



February 8, 2022  
8:30am - 10:30am,  
*Equity in Arts Management*  
The Jazz Loft  
275 Christian Ave, Stony Brook, NY 11790

## PANELISTS



**Jeremy Dennis**  
President, Board of Trustees, Ma's House & BIPOC Art Studio

Jeremy Dennis is a contemporary fine art photographer and a tribal member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation in Southampton, NY. In his work, he explores indigenous identity, culture, and assimilation. Ma's House & BIPOC Art Studio Inc. is led by Dennis. The house will serve as a communal art space on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, NY. The family house, built in the 1960s, will serve as Dennis' house to manage the project including a residency program for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), art studio, library, along with hosting an array of art and history-based programs for tribe members and the local community. A not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization, Ma's House & BIPOC Art Studio Inc. was chartered in 2021 in the State of New York.



**Jess Frost**  
Executive Director, The Arts Center at Duck Creek

Jess Frost is one of the Founders, and the Executive Director of the Arts Center at Duck Creek in East Hampton, NY. Prior to the inception of Duck Creek, Jess held the position of Associate Curator of the Permanent Collection at Guild Hall, East Hampton, digitizing the museum's art collection for online presentation. She has acted as Director of several commercial art gallery programs on the East End, and curated exhibitions for multiage venues. She has been invited to write several catalog essays, and opened numerous artists profiles and reviews for local and regional online publications. Jess has been an advocate for artists and access to the arts throughout her life, and is pleased to have manifested this into the mission of The Arts Center at Duck Creek.



**Minerva Perez**  
Executive Director, OLA of Eastern Long Island

Minerva Perez, is Executive Director of OLA of Eastern Long Island since 2016, and curator of several OLA Latino Film Festivals. She has led the creation of the OLA Media Lab bringing professional level visual story telling workshops to area public schools. Ms. Perez holds a theatre arts degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and founded and ran a nonprofit theatre company for eight years in New York City. She has appeared in several films, co-produced an award-winning short film, wrote, directed and produced *Soy María*, an original series of monologues in Spanish focused on domestic violence. She is a sought-after speaker on immigrant and women's rights and was named in NBCLatino20 of 2019, a listing of 20 notable US Latino leaders and advocates. OLA's mission is centered on Advocacy, Education, and the Arts. Her recent advocacy achievements are vast.



**Dr. Darrell Smith,  
Drummer, Performer & Educator**

Over the course of his career, New York City native Dr. Darrell Smith has played drums with some of the most in-demand musicians across the world's most famous stages. From humble beginnings in Staten Island, to the esteemed Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School and The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, Dr. Smith has been recognized for his prodigious talent with numerous awards and honors. His educational foundation from some of the most prestigious institutions in NY along with instruction/mentorship from acclaimed musicians like Kenny Washington, Ali Jackson, Dafnis Prieto, and Billy Hart, has led him to be one of the most sought-after drummers in the city.

In addition to working as a band leader and drummer, Dr. Smith is a highly-respected and gifted educator. His current tenure as Band Leader at the world renowned education program at Jazz at Lincoln Center has given him a platform to spread his passion for jazz to hundreds of talented young musicians. He also teaches privately at Staten Island Academy and Victory Studios. Recently, Dr. Smith graduated from Stony Brook University with his DMA in Jazz Performance

#### **MODERATOR**



**Marc Courtade,  
Executive Director, Huntington Arts Council**

Marc Courtade is an experienced arts professional with over 30 years in the field. He is currently Executive Director of Huntington Arts Council (HAC), a position he assumed in 2015. Prior to joining HAC, Marc was Business Manager at LIU Post/Tilles Center for the Performing Arts for 17 years. Marc also held administrative positions at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. and New York City Opera. He was a speaker for the New York Council for the Humanities for 8 years, lecturing on *The Rodgers and Hammerstein Era: Reinventing Musical Theater* and *The Ethnic Musicals: Assimilation and Integration*. He received a MS in Management and Urban Policy from the New School for Social Research, with a specialization in Nonprofit Management. He holds a BPS from Empire State College in Music, and a BA in English from SUNY Buffalo.

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631.271.8423 • [Info@huntingtonarts.org](mailto:Info@huntingtonarts.org) • 213 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743 • [huntingtonarts.org](http://huntingtonarts.org)