
MUSEUMS & DEMOCRACY

ELEVATING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CONFERENCE AGENDA

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

AT THE CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM, IN DC

9:00 AM	MUSEUM OPENS	For Viewing, Conference Registration, and Coffee
9:40 AM		Gallery Explorations with Curatorial Staff
10:25 AM	WELCOMES	From CAJM, A More Perfect Union, and the Capital Jewish Museum
10:30 AM	PLENARY	<i>What's at Stake: Democracy & Museums</i> Speakers: Ivy Barsky (Capital Jewish Museum), Kevin Gover (Smithsonian Institution), Sarah Leavitt (Capital Jewish Museum)
11:25 AM		Remarks on America 250 Speaker: Lisa Sasaki
11:30 AM	PLENARY	<i>How Jewish Wisdom Can Point Us to Productive Dialogue</i> Speakers: Aaron Dorfman (A More Perfect Union), Rabbi Rachel Gartner (Georgetown U.), Manu Meel (BridgeUSA), Colin Weil (Independent)
12:30 PM	TALKING CIRCLES	Facilitated Conversations on a Range of Topics
1:30 PM	LUNCH	With Continuing Talking Circles
2:45 PM	2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
		<i>Holocaust Denial & Contemporary Conspiracy Theories</i> Speakers: Lauren Bairnsfather (Anne Frank Center USA), Rebecca Frank (Jewish Museum), Edna Friedberg (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), Jordanna Gessler (Holocaust Museum LA), David A. Weinberg (Protect Democracy)
		<i>National Partners in Strengthening A Healthy Democracy</i> Speakers: Marsha Semmel (Independent), Helen J. Wechsler (IMLS), David Weinstein (NEH)

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

AT THE CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM, IN DC

3:45 PM	2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
		<p><i>Landscapes of Democracy</i> Speakers: Alyssa Baltrus (National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service), Omar Eaton-Martínez (National Trust for Historic Preservation), Misha Galperin (Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History), Erin Mast (Lincoln Presidential Foundation)</p> <p><i>How Jewish Museums Can Promote Free, Fair, Safe, and Accessible Elections</i> Speakers: Aaron Dorfman and Jeremy Bannett (A More Perfect Union)</p>
4:45 PM	EVENING REMARKS	<p>Election Updates By A More Perfect Union</p>
5:00 PM	HAPPY HOUR	<p>Drinks and Snacks on the Museum Terrace Special Preview of Jewish Deli Exhibit</p>

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

MORNING AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, IN DC

9:00 AM	ARRIVALS	To the National Archives
9:20 AM	WELCOMES	In the William G. McGowan Theater
9:35 AM	PLENARY	<i>Museums Navigating Partisan Divides</i> Speakers: Devon M. Akmon (MSU Museum), Vedet Coleman-Robinson (Association of African American Museums), Rachel Perić (Welcoming America), Jorge Zamanillo (National Museum of the American Latino)
10:35 AM	2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
		<i>Listening and Leading in Times of Polarization</i> Speakers: Susan Bronson (Yiddish Book Center), Judith Rosenbaum (Jewish Women's Archive), James S. Snyder (Jewish Museum)
		<i>Understanding More, Understanding Better: Audience Complexities</i> Speakers: Ruth Bergman (Zekelman Holocaust Center), Randi Korn (Independent), Mark Mulder (Zekelman Holocaust Center), Hannah Weisman (Magnes Collection)
11:45 AM	SESSION	<i>Curating in Crises: Lessons from International Museums</i> Speakers: Juliana Ochs Dweck (Princeton University Art Museum), Orit Shaham Gover (ANU), Iuliia Skubytska (formerly of the War Childhood Museum, Kyiv)
	TALKING CIRCLE	<i>Community Engagement Techniques</i>
12:45 PM	4 BREAK OPTIONS	
		Viewing of Exhibitions at the National Archives
		Outdoor Lunch with Talking Circles / Walking Circles on a Range of Topics
		Lunch on Your Own
		Viewing of Exhibitions at the National Museum of American History

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

AFTERNOON AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, IN DC

2:10 PM	ARRIVALS	To the National Museum of American History
2:20 PM	WELCOMES	In the Warner Bros. Theater
2:30 PM	PLENARY	<i>Collecting Now, For the Future of Democracy</i> Speakers: Jonathan Edelman (Capital Jewish Museum) and Jon Grinspan, Claire Jerry, Modupe Labode, and Peter Manseau (National Museum of American History)
3:30 PM	REMARKS	Honoring Grace Grossman z"l
4:00 PM	PLENARY	<i>Let's Talk: Building and Rebuilding Trust Between Communities</i> Speakers: Fraidy Aber (Contemporary Jewish Museum), Theo Gonzalves (National Museum of American History), Judith Margles (Independent), Edward Tepporn (Angel Island Immigration Station), Lance Wheeler (National Center for Civil and Human Rights), Rabbi Amelia Wolf (Congregation Etz Hayim)

Museum Closes at 5:30 PM

CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

MORNING AT PLANET WORD, IN DC

9:00 AM	ARRIVALS	Coffee and First Floor Open for Viewing
9:20 AM		Galleries Open for Viewing
10:15 AM	WELCOMES	In the Friedman Family Auditorium
10:25 AM	PLENARY	<i>Words Matter for Democracy</i> Speakers: Frederica Adelman (Smithsonian Associates), Tony Keith, Jr. (Author and Poet), Caitlin Miller (Planet Word)
11:20 AM	2 BREAK OPTIONS	
		Galleries Open, Education Staff Available Lunch on Your Own
11:45 AM	BUS TRANSPORT	Bus to Baltimore Departs (by Pre-Registration)

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP AT MADISON HOUSE IN BALTIMORE

1:00 PM	ARRIVALS	Lunch and Tours Available
1:30 PM	PLENARY	<i>Long-form Storytelling</i> Speakers: Mark Gunnery (Jewish Museum of Maryland) interviewing Sarah Koenig (<i>Serial</i> podcast)
2:00 PM		Breakout Art Activities and Conversations With: Yael Hashavit, Hillel Smith, Steve Marcus, and Chalk Riot
3:15 PM	PLENARY	<i>Where We've Been / Where We're Going: Art Exhibits in Jewish Museums</i> Speakers: Sheri Bernstein (Skirball Museum), Sol Davis (Jewish Museum of Maryland), Laura Mandel (Jewish Arts Collaborative), Heidi Rabben (Contemporary Jewish Museum)
4:15 PM		Wine and Cheese in the Garden
5:00 PM	FAREWELL	

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Fraidy Aber is the Constance Wolf Director of Education and Civic Engagement at The Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco, where she manages a team that produces a suite of offerings realizing the Museum's mission to engage people of many ages and backgrounds in exploring Jewish culture, history, art, and ideas. Aber co-led the development of the Zim Zoom Family Room and the Textile Lab, teaches a graduate level course titled "Museums and Social Justice" for University of San Francisco, and created the JET (Jewish Education and Technology) Teacher Institute.

Frederica (Fredie) Adelman is the Director of Smithsonian Associates, providing online and in-person educational experiences in a variety of topics. Adelman moved to Smithsonian Associates after two decades at the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. Career highlights include concept planning for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and for an independent museum of Jewish history and culture in Washington, DC. Adelman holds an MA in museum education from George Washington University; an undergraduate degree in anthropology from Bryn Mawr College, a baccalaureate in biology from the Lycée Français de New York, and a certificate from the Getty Leadership Institute.

Devon M. Akmon is the Director of the Michigan State University (MSU) Museum and a core faculty member in MSU's Arts, Cultural Management & Museum Studies program. Previously, Akmon worked as a senior consultant with the DeVos Institute of Arts Management, supporting over 70 clients across the country and providing expertise in artistic and strategic planning, community engagement, marketing, fundraising, and board development. Akmon also served as Director of the Arab American National Museum, significantly expanding its reach and impact nationwide. Currently, he is a board member of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and Artspace.

Alisha Babbstein is the Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE). As a pivotal member of the museum's exhibition team, Babbstein collaborates with curators and artists, manages exhibition projects from inception to fruition, and ensures the seamless completion of installations and deinstallations. Additionally, Babbstein oversees the Museum's oral history program, and manages a team of interviewers, transcribers, and editors. Babbstein mentors and supervises volunteers and interns in collection processing and preservation, contributing significantly to the museum's preservation efforts through her evaluation of archival collections for conservation requirements.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Lauren A. Bairnsfather is the Chief Executive Officer of Anne Frank Center USA, Inc. She served as Executive Director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh from 2015 to 2023 and was a leader early in the effort to rebuild the Tree of Life site. She has brought innovation to Holocaust education, defining its potential to address present day antisemitism, racism, and identity-based violence. Bairnsfather began her career in the Photo Archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, going on to earn an MA at the University of Chicago and a PhD at the University of Texas, including an stint with the Spertus Museum in Chicago. Bairnsfather serves on the boards of the Association of Holocaust Organizations and CAJM.

Alyssa Baltrus has worked with the National Park Service for over 30 years at sites across the country. She currently serves as Chief of Interpretation and Education at National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington DC. Baltrus is also coordinating the National Mall's America's 250 celebration in 2026.

Jeremy Bennett is Vice President of Programs for A More Perfect Union: The Jewish Partnership for Democracy, where he is responsible for supporting a nonpartisan network of Jewish organizations working to protect and strengthen democracy in the US. Before joining AMPU, he worked for twelve years at the ADL in several leadership roles at the national and regional levels, most recently as Director of Partnerships for its Center on Extremism. Bennett began his career as a civics and history teacher in Philadelphia. He has an MSED in Education from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in History from Brandeis University.

Ruth Bergman is the Director of Education at The Zekelman Holocaust Center (HC). She oversees all aspects of the HC's state-wide education program, including teacher workshops, programs for business and professional leaders, and museum tours for students and adults. Bergman earned her BA from Columbia University and did graduate work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She completed a certificate in Jewish Leadership for Educators from Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership and a certificate in nonprofit leadership from the Kellogg School of Management. Before coming to the HC, she was a teacher and teaching coach.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

As Interim Director of the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, **Ivy Barsky** helped complete the building and core exhibition, opening the Museum to the public in June 2023. She brings 30+ years of experience in museum leadership, major museum construction and exhibition projects, development, and strategic planning. She served for eight years as CEO of the National Museum of American Jewish History, and for 15 years at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust (as founding Director of Education, then as Deputy Director). She has consulted for New York City Opera, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, and the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics.

Sheri Bernstein oversees the Skirball Museum’s exhibitions, collections, and operations, and plays a key role in building its identity as a vibrant and values-driven institution. She originally joined the Skirball in 2001 as Director of Education, leading the team for Noah’s Ark at the Skirball. In 2015, she became VP of Education and Visitor Experience. Appointed Skirball Museum Director in 2021, Bernstein brings to the role a commitment to expanding its relevance and inclusiveness. She held prior positions at LACMA, Smithsonian American Art Museum, and ICA Boston, and has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Yale and Harvard universities.

Kara Blond became Director of the Office of Presidential Libraries at the National Archives (NARA) in July 2022. As Director of the Presidential Library system, she oversees the 15 archives and museums administered by NARA across the country that promote understanding of the American experience, preserve and provide access to historical materials, and create interactive programs and exhibitions. Before coming to NARA, Blond served as Executive Director of the Capital Jewish Museum from 2017 to 2022. Previously, she was Director of Exhibitions at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

Susan Bronson has served as Executive Director of the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA since 2010. She holds a Ph.D. in Russian History and Jewish History from the University of Michigan and has worked in non-profit culture and higher education for more than thirty years. She is immediate past chair of the board of the Council of American Jewish Museums and serves on the board of 7000 Languages, a non-profit dedicated to supporting the preservation of indigenous languages.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Vedet Coleman-Robinson is the Executive Director of the Association of African American Museums (AAAM), and an accomplished professional in the field of museum management and cultural preservation. She has dedicated her career to promoting the rich history, heritage, and contributions of African Americans. Prior to her role as Executive Director of the AAAM, Coleman-Robinson held leadership positions in several renowned museums and cultural institutions. She earned her doctorate in US History with a concentration in Public History from Howard University, and speaks regularly on topics relating to African American history and museum management.

Sol Davis is the Executive Director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland in downtown Baltimore. Prior to this position, he served as the Executive Director of the Jewish History Museum & Holocaust History Center in Tucson, Arizona where he led the project to create the state's first Holocaust Museum, in 2016. Davis has a PhD in Language, Reading, and Culture from the University of Arizona where he taught courses for the Center for Jewish Studies, the College of Education, and the Honors College. He currently teaches Museum Studies courses at Towson University.

Avi Decter is Managing Partner of History Now. He is co-editor of *Change Is Required: Preparing for the Post-Pandemic Museum* (2022) and author of *Interpreting American Jewish History at Museums and Historic Sites* (2017) and *Exploring American Jewish History through 50 Historic Treasures* (2024). He is known for interpreting complex subjects, including labor unrest at the Boott Cotton Mill Museum in Lowell, MA; the American Civil War at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA; and the Shoah at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Decter moderates "Museums and Change," an online forum for emerging ideas in American museums.

Aaron Dorfman is Founder and Executive Director of A More Perfect Union: The Jewish Partnership for Democracy, an effort to mobilize the American Jewish community to protect and strengthen American democracy. Previously, Aaron served as President of Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, VP for Programs of American Jewish World Service, and Director of Informal Education at Temple Isaiah of Contra Costa County. He holds a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a BA in English and Political Science from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Aaron and his wife Talia and three daughters live in Brooklyn, New York.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Juliana Ochs Dweck is Chief Curator at the Princeton University Art Museum, where her exhibitions have included *Miracles on the Border: Retablos of Mexican Migrants to the United States* and *Picturing Protest*. An anthropologist, she is the author of *Security and Suspicion: An Ethnography of Everyday Life in Israel* (Penn Press, 2011) and writes about memory, materiality, and museum practice.

Omar Eaton-Martinez is the Senior Vice President for Historic Sites at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where he leads the preservation, interpretation, and stewardship of 28 historic sites across the country to tell a fuller American story. He serves on multiple boards and is currently the Board Chair for the Association of African American Museums (AAAM). Additionally, Omar hosts *The Museum J.E.D.I. Show* on YouTube that convenes discussions on the intersections of museums and social justice.

Jonathan Edelman was born and raised in Kansas City, moving to DC in 2016 to work with the curatorial team at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In 2019, he joined the team at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, where he now serves as the Collections Curator. He holds a Masters in Museum Studies from The George Washington University and a Bachelor's degree in Cultural Studies & Communications from Clark University.

Enimini Ekong is the Principal of NoGrey Consulting, committed to helping individuals, groups, and organizations make black and white what can often seem grey. He is a skilled communicator with an almost fifteen-year history of training, facilitation, instruction, and consensus building. Ekong has a BA in History from Baylor University and an MA in African American Studies from Morgan State University. He carries certifications in both mediation and change management, enabling him to better leverage opportunities hidden in challenging conversations. With years of experience working with leading civil rights institutions, Ekong has a multifaceted body of experience guiding dialogue around issues of race, religion, gender, and equity.

Benjamin Filene is Deputy Director of Public History at the National Museum of American History (NMAH). Filene came to NMAH from the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, where he served as Chief Curator. Previously he was Director of Public History and Professor of History at UNC Greensboro; prior to that, he served as Senior Exhibit Developer at the Minnesota Historical Society. Filene is author of *Romancing the Folk: Public Memory and American Roots Music* and co-edited the book *Letting Go? Historical Authority in a User-Generated World*.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Rebecca Frank is the Curatorial Assistant at the Jewish Museum. She earned a BA in History and Jewish Studies from Cornell University in 2019 and an MA in Holocaust Studies from the University of Haifa in 2020. Prior to the Jewish Museum, Rebecca worked in Curatorial for three years at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

Dr. Edna Friedberg is a Senior Curator at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the host of the Museum's popular Stay Connected programs on Facebook and YouTube. Friedberg joined the Museum's staff in 1999 and was the Historian for the online *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, now available in twenty languages. She also curated a special exhibit about the Nuremberg trials and postwar justice. Friedberg has testified before Congress about contemporary antisemitism, and her essays connecting Holocaust history with social, cultural, and political trends today have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The Forward*.

Misha Galperin, PhD, is President of ZANDAFI Philanthropic Advisors – which provides consulting services to foundations, philanthropists, and non-profits in developing vision, mission, and strategy. He has over 35 years of experience running non-profit organizations, including as COO of UJA-Federation of New York and New York Association for New Americans, and CEO of The Educational Alliance, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and Jewish Agency International Development. He is currently leading the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, after having also worked with ANU, the Center for Jewish History, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

Rabbi Rachel Gartner serves as the Director for Jewish life at Georgetown University and co-chair of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. Ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2002, she is a co-author of *Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl Thing Sourcebook*. Gartner was also involved in several President's Interfaith Challenge activities at Georgetown.

Jordanna Gessler, a granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, is Chief Impact Officer at Holocaust Museum LA. With over 15 years of work in Holocaust Studies, she has a track record in leading programs, research, and educational initiatives. Gessler studied Holocaust history as an undergraduate at the University of Vermont, and as a graduate student at the University of Haifa. She conducted research in the Righteous Among the Nations Department at Yad Vashem, and won the 2014 Yad Vashem Award for Research. Gessler has written articles and presented on contemporary antisemitism, fiction and the Holocaust, art and resistance, and teaching empathy.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Gabriel Goldstein is Interim Director and Chief Curator at Yeshiva University Museum and the Consulting Curator of Judaic Art, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh. An independent curator, consultant, and adjunct professor, he has worked with institutions including the National Archives, Israel Antiquities Authority, and Wesleyan University, and has curated exhibitions in the US and internationally. Goldstein previously worked at the Jewish Museum, NY, and the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. A former CAJM Board Chair, he recently served as a Program Co-Chair for the March 2024 IMLS/CAJM Summit "Museums Respond: Strategies for Countering Antisemitism and Hate."

Dr. Theodore S. Gonzalves is a curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. He is a former director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. A Fulbright Scholar with extensive teaching experience in the United States, Spain, and the Philippines, Dr. Gonzalves has also been awarded senior fellowships at the Smithsonian Institution, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Library of Congress. He was elected the 21st president of the Association for Asian American Studies, appointed to the Organization of American Historians' Distinguished Lectureship Program, and is a member of the board of directors of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Kevin Gover is the Under Secretary for Museums and Culture at the Smithsonian. The Office of the Under Secretary for Museums and Culture oversees the Institution's history and art museums, its cultural centers, and the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Exhibits and the National Collections Program. He served as director of the National Museum of the American Indian from 2007 until January 2021.

Dr. Orit Shaham Gover is the Chief Curator of ANU – Museum of the Jewish People. An experienced, large-scale museum curator, Gover led the renewal projects of many museums and historical sites in Israel. For the past 12 years Gover led the renewal plan and development of the new core exhibition at ANU – Museum of the Jewish People. Over holds a PhD in Museology from Haifa University, and in her thesis she explored "Museums as Memory Fashioning Spaces." Over has also published four successful novels.

Jon Grinspan is Curator of Political History at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. He is the author of the award-winning *The Virgin Vote: How Young Americans Made Democracy Social, Politics Personal, and Voting Popular* in the 19th Century. He frequently contributes to the *New York Times*, and has been featured in *The New Yorker*, the *Washington Post*, and in other publications.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mark Gunnery has been the Jewish Museum of Maryland's Director of Communications and Content since 2021. Before that, he worked as a public radio producer for 10 years, producing talk shows hosted by Marc Steiner, Kojo Nnamdi, and Wes Moore at WEAA, WAMU, and WYPR. He hosts the JMM's podcast, *Disloyal*, and is also a musician, a DJ, a writer, and a Baltimorean.

Sam Hamilton is a multidisciplinary artist and arts educator based in Washington, DC. With a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Art History from American University, Hamilton found a passion for the intersection of art and social movements. At Chalk Riot, she is able to bring this passion for life by creating art for Green Peace USA, Amnesty International, and a plethora of other clients making change around the world.

Claire Jerry is the Curator of Political History at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Tony Keith Jr., PhD is an award-winning Black gay poet, spoken word artist, and Hip Hop educational leader. He is author of *How the Boogeyman Became a Poet* - a young adult memoir in verse, and *Knucklehead* - a forthcoming poetry collection (both works published by HarperCollins). A multi-year fellow of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Tony has been featured in performances at the Kennedy Center, the Washington National Cathedral, Historic Lincoln Theatre, Bus Boys & Poets, and in schools and communities. He is Founder and CEO of Ed Emcee Academy, and resides in DC's Ward 7 with his husband Harry Christian III.

Sarah Koenig is the host and co-creator of the award-winning podcast *Serial*, the most listened-to podcast in the history of the form. Koenig began her career as a newspaper reporter; she lived in Moscow for several years where she worked for *The New York Times*, and upon return worked for the *Concord Monitor* in New Hampshire. She did stints as a crime reporter and political reporter – the same beats she'd go on to cover at the *Baltimore Sun*. In 2004, Koenig became a producer at the radio show *This American Life*. In 2015 she was named one of Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential People."

Randi Korn partners with cultural organizations to plan and evaluate their work around achieving impact. Prior to founding the consulting firm RK&A in 1989, she held a variety of positions in museums, including executive director; exhibition designer; interpretive planner and writer; and audience researcher and evaluator. Over the last few decades, Korn's work has focused on helping non-profit organizations implement impact-driven work; she calls this work intentional practice, and it is the focus of her book *Intentional Practice for Museums: A Strategy for Maximizing Impact*.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Rebecca Krasner, a lover of art and storytelling, brings to her work a passion for cultivating curiosity and building relationships. Just prior to joining The Weitzman, she served as the Director of the Center City Kehillah. She wrote the strategic assessment for Moving Traditions' Midwest presence, and then worked as its first Director of Engagement in Chicago. Prior to working in the Jewish community, Krasner worked in a variety of museums across the country including at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Getty, and the Children's Museum of Manhattan. She received her MS in Education from Bank Street College of Education.

Modupe Labode is Curator of African American Social Justice History at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. She is on the staff of the Center for Restorative History, where she is the lead of the Emmett Till Historic Marker Project. Before coming to the Smithsonian, Labode taught history and museum studies at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, where she was also a public scholar of African American History and Museums.

Sarah Leavitt is the Curator at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum. She holds a PhD in American Studies from Brown University, and has worked in museums for 35 years. Some of her previous exhibitions have covered: women's collegiate sports, the history of the parking garage, and the border wall between the US and Mexico. Her publications have explored subjects including the history of the home pregnancy test, America's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill, domestic advice manuals, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the television program *Veronica Mars*. Leavitt has worked for the Capital Jewish Museum since November 2020, and curated the inaugural exhibitions for the new building.

Gail Mandel is the Chief Operating and Advancement Officer at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE). Prior to working for OJMCHE, she served as Director of Philanthropy at the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. Additional professional experience includes work with the Development Office of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and work in the publishing industry at ABRAMS. Mandel holds a BS in Journalism from Boston University, and an MA in Art History and Museum Studies from City College/CUNY. She serves on the boards of Congregation Beth Israel and the Western Museums Association.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Laura Conrad Mandel, Executive Director of Boston's Jewish Arts Collaborative, is an artist, public art advocate, and social entrepreneur. After graduating Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Art and English, Mandel became founding director of alumni and parent relations for the Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh. She is currently Chair of the Board of the Council of American Jewish Museums, Co-chair of the Boston Lyric Stage Advisory Committee, a member of the MASSCreative Advisory Council, and the JCRC Boston Council. Mandel also writes a regular arts and culture blog for the *Times of Israel*.

Peter Manseau is a novelist, historian, and museum curator. The founding director of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Center for the Understanding of Religion in American History, he writes often for venues including the *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. His books have received honors including the National Jewish Book Award and the American Library Association's Sophie Brody Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Jewish Literature.

NYC artist, **Steve Marcus** has received honors and awards from the American Society of Illustrators, and has several works in the permanent collection of the Oakland Museum of California, Jewish Museum of Florida, Harvard Library, Yiddish Book Center, Galicia Jewish Museum, YIVO, and in private art collections in the US and abroad. He has done projects with Allen Ginsberg, Ken Kesey, Timothy Leary, the New Orleans Jazz Museum, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, and has exhibited numerous times at Art Basel, the Museum at Eldridge Street, the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, the Maine Jewish Museum, and the Bernard Heller Museum, as well as other institutions and art galleries.

Judith Margles is Director Emerita at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. During her 24-year tenure, she managed the 2014 merger of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center and the Oregon Jewish Museum, the 2017 purchase of a permanent museum home, and a 2023 expansion to add a new gallery focused on human rights. Her essay "Cross Cultural Engagement" appears in *Global Mobilities: Refugees, Exiles and Immigrants*. Margles is a past Board Chair of CAJM, and also served on the board of the AAM. She is a current board member of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Erin Carlson Mast has over 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership. She joined the Lincoln Presidential Foundation as its President & CEO in 2021, where she led a relaunch, award-winning programs, and forged a partnership with the National Park Service at Lincoln Home NHS. Previously, Mast was CEO of President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington, DC, a site she helped open to the public. She later led its groundbreaking programming—resulting in more than two dozen awards, including a Presidential Medal and a “50 Great Places to Work” in DC designation.

As CEO of BridgeUSA, **Manu Meel** is currently building the largest and fastest growing student movement to bridge differences and change how we talk about politics. He also hosts the weekly podcast, *The Hopeful Majority*. Manu contributes to several news outlets, works on pro-democracy efforts nationally, and advises political leaders on reducing polarization. In the past, Meel worked as an associate at the venture capital firm Amplo and at the Department of State as a political analyst in counterterrorism. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other media platforms. In 2022, Manu was recognized as a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree for leading BridgeUSA.

Caitlin Miller is the Director of Education at Planet Word, overseeing all education and public programming efforts. Miller works with a small, collaborative team to apply museum education strategies to empowering concepts from the fields of English Language Arts, Linguistics, language learning and more for K-12, family, educator, and adult learner audiences. Previously, she served as the School Programs Manager at the National Building Museum as well as a Museum Teacher at Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, Dumbarton House, and Tudor Place. She holds an MA in Public History from American University, and a BA in History from Rice University.

Mark Mulder oversees the exhibitions, collections, and the library at the Zekeleman Holocaust Center, as Director of Curatorial Affairs. His specialized experience goes back well over a decade, having studied European history with a focus on Holocaust and Genocide studies, and his graduate school thesis work on Holocaust representation in museums. He has been at the Zekelman Holocaust Center since 2016.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Josh Perelman is Principal of Studio Perelman and a Senior Advisor for Content and Strategic Projects at the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History. With more than 25 years in the cultural sector, Perelman is committed to evolving museums into destinations that invite visitors to examine their connections, participate in dialogue and debate, and share lives and dreams – in surprising and experiential ways. He previously served as the Weitzman’s Chief Curator and led the planning, designing, and construction of the core exhibition that opened its landmark building on Philadelphia’s Independence Mall. He holds PhDs in Jewish Studies and in American History from NYU.

Rachel Perić is Executive Director of Welcoming America. Inspired by her family’s refugee story, she has worked for more than a decade to grow the worldwide movement of welcomers and advocate for the power of everyday people to build welcoming communities for all. She has worked throughout her career with local leaders whose innovative solutions to community building in an era of migration are the inspiration for her work and advocacy, and the subject of her published writing in *USA Today*, CNN, and numerous media outlets. She serves on the boards of RCUSA, the American Visionary Art Museum, and Art and Remembrance.

Heidi Rabben is Senior Curator at The Contemporary Jewish Museum and adjunct professor in the MFA Design program at California College of the Arts. Prior to her position at CJM, Rabben was the BICI curator-in-residence at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Alberta, Canada, and has previously held positions as director and curator of events and exhibitions at KADIST, curatorial fellow at the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, and writing fellow for the Asian Contemporary Arts Consortium. Rabben holds an MA in Curatorial Practice from California College of the Arts and a BA in Art History from the University of California, Berkeley.

Judith Rosenbaum is CEO of the Jewish Women’s Archive, a digital archive and public history project that documents Jewish women’s stories, elevates their voices, and inspires them to be agents of change. An educator, historian, and writer, Rosenbaum earned a PhD in American Studies from Brown University. As a Fulbright Fellow, she studied women’s collective communities in Israel. She teaches and lectures widely on Jewish studies and women’s studies, and also serves on the faculty of the Bronfman Fellowship, and is a Schusterman Senior Fellow.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Chelsea Ritter-Soronen is CEO and Principal Artist of Chalk Riot—an all-women mural production house specializing in artwork on the ground, based in Washington, DC. They have created hundreds of ephemeral works in over a dozen states and five countries, driven by the concept that all great things begin from the ground up. They advocate for the use of sidewalk chalk as a tool for positive social change, and regularly collaborate with international NGOs, Fortune 500 companies, community organizations and civic agencies. Chalk Riot's work has been featured by NPR, PBS Newshour, and Washingtonian Magazine.

Lisa Sasaki is the Deputy Under Secretary for Special Projects at the Smithsonian Institution. She provides leadership to the institution as it plays a key role in America's semiquincentennial celebration, and in efforts to maximize its impact online and in communities. Previously, Sasaki was Interim Director of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum and Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. She has worked in the museum field for 28 years, including for the Oakland Museum of California, the Japanese American National Museum, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. She served as President of the Western Museums Association's Board of Directors, and is a member of CAJM's Advisory Council.

Marsha Semmel works with nonprofits on leadership development, strategic planning, and partnerships. In 2019, she published *Partnership Power: Essential Museum Strategies for Today's Networked World* and is co-author of *Change Is Required: Preparing for the Post-Pandemic Museum*. Semmel has been senior advisor to the NEH, the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement, and the Noyce Leadership Institute. She held leadership roles at IMLS and the NEH and served as faculty in the Bank Street Graduate School. Semmel has been President/CEO of Conner Prairie and the Women of the West Museum. Current board service includes CAJM, the Jewish Museum of Maryland, the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington, and Planet Word.

Iuliia Skubytska is an Associate Research Scholar in the Program in Judaic Studies at Princeton University. She is a historian of the Soviet Union and Ukraine, specializing in the history of childhood, oral history, and public history. Skubytska received her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 2018. In 2020-2022, she served as Director of the Ukrainian office of the War Childhood Museum. She is working on "Those Who Stayed: Stories of the Residents of Kharkiv Region," an oral history project that researches the lives of people who did not flee the war zone or occupation zone after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Hillel Smith is an artist and designer from Los Angeles, now based in Washington, DC. Focused on expanding the boundaries of Jewish art, he revitalizes ancient rituals with projects in contemporary media, encouraging creative reconsideration of religious practice. He has painted murals around the world, and is the founder of the Jewish Street Art Festival. Through his large scale public projects, he advocates for placemaking and visibility in multicultural environments. He has created work for Fendi, Patton Oswalt, PJ Library, BBYO, and HIAS. He is fascinated by Hebrew typographic history and teaches about the interaction of technology, identity, and design.

James Snyder was appointed Helen Goldsmith Menschel Director of The Jewish Museum in New York in 2023. From 2019-2023, he served as Executive Chairman of The Jerusalem Foundation. Snyder is widely recognized for his transformative 22-year tenure from 1997-2018 as the Israel Museum's Anne and Jerome Fisher Director. Prior, Snyder held a number of positions at The Museum of Modern Art, including Deputy Director from 1986-1996. Snyder continues today in the role of Director Emeritus of The Israel Museum, and as a Senior Fellow of the Middle East Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Edward Tepporn is the Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. AIIISF works with California State Parks to preserve the buildings and histories connected to the former US Immigration Station at Angel Island. From 1910-1940, more than 500,000 immigrants were processed or detained at the station due to the nation's exclusionary immigration policies targeted at Asians and Pacific Islanders. Tepporn previously served as the Executive Vice President for the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. He has 27 years of nonprofit sector experience, and is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Fellow.

Lance Wheeler most recently served as the Director of Exhibitions at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta. Wheeler has also held the positions of Education & PR Manager for the Margaret Walker Center & COFO Civil Rights Education Center, and at the Curator of Exhibitions at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. In those roles, he used exhibitions to create dialogue around civil and human rights history to help bridge the events from the past to the present. He received his BA from Belmont Abbey College, and his MA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Helen Wechsler serves as a Supervisory Senior Program Officer for Museums at IMLS. She manages a portfolio of National Leadership Grants and Museums for America grants that focus on learning. She has been involved in IMLS initiatives involving surveying the museum field, providing equitable access, 21st century skills, early learning, making, STEM, and digital media and learning. Helen came to IMLS from the American Architectural Foundation, before which she spent 17 years at the American Alliance of Museums directing strategic initiatives and special projects and serving as director of international and ethics programs, including standards addressing Nazi-era assets in museums.

David Weinstein is a Senior Program Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities. David joined the NEH in 2000 after teaching media studies and production at George Mason University. He is the author of *The Forgotten Network: DuMont and the Birth of American Television* (Temple University Press, 2004) and *The Eddie Cantor Story: A Jewish Life in Performance and Politics* (Brandeis University Press, 2018). David is the Public History Reviews editor of the journal *American Jewish History*. He holds a PhD in American studies from the University of Maryland College Park and a BA from Brandeis University.

David A. Weinberg is a Policy Strategist at Protect Democracy, where he focuses on ensuring federal elections that are free, fair, and secure. Most recently, he served as a Senior Professional Staff Member with the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, drafting several major sections of the Committee's final report. Previously, he served in high-level roles at the Anti-Defamation League, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He holds a PhD in political science from MIT and a BA in political science from UC Berkeley.

Hannah Weisman is the Executive Director of the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life at UC Berkeley, after having served as the Boston Athenaeum's Director of Education for seven years. Weisman has worked in cultural organizations throughout the northeast, primarily in museum education, for more than twenty years. She earned an MA in museum studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and a BA in German Studies and Holocaust Studies from Mount Holyoke College. When she's not working, Weisman can usually be found attending theater or listening to mystery novels while walking her dog.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Colin Weil is a senior executive and institutional entrepreneur with nearly 30 years of experience in nonprofit leadership. From 2016 through 2023, he was Executive Director of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (NYC). Previously, Weil was Director of Marketing and Digital at the Jewish Museum. Prior to that, he served as Director of Development and Alumni Relations at the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale (Hillel), and as Chief Operating Officer of the AIDS Walks in New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Weil received a BA in Art History from Yale University, and was Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Yale Jewish Alumni Association from 2010-2023. He has served on CAJM's Executive Committee since 2016.

Rabbi Amelia Wolf is a native of Portland, Oregon and a graduate of the JTS, where she received ordination and a Masters in Jewish Studies with a concentration in Talmud and Rabbinic Literature. She served as Rabbinic Intern at a congregation in Riverdale, New York; Rabbinic Fellow and Sole Clergy at a congregation in Oneonta, NY; and co-founded Minyan Atara, the Crown Heights Egalitarian Minyan. While in rabbinical school, she worked in hospice chaplaincy, and Jewish climate advocacy. Throughout her congregational, pastoral, and educational experiences, she has focused on Jewish texts and traditions that speak to the lives of students and congregants.

Melissa Martens Yaverbaum is the Executive Director of the Council of American Jewish Museums (CAJM), and has worked with museums for 30 years. Previously she served as Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Curator of the Jewish Museum of Maryland, and Curator at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum. She also worked at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Newberry Library, the Folger Library, and the Field Museum. She is currently leading CAJM's efforts alongside IMLS as part of the *US National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism*, and is growing cross-cultural partnerships to carry this work into the future.

Jorge Zamanillo is the Founding Director behind the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Latino, which Congress established in December 2020 to illuminate the invaluable contributions of Latinos to the United States. Tasked with providing leadership and strategic vision, Zamanillo spearheads comprehensive plans to safeguard, document, interpret and promote awareness of US Latino heritage. He leads new initiatives such as collaborations with other cultural partners and stakeholders, digital resources, exhibitions, and fundraising endeavors. In a significant stride, the museum inaugurated the Molina Family Latino Gallery, its first exhibition space, in June 2022 at the National Museum of American History.