

Cultivating Diversity

Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

At the Union Project, 801 N. Negley Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

The Pittsburgh Emerging Arts Leaders presents "Cultivating Diversity," part of their annual fall event Creative Conversations. Presenters and participants will engage in topic discussions including audience cultivation, defining diversity and how to use art as a tool for social change.

K.Chase Patterson, Moderator



K. Chase Patterson is President and CEO of Corporate Diversity Associates LLC a consulting firm that specializes in corporate training and talent acquisition services. Since graduating from the University of Pittsburgh Patterson has been working in Politics and Public Relations. He has honed his expertise in strategic planning, community relations, and the development of strategic partnerships. Patterson served as Congressman Mike Doyle's liaison to the Federal Departments of Homeland Security, Immigration, State, and Education, providing legislative and policy consultation to the seven-term Congressman and the constituents of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District. He has been recognized by several civic and community organizations for his service, success and leadership.

Alyssa Herzog Melby, Presenter

Alyssa Herzog Melby is the Director of Education and Community Engagement at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. Ms. Melby has worked as a teaching artist for many Pittsburgh-area theatres and arts education agencies, including City Theatre, Prime Stage Theatre, and Gateway to the Arts. She recently attended the Leadership Exchange for Arts and Disability Conference in Boston through generous support from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. Ms. Melby is a member of the National Dance Education Organization. She holds a Master of Arts in Theatre Arts from the University of Pittsburgh.

Joseph Hall, Presenter

Joseph Hall joined the Kelly Strayhorn Theater team as an intern in its first season in the summer of 2009. At that time, fewer than three full-time employees implemented shows, created events, and oversaw the daily operation of the theater. Now, just three years later, and with a team of more than fifteen employees, as the Programming Director and now freelance Producing Director Joseph has helped shape the growing regional and national reputation of a theater that presents more than 250 events per year. After graduating from Houghton College, NY with a BA in Fine Arts, Joseph relocated to Washington DC where he created and built large-scale fashion installations in the downtown district. Seeking a more charismatic environment, in 2007 Joseph found his way to Pittsburgh where he spent his first two years with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. In 2009, he discovered the Kelly Strayhorn Theater where he has created and implemented many successful programs while working closely with renowned national and Pittsburgh-based artists, organizations, and audiences. His work has led to personal friendships and projects with many artists and partners, including a stint as performer with STAYCEE PEARL dance project. One of his most fulfilling original programs is *My People*, a film series highlighting the lives and experiences of queer

people of color. Joseph works to provide a stage and spotlight for the unusual, unheard, and unseen, both in the community and the larger world of arts and entertainment. He has volunteered with the Dyke and Trans March; Building Change: A Convergence for Social Justice; New Voices Pittsburgh: Women of Color for Reproduction Justice; and numerous special events and happenings. His work with artists, organizations, and audiences builds upon an already strong and vibrant community in East Liberty, holds strong the value of a quality arts experience for all, and exposes the intersections of patrons, artists, activists, community leaders, neighbors, and students.

Alecia Shipman, Presenter

As an educator, entrepreneur, and professional volunteer her mantra is that community, school, and family partnerships are vital to holistic citizenship. She has worked with at-risk youth in various capacities from teaching PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) curriculum to providing outreach programs designed to supplement academic learning. She ultimately realized her passion as a professional K-12 educator within Pittsburgh Public Schools, throughout school districts in upstate New York and a mixture of other community organizations. These experiences have guided her to support the partnerships and professional experiences that enrich individuals to become lifelong learners and contributors to society. Alecia is passionate about supportive education environments and removing barriers that prohibit individuals from pursuing their goals. In addition to her current role as Cultivation Manager at the August Wilson Center, she is the cofounder of Dream Cream Ice Cream; an ice cream shop dedicated to community fundraising. Through this ice cream social enterprise individuals from all walks of life are invited to volunteer and receive the financial empowerment to realize their dreams. She is a certified teacher, holding a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and Education from Alfred University and also received her Master of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University. In addition to her professional and academic pursuits, she has recently been awarded the Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's Citizen Service Award for her dedication to a thriving and charitable community in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Bee Schindler, Presenter

Bee Schindler is a journalist, a muralist, a social media activist, a communications director, a social worker and a newly appointed Executive Director. Pittsburgh is where Bee first sipped air, and has since returned to the city of three rivers following: a seven year stint in California - wrapping up an undergraduate degree in print journalism from the University of Southern California; spending a year in Miami working as a freelance reporter and going in to a woman's prison each and every Monday morning to engage inmates - most of whom had a life sentence - through a writing workshop; and tying educational and professional strings together to form a foundation while completing a two-year Master's Degree in Social Work from the Columbia University in New York City. Arriving back in Pittsburgh in 2009 as the Youth Director with the Moving the Lives of Kids Community Mural Project, Bee began outreach and collaboration with multiple non-profits and small businesses to encourage a multifaceted spectrum for young people to succeed. When the 2010 earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti, an organization that was near to Bee's heart came to the surface, and Bee began working as the Programs Coordinator and Financial Associate with the Friends of Hopital Albert Schweitzer Haiti, a non-profit that raises awareness and funds for a Haitian hospital started by Pittsburgh folks in the 1950s. Hired to serve as a Behavioral Specialist to work with youth incarcerated at Shuman Juvenile Detention Center, Bee is now in the sixth session of working to reduce the cycle of violence amongst young people through honest interaction and arts-based programming. Sharing half time with the Friends of HAS, Bee conducts outreach as the Executive Director with Dreams of Hope, an organization that develops LGBTQ and Allied youth leaders through education and art mediums, including performance and spoken word. Bee uses Bee as a pronoun, is married, and has a 12-year-old pet cat named Payton.