2021 Application Review Panelists

Asuka Hisa (Los Angeles) is a Los Angeles-based artist, educator, and curator. She currently serves as the Director of Learning and Engagement at the Institute of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, formerly known as the Santa Monica Museum of Art. In 2015 she served on the Bergamot Station Arts Center Advisory Committee. Her work has been shown at physical galleries and digital art spaces such as Curatorial Hub. Hisa advocates for biking as a sustainable mode of transportation. As an arts educator, Hisa takes a holistic approach and notes that her “anchor is art, and how does art fit into the world? Or how does art fit into life? How does art fit into the city? It’s actually everywhere, and I can make those connections and design these investigations and explorations and experiments and opportunities in partnerships.” Hisa is a member of Common Field and sits on the Board of Directors for Automata Arts. She served as a curatorial advisor for the 2019 Triennial CURRENT: LA FOOD series put together by the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

Alex Priest (Chicago) (he/they) is a queer curator and writer. He is the recent Assistant Curator of the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial where he worked with artists such as Territorial Agency, MASS Design Group + Hank Willis Thomas, and Queer Appalachia. Raised in a large working-class family in the deep, rural Heartland, he developed an interest and ultimately an education in landscape architecture with an emphasis on architectural theory and art history. Priest has supported the work of hundreds of international artists including Theaster Gates and Michael Jones McKean, to name a few. He has managed, curated, and produced exhibitions, performances, and associated public programs as Exhibitions Manager at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, as Curator of the Omaha Public Library, and as Public Engagement and Curatorial Manager at El Dorado Inc. Kansas City. In 2017, he commissioned the highly celebrated Monument Push with artist Cassils at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. The durational performance was named a top 20 exhibition by Hyperallergic.com.

Risa Puleo (Chicago) is a curator and art historian. Her exhibition, Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the American Justice System, was curated for The Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston. Monarchs: Brown and Native Contemporary Artists in the Path of the Butterfly, curated for Bemis Center for Contemporary Art during her year as a curator-in-residence, traveled through the summer of 2019 to MoCA North Miami, Blue Star Art Space, the Southwest School of Art and Craft in San Antonio, and The Nerman Art Museum in Kansas City. Other exhibitions have been hosted by the Leslie Lohman Museum in New York City; Franklin Street Works in Stamford, CT, ArtPace, San Antonio, Charlotte Street Foundation in Kansas City, and more. Puleo has Master’s degrees from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College and Hunter College. She has written for Art in America, Art Papers, Art 21, Asia Art
Pacific, Hyperallergic.com, Modern Painters, and other art publications. Puleo is currently a doctoral candidate in Northwestern University’s art history program.

**Joan Vorderbruggen (Minneapolis)** is a nationally recognized leader in placemaking. Joan leads public art and placemaking initiatives as Director of Hennepin Theatre District Engagement for Hennepin Theatre Trust. She also leads civic strategy for the organization at the intersection of art and culture, urban design, and equity. Joan launched the Made Here storefront initiative and oversaw installation of three murals in downtown Minneapolis. She has been a Humphrey Policy Fellow (2019) and a Creative Community Fellow (2018) with National Arts Strategies. She is also a member of the Ethical Redevelopment Salon via Place Lab at the University of Chicago as well as a founding member of the Placemaking Leadership Council (Project for Public Spaces). Locally, Joan serves on the board of directors of Forecast Public Art and the Salvation Army Harbor Light. She is the Minneapolis Arts Commission chair and serves on the Public Art Advisory Committee for the City of Minneapolis. Joan also participates in a wide range of Downtown planning groups and committees.