

PRESENTS

# TALKING ABOUT EQUITY IN THE ARTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

Two online panel events discussing equity and inclusion initiatives within major NYC arts institutions, and the new generation of diverse arts leaders.

**Panel 1: "Building Equity"** 10:30am - 12:00pm

## Marcia Sells

Marcia Lynn Sells is the first Chief Diversity Officer at The Metropolitan Opera where she is a part of the senior management team reporting to Peter Gelb, the Met's general manager. In this pivotal role she is responsible for developing new diversity initiatives and enhancing existing programs. Ms. Sells comes to the Met from Harvard Law School, where, as Dean of Students, she led her team in the creation and implementation of a wide range of diversity programs. Previously, Ms. Sells served as an Assistant District Attorney for the State of New York and held leadership positions at Columbia University, the NBA, Reuters, and the Dance Theater of Harlem, where she began her career as a dancer.



## Clive Chang

Clive Chang is Chief Strategy/Innovation Officer for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. He re-joined the organization's executive leadership team in 2020 to oversee the executive office and to lead the formation of a new strategy and innovation function devoted to strengthening and re-imagining the performing arts for the 21st century. Earlier in his career at Lincoln Center he served as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Strategy & Business Development. From 2014 to 2020, Mr. Chang joined Disney Theatrical Group as Director of Strategy & Business Development where he led strategic planning and growth initiatives for Disney's commercial live entertainment businesses worldwide.



## April Kim Tonin

April Kim Tonin is the Ayesha Bulchandani Head of Education and Public Engagement at The Frick Collection. Ms. Tonin joins The Frick from the Museum of Arts and Design, where she served as the education department's Maude and Rodney Starkey Deputy Director. She served the previous fourteen years as the Director of Visual Education at the Nightingale-Bamford School, one of only two independent schools in New York City with a formalized program that incorporates museum collections across its curricula. Ms. Tonin began her professional career at the Museum of Modern Art, where she worked for more than a decade. Ms. Tonin is also a professional illustrator and her work has appeared in several publications, including The Lily (a publication of The Washington Post), and Time Out New York.



## Eduardo Vilaro

Eduardo Vilaro is a renowned choreographer and the Artistic Director & CEO of Ballet Hispánico. He was named Artistic Director in 2009, becoming only the second person to head the company since its founding in 1970, and in 2015 was also named Chief Executive Officer. During his tenure Mr. Vilaro has infused Ballet Hispánico's legacy with a bold brand of contemporary dance that reflects America's changing cultural landscape. Throughout his career, Mr. Vilaro has created more than 40 ballets with commissions that include the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Grant Park Festival, the Lexington Ballet and the Chicago Symphony. He is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Ruth Page Award for choreography in 2001; HOMBRE Magazine's 2017 Arts & Culture Trailblazer of the Year; the James W. Dodge Foreign Language Advocate Award; City & State Magazine's inaugural Power of Diversity: Latin 100 list; and, in January 2021, a Compassionate Leaders Award.



## Moderated by: Dara Meyers-Kingsley

Dara Meyers-Kingsley is the Director of the Office of the Arts, the Muse Scholar Program, an honors program for undergraduate artists in all artistic disciplines and the Mellon Arts Fellowship Program at Hunter College. She also serves as the liaison for the college's partnerships with arts and cultural institutions throughout NYC. Ms. Meyers-Kingsley has extensive experience as a contemporary art curator with an interdisciplinary curatorial practice. She is the author of museum catalogues and articles on Adrian Piper, Andy Warhol, 1970s video art, and contemporary sculpture and media.



**Panel 2: "Equity in Action" 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

**James Horton**



James C. Horton is the Vice President of Education and Engagement at the Museum of the City of New York. Horton leads the Museum’s educational offerings, public programs, and FAO Schwarz Education Center, which serves more than 50,000 students annually. His work at the museum focuses on deepening the institution’s connections to the varied communities of New York, while providing innovative programming that explores New York City’s historic and contemporary issues. Horton previously served as the Director of Social Impact Programs for Carnegie Hall, where he formulated and launched many programs for adults and youth throughout the city. Prior to his tenure at Carnegie Hall he held leadership positions in learning, leadership, and program development at the National Guild for Community Arts Education and Harlem Children’s Zone.

**Daniella Topol**

Daniella Topol is the Artistic Director of Rattlestick Playwrights Theater where she is a passionate advocate for both the production and development of adventuresome and urgent new work, and for thoughtful partnerships with community organizations and other theaters. As a theater director, Ms. Topol’s world premiere productions include: Cusi Cram’s Novenas for a Lost Hospital (Rattlestick) and Martyna Majok’s Ironbound (Rattlestick; Roundhouse; Steppenwolf’s First Look, NY Times Critics’ Pick), among many others. Ms. Topol previously held positions as Artistic Program Director for the Lark Play Development Center, New Works Program Director for the National Alliance for Musical Theatre, and as Associate Producing Director for City Theatre.



**A.J. Benson**



A.J. Benson is the Director of Artistic Administration at the Orchestra of St. Luke’s (OSL) where he is responsible for planning the artistic content of OSL’s orchestral, chamber music, and educational programs. Benson came to OSL from the Australian Chamber Orchestra in Sydney, where he served as Artistic Administrator. He previously held positions at Carnegie Hall, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

**Efe Igor**

Efe Igor is an educator, art critic, and curator. She is currently the Assistant Director of Academic Engagement at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum where she leads the Academic Engagement team in its effort to implement the goals in the museum’s diversity, equity, access, and inclusion (DEAI) plan, as well as build new partnerships with educational institutions to create opportunities for students and faculty at the museum.



**Moderated by: Mariel Mayz**



Mariel Mayz is a sought-after composer, pianist, educator, and administrator. She is an Adjunct Professor of music theory at CUNY Hunter College as well as a faculty member for Hunter’s Arts Management and Leadership Certificate. Mariel is the Co-Founder and Associate Director of Porto Pianofest, an international classical music festival; and currently pursuing a PhD in Music Composition & Theory at Brandeis University. Mariel has been the Program Coordinator of the Hunter Mellon Arts Fellowship since 2019.



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