



The Center for Performance and Civic Practice (CPCP) is a field-building resource that aims to make visible the power of the arts to demonstrably increase civic capacity. CPCP collaborates with artists and community/municipal organizations to develop best practice frameworks for innovative engagement and cross-sector partnership activity with a focus on field-to-field translation, collaboration and co-design skills. Current initiatives include the Civic Practice Lab at Chicago's Lookingglass Theater (supported by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation); The Catalyst Initiative (supported by The Andrew Mellon Foundation); and Local Landscapes (collaborators include Americans for the Arts). CPCP defines Civic Practice as arts-engaged partnership work that is developed in service to the needs of the non-arts partner. Artists engage in this work around the nation with regularity, but due to the frequent low visibility of these projects and a scarcity of shared vocabulary, the way we integrate them into ongoing national cross-sector dialogue is severely limited. Projects that utilize arts-based tools to produce work of public utility and civic activity require advocacy and capacity-building.

CPCP STAFF AND ARTIST BIOS

MICHAEL ROHD / CPCP Executive Director: Michael Rohd is founding artistic director of Sojourn Theatre, a seventeen year old ensemble-based company and a 2005 recipient of Americans for the Arts' Animating Democracy Exemplar Award. He is the recipient of the 2015 Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political theater, and of the 2015 Robert Gard Foundation Award for Excellence. He devises and directs new work around the nation and is on faculty at Northwestern University where he helps lead the MFA Directing Program. He wrote the widely translated book *Theatre for Community, Conflict, and Dialogue* (15th printing, Heinemann Press, 1998). His work with CPCP Sojourn, and in non-arts sector settings around the nation focuses on social practice and civic practice cross-disciplinary projects through collaboratively designed arts-based engagement and participation strategies. He is the 2013-2016 Doris Duke Artist-in-Residence at Lookingglass Theater Company in Chicago. Recent/Current projects include leading a two year Sojourn Artist-in-Residence collaboration with Catholic Charities USA poverty reduction sites around the US; collaborations with Steppenwolf Theater, Bush Foundation, Lincoln Center, Singapore Drama Educators Association and Americans for the Arts; and, working with theaters and universities around the country to mount locally specific projects based on Sojourn's model performance/engagement process/production *How To End Poverty in 90 Minutes*.

SONEELA NANKANI / CPCP Managing Director: Soneela Nankani is Managing Director for the Center for Performance and Civic Practice. In addition, she continues to serve as Managing Director of Sojourn Theatre as she did for two years prior to helping found CPCP. She brings many years of experience in the fields of economics, finance and urban health policy to her role at CPCP, most notably her experience designing, writing and administering grants for arts-based health programs at the Center for Urban Health Policy and Research. Soneela has worked nationally as a community dialogue facilitator, teaching artist and co-creator/performer in capacity-building and place-based projects beginning in 1992 with Michael Rohd's *Hope Is Vital* in Washington DC. She is an actor and ensemble member with Sojourn Theatre. Sojourn projects include: *Passing Glances*, *Seven Great Loves*, *Witness Our Schools*, *Islands of Milwaukee* and Sojourn's Artist-in-Residence collaboration with Catholic Charities. Additionally, Soneela is an accomplished actor, writer, singer and voiceover artist; having performed widely in New York and regional theater, television, film and commercials. Favorite projects include work with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Classic Stage Company and Tectonic Theater Project. She is a prolific audiobook narrator with over 50 titles to date. Soneela was the recipient of Columbia University's Research Fellowship in Acting in 2006, which resulted in a year-long apprenticeship with voice pioneer, Kristin Linklater. She holds a Bachelor's in Economics and Theatre from the University of Pennsylvania and an MFA in Acting from Columbia University.

BIOS (cont'd)

SHANNON SCROFANO / CPCP Director of Design: Shannon Scrofano is a Los Angeles-based designer whose work includes live and interdisciplinary performance, public dialogues, installation, exhibition, curation and media projects, throughout the US and internationally. She collaborates with communities, organizations and other artists to explore capacity-building and place-based design practices for activating local potential. As the Director of Design for the Center for Performance and Civic Practice, she is developing online and material platforms for new research in civic practice, and field-building tools to explore past and future models for artists and designers in residency at civic and non-profit organizations. She currently teaches at California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), was visiting faculty at Brown University in 2015, and has been a guest lecturer / artist-in-residence at more than a dozen institutions including Georgetown, Northwestern, Duke, and the Art Institute of Chicago, and has presented at festivals and conferences including the Prague Quadrennial, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, and the University of Goldsmiths in London.

REBECCA MARTINEZ / CPCP Project Coordinator, Catalyst Initiative: Rebecca Martinez is an ensemble member of Sojourn Theatre and with the company has worked as a creator/performer, choreographer, facilitator, teaching artist and director for multiple national projects including How to End Poverty in 90 Minutes, Finding Penelope, Islands of Milwaukee, On The Table and the two year Artist-in-Residence collaboration with Catholic Charities. Rebecca has worked nationally with companies such as Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland Playhouse, Kansas City Rep, Milagro Theatre, Oregon Children's Theatre, INTAR, FringeNYC, One Minute Play Festival, the 52nd Street Project, Cherry Lane, the Lark, Young Audiences, and Creative Arts Team. Rebecca is a Co-Curator of Working Theater's Directors Salon, a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, INTAR's Unit52, the SDCF Observership Class and the Latina/o Theatre Commons Steering Committee. She is a recipient of the SPARC and SU-CASA residency awards and the Lilla Jewel Award for Women Artists.

SARA SAWICKI / CPCP Research Assistant & Project Coordinator, HTEP: Sara Sawicki is a Chicago-based theatre artist who has worked nationally with Sojourn Theatre, most recently as a performer/facilitator in the professional premiere of HOW TO END POVERTY... in collaboration with Portland Playhouse. Sara is a founding company member and Co-Artistic Director of Buzz22 Chicago where she directed the professional premiere of Laura Jacqmin's GHOST BIKE. Other credits include projects with one step at a time like this in collaboration with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Actors Gymnasium, Manual Cinema and Thirteen O'Clock Theatre.