The Future History of Public Art

The 17th Symposium of the Western States Arts Federation
Honolulu, Hawai‘i | November 5-7, 2017

Fact Sheet

Symposium Focus
The symposium will bring together artists, practitioners, critics, academics, and allied professionals to consider the future of the public art field. Participants will analyze current trends and future challenges and propose ways the field might develop to create a richer and more stable long-term infrastructure. The forum will inform WESTAF leadership as it considers ways to bolster its work in the public art field. Currently, WESTAF manages the Public Art Archive, an online resource that contains records in a searchable database of over 12,000 works of public art. The Archive is in the midst of a major expansion that will include the development of a collection-management tool for public art and the development of social media extensions that will increase knowledge of and access to public art.

Symposium Format
The symposium will feature 15 participants. The group is comprised of public art administrators, artists, critics, curators, planners, academics, and allied practitioners. Selected participants will make presentations of approximately 12-15 minutes on preassigned topics. Session presentations will be followed by comments from designated respondents. General discussion will conclude each symposium segment.

Pre-Symposium Workshop
In addition to the symposium, Forecast Public Art will lead a pre-symposium workshop with support from the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and WESTAF. The workshop is scheduled for Sunday, November 5, from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. The workshop will be focused on sparking conversations about the current concerns of practitioners and collaborators in the field. The session is designed to be an interactive discussion drawing questions and topics from the group with the hopes of a lively and fun afternoon of networking and sharing. Questions posed in the workshop may range from advocacy and engagement, racial equity and inclusion, best practices for community engagement, tools for broadening policy and funding mechanisms, public art in the media, and ways to increase opportunities for professional development. The workshop is available at no cost to registered symposium observers.
The Role of the Observer
Observers are encouraged to attend; however, space is limited. Observers are responsible for covering the cost of their own travel and lodging and are asked to pay a $185 fee to underwrite the cost of meals included in the event. Approximately 20-30 observers are expected to attend. Observers do not participate in the central symposium conversation. However, occasionally, the symposium moderator will elect to engage observers who may be invited to pose questions and/or comment. Please note, however, that such engagement is usually very limited. Observers are invited to participate in the pre-symposium workshop and will be seated among the core symposium participants at meals and encouraged to engage with them during the event’s related social events.

Persons interested in observing the symposium must register by Friday, September 15. Registered observers will be notified via email by Friday, September 22, and will receive additional details regarding their participation at that time. As with all previous WESTAF symposia, this gathering will have a life beyond the in-person meeting. As part of the symposium process, WESTAF prepares and publishes the symposium discussion in the form of proceedings. An online version of the proceedings will also be made available on the WESTAF website.

Schedule and Location
The symposium will open on Sunday, November 5, with a reception, dinner, and remarks by artist Candy Chang. A registration table will be located in the foyer of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel from 5:00–6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 5. Please check in at this table prior to dinner to pick up your name tag and other symposium-related materials if you have not done so at the preceding workshop.

All symposium sessions will take place in the Hawai‘i State Art Museum. Monday’s symposium program will begin at 9:00 a.m. A buffet-style lunch will be provided. Monday’s event will conclude at approximately 3:30 p.m. Tuesday’s symposium program will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Hawai‘i State Art Museum and will adjourn no later than noon.

Provided Meals
Observers are invited to join us on Sunday, November 5, for the opening cocktail reception and dinner featuring keynote speaker Candy Chang. On Monday, November 6, observers are invited to participate in a lunch at noon. Observers will also be invited to a cocktail reception on Monday, November 6, at a location to be determined.

Air Transportation and Lodging
Observers are responsible for arranging and covering all travel and lodging expenses. A special room rate for observers of $159 per night plus tax has been negotiated at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. Up to 30 rooms are available on a first-come first-served basis. In order to take advantage of this special rate, contact Lori Goldstein at Lori.Goldstein@westaf.org to make a reservation. Please note that the hotel has very high occupancy during this time and is likely to sell out rapidly.
**Ground Transportation and Parking**
Observers are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from all events. Transportation services such as Uber and Lyft are available in Honolulu. Please note that no special event parking is provided. The Sheraton Hotel offers self-parking service for $35 per vehicle and valet service for $45 per vehicle.

**Advance Readings**
The symposium leadership will work with the symposium participants to select readings related to the symposium subject matter. These readings will be posted on the WESTAF website for observers’ advance review. Observers will receive an email notification once the readings have been posted with information on how to access them.

For additional information, including the symposium announcement and list of participants, visit [www.westaf.org](http://www.westaf.org). If you have questions about the details presented here, please contact Lori Goldstein at Lori.Goldstein@WESTAF.org or (303) 629-1166.