

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARTTABLE BRINGS TOGETHER SIX LEADING WOMEN FOR DISCUSSION ON THE VISUAL ARTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT NATIONWIDE.**

***Arts Partnerships and the Transformation of Cities, Monday, October 23 at 6:30PM  
at The New School in New York City***

**September TK, 2017, New York, NY—ArtTable**, the leading national network of professional women in the visual arts, presents a panel discussion on the role of the visual arts in urban planning and development. The panel is moderated by **Christy MacLear**, Art Agency, Partners, and includes **Laurie Beckelman**, associate director, The Shed; **Sarah Calderon**, managing director, ArtPlace America; **Eva Franch i Gilabert**, chief curator and executive director, Storefront for Art and Architecture; **Deborah Rappaport**, founder, Minnesota Street Project and **Regina R. Smith**, managing director, Arts and Culture, Kresge Foundation.

“We are excited to have assembled a panel of such distinguished women, representing such very different American cities, at a moment when the arts are especially vulnerable to political agendas,” says Ada Ciniglio, executive director of ArtTable. “ArtTable has always supported and championed the voices and accomplishments of women working in the visual arts, including their role in ensuring that art continues to hold a critical place in our democracy.”

This event is the second in a series of annual public programs organized by ArtTable in collaboration with Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School.

“With this joint ArtTable/VLC program, we hope to chart new roles for the arts, focusing on their contributions to civic life and new forms of political engagement,” adds Carin Kuoni, director/ curator, Vera List Center for Art and Politics, The New School.

**About the Event**

***Arts Partnerships and the Transformation of Cities: Moderated by Christy MacLear. Featuring Laurie Beckelman, Sarah Calderon, Eva Franch i Gilabert, Regina R. Smith, and Deborah Rappaport.***

Monday, October 23, 2017

6:00–8:00pm (program begins promptly at 6:30pm)

The New School, John L. Tishman Auditorium (63 5th Ave, New York, NY 10003)

**Tickets**

GENERAL ADMISSION \$25

STUDENTS \$15

**Support**

This program is presented in partnership with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics, the Center for New York City Affairs, and The New School. Financial support for this program is provided by Bonham’s and media sponsorship by Hyperallergic.

**About the Participants**



**Christy MacLear**, moderator, recently joined Art Agency, Partners after serving as the inaugural executive director of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation (2010-2016), where she was recognized for developing the strategic course for the Foundation. In this role, she and her team increased public access to and scholarship of Rauschenberg’s artwork, launched a residency program serving over 100 artists annually on Captiva Island, and created philanthropic initiatives to connect art with education, climate change, and other important issues which interested the artist in a contemporary lens. Previously, she served as the founding executive director of the Philip Johnson Glass House (2005-2010), converting a 47-acre site to a Center for Modernism for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Early in her career, she joined the team at the Walt Disney Development Corporation that was building an innovative new town, Celebration; she consulted with the leadership of the Cleveland Clinic on its patient experience and she served as Director of the Museum Campus in Chicago, managing the creation of a lakefront park that surrounds the Shedd Aquarium, the Adler Planetarium and the Field Museum of Natural History. At Art Agency, Partners she is charged with expanding advisory services for artists to help plan their Foundations, and artists’ families to manage their estates with a long-range view. She holds a degree from Stanford in Urban Design and Architectural History and an MBA from Wharton. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Stanford University.



**Laurie Beckelman** is associate director of The Shed, a nonprofit organization that is currently constructing a facility in New York City’s Hudson Yards that will commission, produce, and present a variety of cultural programming. Scheduled to open in 2019, the project is housed in a technically innovative 200,000 square foot space at the intersection of the High Line and Hudson Yards. Designed by Diller, Scofidio + Refro with the Rockwell Group, the structure is expressly designed to accommodate innovative forms of artistic and cultural expression. A leading expert in the fields of cultural organization development and preservation management, Beckelman was former Chair of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, where she managed the redevelopment plan for the Grand Central Terminal and guided the Empire State Development Corporation through the redevelopment of 42nd Street. She has served as director of the New Building Program for the Museum of Art & Design at Columbus Circle and has been involved in the development of such projects as the Children’s Museum of the Arts, the Dia Center for the Arts and the Museum of Chinese in America.



**Sarah Calderon** is managing director of ArtPlace America, which aims to fuse arts organizations and contributing artists with their communities. A ten-year collaboration among a number of foundations, federal agencies, and financial institutions, ArtPlace works to position arts and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development. From 2008-2015, Sarah Calderon was the executive director of Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education (Bronx, NY). During her tenure, she oversaw the opening of a new, 90,000-square-foot facility for the Center’s arts and education programming and developed partnerships with organizations ranging from Lincoln Center to the NYC Housing Authority. Before joining Casita, Sarah founded and ran Stickball Printmedia Arts in East Harlem, a printmaking and digital arts organization for youth. Prior to that, she was with the NYC Department of Education creating the Annual Arts in Schools Report—a data collection, analysis, and reporting effort for arts education in NYC’s public schools and MPR Associates working as a consultant, managing

research and evaluation projects from design through publication. Sarah has also worked as a teaching artist in Chicago, Oakland, and New York City.



**Eva Franch i Gilabert** is chief curator and executive director of Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York. Storefront for Art and Architecture advances innovative and critical ideas that contribute to the design of cities, territories, and public life. Storefront's exhibitions, events, competitions, publications, and projects provide alternative platforms for dialogue and collaboration across disciplinary, geographic, and ideological boundaries. Franch, who specializes in the making of alternative architecture histories and futures, joined Storefront in 2010, after teaching and lecturing worldwide and founding her own solo practice OAAA (Office of Architectural Affairs). At Storefront, some of her recent projects include *Letters to the Mayor*, a project that invites architects to write letters to their city mayors as a way to open up dialogue about the making of cities and public life with more than ten editions globally, including New York, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Athens, Taipei, Madrid, among others; and *Letters to the Developer; World Wide Storefront*, a digital platform for alternative global projects; and the commissioning of design projects such as the *Speechbuster* by Jimenez Lai and Grayson Cox and the film *The Architects* by Amie Siegel, as part of OfficeUS. In 2014, Franch, with the project OfficeUS was selected by the US State Department to represent the United States Pavilion at the XIV Venice Architecture Biennale.



**Deborah Rappaport** is president of the Rappaport Family Foundation and founder, with her husband, of the Minnesota Street Project, a visionary mixed-use space for San Francisco's art galleries, artists, and nonprofits that opened last year. The Foundation focuses on increasing civic engagement and access to the levers of power among traditionally underserved young adults. She is also a partner in Skyline Public Works, LLC, and a jewelry designer, operating as Deborah Rappaport Jewelry. Deborah is a member of the Boards of Directors of Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive, Creative Capital, Headlands Center for the Arts, and People for the American Way and People for the American Way Foundation. She is a past president of the San Jose Museum of Art Board of Directors, a past member of the Bolinas Museum Board of Directors, and a past

member of several political and social service boards. Deborah and her husband Andy are collectors, primarily of social commentary art produced across a wide range of media by emerging and mid-career artists.



**Regina R. Smith** is managing director of the Arts and Culture Program at the Kresge Foundation, where she focuses her efforts on programs that encourage the inclusion of arts and culture in community development. Regina R. Smith is managing director of The Kresge Foundation's Arts & Culture Program. She leads efforts to identify prospects for national funding opportunities and partnerships in the arts and culture field. Regina has been with the Foundation since 2008 as a program officer and senior program officer, working to advance the deliberate integration of arts and culture into community development through creative placemaking.

Previously, Regina worked at the Arts & Science Council in Charlotte, NC, where, as vice president of grants and services, she managed a \$12 million grants portfolio. She served as programs and services director at Culture Works in Dayton, Ohio, from 1994 to 1999 and, earlier,

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managed a nationally recognized program for the Indiana Arts Commission. In 1989, while on a nine-month Arts Administration Fellowship, Regina was in residence with three arts organizations: the Madison Art Center, COMPAS in St. Paul, MN, and Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs. She began her career as a museum educator at the Cleveland Children's Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Art. Regina studied art history at the University of Pittsburgh and received a master's degree in arts administration from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC.

## **About Art Table**

The foremost professional organization dedicated to advancing the leadership of women in the visual arts. Through our national membership network and community initiatives, we expand opportunities for women from diverse backgrounds and at all stages of their careers, fostering a stronger future for all women in the arts. Visit our website to learn more.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Mary Beth Brown | [mbbrown@arttable.org](mailto:mbbrown@arttable.org) | 212-343-1735 ext.10

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