

# Creative Borrowing: A Webinar

June 10, 2020

## Speaker and Presenter Bios



**MICHAEL FAISON** is the executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Faison previously served as the director of the Arts in Education Division of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the assistant director of the Oregon Arts Commission, and the executive director of the Center for Arts Management and Technology at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served as an information technology consultant for Pittsburgh's Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and was a high school art teacher in the Austin Independent School District, Austin, Texas. Faison is a member of the boards of the Western States Arts Federation, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University Alumni Association, and his local Rotary club. He holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree in arts management from Carnegie Mellon University, and multiple Texas teaching certifications.



**KAREN J. HANAN** is a senior executive with 25+ years of success providing leadership and managerial direction to state and regional arts service and presenting organizations. She was appointed Executive Director of ArtsWA (the WA State Arts Commission) by Governor Jay Inslee in 2014. As the agency's head, Karen's role is to grow the organization's capacity, services and potential for positively impacting the arts field, arts in education, the creative economy and the State. Previously, Karen was Executive Director of Arts Northwest, the regional service organization for performing arts organizations, arts presenters, artists, agents and associated organizations. Karen is a well-respected member of a number of industry organizations, and sits on several Boards of Directors including the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the Western States Arts Federation. She enjoys opportunities to be a speaker, panelist or event participant where the focus is an arts-related topic, or the creative economy.



**RICHARD LINZER** provides consultation for businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. He works with organizations in the areas of financial management, board development, group facilitation, institutional analysis, and strategic planning. Since 1965, Richard Linzer has consulted with over 500 businesses, agencies, and nonprofit institutions in the arts, education, health care, social services, the humanities, and environmental fields.

**ANNA LINZER** is a poet and writer. Her book of fiction, [GHOST DANCING](#), was published by Picador of St. Martin's Press and received an American Book Award. In addition, her poetry and

stories have appeared in literary magazines and anthologies, including Kenyon Review, Carolina Quarterly, PARIS, LA, and Blue Dawn, Red Earth



**BRIAN ROGERS**, a longtime arts and culture consultant, is executive director of the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust. He has led planning and facilitated retreats, with a focus on funding stabilization and grant programs, for several state arts agencies and multiple cultural organizations across the country. Rogers served as deputy executive director of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) for 16 years, where he was responsible for grant programs, financial oversight and the administration of the agency. He led development and implementation, through a public/private partnership, of the innovative and groundbreaking data collection and reporting tool, the “Cultural Data Project.” Rogers served on the governing body for the project and acted as the state’s task force manager. Rogers holds a bachelor’s in fine arts from Tyler School of Art at Temple University, where he majored in painting, and a master’s in fine arts from the Graduate School of Art at the University of Arizona.



**IRENE NAMKUNG** was born into the turbulent world of Japanese occupied Shanghai in 1943. She lived in Japan and Korea, before emigrating to the U.S. in 1949. Her talented parents were soon part of Seattle’s burgeoning cultural scene. The many artists and musicians who were regular visitors to her home were strong influences on Irene. At Reed College, Irene collaborated with a student/faculty board to present a diverse offering of artists including Julian Bream, Ravi Shankar, Mississippi Fred McDowell, and the Nomura Kyogen Theater. In 1966, Irene co-founded the Seattle Folklore Society to present traditional musicians. In 1971 Irene began a 14-year career as a professional studio potter, gaining board experience with the Portland Saturday Market and the Oregon Potters Association. In 1974, along with her life partner, John Ullman, Irene started Traditional Arts Services, a management company for traditional musicians. Their roster included Bill Monroe, Queen Ida, Mike Seeger, and Elizabeth Cotten. At booking conferences Irene pioneered in independent showcasing. She eventually became president of the Western Arts Alliance board. In 1991, Irene joined the board of Northwest Folklife, a four-day festival with 200,000 attendees. In 1996, the Folklife board realized the organization was in financial trouble and asked Irene to become president. By the end of the 1998 festival, it was clear that Folklife was close to insolvency. With Richard Linzer’s help, Irene instituted a Credit Holders program which saved Folklife from a half-million-dollar debt.



**STUART WEISER**, Deputy Director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts, has a career in the nonprofit arts spanning nearly four decades. A musician by training, Mr. Weiser has managed symphony orchestras in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Oregon. He has also served on the staff of the New Jersey Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, and Aspen Music Festival, was Development Director of the Boise Philharmonic, and for seven years was conductor of Opera Idaho’s summer parks performances. In addition to his work in the symphony world, Mr. Weiser has also managed the Eichelberger Performing Arts

Center, an 800-seat historic theatre in Hanover, PA. Mr. Weiser holds a BA from the State University of New York College at Fredonia, and a Master of Science degree in Leadership and Business Ethics from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He has lived in Boise for 12 years and is a frequent guest speaker on the topics of fundraising, finance, board development, and the economic impact of the nonprofit arts.