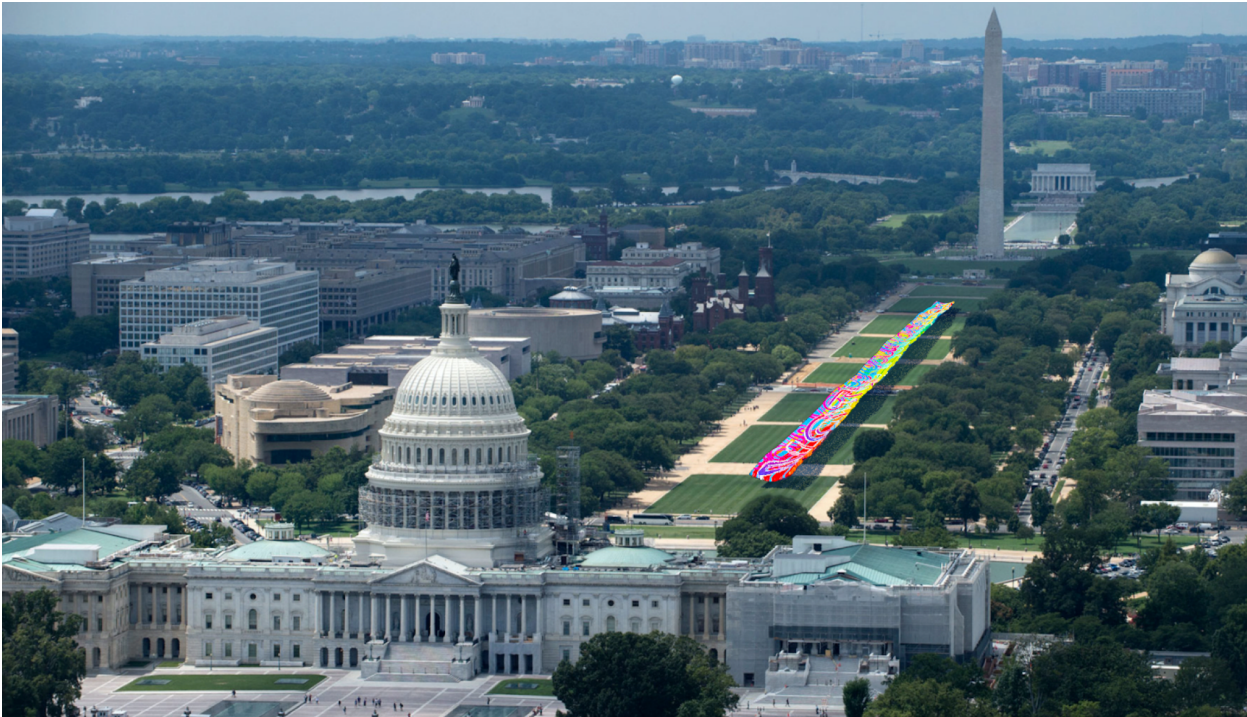


CHANGE IN THE AIR

AMERICAN ARTIST PATRICK SHEARN FORMS MULTIDISCIPLINARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO PROPEL AMBITIOUS, CULTURALLY RELEVANT PUBLIC ARTWORK



(Los Angeles, October 27, 2021) — Artist **Patrick Shearn**, known for his immersive, kinetic series of floating public artworks has embarked on a highly ambitious plan to create a monumental, participatory work, [Change In The Air](#), that will be installed in Washington, DC. Today Shearn announced the formation of the *Change In The Air* Advisory Committee that will guide the project forward and which is comprised of ten influential and multidisciplinary visual arts and cultural leaders, **Paul Clemente, Madeline Di Nonno, James Fugate, Nora Halpern, Souris Hong, Jody Levy, Esther Park, Wendy Posner, Zahra Rasool** and **Raymond Leon Roker**.

Change In The Air, the free and publicly accessible, collaborative artwork visualizes urgent socio-political issues facing underrepresented communities with the piece itself an amalgamation of hundreds of thousands of handwritten messages submitted by the public from across the country.

Shearn is drawing on a myriad of diverse perspectives to physically realize the 20,000 square foot work as well as his vision of a non-partisan, grassroots, GOTV coalition of community leaders and organizations including **Vote.org, When We All Vote** and **National Registration Day** to call awareness to one of the most important ways people make their voices heard in a democratic society—voting.

“I believe strongly in art’s unique ability to be a catalyst for change, spark collaborations, foster dialogue, and open hearts and minds,” said Shearn, who has earned renown for his installations at various locations in the U.S. and abroad, including Germany following the fall of the Berlin Wall through his studio, **Poetic Kinetics**.

“I’m looking to harness that energy to bring new voters into the democratic process in an immersive and exciting way with the guidance of a brain trust that comes from the worlds of music, media, art and entertainment and leadership,” he continued.

CHANGE IN THE AIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paul Clemente, *Art Director, Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival*

Paul Clemente worked in visual effects in New York City and Los Angeles for more than 15 years and was part of the team that created the ground-breaking and Academy Award-winning visual effects for *The Matrix*. Since 2007,

Paul has worked for the Los Angeles-based music promoter Goldenvoice as the art director of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

Madeline Di Nonno, *President and CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media and Founding Member of VoteAsIf.org*

Madeline Di Nonno leads the Institute's strategic direction, fundraising, Diversity & Inclusion programs, research, financial and operational activities. Di Nonno is an executive producer on the Emmy-nominated, People's Choice and Gracie award-winning television series "Mission Unstoppable" and the Gracie award-winning feature film documentary "This Changes Everything." Previously, Di Nonno served in executive leadership positions for Anchor Bay Entertainment/Starz Media, Nielsen Entertainment, Hallmark Channel, Universal Studios Home Entertainment and ABC Television Network. Di Nonno is a U.S. State Department Speaker Specialist, public speaker and moderator who has appeared at AdWeek, Cannes Lions, Chatham House, CES, London Film Festival, New Zealand Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, The White House, UNESCO and the United Nations. Di Nonno is an appointed Arts Commissioner of the Los Angeles County Arts Department; serves on the board of directors for the Television Academy Foundation and Friends of the Erben Organ. Di Nonno is on the advisory board for the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. She holds a bachelor's degree from Boston University. **@madelinedinonno**

James Fugate, *Founder of Eso Won Books*

James Fugate is the founder and co-owner of Eso Won Books, one of the largest Black-owned bookstores in the U.S. Fugate grew up in Detroit and began managing the college bookstores at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee and Compton College in Los Angeles, CA, right after he graduated from the University of Michigan at Dearborn. In 1990, Fugate and two business partners rented a small store and officially opened Eso Won Books on Slauson Avenue. Now located in the Leimert Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, Eso Won Books has seen a parade of prominent Black authors come through its doors for book signings, such as Muhammad Ali, President Barack Obama, Toni Morrison, Walter Mosley and Ta-Nehisi Coates in its 30-year history. **@esowonbooks**

Nora Halpern, *Vice President of Leadership Alliances, Americans for the Arts, and Independent Curator*

Halpern has worked in arts policy for more than two decades in addition to her longtime role as a curator. A member of the Arts Commission of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences, Halpern was founding director of the art museum at Pepperdine University and curator of the Frederick R. Weisman Collections, in Los Angeles. She is co-founder of the public arts initiative, Street Scenes: Projects for DC and was curator of *Anton's Memory*, a 2009 retrospective exhibition of Yoko Ono in Venice, Italy. In 2020, Halpern was part of the collective of curators for *Artists Band Together*, a project which produced 15 artist-designed bandanas that were sold to benefit not-for-profits focused on expanding voter registration and election turnout. Halpern has lectured internationally on modern and contemporary art as well as arts policy and has written for national and international publications.

@nora.halpern

Souris Hong, *Founder, Creative Cabal*

Souris is the co-founder of Creative Cabal, a visual artist advisory and creative agency that balances commercial projects with purpose-driven work. The New York Times bestselling author of *Outside the Lines: An Artists' Coloring Book for Giant Imaginations* and *Outside the Lines Too: An Inspired and Inventive Coloring Book* by Creative Masterminds, Souris helped launch MOCAtv, the first dedicated art channel on YouTube's Original Channels. Souris serves on the Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design and The ACTION Project boards and volunteers as a grant panelist for the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. She has been a member of numerous arts and culture committees, including The Other Art Fair and Hammer K.A.M.P. Souris earned a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science from Boston University. **@souris**

Jody Levy, *Partner, Global Director & CEO, SUMMIT*

Jody Levy is an artist, designer, director, educator, entrepreneur, executive and investor. Jody is the founder, creative director and Chief Executive Officer of a handful of companies dedicated to empowering people to be as healthy and happy as possible. Levy is the Global Director and Chief Executive Officer of SUMMIT, a brand and series of companies committed to supporting the global maker economy. Levy is a partner, advisor and investor in many category-disrupting brands and companies connected to the wellness lifestyle space emphasizing the power of self-care as a tool for optimizing happiness and purpose. This includes companies that focus on biohacking, clean energy, personalized medicine, alternative wellness, sustainable fitness, clean food and more.

@nativenomad

Esther Park, *Vice President of Programming at Oolite Arts*

Esther Park is Oolite Arts Vice President of Programming. Since arriving in Miami in 2003, Park has specialized in developing unique programming aimed at drawing new and diverse audiences. A long-time music journalist, she

has also served as director of programming for the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and for MOCA. She has served as director of alumni and public programs at the National YoungArts Foundation. While there, she helped YoungArts create programming for its Biscayne Boulevard campus, turning it into a community gathering space for “Outside the Box,” an innovative outdoor performance series, and the YoungArts Salon Series, which featured intimate discussions among art world luminaries. Park has a bachelor’s degree in Radical Political Economy in Mass Media Culture from Mount Holyoke College. **@parkesta**

Wendy Posner, CEO of Posner Fine Art

Wendy Posner grew up in the fine art business in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After graduating from Boston University, Posner moved to Los Angeles where she worked for a number of galleries and art consulting firms. In 2014, she acquired PFA as principal, having honed her skills there for over 20 years. With an ever-growing global roster of artists, publishers and galleries, Posner excels at building relationships with both established art stars and undiscovered new talent. An avid traveler, Wendy Posner has journeyed to over 25 countries where she regularly attends art fairs, makes studio visits and treks to far-flung places. Her quest for unique art and artifacts for her clients provides the inspiration that only comes from experiencing creativity in action and in person. **@wposner**

Zahra Rasool, Head of AJ Contrast, Al Jazeera Digital

Zahra Rasool is a two-time Emmy-nominated producer, director, writer and media entrepreneur whose storytelling and innovation centers marginalized communities and people of color. Still Here, her most recent work about incarceration and gentrification in Harlem premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Throughout 10 years of her career, Zahra has directed, written and produced numerous documentaries and creative fiction projects, as well as advertising campaigns and immersive experiences. In May 2017, she created and launched the storytelling and innovation studio, AJ Contrast; part of Al Jazeera Media Network. She was given a Gracie for Best National Online Producer by the Alliance of Women in Media Foundation (2021) along with 20 other awards that include an NABJ Award, Amnesty Media Award, RTDNA Award and two Online Journalism Awards (OJA). Zahra’s films have been screened at over 40 international film festivals including at Sundance, Sheffield DocFest and Berlinale. **@xaara**

Raymond Leon Roker, Global Head of Editorial, Amazon Music

Raymond Leon Roker is the Global Head of Editorial at Amazon Music. He is a globally-recognized industry leader and pioneering media executive who brings deep strategic and creative production expertise to top content-driven brands at the epicenter of music and culture. As a creator, executive producer, and collaborator, he is driven to tell stories that reflect culture and movements, voices, sounds, and communities. Roker believes in shining the truest light possible and providing meaningful narratives around people and products. Across a diverse mix of brand and editorial work, his career has spanned indie and major publishing launches to agency and studio ventures, and a vast array of original productions. **@raymondroker**

ABOUT PATRICK SHEARN

Patrick Shearn is an American artist based in Los Angeles, specializing in larger-than-life, immersive public art installations. The artist’s signature kinetic sculptures, called Skynets, earned him international renown after the debut of “Liquid Shard” enamored the city of Los Angeles. The installation transformed an underused public square in the heart of downtown into a bustling destination overnight. Shearn has since brought Skynet installations to various locations in the U.S. and abroad where viewers are invariably compelled to slow down and take time to follow the undulating movement of the artworks, which appear to hang in thin air.

Shearn’s expertise in animatronics, robotics and visual effects—gleaned from a 30-year tenure in the film industry as a creature maker and visual effects supervisor—has lent traction to a prolific career as creative director for his studio Poetic Kinetics. Under Shearn’s guiding vision, Poetic Kinetics has designed, fabricated, and implemented a wide range of projects that encourage audience participation—from interactive projection mapping and pyrotechnics to enormous mobile sculptures that interactively engage the immediate public and reach viral notoriety on social media.

See additional information about Change in the Air at <https://changeintheair.org> **Follow @poetickinetics**

Image: Rendering of *Change In The Air* (2022), courtesy Patrick Shearn/Poetic Kinetics.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Lyn Winter, Inc.

Lyn Winter, 213-446-0788 lyn@lynwinter.com

Denise Sullivan, 305-804-3026 denise@lynwinter.com

Brianna Bakke, 213-293-9604 brianna@lynwinter.com

DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS

Ce Consulting

Consuelo Eckhardt, chelo@cheloekhardt.com

Carla Eckhardt, carla.eckhardt@gmail.com

STUDIO CONTACTS

Marnie Sehayek, Poetic Kinetics Creative Producer + Artist Manager, 323-230-8556 Ext.703,

marnie@poetickinetics.com