



Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life

Imagining America Welcomes New National Advisory Board Members

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Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life is a Syracuse University-based consortium of colleges and universities committed to public scholarship in the arts, humanities, and design. *Imagining America's* National Advisory Board welcomes five new members. They are:

Carol Dandridge Charles, Managing Director of the Community Folk Art Center in Syracuse, began her Arts Administration career with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Dance Theatre of Harlem. She served as the Assistant Director of Communications for the City of Syracuse during Mayor Tom Young's administration. Charles has been honored by the YWCA and holds a position in the first Leadership Initiative for African American Museum Professionals.

Dudley Cocke, artistic director of Roadside Theater, a wing of Kentucky's Appalshop, has frequently collaborated on community-based projects with universities including Cornell, NYU, and William & Mary. He often speaks publicly about democratic cultural values, for example at Princeton University's 2004 Colloquium on Public and International Affairs and at the 2003 National Humanities Conference where he delivered the annual CAPPS Lecture. His policy writings have been published widely. For creating artistic opportunities with people whose stories have not been reflected in mainstream cultural institutions, Dudley received the 2002 Heinz Award for Arts and Humanities.

Gladstone "Fluney" Hutchinson, associate professor of economics and business and former Dean of Studies, Lafayette College, specializes in economic public sector economics in Latin America and the Caribbean. As dean, Fluney focused on the use of art and humanities based pedagogies to imbue in first year students a sense of intellectual citizenship and public purpose. Sekou Sundiata's "51st (dream) state" was brought into a residency at Lafayette as part of this program. A consulting scholar for *Imagining America's* National Tenure Team Initiative, Fluney's honors include Lafayette's 2001 Multicultural Award in recognition of outstanding service to international students and domestic students of color.

Pam Korza is Co-Director with Barbara Schaffer Bacon of Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts promoting civic engagement through the arts and culture. She was a co-writer and editor for Animating Democracy's books including *Civic Dialogue*, *Arts & Culture: Findings from Animating Democracy*; *Critical Perspectives: Writings on Art & Civic Dialogue*, as well as a five-book case study series. Pam partners with Barbara in organizational assessment and planning, program design,

and evaluation for cultural organizations, state arts agencies, and private foundations. Pam serves on the board of the Arts Extension Service at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

George Sanchez is Professor of American Studies, Ethnicity, and History at the University of Southern California. He is currently director of USC's Center for Diversity and Democracy. Author of *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (1993), he co-edits the book series, *American Crossroads: New Works in Ethnic Studies* (UC Press). He is currently studying ethnic interactions of Mexican Americans, Japanese Americans, African Americans, and Jews in the Boyle Heights area of East Los Angeles, California in the twentieth century.

The new appointments will help *Imagining America* improve its ability to connect the worlds of community and higher education. Sanchez has produced significant scholarship around diversity issues. Hutchinson recently involved students in a coffee-farming project in rural Honduras to imbue the values of self-agency and peaceful co-existence as villagers pursued self-empowering and wealth-creating economic activities. Charles, Cocke, and Korza are leaders in the public sector with long histories partnering with higher education around civic engagement. Korza states, "Imagining America is a vital organization catalyzing campuses and communities to dream and deal at new levels of relationship and outcomes – and through arts and culture. I'm thrilled to serve on the advisory board and be part of such a significant movement." It is an exciting time for *Imagining America* and its new director, Jan Cohen-Cruz, as the organization expands its membership and leadership programs across the nation.