



WESTAF Executive Director Forum

October 2 and 3, 2016 | Denver, Colorado

Location: The Art Hotel, 1201 Broadway, Denver | Phone 303-572-8000

Sunday, October 2

Location: Opposing Forces Meeting Room at The Art Hotel

4:00 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**

4:10 p.m. The national conversation about race and diversity is expanding and becoming less civil. What can arts leaders do to direct this conversation in a positive and productive direction?

- Presenter: Dr. Brenda J. Allen Professor and Author of *Difference Matters*
- Discussion led by Professor Allen

5:40 p.m. **Depart for Working Dinner**

Location: Beatrice and Woodsley Restaurant, 38 South Broadway, 303-777-3505.

6:00 p.m. **Cocktails**

6:30 p.m. **Working Dinner**

- State Updates
 - What is the most significant thing that happened to your agency since we last met in December of 2015?
 - What does the five-year future look like for your agency?
- Discussion
- Presenter: Ray Rinaldi--*Emerging Trends in the Arts that Need to be Monitored*
- WESTAF Update

8:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Monday, October 3

Location: The Opposing Forces Meeting Room of The Art Hotel

8:30 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet**

8:45 a.m. **Review of the Daily Agenda and Symposium**

9:00 a.m. **Update from the National Endowment for the Arts**

Call with Laura Scanlan, Director of States and Regions, National Endowment for the Arts

- Presentation of new and evolving projects at the NEA
- Questions and discussion

9:30 a.m. **Personnel Transitions in State Arts Agencies**

When long-term personnel depart, that departure provides both challenges and opportunities. How have the executive directors in the WESTAF-region capitalized on those transitions?

- Presentation by Mike Lange, Director of the Wyoming Arts Council
- Presentation by Loie Fecteau, Director, New Mexico Arts
- Group discussion

10:15 a.m. **Grants versus Direct Services, How are the Ratios Changing?**

Should state arts agencies be a public philanthropy or a service agency--or perhaps an information agency? While most arts agency leaders might prefer a robust grants budget if agency budgets remain flat, the value of grants continues to erode. At what point do we call it a day and redefine our central as being centered outside of grants?

- Presentation by Michael Faison, Director, Idaho Arts Commission
- Presentation by Gay Cookson, Director Utah Division of Arts and Museums
- Discussion

11:00 a.m. **WESTAF Planning for the Future**

- Erin Graham Incoming WESTAF Chair

12:00 Noon **Adjourn**

END