

Jennifer McCabe, PhD

Experience

April 2018-present

Executive Director & Chief Curator, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

SMoCA has an annual budget just under \$2 million, a staff of 10 core employees, and shares numerous services (development, marketing, finance, operations) with the parent organization of Scottsdale Arts. In my role as Executive Director I have increased admissions revenue 150% over five years, increased foundation, government, and corporate contributions by 135% (significant grants from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Institut Francais, National Endowment for the Arts, and Wells Fargo to name a few), developed museum-specific membership programs for cultivation (Member-only preview days, SMoCA in the Studio events), garnered international art world press (*Artforum*, *Art Papers*), national art world press (*Southwest Contemporary*, *Forbes*, *Visual Art Source*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Indian Country Today*), as well as significant local press (*NPR/KJZZ*, *Arizona Republic*, *Modern Luxury*), while positively weathering the ongoing pandemic without losing staff. When budgets decreased by 25%, I reshaped the exhibition schedule to maintain the highest exhibition standards with considerably less funding. Originated exhibitions with leading contemporary artists, such as Teresa Baker, Diedrick Brackens, Candice Breitz, Ana Teresa Fernandez, Carla Fernandez, Maria Hupfield, Brad Kahlhamer, Shizu Saldamando, Zineb Sedira, Phillip K. Smith III, Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, and Pedro Reyes to name a few.

Ensure programmatic excellence through workshops, artist talks, and special events. Developed free Second Saturday Family days that include family-friendly art making activities. Changed focus for Curator of Programming to Curator of Engagement and Digital Initiatives. Strengthened collaboration with Scottsdale Arts' Learning and Innovation department resulting in "Smart Space" activity space to accompany all exhibitions, in addition to enhanced gallery guides, as well as new programming for teens and older adults. Assure quality and efficacy of operations. Introduced online ticketing system, including advanced, timed tickets and developed and hired for a new position to lead visitor engagement (admissions, retail, and gallery attendees). Deepen and refine all aspects of communication from website and social media to press releases and emails, with the goal of strengthening the identity to resonate in both the local and international community.

Focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility: renewed the mission statement in collaboration with staff and advisory council, introduced a land acknowledgement in the museum, instituted Spanish language translations for gallery didactics, and am currently working on handicapped accessible restrooms, in addition to a gender-free restroom. Over the last five years 60% of solo exhibitions featured Latinx or Indigenous artists and 90% featured BIPOC artists.

September 2016-April 2018

Curator of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

Worked with Director and Chief Curator to develop and implement original and innovative exhibitions and programming designed to bring diverse and engaged visitors to the museum. Secured funding to support two years of exhibitions from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, in addition to funding from the Goldschmidt Foundation and Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation. Curated exhibitions with Guadalajara-based artist Luis Alfonso Villalobos and Mexico City-based artists Carla Fernandez and Pedro Reyes, as well as oversaw traveling exhibitions including *Marking the Infinite: Contemporary Women Artists from Aboriginal Australia* and solo exhibitions with Lydia Okumura and Belkis Ayón.

December 2012-December 2016

Independent Consultant/Writer

Provided services to artists that included grant writing, research, editing, and presentations. Clients included Randy Colosky, Desirée Holman, Margo Margewska, Gregory Sale, and Merav Tzar.

October 2007-December 2012 Executive Director/Chief Curator, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, San Francisco

Worked with the Board of Directors to balance the budget and increase the visibility of the Museum through annual fundraisers and events. During tenure, experienced increases in attendance, board giving, general donations, foundation and government grants, as well as earned revenues, while decreasing expenses. Reconnected with museum founder, resulting in renewed interest and significant annual donations (\$150,000+). Received first time funding for the museum from Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts (\$80k over 2 years).

Responsible for the programmatic vision and financial strategies of every aspect of the Museum, including Exhibitions and Public Programs, the Education program, the Museum store, Marketing and the Development department. Developed, curated, and implemented a new museum program (exhibitions and events) that incorporated traditional crafts and folk art with contemporary artists in order to increase attendance and better connect with the local artist community. Partnered with e-commerce company, Etsy, to create a public program that broadened our audiences to include the “maker community.” *Craft Bar* received much local press and I presented at American Alliance of Museums conference on the success of the program. Received *New York Times* press on exhibition with local artist Clare Rojas. Curated and oversaw exhibitions with artists such as Michael Arcega, Randy Colosky, Sister Corita, Harrell Fletcher, Clare Rojas, Eduardo Sarabia, Bonnie Ora Sherk, Mike Shine, as well as a significant community collaborations with the Filipino Community Center and Creative Growth Arts Center, serving artists with intellectual and physical disabilities.

September 2004-October 2007 Assistant Director/Development Director, New Langton Arts, San Francisco

Worked with the Executive Director, Board of Directors, and staff to maintain the mission and vision of the organization, including curating exhibitions, producing public programs, as well as development activities such as grant writing, membership campaigns, and fundraising events. Organized, coordinated, and oversaw the annual benefit dinner and live art auction for three years. Supervised a staff of three: curatorial associate, gallery manager, and preparator.

Selected Exhibitions

transfeminisms, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and Mimosa House (London), co-curated with Maura Reilly, Daria Kahn, Christine Eyene, and Francesca Cubillo, September 2024

Dorothy Fratt: Color Mirage, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, September 2023

In Our Time: Selections from the Iris and Adam C. Singer Collection, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, October 2022

Phillip K. Smith III: 3 Parallels, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, October 2022

Division of Labor: Women Shifting a Transnational Gaze, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, February 2021

Beyond: Works by Barbara Stauffacher Solomon and Nellie King Solomon, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, September 2020

Counter-Landscapes: Performative Actions from 1970-Now, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, October 2019

Shizu Saldamando, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, May 2019

Now Playing: Video 1999-2019, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, February 2019

Double Agents: Carla Fernandez and Pedro Reyes, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, October 2018

Luis Alfonso Villalobos, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, February 2018

Fiat Lux: Randy Colosky New Works, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, November 2011

Volver: Mexican Folk Art into Play, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, September 2010

Inside/Outside: Artist Environments, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, February 2009

The Shape of Things: Paper Traditions and Transformations, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, November 2008

Supernatural: Nate Boyce, Misako Inaoka, Kei Ito, and Kristina Lewis, Queens Nails Annex, September 2007

Trust Me, Tony Labat, New Langton Arts, September 2005

Django Chapel Mary Elizabeth Yarbrough and Jarrett Mitchell and *Psyche Wall*, Jacob Hartman, New Langton Arts, July 2005

Organum, Greg Niemeyer, New Langton Arts, April 2005

New Langton Arts Annual Art Auctions (featuring Bruce Conner, Jenny Holzer, David Ireland, Ed Ruscha, Robert Wilson, among others), December 2004-2007

Selected Publications

Dorothy Fratt: Color Mirage, Radius Books, September 2023

In Our Time: Selections from the Singer Collection, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, February 2023

Counter-Landscapes: Performative Actions from 1970-Now, PhD Dissertation, Arizona State University, May 2020

Still Tickin': Betye Saar, *Panorama Journal*, June 2016

Leslie Shows: Surfacing at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, DailyServing.com, 2014

Carrie Marill: Domesticated at Lisa Sette Gallery, DailyServing.com, 2014

Fiat Lux: Randy Colosky New Works, published December 2011

The Value of Weaving: Maximo Gonzalez, FiberArts magazine, spring 2011

10 Must See Places for Art in San Francisco, ArtInvestor magazine, Germany, fall 2010

Expanding the Artistic Practice: Nava Lubelski, The Present Group essay, fall 2010

Monuments in Textiles: Mung Lar Lam, catalog essay, Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, 2008

8th Havana Biennial, December 2003, Stretcher: Visual Culture in the Bay Area and Beyond

Boundaries in Contemporary Art: Ghada Amer, Shirin Neshat, and Shahzia Sikander, San Francisco State University MA thesis, December 2004

Teaching

2014-present	Introduction to Global Museums Developed and continue to teach a required course for Museum Studies degree	Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
2007-2009	<i>Contemporary Art and Critical Thinking</i> , Developed and taught a graduate seminar	Mills College, Oakland, CA
2006	<i>Art after 1945</i> Developed and taught this survey course	San Francisco State University
2004	<i>History of Modern Art</i> Developed and taught this survey course	City College of San Francisco

Education

2020	PhD, Design, Environment, and the Arts, (History, Theory, and Criticism), Arizona State University, <i>Counter-Landscapes: Performative Actions from 1970-Now</i> , with advising committee Betsy Fahlman, Meredith Hoy, and Dominic Willsdon
2003	Master of Arts in Art, San Francisco State University, "Boundaries in Contemporary Art: Shahzia Sikander, Ghada Amer, Shirin Neshat, with advisor Whitney Chadwick
1996	Bachelor of Fine Arts, Photography, Arizona State University

Professional Affiliations, Juries, and Lectures

Interview, Fran Leibowitz, February 2022, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

Juror, Art Link exhibition, March 2019

Interview, Tania Katan, February 2019, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

Member, Association of Art Museum Curators, since 2016

Member, Southeastern College Art Conference, since 2016

Lecture, *Creating Community*, American Alliance of Museums Annual Conference, 2012

Chair of Executive Committee of Northern California Chapter of ArtTable, a national organization for women leaders in the visual arts (2008-2009)