

Florida Association of Public Art Professionals

2025 Annual Conference

May 14-16, 2025 Tampa, Florida



cultural resilience

Focusing on the industry's unique position on
cultural storytelling, preservation, and the future.



Julian B. Lane Park; "West Tampa Promenade"
by Jovi Schnell — bench + floor tile artwork



McKay Bay Transfer Station mural,
"Ode to the Solid Waste Workers" by Rafael Blanco



CONFERENCE
SPONSORED
BY

RLA
Conservation of
Art & Architecture
Los Angeles Miami

FAPAP 2025 Annual Conference

cultural resilience

Focusing on the industry's unique position on
cultural storytelling, preservation, and the future.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE: TAMPA, FLORIDA

Tuesday, May 13th

Optional evening gathering
for early arrivals – casual



4:00 — 6:00 pm

Meet and Greet Happy Hour
Conference Hotel – Hyatt Place
325 N. Florida Avenue, Tampa, FL 33602
Cash Bar

Wednesday, May 14th



All Sessions: Tampa Bay History Center
801 Water Street

Parking On-Site at <https://tampabayhistorycenter.org/parking/#TBHC> (Channelside Parking Garage, Garrison Parking Lot, East Cumberland Garage) or street parking. *Please also consider carpooling or using rideshare service (Uber, Lyft) or download the DASH app for a convenient way to get around downtown.*

9:30 — 11:15 am

Strong Foundations — Building Resilient Public Art Programs

New to public art? This free pre-conference session is designed especially for artists and administrators looking to enter the public art field. We'll break down the basics—from how projects are funded and selected, to what makes a strong proposal, to working with communities and navigating public processes. You'll leave with practical tools, insider tips,



Riverwalk Cotanchobee / Ft. Brooke Park;
cenotaph by artist Bob Haozous

and a better understanding of how to build a resilient, sustainable practice in today’s changing cultural landscape.

Moderated by Elizabeth Young, Executive Director Florida Keys Council of the Arts & FAPAP Treasurer

Panelists:

Oaklianna Caraballo, University of Florida Public Art Specialist & FAPAP Immediate Past President

Dawn Knight, Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs Public Art Coordinator

Jenee Priebe, Founder & Director No Good Deeds Art, FAPAP Board Member

Cory Robinson, Tampa CRA Arts and Cultural Project Coordinator

11:15 — 11:30 am

BREAK

11:30 am — 1:15 pm

WELCOME & ReCONNECT Lunch

InterAct: Public Art happenings and hot topics across Florida and beyond

Welcome

FAPAP President Laura Atria, Public Art & AiR Program Manager, City of Pompano Beach

FAPAP Host Melissa Davies, Senior Arts Specialist, City of Tampa, Arts & Cultural Affairs & FAPAP Secretary

ReCONNECT Moderated by Elayna Toby Singer, Administrator, Palm Beach County Art in Public Places & FAPAP Board Member

1:15 — 1:30 pm

BREAK

1:30 — 2:45 pm

Soulwalk as Cultural Resilience

Fundamental to a city’s cultural vibrancy is to provide access to cultural opportunities and sites in neighborhoods. Soulwalk is a strategy to preserve the narrative of Tampa’s historic African American neighborhoods by connecting public art, nontraditional art forms, historical sites, lost cemeteries and more. Once complete, Soulwalk is expected to serve as a blueprint for a cultural policy that elevates and amplifies the cultural heritage, character, and identity of Tampa’s diverse neighborhoods.

Soulwalk Director: Robin Nigh, Arts and Cultural Affairs Director, Neighborhood & Comm Affairs, City of Tampa

Soulwalk Partners:

Ida Walker, Senior Executive Aide, Tampa Chief of Police

Tina Wright, Retired Assistant Tampa Chief of Police

Rodney Kite-Powell, Director, Touchton Map Library, Tampa Bay History Center

Sherri Brown, Vice President Multicultural Sales & Development, Visit Tampa Bay

2:45 — 3:00 pm

BREAK

3:00 — 3:30 pm

History Talk of The Garrison Neighborhood and Cotanchobee Ft. Brooke Park/Cenotaph

Outside in Cotanchobee-Ft. Brooke Park, Rodney Kite-Powell, Director, Touchton Map Library, Tampa Bay History Center, joined by Robin Nigh, Director of Arts & Cultural Affairs with the City of Tampa, will lead a talk about the rich history of the land and space.



Macfarlane Park; Artist Edgar Sanchez Cumbas works on the mural “Measured” he co-created with Jay Giroux

3:30 pm

Depart back to hotel

4:30 — 6:00 pm

Networking Happy Hour followed by Dutch dinner

Dinner on your own

Thursday, May 15th
All Sessions at Hyatt Place



Conference Hotel – Hyatt Place
325 N. Florida Avenue, Tampa, FL 33602
Waycross Ballroom

9:00 — 10:15 am

Risk Management Session

Valuable & Vulnerable: Balancing Worth and Risk

This presentation explores public artwork appraisals, focusing on valuation concepts like fair market value and retail replacement value. Participants will learn about factors influencing valuation and gain insights into the inherit risks affecting public art. The session will provide a framework to help municipalities create maintenance plans that balance value, risk, and collection priorities.

Ashley Burke, Accredited Appraiser, Burke & Co. Fine Art Consultants

Melissa Davies, Senior Arts Specialist, Arts & Cultural Affairs, City of Tampa & FAPAP Secretary

Robert Coats, Risk & Insurance Analyst, City of Tampa

10:15 — 10:30 am

BREAK

10:30 — 11:30 am

Climate Considerations for Conservation of Public Art Collections

This presentation will highlight the materials, methods, and programs for public art conservation in increasingly hot, humid environments. This presentation will examine the lifespan of materials commonly used in public art, how changes in weather patterns can accelerate their deterioration, and how to adapt maintenance expectations. With the understanding that public art agencies are restricted to limited budgets, this talk will highlight strategies for treatment over time to preserve public works of art.

Elena Bowen, Associate Conservator, RLA Conservation

Nelson Hallonquist, Director of Operations, RLA Conservation

11:30 am — 1:30 pm

Gather Round + Lunch

During lunch, an informal opportunity for ideas exchange and meaningful conversations about key topics in the field including legal issues, the shifting political landscape, AI, art maintenance, repair, deaccessioning, zoning implications for creative placemaking, and more!

1:30 — 2:30 pm

Unlocking Public Art Potential with AI: Practical Applications

Discover practical uses of AI in public art. This session features Monochronicle's experience applying AI to streamline various tasks from strategy and planning to the artist selection process and proposal writing. Participants will engage in interactive exercises with AI prompts, and the session will end with a discussion on AI

ethics and how AI can elevate public art projects

Iryna Kanishcheva, Public Art Consulting + AI, Monochronicle

2:30 — 2:45 pm

BREAK

2:45 — 4:45 pm

Bus Tour

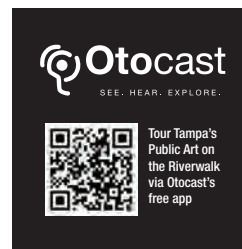
Hop on the bus and see the new installations at McKay Bay Transfer Station (mural by Rafael Blanco) Hanna City Center (sculpture by Area C Projects; interior artwork by Nneka Jones), Perry Harvey, Sr. Park and works of art at the Tampa Convention Center.

The Bus tour leaves from Hyatt Place and ends at the Tampa Convention Center Sail Pavilion on the Riverwalk.

5:00 pm

Happy Hour at Sail Pavilion Sponsored by Otocast

Conference attendees will need to walk or rideshare back to conference hotel



6:30 pm

Pirate Water Taxi to Dinner (Optional)

Hop on the Pirate Water Taxi - daily admission allows for unlimited "Hop On, Hop Off" boarding all day from any of the stops which are conveniently located along the Hillsborough River and Tampa's waterways. Listen to the Captain tell tales of Tampa history while you indulge in happy hour specials and a leisurely cruise. Participants need to pay for their own ticket. Tickets are available at the dock or pre-purchase at <https://piratewatertaxi.com/> Tickets are \$20 for rides after 5:30 p.m., on a first-come-first serve basis.

Visit "must-see" dining, drinking and entertainment establishments along each stop



Riverwalk under Fortune Taylor Bridge; "Woven Waves" by Re:Site

including Tampa's Riverwalk, Sparkman Wharf/ Channel District, Harbour Island, Davis Island and more.

Hop off the Pirate Water Taxi at Stop 10 (Hotel Tampa Riverwalk) and walk 2 blocks to the Hyatt Place.

Friday, May 16th All Sessions at Hyatt Place



Conference Hotel – Hyatt Place
325 N. Florida Avenue, Tampa, FL 33602

9:00 — 10:15 am

Year in Review — 2025

Join us for a virtual tour of public art installations completed in Florida during the past year.

Presented by FAPAP President, Laura Atria, Public Art & AiR Program Manager, City of Pompano Beach

10:15 — 10:30 am

BREAK

10:30 — 11:30 am

Collections Management Workshop

Cultural heritage plays an integral role in the stewardship and management of public art collections. Dynamic databases don't just serve as a record of maintenance and preservation, they can also serve as important tools for ensuring vital information, stories, and people are included in the succession planning of public art programs. Questions to ask and things to consider before setting up a database for your collection.

Mario Flores, Lead Systems Analyst, City of Tampa Technology and Innovation

Melissa Davies, Senior Arts Specialist, Arts & Cultural Affairs, City of Tampa & FAPAP Secretary

Robin Nigh, Director, Arts & Cultural Affairs, City of Tampa

11:30 — 11:45 am

BREAK

11:45 am

Lunch, Florida Association of Public Art Professionals Annual Meeting



Wayne Papy Gym & Dance Center;
"If I Could Fly" by Naomi Haverland

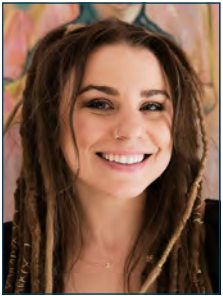


Ybor City - 7th Avenue; "1937 Antifascist Women's March" by Michelle Sawyer



Mobile public art installation
"Poetry Post" by Eileen Goldenberg

PRESENTERS



Laura Atria

Laura Atria is an experienced public art professional, serving as the Public Art and Artist in Residence Program Manager for the City of Pompano Beach and as President of FAPAP. With over 14 years in public art administration, she has developed impactful programs, served on boards like the Broward Cultural Council, and secured major grants, including a \$1 million Bloomberg Philanthropies Grant. She holds a dual degree from FAU. As a studio artist, her work explores voyeurism, femininity, and self-healing. She has received multiple Broward Cultural Division Grants and was commissioned for President Joe Biden's 2020 campaign. As a visual artist and Public Arts administrator, Atria blends academic expertise with hands-on experience to the projects she encounters.



Elena Bowen

RLA Associate Conservator and Professional Associate of the AIC, she holds an M.A. in Conservation from the UCLA/Getty Program and a B.A. in Studio Art from Wellesley College. Elena manages public sculpture collections at several universities in south Florida and serves as lead conservator managing the museum quality collections for a number of private clients. Prior to joining RLA, she completed pre-program internships at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, Caryatid Conservation, and the Penn Museum. She completed graduate internships at the Fowler Museum at UCLA, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the Carlos Museum at Emory University. She has worked on archaeological sites in Peru and Greece and has experience working with Native and local communities as well as artist foundations.



Ashley Burke

Ashley Burke is a fine art appraiser and museum professional with 20 years of experience. She is accredited by the Appraisers Association of America with a specialty in Postwar, Contemporary and Emerging Art and holds a master's degree in museum studies from George Washington University. Burke has worked extensively with collectors, museums, municipalities and auction houses around the Tampa Bay Area including the Ringling Museum of Art, Tampa Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg, City of St. Petersburg Public Art Collection, and Blackwell Auctions. Her practice focuses on the stewardship of collections including developing documentation protocols and long-term preservation plans, exhibition project management and oversight, and providing appraisal services for charitable contributions, insurance, and estate planning.



Oaklianna Caraballo

Oaklianna Caraballo is the Art in State Buildings Specialist at the University of Florida. In addition to public art selection projects for state-funded UF buildings located throughout Florida; she created and implemented an art collections management policy and procedures, which includes oversight of the care and maintenance for over 160 artworks, deaccessioning, and integration of ASB artworks into university digital systems and infrastructure. She is a FAPAP member since 2006, board member since 2009, president from 2022-2024, and currently on the executive board. Oaklianna serves on the City of Gainesville's Art in Public Places Trust since 2021 and appointed chair in 2024. She received her bachelor's degree from Florida State University and her master's degree in museum studies from the University of Florida.



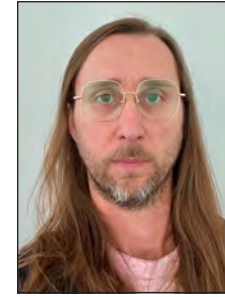
Melissa Davies

Melissa LeBaron Davies facilitates percent-for-art public art projects and site-specific cultural experiences for the city of Tampa. Davies also oversees collections management and maintenance for the program, which has nearly 800 works in the collection. Davies has worked in arts administration for 25 years with 20 years focused on Public Art administration. She's a Tampa native and received a B.A. from the University of Florida and a Graduate Certificate in nonprofit management from the University of South Florida. Davies serves on the Board of Directors as an officer on the Florida Association of Public Art Professionals. Also a musician, Davies played bass in local bands for 20 years and is now teaching her six-year-old daughter how to rock.



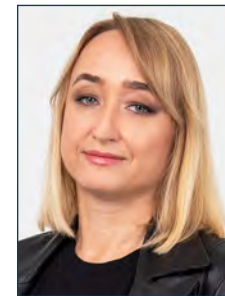
Mario Flores

Mario Flores is a team lead in the Technology & Innovation department in the City of Tampa. For over 25 years with the city, Mario has supported multiple computer systems and applications for several city departments, such as Police, Fire, Construction Services, City Clerk, and City Council. Mario earned a B.S. in Computer Science from the University of South Florida. With this degree, Mario focused on data analytics and performance metrics for city process improvements.



Nelson Hallonquist

Nelson Hallonquist – RLA Conservation Director of Operations and Partner, holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Central Florida. With RLA since 2015, Nelson is the firm's lead sculpture painter as well as patina specialist, having recently participated in the Getty Conservation Institute's "Bronze Patination for Conservators" workshop. He is versed in the maintenance and treatment of bronze, stainless steel, painted mild steel, ceramic, electronic media, stone, concrete, fiberglass, wood, glass, and plaster, among other materials. In addition to conservation treatments, maintenances and condition assessments, Nelson works with conservation teams at RLA's studios in Los Angeles and Miami on project planning and implementation.



Iryna Kanishcheva

Iryna Kanishcheva, MBA, is a public art curator, producer, and founder of Monochronicle (monochronicle.com), a platform and consulting agency specializing in public art, creative placemaking, and AI-powered art solutions with proprietary call-to-artist software. Originally from Ukraine and now based in Florida, Iryna has established herself as a leader in the field of public art by producing large-scale murals, art festivals, immersive installations, and multidisciplinary art initiatives in collaboration with cities, developers, and cultural organizations. Her contributions to enhancing public spaces through art have been recognized with the 2021 Business Arts Award, the 2018 City Beautification Award, and the 2015 Public Art Award.



Rodney Kite-Powell

Rodney Kite-Powell is the Director of the Touchton Map Library at the Tampa Bay History Center, where he joined the staff in 1995. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida and a Master of Arts from the University of South Florida – both in the subject of U.S. history. Rodney is an officer with the Philip Lee Phillips Society of the Library of Congress where he serves on the Academic Committee, and in 2019 he was named the official county historian for Hillsborough County by the Board of County Commissioners. He is the author of three books with a fourth and fifth in progress. Rodney currently lives in Tampa with his wife and two children.



Dawn Knight

Dawn R. Knight is the Public Art Program Coordinator for Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs overseeing the administration of Public Art Calls, while working with stakeholders, arts professionals, and artist applicants for Public Art Projects throughout the County. In addition Knight oversees four exhibition spaces: the Chambers Gallery, the Atrium Gallery, the Multicultural Center Gallery, and last but certainly not least, the Sculpture on the Loan Program.



Robin Nigh

Robin Nigh has over 35 years of experience in placemaking and bringing art to the public realm. She has developed an award-winning program with a small team and modest resources. For the City of Tampa, Nigh oversees all aspects of multiple art-related programs. Nigh received her BFA from the University of Florida; M.A. in Art History, Theory and Criticism from the School of The Art Institute of Chicago and completed post-graduate studies at Florida State University where her interest in visual manifestations of cultural expression and traditions within public space altered her career path from academics to the challenge of putting theory into practice. Nigh has been with the City of Tampa for 26 years.



Jenée Priebe

Jenée Priebe, Founder of No Good Deeds Art, has built a reputation as a regional leader in arts administration and event management with particular emphasis on murals and public art. With over seven years of experience as lead organizer for Florida's most renowned mural festival (SHINE Mural Festival), Priebe excels at artist relations, curation, project management, collaborative partnerships, and creative placemaking. Through her boutique firm No Good Deeds Art, she offers public art consulting, project management, artist recommendations and mural tours. Priebe has assisted in the creation of mural programs for other municipalities including Pinellas County, City of Clearwater, City of Pinellas Park and others. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida Association of Public Art Professionals.



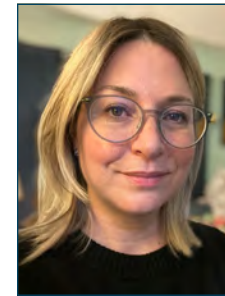
Cory Robinson

Cory Robinson, a Connecticut native, is a playful and multidisciplinary artist known for his vibrant color palette and endearing characters. Currently residing in sunny Tampa, FL. Growing up immersed in skateboarding, Cory found his artistic niche in Philadelphia. Since relocating, he has left an artistic imprint across the Tampa area and St. Pete through captivating murals. Over two decades, Cory has showcased his work nationally. His preferred canvas, found windows, adds a unique touch to his art, demonstrating his passion for creativity and sustainability. Cory's art exudes fun and lightheartedness, aiming to bring smiles to viewers. He illustrates for Creative Loafing and manages public art for the City of Tampa. With each stroke, Cory continues to spread joy in the art world.



Elayna Toby Singer

Elayna Toby Singer directs Palm Beach County's Art in Public Places Program. In collaboration with artists, design professionals and community stakeholders, she guides transformation of plazas, buildings, streetscapes and gardens into "Art Places" that amplify community stories, client missions, and improve quality of life. Elayna also curates and manages changing exhibitions and the permanent collection at Palm Beach International Airport. Elayna currently serves on the Board of Florida Association of Public Art Professionals and Chairs the Design & Planning Community for the American Public Gardens Association. She previously served on Americans for the Arts Public Art Advisory Council, Urban Land Institute Creative Placemaking national advisory group, and was a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant.



Mary Davis Wallace

Mary Davis Wallace is an urban planner, designer, and public art expert dedicated to creating environments that integrate lasting cultural experiences with thoughtful design. With career concentrations in municipal urban planning, landscape architecture, public art nonprofit management, and construction administration, Mary Davis bridges a common divide between the creative process and project feasibility. Mary Davis offers cultural advisement to municipalities and nonprofits ensuring that art, culture, and core heritage serve a lasting and transformative role in the development and planning of public spaces. She currently serves on local, regional, and national boards focusing on the intersection of planning and public art.



Elizabeth Young

Elizabeth S. Young, has an extensive background in both the performing and visual arts. Her experience working with non-profit organizations spans program initiatives, board relations, grant making, fund development, advocacy and marketing. She earned her B.A. in Art History and Theater from Wheaton College in Norton, MA. After nearly a decade in New York City as a Casting Director for film, television and theater she moved to the Florida Keys in 1987. She is the Public Art Administrator for the City of Key West's 1% for public art program since 2017, and Monroe County's since 2008. She co-curated the Florida Keys Sculpture Trail with Susann D'Antonio on behalf of benefactors, John Padget and the late Jacob Dekker. She serves as Treasurer for FAPAP.

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Artist Rafael Blanco
with solid waste employee



Riverwalk at
Cotanchobee /
Ft. Brooke Park;
ceramic benches
by Peter King
& Xinia Marin



Hanna City Center;
"Open House" by Area C Projects



RLA restoring Mary Ann Unger's
"The Wave" on Bayshore Blvd



Florida Association of Public Art Professionals is a member-supported organization promoting public art programs, policies, and best practice across Florida.
www.floridapublicart.org