



FOR RELEASE:

August 5, 2019

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
announces the

Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD[®]) Awards

**Presented during the 19th Annual Kennedy Center
Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Conference
August 3–7, 2019 in Denver, Colorado**

**Six Emerging Leaders, Four Community Asset Award Recipients, and
Two Awards for Excellence in Accessibility Leadership in the
Field of Arts and Disability to be Recognized at Awards Ceremony during Conference**

(WASHINGTON)— The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced its Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD[®]) Awards during the 19th annual Kennedy Center LEAD[®] Conference, August 3-7, 2019, at the History Colorado Center in Denver, Colorado.

The LEAD[®] Awards, presented during the conference, recognize outstanding arts administrators and cultural arts organizations whose leadership and work furthers the field of accessibility.

The LEAD[®] Award for Emerging Leaders was created in 2008 to acknowledge arts administrators who are motivated by the LEAD[®] conference to become an advocate for accessibility within their own organizations and communities. These individuals have successfully applied what they learned at previous LEAD[®] conferences to shape opportunities that are inclusive of people with disabilities and older adults in the cultural arts. The 2019 awardees include:

- **Sara Birkofer**, Manager of Accessibility and Gallery Programs, Cincinnati Art Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio
- **Kayle Rieger Patton**, Education & Accessibility Coordinator, Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
- **Jenea Rewertz-Targui**, Manager of Community Programs and Access Initiatives, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Saint Paul, Minnesota

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- **Dani Rose**, Training Manager & Access Services Coordinator, Ticket Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- **Jill Rothstein**, Chief Librarian, the New York Public Library's Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library, New York, New York
- **Yeung Wai Shan, Cymie** Project Coordinator, Universal Accessibility at the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong, China

Recognizing the achievements of cultural arts administrators or organizations that continually demonstrate success with access initiatives, improving accessibility in their organization, city, state or region, the 2019 recipients of the Community Asset Awards include:

- **Art-Reach**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- **Mass Cultural Council**, Boston, Massachusetts
- **Ashley Grady**, Senior Program Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- **Carol Krueger**, Theatre Services Manager, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Denver, Colorado

Created in 2004 to recognize a lifetime of achievement in arts and accessibility, the 2019 recipients for the Awards for Excellence in Accessibility Leadership include:

- **David Chu**, Founder of c2, Inc.
- **Roger Ideishi**, Professor of Occupational Therapy, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Presented annually, the LEAD Conference brings experienced and new professionals together to explore practical methods for implementing accessibility in cultural environments. For information about registration and schedule please visit the LEAD® Conference [website](#) and the Kennedy Center [website](#).

About The Office of VSA & Accessibility at the Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center has been at the forefront of making the performing arts accessible to persons with disabilities. Serving the international disability and arts community, the Office of VSA and Accessibility, a Jean Kennedy Smith Arts and Disability program, provides opportunities for people with disabilities of all ages across the globe to learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. The Office focuses its efforts on cultural access for patrons and visitors with disabilities; arts and special education initiatives; professional development for educators and cultural administrators; and career opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities. For more information, please visit <http://education.kennedy-center.org/education/#Access>.

About Education at the Kennedy Center

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts sets a national standard for arts learning. Working through model programs and a nationwide network of partners, the nation's cultural center harnesses the

power of the arts to address education challenges, accelerate best practices, and uplift citizen artists. Across all its programs, the Kennedy Center is committed to increasing accessible, inclusive opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in, learn about, and learn through the arts. On September 7, 2019, the Kennedy Center will open the REACH, an immersive arts and learning center with significant space and programming for arts education.

As an essential component of the living memorial to President Kennedy, the Center's Education programs utilize the arts to embrace President Kennedy's ideals of service, justice, freedom, courage, and gratitude. By cultivating the citizen artist in everyone, the Kennedy Center brings the arts and creativity to the center of our lives. For more information, please visit [kennedy-center.org/education/](https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/).

Funding Credits:

The Kennedy Center's Office of VSA and Accessibility is graciously supported by UnitedHealth Group.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

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PRESS CONTACT

Brittany Laeger

(202) 416-8445

balaeger@kennedy-center.org