THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
LANE Cohort Meeting [Partners only]

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Performing Arts Readiness Presents:
Emergency Preparedness 101

2 – 6 p.m.
Registration Open
Fourth Floor Lobby

2 – 6 p.m.
East Liberty Culture Tour
Join Janera Solomon, Executive Director of Kelly Strayhorn Theater, for a guided tour of East Liberty, a vibrant neighborhood rich in culture and the arts. See it through the eyes of a local!

5 – 6 p.m.
#NPN2018 Newbie Orientation
New to the conference? Jump-start your networking with fellow first-timers while learning how to get the most out of your conference experience.

5 – 6:30 p.m.
NPN Partner Mingle [Partners only]
Kick off the conference by connecting with fellow Partners, staff and board. August Wilson Center for African American Culture (980 Liberty Ave.)

6 – 8 p.m.
Dinner Break

8 –10 p.m.
Opening Reception
Celebrate the start of the conference with artists August Wilson Center for African American Culture (980 Liberty Ave.)

10 p.m. - Midnight
Welcome to the Sweet Suite
It doesn’t get much sweeter than this conference tradition! Enjoy our special social suite – with a stocked bar – for late-night networking.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Registration Open
Fourth Floor Lobby

9 – 10:45 a.m.
Opening Session & Art Burst
We’ll kick things off with welcoming remarks and Art Bursts, short performances by local and national artists.

10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
In the Works
“In the Works!” provides a lively forum for artists, Partners and colleagues to share brief, 60-second presentations describing new projects at any stage of development. This is an opportunity to discuss new commissions or creative works that are currently being worked on and in need of collaborators, producers and artistic guidance.

Guidelines for participation:
• First come first served! We can only provide “air” time for the first 50 presenters.
• Interested attendees will be chosen at random from submitted forms, which must be dropped off at Registration by 10 a.m. on Friday, December 16.
• Stick to 60-seconds – you will be timed!

12:45 – 2:30 p.m.
Lunch Break

2:30 – 4 p.m.
Idea Forums
Engaging 90-minute sessions exploring challenges, trends and innovative ideas in the field. See page 4 for a full list of available sessions.

4:30 – 5:45 p.m.
Art Talks & Art Burst
We’ve asked artists to tell us about themselves, their art and how their work and lives intersect with activism—all in 10 minutes. The session will conclude with an Art Burst, a short performance by a local artist.

6 – 8 p.m.
Dinner Break
8 – 10:30 p.m.
Live & Onstage: Pittsburgh
The Pittsburgh edition of our signature production showcases six local artists and companies.
Kelly Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.)

11 p.m. – 2 a.m.
The Sweet Suite: “Club NPN”
New this year: Sweet Suite themed nights! It’s time to party like it’s 1999 at this 90s kickback, hosted by our board. Bring your song requests and rock your favorite throwback fashions for your chance to win a fun prize.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

8 – 11 a.m.
NPN Partner Meeting [Partners only]

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Registration Open

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Peer-to-Peer Workshops
Professional development sessions for artists, by artists. See page 5 for the full list of workshops.

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
NPN Board Meeting [Board only]

Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Lunch Break

1:30 – 3 p.m.
Idea Forums
Engaging 90-minute sessions exploring challenges, trends and innovative ideas in the field. See page 6 for a full list of available sessions.

4 – 5 p.m.
Art Making Workshop: Tour of Transformation
Come to Contemporary Craft to experience a guided tour of our exhibition Transformation 10 featuring 26 artists’ work incorporating found objects and materials. After gaining inspiration from the show, get your hands dirty in our studio and make your own pendant or wine charm personalized with a stamped message.

6:30 – 8 p.m.
Rosie’s Rum Punch Artist Party
A casual reception following Saturday’s performance of Live & Onstage: Pittsburgh, presented by the National Performance Network in partnership with Kelly Strayhorn Theater. This ticketed event is an opportunity for guests to mingle with artists and cultural leaders from around the country, including Live & Onstage artists. The evening will include live entertainment, a raffle, hors d’oeuvres and our most delicious NPN tradition: Rosie’s Rum Punch. All proceeds will go toward artist scholarships for next year’s conference in New Orleans. Tickets: $30

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Dinner Break

9:30 p.m-Midnight
Late Night Open Mic
Calling all musicians, dancers, actors, writers, comedians and storytellers for a late night of great performances featuring local and national artists.
Alphabet City (40 W North Ave.)

11 p.m. – 2 a.m.
The Sweet Suite: “Wine Down”
Throw on your favorite jammies and get ready to unwind with a glass of wine and great company before the final day of the conference.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Registration Open

9 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
Art Slam!
10:50 a.m. – Noon
Art Talks, Closing Remarks
We’ve asked artists to tell us about themselves, their art and how their work and lives intersect with activism—all in 10 minutes. They get the last word before we close things out.

Noon - 2:30 p.m.
Lunch Break

2:30 - 5 p.m.
Culture Tours
It’s time to get out of the hotel and explore Pittsburgh through one of our organized tours. *(Tours listed to the right.)*

6 – 8 p.m.
Dinner Break

8:30 – Midnight
Closing Dance Party
Let’s close things out with a bang! Come dance the night away with new and old friends. Get ready for our 2nd Annual NPN Dance Contest!

Midnight – End
The Sweet Suite: “Bittersweet Goodbye”
Cherish your final #NPN2018 moments at our Sweet Suite After-party!

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**Pittsburgh Culture Tours**
2:30 - 5 p.m. | Price: $20

**Creative Placemaking: City of Asylum Walking Tour**
City of Asylum creates a thriving community for writers, readers, and neighbors, providing sanctuary to endangered literary writers, so that they can continue to write and their voices are not silenced. On this tour, you will learn the history of our organization, see the public art publications on Sampsonia Way, visit the Alphabet City Reading Garden, and spend time in Alphabet City, the historic masonic hall turned home for our events and programs, renowned bookstore, and partner restaurant, Brugge on North.

**FlowerHouse**
FlowerHouse is a community art studio and art center that responds to the needs of the black community and families of Wilkinsburg and the Greater Pittsburgh area by providing a space to create, learn and gather. It is run by a collective of artists and social entrepreneurs looking to grow the idea of collective economics among black creatives based in Pittsburgh. Attendees will tour FlowerHouse, meet our collective members, create some art, and connect with Wilkinsburg residents.

**An Afternoon at PearlArts**
PearlArts Studios serves as a creative vehicle for the sound, dance and visual explorations of STAYCEE PEARL dance project & Soy Sos and Tuff Sound Recording. PearlArts Studios has established a base in the Mine Factory Building in the Homewood/Point Breeze neighborhood, serving the dance community with affordable rehearsal and event space, residency opportunities, movement classes, and art and dance workshops. Join Herman and Staycee Pearl for a behind the scenes look at PAS and in-progress showings by SPdp & SS and Pittsburgh dance artists!

**Historic Hill District Tour**
Join us for a guided tour of the Historic Hill District, one of Pittsburgh’s important African American neighborhoods. Learn the history of the Hill and see artwork created by its residents. Not to be missed!

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**CULTURE DAYTRIP**
**Guided Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater**
*(11 a.m. - 6 p.m.)*

Fallingwater is a house designed in 1935 by renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The house was designed as a private residence and weekend home for the family of Pittsburgh department store owner, Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sr. Fallingwater is one of Wright’s most widely acclaimed works and best exemplifies his philosophy of organic architecture: the harmonious union of art and nature. $50/person

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*Buses will leave the hotel at the listed departure times. Please be on time.*
Joining Forces - a national conversation about racial justice, disability justice and trans justice in the Performing Arts
Organizers: Robin Anderson, AXIS Dance Company and Sean Dorsey, Sean Dorsey Dance & Fresh Meat Productions
Let’s JOIN FORCES! Presenters, artists, programmers, cultural leaders, activists, funders, audiences and lovers: join us for a conversation about building solidarity as we fight for racial justice, disability justice and trans justice in the performing arts. What does creating “access” really mean? How do we move beyond a “diversity” framework with its accompanying check-boxes and tokenism? How do we invest in truly empowered leadership? How do we get white people to stop opting out of conversations about racial justice and white supremacy / get able-bodied people to stop opting out of conversations about disability justice / get cisgender people to stop opting out of conversations about trans justice? Solidarity and joining forces is part of the answer. Let’s talk about it! Cookies will be provided. *If you require access accommodations please write or phone Robin Anderson (robin@axisdance.org or 510-625-0110) by Dec. 3.

Performing Artist/Presenter Dialogues in a Time of Crisis
Organizers: Michael Sakamoto, University of Iowa & Ananya Chatterjee, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
In this time of acute upheaval, oppression, violence, global threats and other crises, the social meaning and sense of identity of our dance, theatre, music, and performance art are as impactful as ever. For better or worse, audiences are primed for the work we present on stage and the experiences we provide off stage in community and educational settings. In response, this collective idea-sharing and brainstorming session is designed for performing artists and presenters asking vital questions and searching for collaborative answers: What are the urgencies facing performing artists and presenters in our historical moment? What movements, images, sounds, and stories are engaged artists called to create, and how do presenters see their roles and responsibilities changing? What solutions are we capable of embodying for audiences, and how can artists and presenters innovate together to nurture and transform the performing arts landscape? For two hours, we will identify the most pressing issues for participants in the room, and then work on each in breakout groups, making safe spaces of difference, revealing her/histories, sounding out positive and proactive measures, and composing and choreographing responses as well as simple nuts and bolts gestures. Each group will then present their “solution,” and we’ll finish with final individual or group commitments to some form of implementation.

Racial Equity and Arts Grant-Making in Greater Pittsburgh
Organizer: David Pankratz, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council
This panel explores how the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, working with an ALAANA-majority advisory committee, documented how public and private arts funds have been distributed by race over time and devised recommendations to make future grant-making more equitable.

Indigenous Roundtable
Organizer: Andre Bouchard, Walrus Arts Management and Consulting, LLC
Across the performing arts industry, significant efforts are being undertaken in response to the groundswell of Native artists that are emerging into the presenting and touring world. Join the conversation, anchored by Indigenous performing arts professionals, about how to decolonize space and successfully build cultural bridges.

Socially engaged art making and the next generation
Organizer: Rebekah Lanae Lengel, National YoungArts Foundation
This forum will explore emerging artists who are using a multidisciplinary approach to incorporate activism and social commentary in their art making process. By deliberately creating work that is both devised by them, and viewed by the audience through the lens of social activism, these artists are redefining how a generation views and experiences art.

Dance and Art in the Sonoran Desert
Organizer: Yvonne Montoya, Safos Dance Theatre
This presentation discusses the strategies that three Latina artists/arts administrators have developed over the past two years in leading culturally responsive projects and programs throughout Arizona. Focusing on peer-to-peer learning, horizontal leadership and working within distinct levels at organizations and institutions, the artist-centric programming they lead is promoting new models of equitable engagement with artists of color. The panel will address the challenges faced by Latinx artists working and living in both urban and rural communities within Arizona and the successful methodologies that have resulted in dialogue and knowledge-sharing with national and Bi-National artistic communities. The panel will consist of a current high ranking woman leader, a millennial curator/presenter, and a mid-career female touring artist, along with a moderator. Focusing on dance and the visual arts in Arizona, panelists Yvonne Montoya (Safos Dance Theatre), Gabriela Muñoz (Arizona Commission on the Arts), and M. Jenea Sánchez (Border Arts Corridor) will speak openly about the challenges and opportunities of collaborating across 3 different cities to serve and collaborate with
artists in communities that have been historically marginalized and isolated.

White Allies, Owning the Challenge of Change
Organizer: Keryl McCord, Equity Quotient, LLC
A lively session designed by seasoned facilitators and trainers, to challenge white artists, allies, and organizers, to own the challenge of change to dismantle racial and cultural inequities, by working within their communities, networks and families.

Building a Code of Ethics
Organizer: Michèle Steinwald, Interim Managing Director, Brownbody and Emily Marks, artist
Following the #MeToo movement and addressing aesthetic biases based in racial prejudice, communities of practice are building their own explicit codes of ethics to hold themselves and others accountable in response to this time of exposing the perpetrators in our field. Session will include case studies and calls for action.

LANE: See leaders. Make Change.
Organizer: Sage Crump, LANE Program Specialist, NPN
Leveraging a Network for Equity (LANE) is an NPN initiative designed to recognize and remediate the historical inequities in funding for arts organizations of color and rural organizations. Now at the midway point of its journey, the members of LANE’s Beta Cohort will share lessons individually and collectively. Cohort members include: Coleman Center for the Arts (York, AL), Hayti Heritage Center (Durham, NC), La Pena Cultural Center (Berkeley, CA), Pangea World Theater (Minneapolis, MN) and Native American Development Institute / All My Relations Arts (Boston, MA).

PEER-2-PEER SESSIONS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

IDEA in Motion: Co-creation and an inclusive practice of engagement
Organizers: Michele de la Reza & Peter Kope, Attack Theater
IDEA in Motion: Interpretive, Divergent, Equitable and Accessible. What happens when audiences are a critical part of the creative process? Attack Theatre shares an IDEA as a performative metaphor and guiding philosophy for: Interpretive Engagement, Divergent questioning, Equitable practice, and Accessible program formats. By developing an artistic practice that models and emphasizes co-creation, inclusion, and interactivity on and off the stage, Attack Theatre cultivates shared experiences with its audience. We’ll facilitate a conversation through performance, dialogue, and physical explorations. This session will explore strategies for inquiry-based interactions with audiences in both performance and educational settings, and brainstorm opportunities and challenges when artists share creative control with their audiences as a deliberate part of a transparent artistic process.

The IMAGINARY Workshop
Organizer: Lida Winfield, Performing Artist
This interdisciplinary hands-on, feet-on workshop will focus on using our bodies, voices, and stories to explore our imaginations and perceptions of ourselves, others and our world. The IMAGINARY workshop investigates our real and imagined perceptions of each other and the impact these impressions have. How does what we imagine impact or dictate our potential? What do we have in common? How are we different from each other? How does imagination contribute to our fears? This playful and thought-provoking workshop will be welcoming to all bodies, abilities and backgrounds. Lida Winfield’s IMAGINARY received an NPN Creation Grant. This is a companion workshop to the performance.

Creating Sustainable Arts & Culture Organizations
Organizers: Meghan Rutigliano & Namiko Uno, Burning Man Project
This session aims to meet artists at the nexus of creation, administration, and community engagement. Join us in this peer-to-peer discussion about creating sustainable arts and culture organizations. Our time together will be shaped by YOUR questions and hot topics. Some questions to consider together might include:
- What are the best strategies and frameworks for staying artistically nimble and effective in the long-term?
- Might a legal entity, such as a 501(c)(3), be worth creating to support your work, and is this the best support system for you?
- For established organization leaders: what expertise do you have to share with emerging artists and administrators?
- How do you sustainably scale your work and continue to build an audience and network around your artistic vision?
- What are some best practices for forging partnerships with other artists and organizations?

Our highly participatory workshop, inspired by the World Cafe approach, will be hosted by Burning Man community leaders from Washington, D.C. Baltimore, San Francisco, and New York City along with Pittsburgh local Regional Contacts. We welcome all levels of experience to join us in this co-created workshop. We’re excited to share with you!

Mapping the Transgressive Body
Organizer: Jaamil Kosoko, Princeton University
How do we as movement practitioners and artist-citizens train and strengthen the mind and body to resist oppressive structures and systems? How might tools of self care, personal meditation, and psychic choreographic systems support and prepare us for site based and/or theatrical radical per-
performance making? How does the teaching of theory promote new systems for intellectual simulation and understanding? Centering an interdisciplinary approach to live performance making, this creative lab will consider how we as artist-citizens strengthen the mind and body to resist normalized structures of performance to release, activate, and translate unknown, foreign, and/or vulnerable materials into live radically staged actions. Participants will conduct research, view and critique live performance and create cosmologies of their creative influencers. Please bring creative material and specific questions you want to unpack during this workshop.

IDEA FORUM SESSIONS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018 | 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Live with Art Accordingly Podcast
Organizers: Quanice Floyd and Joshua Jenkins, Arts Administrators of Color
The Arts Administrators of Color Network is proud to present Art Accordingly, a podcast that highlights artists and arts leaders of color, while interrogating systemic and institutional issues of equity in the arts from a decolonizing framework. The Live with Art Accordingly Podcast will feature dynamic artists and arts leaders of color to discuss current events in the arts, discuss their current work, answer audience questions, and create calls to action for audience members and listeners. This session would be recorded live to be later edited and posted on the Art Accordingly podcast.

Building A Wakanda for Arts in Memphis
Organizer: Amber Hamilton, Memphis Music Initiative
The Memphis Music Initiative is an organization using music and arts engagement to invest in youth and create equitable opportunities for black and brown children in Memphis. Our model, as a nonprofit service provider and as a funder to organizations, has been developed to unapologetically focus on equity, building a strong black arts ecosystem, and capitalizing black and brown led organizations that have been historically underfunded through philanthropic redlining. We have lessons learned to share about how artists and arts organizations can demand more equity from funders, how funders can take bolder approaches towards equity, and what disruptive philanthropy looks like in practice. Our discussion, based on a study on our work (Towards the Future of Arts Philanthropy) will center around a vision for empowered, valued, diverse artists and arts organizations.

Artist-Presenters: DIY Touring & Residencies
Organizer: Alisha Tonsic, Network of Ensemble Theaters
Join us for an interactive exploration of tools, resources, and successful models for peer-based “DIY” touring and residency exchanges that empower ensembles, artist-led organizations, and individual practitioners to host and present each other. The session will have three components. We will begin with a demonstration of the Connector mobile app just released by the Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET) that matches artists/companies who can host or present with peer artists/companies that are looking for touring or residency opportunities; the matching platform includes sharing-economy and barter as well as cash-based options, and increases artists’ agency and access points for regional and national touring. We will then hear from a few artist-presenters (and companies/artists who’ve been hosted by artist-presenters) about the added benefits, special considerations, or challenges they’ve experienced with this type of peer-based, artist-to-artist touring/residency model. The session will then open up to a roundtable format where all attendees will engage in an open discussion moderated by NET Executive Director Alisha Tonsic to share their experiences, ask questions of each other, and brainstorm possibilities and connections.

Access Accommodation for Performances
Organizer: Jess Curtis, Gravity
A panel addressing strategies for making work accessible to people with diverse sensory modalities, physicalities and mobility impairments including: Audio Description, Touch Tours, ASL interpretation; and creating spaces that are welcoming beyond just ADA Compliance—as well as the ins and outs of logistics and negotiations with presenters about doing so. Drawing on Curtis’ company Gravity’s experience of touring the work “The Way You Look (at me) Tonight,” curatorial/production practices at MCA in Chicago, and policies and practices at Pittsburgh Arts Council. *If you require access accommodations please write or phone Jess Curtis (jess@jesscurtisgravity.org or 415-425-9918) by Dec. 3.

Cultural Equity and Archival Practice, a Knowledge-Building Workshop
Organizer: Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, University of Texas at Austin
This workshop devotes itself to methods for archive building, offers arguments for archive as a critical component of artistic practice and cultural equity alike, and also highlights exemplary case studies. Paul Bonin-Rodriguez leads our Knowledge Building Initiative (KBI), an effort to raise up the cultural contributions of members within NPN’s greater network by building, documenting and sharing knowledge.

Our Work
Organizer: Meredith Boggia, Meredith Boggia Productions
An honest conversation about artists working in the independent sector, including self-producing and under-supported commissions. Artists, Presenters and Producers will discuss: (1) overlapping responsibilities, (2) real numbers and how to discuss them with an appropriate level of attachment, (3) the psychic/emotional needs for proper creation, and (4) how we
manage transactions around these factors is a morally sound, inclusive and communicative way. We will work to highlight best practices and discuss real numbers and language through anecdotes of positive collaboration with an interest in deriving and distributing tools for the field. We will be honest about our yes’s and no’s.

Queer Histories // Queer Futures: Collectively Interpreting Oral History for the Stage
Organizer: Bonnie Gabel & indee mitchell, Last Call
Last Call is a New Orleans based ensemble that documents and interprets neglected queer history, creating connections between those who lived this history and those who have much at stake if it is lost. Last Call Co-Directors Bonnie Gabel and indee mitchell will present their process for interpreting oral histories for the stage, and explore the methodology with attendees through a series of improvisational exercises. Beginning exploration will uncover the transformative and liberatory process of oral history, and participants will create small performances focused on stories of resistance.

Reconsidering the Glass Ceiling in the Performing Arts
Organizer: Loris Bradley, Loris Creative Productions
The Women’s Working Group, a think tank of women in the performing arts with a 21-year history and broad view of the field, proposes a reconsideration of the Glass Ceiling in cultural practice in the US. We will examine, explore, and address a historical and contemporary assessment of the status of women artists, administrators, managers and presenters.

LANE Live!
Organizer: Sage Crump, LANE Program Specialist, NPN
Leveraging a Network for Equity (LANE) is an NPN initiative that brings together extraordinary leaders from arts and culture organizations to collectively address racial and geographical imbalance in the field. LANE is proud to launch its new podcast with a live recording highlighting the voices and experiences of leaders in the program’s Alpha Cohort. As the organizations approach the final chapter of their four-year journey together, they’ll share lessons and answer questions from fellow cohort members, the broader Network and beyond. Cohort members include: Junebug Productions (New Orleans), Su Teatro (Denver), Carpetbag Theatre (Knoxville, TN), Central District Forum of Arts & Ideas (Seattle), MACLA / Movimiento de Arte y Cultural Latino Americana (San Jose, CA) and The Myrna Loy Center (Helena, MT).

Conference Philosophy
We believe in...

• Creating a safer space: We ask all attendees to question oppression openly, listen generously, and respect each other’s personal boundaries and confidentiality.
• Critical analysis without censorship: We encourage activities and dialogues that reflect the challenging times in which we find ourselves and we support artists’ opportunities to develop and show work without artistic compromise. We strive to make space where participants can take risks while engaging each other in thoughtful critique.
• Complexity: We recognize the complex identities we each embody and do not assume or diminish other’s perspectives.
• Holding each other accountable: We aim for an environment where we respectfully call each other in, help each other see our blind spots, and learn together how to move toward more just and equitable words, actions, and practices.
• Making space for learning: Disagreement, discomfort, and vulnerability are essential for growth, while defensiveness and dismissiveness inhibit learning. Allow yourself and others time and space to reflect and grow.