

MOVING MOVEMENTS: WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019
4:00-5:30pm

Vera List Center for Art and Politics
The New School
Theresa Lang Community and Student Center
55 West 13th Street, 2nd floor, New York City

VERA LIST CENTER FOR ART AND POLITICS

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics is a research center and public forum for art, culture, and politics. It was established at The New School in 1992—a time of rousing debates about freedom of speech, identity politics, and society’s investment in the arts. A pioneer in the field, the center is a nonprofit that serves a critical mission: to foster a vibrant and diverse community of artists, scholars, and policy makers who take creative, intellectual, and political risks to bring about positive change.

We champion the arts as expressions of the political moments from which they emerge, and consider the intersection between art and politics the space where new forms of civic engagement must be developed. We are the only university-based institution committed exclusively to leading public research on this intersection. Through public programs and classes, prizes and fellowships, publications and exhibitions that probe some of the pressing issues of our time, we curate and support new roles for the arts and artists in advancing social justice.

www.veralistcenter.org

*Cover image: Andrea Geyer. *Revolt, They Said*, 2012 onwards (detail)—a wall-sized diagram based on an ongoing drawing in which Geyer delineates a network of 850 women without whom the American cultural landscape would not be as we know it today. Andrea Geyer is a 2006–2007 Vera List Center Fellow.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Philanthropy has rarely been as much in the public eye as today. The influence of private wealth in electoral politics and the rise of what has been termed "philanthrocapitalism" and its toxic presence on the boards of nonprofit art institutions stand in contrast to growing demands for accountability, decolonizing wealth and deep structural changes from Indigenous communities, self-organized artist collectives and many others. At a time when social movements for advancing economic, racial, and climate justice test out philanthropy's notion of "doing good" with a particular focus on its structural limits as well as potential, new ways of organizing and mobilizing wealth to mirror and support these movements are emerging. This shift in giving from "charity," which often perpetuates the very issues it seeks to alleviate, to one that grounds giving in "justice," seeks to counter structural inequities that make philanthropy necessary in the first place.

In celebration of The New School's 100th anniversary—a legacy of academic freedom, tolerance and public intellectual exchange—the Vera List Center hosts a dynamic, diverse and national convening, *Moving Movements: Women in Philanthropy*. Recognizing that women are leading this shift and the history of women philanthropists like Vera List, after whom the center is named, this program considers how a distinctly intersectional feminist perspective, when it plays out through philanthropy, can transform our cultural organizations into more social justice-driven, inclusive and resilient spaces that boldly assert their civic roles. As a way to advance this urgent discussion, we look at the precious and formidable resources represented by women's leadership and advocacy in philanthropy.

Hailing from community-driven philanthropic organizations to private foundations or artistic and activist positions, the speakers will mine some of the key challenges that the field of philanthropy and cultural institutions are facing today, and consider how a fundamental realignment of values and resources invites us to imagine our organizations expansively as deep anchors of political and civic life.

Given the center's current focus on art as a political practice, we want to put forward an expanded notion of cultural organizations where values play out across all facets of an institution—from programs to

publics, from architecture to finances. Moving Movements: Women in Philanthropy builds on the center's May 2019 event How Soon Is Now: Art, Activism and Accountability and calls on influential donors, philanthropy leaders, activists, and artists who are shaping the field and institutional prerogatives that advance social movements.

Panelists

Cecilia Clarke, President & CEO, Brooklyn Community Foundation, New York

Michelle Coffey, Executive Director, Lambent Foundation, New York

Catherine Gund, Founder-Director of Aubin Pictures, New York

Pia Infante, Co-Executive Director, The Whitman Institute, San Francisco

Hali Lee, Co-Director, Donors of Color Network; founder, Asian Women Giving Circle, New York

Moderator

M. Bryna Sanger, Deputy Provost, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, The New School

Closing Reflection

Mary Watson, Executive Dean, Schools of Public Engagement, The New School

Preceding *Moving Movements: Women in Philanthropy*

**"Some Moral Issues of Our Time" – An Afternoon Tea
Sunday, October 6, 2019
2-4 pm**

THE HUMAN RELATIONS WORKSHOPS of the NEW SCHOOL

Invite you to a Tea

P R O G R A M

Speaker: DR. DAVID NEIMAN
New School Faculty

Topic: Some Moral Issues of Our Times

Date: Monday, March 28, 1960

Time: 2 - 4 P. M.

Place: Seventh Floor Lounge
Johnson Building
66 West 12 Street

Admission: One dollar

New School students convene for a private discussion with panelists and other philanthropists that restages the Human Relations Center workshops of the 1950s and 1960s—styled then as "afternoon teas" probing "some moral issues of our time." The goal is to examine questions that guided the early days of the Vera List Center through the lens of the present challenges for equitable education, representation, and social justice. Part of the illustrious history of The New School, the Human Relations Center was the predecessor to the Vera List Center, geared toward the "self-development" of women and the oldest continuing education center for women in the country, modeling what is today referred to as peer learning and socially engaged art.

With the participation of students, "Some Moral Issues of Our Time" conceives of school not as a place but in terms of relationships. We return to this concept of human relations at a time social and political instability with renewed purpose.

CREDITS

Moving Movements: Women in Philanthropy is presented by the Vera List Center as part of The Women's Legacy Project, a university-wide year-long initiative that honors the often invisible intellectual and philanthropic contributions of women at The New School. A project of historical recovery, it insists on the central role of women in the university's 100-year legacy of progressive thought and action—creatively, politically, philosophically and/or practically—and charts the road ahead. As part of the week-long, interactive Festival of NEW, the Vera List Center looks at gendered activist and social justice-oriented philanthropy and what it means today, has meant historically, and may mean in the future.

Moving Movements and "Some Moral Issues of Our Time" are organized by the Vera List Center for Art and Politics, and curated by Eriola Pira, as part of the center's 2018–2020 curatorial focus *If Art Is Politics*.

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Cecilia Clarke and the Brooklyn Community Foundation

Cecilia Clarke has, for over 20 years, successfully managed and developed nonprofit organizations in New York City, with an emphasis on social justice and community and cultural advancement. Clarke joined Brooklyn Community Foundation in 2013, leading a holistic transformation of its strategic grantmaking, community leadership, and asset building activities. Under her leadership the Foundation has grown significantly, raising \$16.5M and distributing over \$7M in vital funding to community partners in 2018 alone. Before joining the Foundation, Clarke was the founder and Executive Director of the Sadie Nash Leadership Project, an award-winning educational leadership program for low-income young women from NYC and Newark, NJ. Previously, she was Executive Director of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Associate Director of The Drawing Center, and led government fundraising at the Brooklyn Museum. Clarke got her start as a social worker, counseling women at Fountain House, a “clubhouse” program for the mentally ill.

Brooklyn Community Foundation is the first and only public foundation solely dedicated to Brooklyn’s charitable community, working in partnership with generous donors and community leaders to bolster vital nonprofits, strengthen neighborhoods, and increase opportunities for youth. Since its founding in 2009, the Foundation has provided over \$40 million in grants to more than 300 nonprofits throughout the borough. The Foundation’s initiatives include a resident-led grantmaking model in Crown Heights, a Restorative Justice pilot in four Brooklyn public schools, and an institution-wide commitment to racial justice. The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy awarded the Foundation with its 2015 Impact Award in the category of Grantmaking Public Charity in honor of this breakthrough community-led approach.

Michelle Coffey and the Lambent Foundation

Michelle Coffey is the Executive Director of the Lambent Foundation, New York. Coffey designs, implements and furthers the strategic agenda, leadership and vision of Lambent Foundation. At Lambent Foundation Coffey’s global areas of focus include Human Rights,

Women/Girls, Criminal Justice Reform, Arts and Culture, and HIV/AIDS. Prior to her creating Lambent Foundation in 2009, she was Director of Starry Night Fund and Senior Philanthropic Advisor at Tides Foundation. In addition, she serves on the boards of Creative Capital Foundation, the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Care Center in East New York and recently the Vera List Center for Arts and Politics at The New School. Night Fund and Senior Philanthropic Advisor at Tides Foundation. In addition, she serves on the boards of Creative Capital Foundation, the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Care Center in East New York and until recently the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School.

Lambent Foundation leverages the critical role of arts and culture at the intersection of social justice. Through innovative grant making, they explore the impact of contemporary art as a strategy for promoting sustainable cultural practices. Lambent Foundation is drawn to landscapes where art and culture are infused in the fabric of daily life. From visionary spaces in its own backyard of New York City to our nation's cultural hub of New Orleans to the networks of global artistic practices in Nairobi, these cities allow the Foundation to engage in rich and timely conversations. Through placed-based grantmaking its intention is to support not just the arts of these regions, but a more just world that encompasses the needs within these vibrant communities.

Catherine Gund and Art for Justice Fund

Catherine Gund, Founder-Director of Aubin Pictures, is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker, producer, writer, and activist. She recently incubated Just Media, the criminal justice reform film and culture database. Gund's production work focuses on strategic and sustainable social transformation, arts and culture, HIV/AIDS, and reproductive health. Her films have screened around the world in festivals, theaters, museums, universities, and on television. Her most recent films include *Chavela* (2017), *Dispatches from Cleveland* (2017), and *Born To Fly: Elizabeth Streb v. Gravity* (2014). Gund currently serves on the boards of Art For Justice, Art Matters, Baldwin for the Arts, and The George Gund Foundation. An alumnus of Brown University and the Whitney Independent Study Program, she lives in New York with her four children.

The **Art For Justice Fund** is a five-year initiative that aims to turn art into action, investing more than \$100 million into strategic efforts to reform the criminal justice system. The Art for Justice Fund invests in leading organizations and innovative programs aimed at safely cutting the prison population in states with the highest rates of incarceration, and strengthening education and employment options for people leaving prison. Overall goals are to: Reduce mass incarceration by 20% in 10-15 target states over five years; Make visible the human dimension of mass incarceration; Educate Americans about mass incarceration and its links to racial bias; Build the public will for further reforms of our criminal justice system.

Pia Infante and The Whitman Institute

Pia Infante is a Trustee and Co-Executive Director of The Whitman Institute. Infante draws on decades of multi-sector experience as an educator, facilitator, organizational development consultant, executive coach, non-profit manager, business owner, writer and speaker to advocate for trust based practice. Infante speaks and teaches on radically embodied leadership and trust based philanthropy in many settings including Harvard Kennedy School: Center for Public Leadership, Ashoka Future Forum, Net Impact, Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, and Skoll World Forum. She serves on the board of directors for the Center for Media Justice. She is on Faculty for the M.A. in Leadership Sustainability at the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. She is an I.C.F. certified executive leadership coach, holds a M.A. in Education from The New School for Social Research, and a B.A. in Rhetoric from the University of California at Berkeley.

The Whitman Institute advances social, political, and economic equity by funding dialogue, relationship building, and inclusive leadership. Its multi-issue portfolio reflects this belief with trust-based investments in civic community engagement, leadership development, human rights, movement building, and media and journalism. The Institute's model has been to provide multi-year, unrestricted funding while making targeted grants to support emerging opportunities as they arise. This dual approach has enabled it to provide long-term, predictable grants to core partners with enough room to be nimble and responsive.

THE VERA LIST CENTER BOARD

The board of the Vera List Center for Art and Politics is an integral part of the New School community. The members of the board provide counsel to the Vera List Center, develop expertise on ways to support the academic enterprise, offer insight and guidance on programs, provide significant financial support, and serve as links to the communities in which they live and work.

James Keith (JK) Brown, Chair
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Nancy Delman Portnoy
Silvia Rocciolo
Mary Watson

WOMEN OF THE VERA LIST CENTER

Vera G. List (1908–2002) was a spirited individualist and supporter of many significant artists of the late twentieth century, as well as a devoted philanthropist. She and her husband, Albert, founded the Vera List Art Project at Lincoln Center in 1962, MIT's List Visual Arts Center in 1985, and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School in 1992. With her deep conviction that art and learning are one, List established art programs and endowed professorships at a number of educational institutions, including Swarthmore College, Brown University, and Hamilton College. After attending Simmons College, she married Albert A. List in 1930, and began collecting art almost immediately. As her husband's wealth grew, her art purchases and their philanthropy kept pace. The Lists' beneficiaries included the Metropolitan Opera, Mount Sinai Hospital, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Jewish Museum, and the New School for Social Research. The Albert A. List Foundation, formed in the 1950s, donated money to the construction of Lincoln Center, and paid for much of the center's art collection, including the large Henry Moore sculpture in its courtyard. As an avid collector of modern and contemporary art, List owned works by artists from Giacometti to Joel Shapiro, and was on the boards of the Jewish Museum and the American Federation of Arts. She may be best known in the art world, however, for helping Marcia Tucker, a former curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art, establish the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York. Now in SoHo, it opened in 1977 in the Albert A. List Building at the New School on Fifth Avenue. Although List donated art to several New York museums, after her husband's death in 1987, she sold much of her collection to better support social service programs.

Bio excerpted from Andrea Geyer's "Revolt, They Said", 2012 onwards.

Jane Kettering Lombard is a New York City-based art dealer whose eponymous Chelsea gallery has a rich history of promoting emerging and mid-career artists whose work engages with contemporary political and social issues around the world.

An early interest in Japanese art brought Lombard into the orbit of Gordon Washburn, a curator at Asia Society, who then introduced her in the early 1970s to Dorothy Miller, the legendary Museum of

Modern Art curator. Under Miller's tutelage, Lombard began collecting contemporary art. Concurrently, Lombard's interest in politics had been sparked by the national and global turbulence of the 1960s and '70s. In 1971, Lombard traveled with an American delegation to the Soviet Union, where she was introduced to the work of CEC ArtsLink, an organization founded to facilitate intellectual and cultural exchanges between citizens of the United States and the Soviet Union. Lombard joined the organization's board and was exposed to artists who brought a political lens to their work.

In 1995, inspired in part by a desire to demonstrate that politically oriented art could also be commercially viable in the New York market, Lombard established Lombard-Freid Projects in partnership with Lea Freid, a colleague from CEC ArtsLink. Lombard-Freid Projects became known as one of the most international of New York's galleries, representing artists including Cao Fei (China), Mounir Fatmi (Morocco), and Dan Perjovschi (Romania), as well as American artists like Mark Bradford and Michael Rakowitz. Since 2015, the gallery has continued as Jane Lombard Gallery.

In 2011, Lombard was introduced to the Vera List Center for Art and Politics. Having long been familiar with The New School's progressive pedagogy, and impressed with the center's distinctive approach to championing international artists addressing urgent political issues, Lombard became a member of the center's advisory board. In 2012, she joined four other board members and The New School in providing the financial support to launch the Vera List Center Prize for Art and Politics. Her leadership and philanthropic commitment have been pivotal in sustaining and enhancing the prize in the intervening years, culminating in a transformative endowment gift in 2018. In recognition of her generosity, The New School has named the prize the Jane Lombard Prize for Art and Social Justice.

NOTES

UPCOMING:

**VERA LIST CENTER FORUM 2019:
IF ART IS POLITICS**

Chimurenga: Pan African Space Station at The New School

Jane Lombard Prize for Art and Social Justice Recipient

October 23–25, 2019 12–6pm

The New School, Sheila C. Johnson Design Center
Arnold and Sheila Aronson Galleries, 66 5th Avenue

**Chimurenga presents: FESTAC '77,
a concert by Craig Harris**

October 25, 2019, 7:30PM

The New School, Tishman Auditorium
University Center, 63 5th Avenue

**Global Voices: Conversations
with the Jane Lombard Fellows**

October 26, 2019, 11–6PM

The New School, Theresa Lang Community and Student Center
55 West 13th Street, Room 202

**Readings, Concerts, and WNSR New School Radio
October 27–November 10, 2019**

The New School, Sheila C. Johnson Design Center
Arnold and Sheila Aronson Galleries, 66 5th Avenue
New York City

For information on related classes, please visit: www.newschool.edu.

This event has been videotaped and the documentation will be made available on
www.veralistcenter.org.

THE NEW SCHOOL

VERA LIST CENTER
FOR ART AND POLITICS

THE
NEW
SCHOOL

THE WOMEN'S LEGACY PROJECT

Hali Lee and the Asian Women Giving Circle

Hali Lee is Co-Director of the Donors of Color Network, the only national project that is engaging and networking high net worth donors of color across race and experience. She was born in Seoul, Korea, and grew up in Kansas City. She graduated from Princeton University, studied Buddhism at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand, and received a Masters in Social Work from New York University. Lee is the founder of the Asian Women Giving Circle, which raises resources for Asian American women using the arts to bring about social change in their communities. In thirteen years, the Circle has made grants of over one million dollars in support of eighty amazing projects. She is part of a co-design team thinking about what might undergird the burgeoning collective giving movement nationally. Lee lives in Brooklyn, NY, along with her dear husband, three college-age children, two cats and a big dog. In her free time, she loves to travel, read, play tennis, and keep honeybees.

The **Asian Women Giving Circle** (AWGC) is the first and largest giving circle in the nation led by Asian American women. We believe culture is an essential part of any strategy for social change. We raise funds to support Asian American women-led projects in NYC that use arts and culture to: The AWGC Steering Committee is a diverse group of Asian American women who lead the grantmaking and fund-raising efforts of the giving circle. We are a donor-advised fund at the Ms. Foundation for Women, which distributes our funds solely at our direction. We are also a member of the Asian American/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) National Donor Circle Network.

M. Bryna Sanger was appointed Deputy Provost in 2009. She previously served as the Dean of the Milano School and earlier, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Chair of Urban Policy Analysis and Management. She is a tenured professor and a scholar of public policy and management. Sanger has published four books and numerous journal articles in the areas of city service delivery, welfare reform, leadership, innovation, and performance management. She has consulted for city and state government agencies and held leadership positions, including Vice President, at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. She is on the boards of various

nonprofit organizations and in 2009 was honored as a "New Yorker who makes a difference" by United Neighborhood Houses, where she is President of the Board. Sanger holds a Ph.D. from Brandeis and an AB from Vassar College.

Mary Watson was appointed Executive Dean of the Schools of Public Engagement in July 2014. In this capacity, she leads the founding division of The New School to advance its innovative approaches to action oriented, engaged learning in the world. Watson is a key leader worldwide in university networks advancing change in higher education, including the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative and the Ashoka Changemaker campus initiative. She is co-founder of The New School's university-wide Social Innovation Initiative and Impact Entrepreneurship Initiative, which includes The New School Collaboratory, a Rockefeller Foundation-funded initiative on university community partnerships. Watson's creative practice and scholarship on the human rights of workers reflect her commitment to a more just and equitable world. She has more than two decades of experience in higher education as a faculty member, chair, associate dean, and interim dean, as well as broad experience in change leadership consulting for organizations and universities. She is a recipient of The New School's Distinguished University Teaching Award. Watson holds a Ph.D. in Organization Studies from Vanderbilt University, and serves on the advisory board of the Vera List Center for Art and Politics.