

# IdeasCity

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Cass Nakashima  
Charles Ilehie  
Charles Perry  
Darryl Rawls  
Daune Smith  
Dave Ricca  
David Henry King  
Devita Davison  
Donell Studstill  
Dong-Ping Wong  
dream hampton  
Fox

Halima Cassells  
Hannah Dewhirst  
Hazel Balaban  
ill/invincible  
Jennifer Ross  
Jenny Lee  
Jessica Kwok  
Jessica Wildman  
Jonathan Perry  
Joshua Longsdorf  
Kate Bordine  
Keith Perry  
Laeticia Perry  
Linda Campbell  
Lucy Mcfadzean  
Malik Yakini  
Mandisa Smith  
Megan Thompson  
Meiko Krishok  
Michelle Martinez  
Mohamod Rahman  
Mohmed A. Aljahmi  
Monique Tate

# Thank You

Nasser Qasem  
Nathan Richardson  
Nathaniel Mullen  
Oana Stanescu  
Peter Hammer  
Piper Carter  
Randy Jackson  
Rashida Tlaib  
Reginald Perry  
Ron Castellano  
Ross Exo Adams  
Ryan Gumbleton  
Saeed Ahmed  
Saim Shams  
Satori Shakoor  
Sharon Howell  
Simeon Heyer  
Steve Radtke  
Tunde Wey  
Waajeed  
Waleed Alshimary  
Wesley Taylor

**IdeasCity** Detroit  
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[ideas-city.org](http://ideas-city.org)

IdeasCity is a collaborative, civic, and creative platform that starts from the premise that art and culture are essential to the future vitality of cities. This international initiative provides a forum for designers, artists, technologists, and policymakers to exchange ideas, identify challenges, propose solutions, and engage the public's participation. The initiative was cofounded by Lisa Phillips, *Toby Devan Lewis Director*, and Karen Wong, Deputy Director, the New Museum.

**NEW**  
235 BOWERY  
NEW YORK NY  
10002 USA  
**MUSEUM**

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Jam Handy 2900 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit

April 30, 2016

IdeasCity launched the initiative's first Studio Laboratory in Detroit. From April 25-30, 2016, Fellows lived and worked in the Herman Kiefer Complex—a former hospital in Virginia Park and one of Detroit's most iconic disused sites—transforming it into a hub of cultural activity. Led by Joseph Grima, this five-day residency brought together emerging practitioners who are working at the intersection of community activism, art, design, and technology and included site visits, lectures, and discussions with local experts and community members.

Founding support for IdeasCity  
**Goldman Sachs Gives** at the recommendation of  
**David B. Heller & Hermine Riegerl Heller**

Global Social Engagement Partner of IdeasCity  
**LUMA Foundation**

Major support for IdeasCity Detroit  
**John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

Additional support for IdeasCity Detroit  
**The Kresge Foundation**  
**Ford Foundation**  
**Lambent Foundation**

Fellowship Support for IdeasCity Detroit  
**US Embassy, Athens**

Special thanks  
Ron Castellano from **Studio Castellano**, architectural partner and **Floyd**, Detroit-based furniture company



Global Social Engagement Partner of IdeasCity:  
**LUMA Foundation**

Today, the notion of culture, nation, identity, society, and hospitality become essential points of examination for any institution outlining its place in the cultural realm. In the next ten years a cultural institution may need to re-define the parameters of its mission, whether it be to collect, to display, to disseminate and preserve, or to produce art and culture. In this process, hospitality and social engagement will stand side by side. "Hospitality", Jacques Derrida claims, "is culture itself and not simply one ethic among others." It is "The interruption of the self," thus naturally oriented towards the visitor, the guest, the foreigner. It does not go without risk taking and must redefine itself in an ongoing way. As Global Social Engagement Partner for IdeasCity, LUMA Foundation journeys outside the traditions of the institution, seeking ways to become inclusive and innovative, and to be inspired to write a new script for many hospitable programs and projects in the future. LUMA Foundation provides for the primary needs of a nomadic or ad hoc community whether it be generated by necessity or by design: private space for sleep. In the case of Detroit, the first *Sleeping Units* are for the program Fellows, and result from a first collaborative project between LUMA Foundations' experimental production lab, Atelier LUMA (based in Arles), LoFi and OpenStructures (based in Brussels).

## Fellows

Afaina de Jong, Amsterdam, NL	Kunal Gupta, New York, NY
Alethea Rockwell, Brooklyn, NY	Leonardo Aranda, Mexico City, MX
Ava Ansari, Groose Pointe Park, MI	Margarita Pournara, Athens, GR
Beverly Chou, Ann Arbor, MI	Marsha Music, Detroit, MI
Cara Michell, Silver Spring, MD	Merve Bedir, Rotterdam, NL
Carolyn Concepcion, New York, NY	Monty Luke, Detroit, MI
Cindy Lin, Ann Arbor, MI	Nick Axel, Rotterdam, NL
Claire Nowak-Boyd, Detroit, MI	Nikolas Ventourakis, Athens, GR
Daanish Masood, Riyadh, SA	Paolo Patelli, Eindhoven, NL
Ekene Ijeoma, Brooklyn, NY	Pinar Demirdağ, Paris, FR
Evelina Ozola, Cecis, LV	Ruhi Shamim, New York, NY
Fataah Dihaan, New York, NY	Ryan Myers-Johnson, Detroit, MI
Francesca Berardi, New York, NY	Shaida Ghomashchi, Tehran, IR
Gabriela Córdoba Vivas, Bogotá, CO	Stacy'e Jones, Highland Park, MI
Giuditta Vendrame, Eindhoven, NL	Tamara Jafar, Brooklyn, NY
Hallie Applebaum, Washington, DC	Taylor Aldridge, Detroit, MI
Jacob Rayford Jr, Detroit, MI	Tiff Massey, Detroit, MI
Jason Hilgefert, Rotterdam, NL	Tommy Haddock, San Francisco, CA
Jon Gray, Bronx, NY	Toms Kokins, Riga, LV
Joe Ahearn, Brooklyn, NY	Unai Reglero, Bogotá, CO

## Memorandum of Understanding

It is the express objective of IdeasCity Detroit, an initiative of the New Museum, New York, to honor and value the people of Detroit by retaining and utilizing both human and material resources that reflect the demographics of the City of Detroit.

The prioritization of small, minority or woman-owned businesses and services, as well those based in the communities of the IdeasCity Detroit Studio Laboratory, shall likewise be an objective of this collaboration between IdeasCity Detroit and IdeasCity Detroit Fellows.

In addition to this objective, IdeasCity Detroit is committed to inspiring community-created guidelines and projects for community benefit, and to creating a space to build respectful, meaningful, and lasting relationships that will foster creativity and connection among the Fellows, and in our respective cities worldwide.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Welcome by **Lisa Phillips**, *Toby Devan Lewis Director*, New Museum and **Joseph Grima**, IdeasCity Director

Introductions by **Rembert Browne** and **Maurice Cox**

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**SESSION 1 — ARTIST AS CATALYST: ENGAGING THE HOME, FROM INSTRUMENT OF DISPOSSESSION TO SITE OF URBAN RENEWAL**

Opening Keynote by **Theaster Gates**, artist

Talk by **Amanda Williams**, artist

Panel Discussion with **Michelle T. Boone**, **Theaster Gates**, **Joseph Grima**, **Jenny Lee**, and **Amanda Williams**

Presentations by Studio Laboratory Fellows

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM BREAK**

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**SESSION 2 — CAN ART BENEFIT A COMMUNITY? CULTURE, ACTIVISM, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Talk by **dream hampton**, filmmaker, writer, organizer

Panel Discussion with **Rembert Browne**, **Halima Cassells**, **dream hampton**, and **Sonya S. Mays**

Presentations by Studio Laboratory Fellows

**3:00 PM - 3:30 PM BREAK**

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

**SESSION 3 — THE NEW CIVIC LANDSCAPE: TOPOGRAPHIES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES FOR THE FUTURE CITY**

Talk by **Walter Hood**, designer, artist

Talk by **Charles Adler**, designer, Kickstarter cofounder

Talk by **Bryan Boyer**, strategic designer

Panel Discussion with **Ellie Abrons**, **Charles Adler**, **Bryan Boyer**, **Walter Hood**, and **Claire Weisz**

Presentations by Studio Laboratory Fellows

**Ellie Abrons** is Assistant Professor in Architecture at Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan. Her work has been exhibited at Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York; A/D Gallery, New York; and the Architectural Association, London. Abrons was recently selected, as part of the architectural practice T+E+A+M, to exhibit work in the US Pavilion at the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale.

**Charles Adler** is a Kickstarter cofounder, designer, and lifelong nomad. Previously he founded the web-based arts magazine *Subsistence* as well as Source-ID, a multi-disciplinary design studio. Since 1994, his work has centered on supporting independent creatives. The Center for Lost Arts, his next endeavor, continues this thread of empowering creativity. Lost Arts launches this summer in Chicago.

**Michelle T. Boone** is Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. As a member of the Mayor's cabinet, Boone is responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs that support Chicago's arts and culture sector and creative industries. Previously, Boone was Senior Program Officer for Culture at the Joyce Foundation and Director of Gallery 37, a program that provides job training in the arts to Chicago youth.

**Bryan Boyer** is a strategic designer with experience in public sector innovation, entrepreneurship, and contemporary architecture. Boyer cofounded Dash Marshall, a design consulting practice focused on strategy and urban innovation. Additionally, Boyer cofounded Makeshi Society Brooklyn and Helsinki Design Lab, and is on the Board of Directors at Public Policy Lab in New York.

**Rembert Browne** is Writer-at-Large at *New York* magazine, where he covers culture, entertainment, politics, and style. Browne contributes regularly to *Daily Intelligence*, *Vulture*, the *Cut*, and *New York* magazine's print edition. He has reported from the front line in Ferguson, MO, questioned President Obama on Air Force One, and moderated the Iowa Brown and Black Presidential Forum. From 2011 until 2015, Browne was a staff writer at *Grantland*.

**Halima Cassells** is a Detroit-based artist and community activist devoted to fostering community inter-connectivity. She designs spaces for authentic engagement, artistic expression, as well as engenders new economy practices. Cassells assumes leadership roles at Center for Community Based Enterprise, O.N.E. Mile Project, Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition, Incite Focus Fab Lab, North End Soup, and the Free Market of Detroit.

**Maurice Cox** is the Director of Planning and Development for the City of Detroit. Previously, he was Director of the Tulane City Center and Associate Dean for Community Engagement at the Tulane University School of Architecture in New Orleans. Additionally, Cox has served as Design Director of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC, where he led the selection of design grants and leadership programs such as the Mayors' Institute on City Design.

**Theaster Gates** is a Chicago-based artist who has developed an expanded practice that includes space development, object-making, and performance. He is Founder of the Rebuild Foundation and a professor in the Department of Visual Art and Director of the Arts and Public Life Initiative at the University of Chicago. Gates has exhibited his work and performed at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Punta della Dogana, Venice; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA; and dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany, among other venues.

**dream hampton** is a filmmaker, writer, and organizer who was born and raised in Detroit. hampton has contributed to magazines such as the *Village Voice*, the *Detroit News*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vibe* magazine, *Essence*, and *Ebony*, and collaborated with Jay Z on his best-selling book *Decoded*. She has directed the films "I Am Ali" and "Treasure: From Tragedy to Transjustice, Mapping a Detroit Story." hampton was also Coproducer of the show "Black GirlsRock!"

**Walter Hood** is an artist and designer based in Oakland, CA, whose work focuses on community development and sustainability. He is the founder of Hood Design; Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley; and the author of *Urban Diaries* and *Blues & Jazz Landscape Improvisations*. Hood has designed a landscape garden for the de Young Museum in San Francisco, a master plan for the Pittsburgh Park Conservancy, and a solar strip for the University at Buffalo, NY.

**Jenny Lee** is Executive Director of Allied Media Projects. From 2002 to 2010, Lee was a youth organizer for the community organization Detroit Summer under the mentorship of Grace Lee Boggs. She founded Detroit Digital Justice Coalition, a community organization that promotes the usage of media and technology in schools and neighborhoods across the city.

**Sonya S. Mays** is the President and CEO of Develop Detroit, a real estate and housing development company that focuses on the revitalization of Detroit neighborhoods. Mays has served as Senior Advisor to the Emergency Manager of Detroit and played a key role in guiding the city through the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history. In that position, she was responsible for a diverse range of legal, financial, operational, and economic development activities across Detroit's restructuring efforts.

**Amanda Williams** is an artist and architect based in Chicago. Her work spans the fields of painting, installation, and photography, and reflects the cultural relationship between color, race, and space. Williams has exhibited her work at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; the Chicago Architecture Biennial; Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago; and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; among other institutions. She is Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

**Claire Weisz** is a founding principal of WXY architecture + urban design. WXY's architecture and planning work for cities and with communities, is centered around the art of re-imagining infrastructure. Additionally, Weisz is cofounder of The Design Trust for Public Space. She is on the faculty at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service and a visiting critic of Urban Design at Cornell's College of Architecture, Art and Planning in New York.