacement, and humanitarian intervention, Diouf's project asserts that women's experiences of trauma are crucial to reading, understanding, and transforming socioeconomic and political crises on the African continent and the international community's responses to them.



JESSE EAVES

Senior Director, Peacebuilding at Humanity United (USA)

Jesse Eaves is Senior Director, Peacebuilding at [Humanity United](#), a private US philanthropy focused on cultivating the conditions that can transform human exploitation and violent conflict into enduring peace and freedom. With a background in child protection and systems change, Jesse has worked extensively in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe on issues ranging from human trafficking and child exploitation to youth-led conflict transformation. He currently manages a body of work as part of HU's peacebuilding strategy to support and accompany networks of peacebuilders from around the world as they reimagine a system where the international response to violent conflict is defined by those living closest to that conflict and honors their vision for sustainable peace.



ELLADA EVANGELOU

Theatre practitioner and academic, cofounder of Rooftop Theatre, artistic director of Buffer Fringe Festival 2019-22 (Cyprus)

Ellada Evangelou was born and raised in Cyprus. She has studied in Cyprus and the United States. She has worked as a dramaturg, theater director, workshop facilitator, and independent consultant, in collaboration with theater companies, NGOs, and international organisations, including UNDP and the Anna Lindh Foundation. She teaches theater and dramaturgy courses in higher education in Cyprus and the United States. She is interested in the relationship between theater/dramaturgy and identity, and works in the intersection of aRtivism and scholarship in post-colonial, post-conflict communities.

She is co-founder of Rooftop Theatre, was a member of the Leadership Circle of the IMPACT Project (2017-21), and a 2020-21 Global Fellow of the International Society for the Performing Arts. From 2019 -2022 she was the Artistic and Executive Director of the [Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival](#), and a Mentor with the Festival Academy Atelier Programs in Montreal, Beirut, Nicosia and New York. She was a Global fellow with Gallatin School for Individualised Study, NYU, and is a contributor and co-author for the W.H.O. Resource on Arts Practice and the Ethics of Care (withcare.art).

Currently she is the Curator for the Boundary Crosser Artists Residency Program at CYENS Center of Excellence, Nicosia, Cyprus.



IGAL EZRATY

Founder and Director, Jaffa Theater (Israel)

Theatre Director, founder, General Manager, and Co-Artistic Director of "[Jaffa Theatre, A Stage for Arab- Hebrew Culture](#)"

Holds a B.A. in Education and Community Theatre, Tel Aviv University; M.F.A degree with honors in Theatre Directing, Tel Aviv University. Teacher of acting and directing at Seminar Hakibbutzim Acting Studio. Co-founder of the Theatre Artist.

The musical theatre "Farid El Atrash" premiered at The International Mediterranean Festival in Ashdod, June 2017, performed successfully in France, Paris and Marseille Oct. 2019. Received the Fringe "Gold Hedgehog" award for Life Achievement 2021 by the Ministry of Culture.



JASON FERENCZI

Program Director and Operations Director, UnRival Network (USA)

As Program Director of [UnRival Network](#), Jason brings academic preparation in history and education into dialogue with organizational development, cross-cultural communication, and leadership studies. Jason previously served as a Program Director at Cornerstone Trust (2011-2020), a private family foundation. He oversaw granting in leadership development around the globe, with a special focus in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. Jason holds a master's in history and a Ph.D. in education, although his greatest formation has come in the school of life, particularly travel in 130+ countries. He is the father of four teenage daughters and lives in Grand Rapids.



VANA FILIPOVSKI

Co-Founder of Imagining Peace (Italy)

Vana Filipovski is a cultural manager and a researcher working on creating links between culture, art and peacebuilding. She co-founded [Imagining Peace](#), a platform that investigates how arts and cultural practices implemented by grassroots initiatives contribute to peacebuilding efforts in their local conflict and post-conflict communities. She worked on projects related to cultural cooperation and reconciliation between Kosovo and Serbia. Her work is focused on advocacy for recognition and involvement of arts in peacebuilding efforts, through evidence-based research and policy development.



ASENA GÜNAL

Executive Director, Anadolu Kültür (Turkey)

Asema Günel (1973), obtained her BS in International Relations, MA in Sociology from METU and PhD from Boğaziçi University Atatürk Institute. She has worked as an editor at İletişim Publishing House from 1998 to 2005. She started to work as the program coordinator of Depo from September 2008 on. Günel is a co-founder of Siyah Bant, a research platform that documents censorship cases in the arts in Turkey, and was a fellow of the AHDA Program at Columbia University in 2014. She is the executive director of [Anadolu Kültür](#). Günel is the 2019 German-French Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law laureate.



SUZAN KILONZO

Associate Professor, Maseno University (Kenya)

Susan M. Kilonzo is an active empirical researcher, teacher, author, community development trainer, mentor, and an editor. She holds masters and PhD degrees from Maseno University, Kenya, in religion and development. Her masters degree was on non-state actors and community development; and her PhD on Church and community development. She is an Associate Professor of Sociology of Religion at [Maseno University](#), Kenya; and currently (2023-2026), a senior research fellow at Otto Friedrich Universität, Bamberg, Germany. Susan has background training in policy engaged research, political economy analysis, peace & conflict studies, religion and health, and higher education; fields that she has widely trained, researched and published. Her current research focus is religion and mental health among survivors of conflicts. She has worked with and consulted for various organizations, including: Partnership for African Social Governance Research (PASGR), Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)-UK, Amref-Kenya, and IMPACT-USA. Susan has held research fellowship positions at The Open University, UK; New Europe College, Bucharest; and University for Peace (UPEACE)- AP, among others.



MARINA BINTA KABO

Coordinator, Dafadoy Collective (Senegal)

Marina Binta Kabo has been a member of the Association of Senegalese Women Lawyers (AJS) since 2015. She has participated in several training programs including the political leadership program of the Ebert Foundation in 2016 and the anti-corruption program of the Institute of United Nations for Training and Research (UNITAR) 2018/2019. Her expertise is on migration law, especially the rights of women migrants. She holds a Master's degree in migration law and is a women's rights activist within her own context in Senegal. She is currently the Coordinator of the Dafadoy Collective Against Violence Against Women and Children. A collective created by Senegalese youth from different platforms and civil society organizations. She also volunteers as a legal consultant at the AJS law shop which serves as a one stop center for many survivors of gender-based violence in Senegal

Marina is also a blogger in her spare time through the Facebook platform "women, dare the media!" » She is currently a project manager at the Migration Development Network.

SEBA KOURANI

Associate of Artists with Elbows and Theatre Practitioner (Lebanon)

Seba Kourani, a theater Practitioner based in Beirut, Lebanon, holds a bachelor's degree in theater from the Faculty of Fine Arts. Currently associated with "[Artists with Elbows](#)" focusing on creating a connection and space for artistic/ cultural exchange between artists, communities and institutions, she's all about integrating art and theater techniques into projects aimed at catalyzing social change and promoting peace.

As a theater practitioner, Seba has collaborated with various organizations, contributing to the design and development of tools and projects in mental health, psychosocial support, and education. Using theater as an interactive tool, she actively engages in dialogue with diverse communities and dedicates her efforts to empowering young people, a key aspect of her work.

What sets Seba apart is her commitment to unraveling the connection between the arts and the thought systems shaping the collective uncertainties in cities with unclear futures. Her ongoing artistic project, "Uncertainty," explores this relationship. Currently, she's deep into her studies, focusing on arts, international collaboration, and peace-building in the CAS program at Zurich University of Arts.



ROSANNA LEWIS

Senior Advocacy Manager and Board Member, IMPACT (UK/Belgium)

Rosanna is a part-time independent consultant and Senior Relationship Manager, at the British Council. She believes in the value of arts and culture to connect across differences and imagine a brighter future. For the British Council, Rosanna has co-developed programmes around the world on conflict transformation, social inclusion, cultural diversity, and climate action. She is the author of "[The Missing Pillar: Culture's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals \(2020\)](#)" and "[Cultural Heritage for Inclusive Growth \(2018\)](#)". Rosanna works closely with UNESCO, the EU National Institutes of Culture - EUNIC, and Development Agencies as well as cultural organisations and local actors around the world.

Rosanna joined the IMPACT Board in 2022, and was appointed as part-time Senior Advocacy Manager in September 2023. She has previously worked for the European Commission (Belgium), European University Institute (Italy), European Court of Human Rights (France) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK).



KITCHE MAGAK

IMPACT Board Member (Kenya)

Kitche is a professor of literature at [Maasai Mara University](#) (MMara-U) in Kenya. He has held numerous academic and administrative positions in the Kenyan higher education system, including the Acting Vice Chancellor of MMara-U. He has been involved in social research, training and communications in diverse areas including, film, art and peacebuilding, development/health communications, public health, gender, early childhood development (ECD), girl-child education, folk ecology and water and sanitation, inter alia. His current research interest is in applied literature with a special focus on art and peacebuilding.



DIJANA MILOŠEVIĆ

Director, DAH Theater, Professor, Institute for Modern Dance, Belgrade and IMPACT Board Member (Serbia)

Dijana Milošević is an award-winning theater director, activist, writer and lecturer. She co-founded [DAH Theater](#) and has been its leading director for over thirty years. She was the Artistic Director for theater festivals, was the president of the Association of the Independent Theaters and president or member of several boards. Being involved with several peace building initiatives and collaborating with feminists - activists groups she also serves as a member of the Board at IMPACT - a network of arts and conflict transformation.

She has devised and directed theater shows with her company and toured them nationally and internationally as well as directed the work with other companies all over the world.

She is a well-known lecturer and has taught at prestigious Universities, writes articles and essays about theater. She is the recipient of prestigious fellowships and awards (Fulbright, Arts Link, Helena Vaz de Silva).



KYOKO OKUMOTO

Former chairperson, Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute - NARPI and IMPACT Board Member (Japan)

Kyoko Okumoto, Ph.D. works in the fields of peace studies, conflict transformation and nonviolent intervention, and particularly focuses on the arts-based approaches to peacework. She teaches and facilitates peace workshops held mainly by civil society groups, and universities/schools. She tries to expand and deepen the network among North East Asian CSO/NGO people, and between NE Asia and South East Asia, and also with South Asia. Kyoko is a professor at the Department of International & English Interdisciplinary Studies, [Osaka Jogakuin University](#), a former president of Peace Studies Association of Japan (PSAJ), and a former chairperson at the steering committee of [Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute](#) (NARPI).



OTIENO OMBOK

Human rights activist (Kenya)

Otieno Ombok is a Kenyan human rights activist who utilizes nonviolence social change strategies and participatory arts-based approaches with grassroots communities. After realizing there was a general lack of understanding of what non-violence mobilization in the recent violent protests in Kenya, he mobilized fellow civic activists to respond to police brutality by investing into long-term community non-violent mobilization. The belief is grounded in a quest to improve skills that enhance peaceful means of agitating for change. Through civic engagement with Kenya Bora Tuitakayo, a national social change movement, he held a training workshop in Kisumu town, a city mostly affected by political violence and police brutality. Ombok holds an MA International Conflict Management and has worked as a human rights defender in Kenya for over 25 years.



MICHAEL ORLOVE

Director of State, Regional & Local Partnerships National Endowment for the Arts (USA)

As Director of State, Regional & Local Partnerships, Michael Orlove provides direction concerning the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) funding and other assistance to the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies, the six regional arts agencies, and local arts agencies across the country. Additionally, Orlove manages the agency's international activities. He was the Agency's director of Artist Communities and Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works from 2012 to 2019.

Michael has previously been senior program director for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, and director of music programming in Millennium Park. As a testament to his international expertise, Orlove was named one of the 'Seven Samurai' at the prestigious WOMEX (World Music Expo) 2009 Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark and, in 2018, was given the inaugural GlobalFEST 'Impact Award' for outstanding commitment to the world music field. He was recently selected for the DeVos Global Arts Management Fellowship (2018-2020).

He has a BA in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MA in performing arts management from Columbia College Chicago.



ÁNGELA PÉREZ MEJÍA

Cultural Affairs of the Central Bank of Colombia

Ángela María, Currently Chief Officer for [Cultural Affairs of Banco de la República](#) (the Central Bank of Colombia), responsible for 29 cultural centers throughout the country including libraries and museums. She was Professor of Latin American Literature for 10 years at Brandeis University, where she also directed the Center for Latin American Studies. Ms. Pérez-Mejía holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, a Master's degree from the University of Maryland, and a PhD from the State University of New York.

Ms. Pérez-Mejía has published on travel literature, buccaneers in the Caribbean, and gender in Latin American literature. Her book *La geografía de los tiempos difíciles* was granted a mention in the Casa de la Americas Award in 2000. She is co-author of the film script for *Rodrigo D*, winner of the Latin American Film Festival in New York in 1998 and selected at the Cannes Film Festival in the same year. Her most recent academic work is the edition of Manuel Uribe Ángel's trip from Medellín to Bogotá, published by Universidad de Antioquia, and *Una Geografía hecha a mano: edición del libro de viajes de Santiago Cortés*.

Since 2016, Ms. Pérez-Mejía has been a member of the Ideas Council at the International Center for the Arts of the Americas, of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, and a member of the Board of the Ethics Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution at Brandeis University. In 2019, she was recognized by the magazine *Semana* among the country's top ten leaders in social transformation.



LEE PERLMAN

Chair of the IMPACT Board (USA/Israel)

Lee researches arts, politics and cultural policy and seeks to understand and influence how artists create social change and open dialogue in conflict zones and divided societies. Recent publications include “Buffer Fringe Festival (BFF) 2020: An Artist-Based Conflict Transformation Festival on the Fringes” (2023), co-written with Meropi Moiseos; ‘Imagined Communities: Staging Shared Society in Israel’, chapter with Sinai Peter in “Activist Pedagogy and Shared Education in Divided Societies” (2022); and “But Abu Ibrahim, We’re Family!” (2017), his critical study on Jewish-Palestinian theatre cooperation. Lee previously served as the Tel Aviv-based associate of Brandeis University’s International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life and as a research fellow at the Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research, Tel Aviv University. Lee served as executive director, America-Israel Cultural Foundation, and director of programs, Abraham Initiatives, an organization promoting shared society and equality between Jewish and Palestinian citizens in Israel. “Prisoner of Zion”, Lee’s performance piece with Nadav Bossem, premiered at the Akko International Fringe Theatre Festival in October 2023 and will be performed in repertory at the TMUNA Theatre in Tel Aviv from February 2023.



DESSA QUESADA-PALM

Theatre maker, educator and Board Member of IMPACT (Philippines)

Dessa joined the [Philippine Educational Theater Association](#) (PETA) at age 13 and has since devoted her life to theater as a performer, teacher, organizer, director, and playwright. Dessa spent many years with the PETA, and worked with UP Repertory, Ma-Yi Theater in New York City, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and Silliman University. She finished AB Economics at the University of the Philippines and her master’s in International Relations at the New School for Social Research as a Fulbright scholar, and has worked at integrating theater in education, advocacy and development work and community building. She has conducted arts and peacebuilding trainings for the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute and as well as other workshops all over the Philippines as well as parts of Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. Living in Dumaguete, she co-creates with members of her co-founded Youth Advocates Through Theater Arts (YATTA). Dessa has served as Head of the Committee on Dramatic Arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and is currently a faculty member at Silliman University College of Performing and Visual Arts. She is the Vice President of the Women Playwrights International – Philippines.



AMINA SECK

Director, Les Cultur'elles (Senegal)

Amina Seck is a Senegalese novelist and screenwriter. She is the founder of Les Cultur'elles, an organization that promotes women in arts and culture. Amina Seck is the founder of the Women's Book Fair in Dakar.



AMEER SHAHEED

Independent Consultant (Switzerland)

Ameer is a multidisciplinary researcher, consultant and project manager. He combines a background in public health and international development with a lifelong passion for the arts. His academic training includes a BSc in Biochemistry, an MSc in Environmental Engineering, and a PhD in Public Health. He is also a practicing musician and events manager.

He is particularly intrigued by the role of the arts and culture in the wider world, including how they can help rebalance our collective attention, and join efforts to address developmental, philosophical, and social concerns. Working as an interdisciplinary consultant, he has supported creative reflections around water and peace in the Sahel; explored cultural responses to humanitarian challenges; and helped convene, curate, and coordinate efforts in the growing international arts and health field. He had the honour of contributing to IMPACT's [Invite/Affirm/Evoke/Unleash report](#) on how artistic and cultural processes can address complex challenges, and will be co-authoring an upcoming Lancet article on Arts and Health.

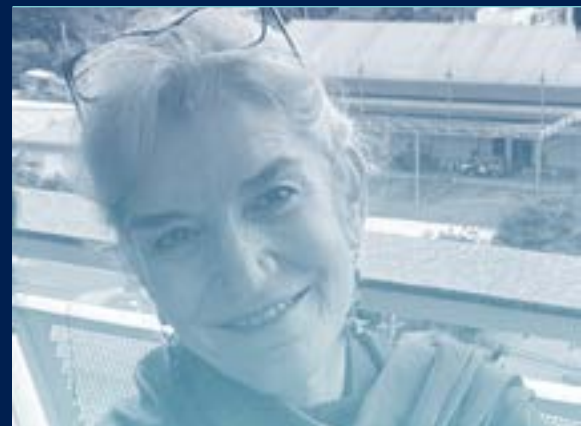


TONI SHAPIRO-PHIM

Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, Brandeis University (USA)

Toni Shapiro-Phim is Associate Professor of [Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation](#), Assistant Director of [Global Community Engagement](#) at the Samuels Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation, and Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, all at Brandeis University (USA). She is a curator, filmmaker, researcher, writer and educator (PhD in cultural anthropology, Cornell University), whose work in both community and academic settings focuses on the arts in relation to war, genocide, displacement, conflict transformation, climate justice, and gender concerns. Her documentary film *Because of the War*, about superstar refugee performing artists, received the 2018 Elli Köngäs-Maranda Prize for “superior work on

women’s traditional, vernacular, or local culture and/or feminist theory and folklore.” The latest of her many publications include “Freedom and the Archive,” co-authored with Germaine Ingram, in *Art and Human Rights*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023; “Absence/Presence/Silence/Noise,” in *Dancing Transnational Feminisms*, University of Washington Press, 2021; “A Cambodian Dancer in a Displaced Persons’ Camp.” *Music & Minorities Vol 1*, 2021; “Imagining Alternatives: Cambodia, Accountability and Compassion,” in *Coexistence in the Aftermath of Mass Violence*, University of Michigan Press, 2020; and “Embodying the Pain and Cruelty of Others,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, March 2020.



SHOGHAKAT VARDANYAN

Author, Camera, Director and Producer of 1489 documentary (Armenia)

Shoghakat Vardanyan was born in 1993 into a family of artists in Yerevan, Armenia. She grew up in the studio of her father, a sculptor and painter, and by the time she was six decided to study music and become a pianist. In 2010 she graduated from Tchaikovsky Specialized Secondary Music School and in 2014, she graduated from the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan with a Bachelor’s in Piano. She has been performing classical, academic, contemporary, and experimental collaborative work as a soloist, a part of chamber ensembles, and an accompanist in Armenia, the US, Canada and Europe. Since 2017 she has been playing free improvisations and became a part of the Contemporary Sound Orchestra of Yerevan (Pots and Drums).

In September of 2020 the Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) war began. When her family stopped hearing from her younger brother who was fighting on the front lines, she picked up her phone camera and began filming. This resulted in her first film, *1489*.

Shoghakat has been awarded the Armenian Prime Minister’s Award (which she refused because she believes film should not have any political connections) in 2021; as well as the Work in Progress Grand Prix during the Golden Apricot Film Festival in 2022. Her first feature documentary film, *‘1489’*, won Best Film Award and FIPRESCI Award at IDFA 2023 in an International Competition.



POLLY WALKER

IMPACT Senior Fellow and Associate Professor Emeritus, Juniata College (USA)

Polly is of Cherokee ancestry and a member of the [Cherokee Southwest Township](#). She is Associate Professor Emeritus, [Peace and Conflict Studies at Juniata College](#). Polly earned her PhD at Australia's University of Queensland where her research focused on conflict transformation between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous Australians. Polly is co-editor, along with Dr. Cynthia Cohen and Prof. Roberto Varea, of the two-volume "Acting Together: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict". She also contributed to the documentary "Acting Together on the World Stage," and is co-author of the accompanying toolkit. Polly serves as Chair of the Indigenous Education Institute whose work supports ethical collaboration with Indigenous peoples and Western scientists supporting the revitalization of Indigenous knowledge systems. She is also a director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute of Australia.



EZGI YILMAZ

Development Manager, SALT (Turkey)

Ezgi Yılmaz has been working as a fundraising and strategic planning professional to national and international culture and arts institutions since 2013. She is graduated from Koç University, Department of Industrial Engineering and completed her master's degree with Summa Cumme Laude at the University of Bologna within the GIOCA program. In 2013, she started working at İKSV as Sponsor Relations Officer and worked as Cultural Marketing and Communication Specialist at Red Bull Turkey between May 2014 and February 2016. After her role as Fundraising Coordinator at SAHA Association, she returned to İKSV as a Strategic Planning Specialist in the second half of 2016 and continued her work in the fields of strategic planning, project management and international fundraising until April 2022. Ezgi worked for IMPACT as fundraising strategist between September 2022 - April 2023. Since then she is Business Development and Fundraising Manager of [Salt](#) in İstanbul.



JOHN PAUL LEDERACH

Senior Fellow, Humanity United and Professor Emeritus, University of Notre-Dame (USA)

John Paul is widely known for the development of culturally appropriate approaches to conflict transformation and the design and implementation of integrative and strategic approaches to peacebuilding and helped lead hundreds of training programs in conflict transformation, mediation and international peacebuilding in 35 countries around the world. He served as the director of the Peace Accord Matrix research initiative at the Kroc Institute and is active as a member of the Advisory Council for the recently formed Truth Commission in Colombia. He is author and editor of 24 books and manuals, including *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (US Institute of Peace Press) and *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace* (Oxford University Press).

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SINAI PETER

Palestinian and Jewish Arts Solidarity group (Israel/Palestine)

Sinai Peter is a theatre director, actor, lecturer, and acting teacher from Haifa, Israel. Since 1980, in over a dozen shared Jewish-Palestinian theatre productions, his roles have spanned from stage director, artistic director of a public repertory theatre, actor, and writer in both fringe and mainstream theatres. Sinai also directed five theatre productions in Washington D.C. between 2008-2016. He is a veteran peace and shared society activist who during the early days of the current war in Israel-Palestine, initiated and continues to spearhead a Palestinian-Jewish artists' solidarity group.



ONNA QUIZO

**Executive Director, Gender Watch Against Violence
(Phillippines)**

Onna Rhea Cabio Quizo is a graduate of Silliman University College of Performing and Visual Arts. She completed her units in Masters of Arts in Social and Community Psychology at the same university. Afterward, she joined the faculty and became an active member and artist-teacher of the Youth Advocates Through Theater Arts. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of the Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation, an NGO dedicated to ending all forms of gender-based violence in the community. Additionally, she is a Board member of the Break the Silence National network and a council member of the National Anti-Poverty Commission under the women's sector.



SARRA SOLO

Interdisciplinary artist (Sudan)

Sarra Solo is a self-taught interdisciplinarian. Along with her medical and health expertise, she is a respected singer, songwriter, and Arts and Culture Program's Creator. Being a current student at the Global Music Academy, she already has cofounded Salute Yal Bannot, Sudan's first all female band, and became the Arabs Got Talent shows' first Sudanese act to reach the semi finals. She's a Certified Community Music Leader by Netherland's Musicians Without Borders and a Cultural Projects Manager by Berlin's Goethe Institute. She also a Certified "Ready Actor" by the Theater Inventive Area. As well as joining the Goethe MENA Gender's Network 2017; she was chosen as the program manager to found "Yalla!Kahrtoum" Institute for Arts and Culture 2017; and as a representative of Sudan's Activism Projects by the British Council in the EDD 2016, and "UnCommon Ground" confrence 2018. Sarra also recently joined AWE, Artist With Elbows, a collaborating network of social artists from around the globe, and was the Yuri of their Hope Street project. She is proud to have coauthored in "Sudan Retold, An Art Book about the Future and History of Sudan; and to have sung as an African Voice to Countries' and NGOs' presidents including the Queen Of the Belgians. Sarra's latest collaboration as a singer and supporting Songwriter is [Sawa Sawa album](#), a multiartistic project that is said to "represents a historic collaboration and fusion of Sudanese and pan-African sounds, stories and art."



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