

## **Jane Przybysz, Ph.D.**

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **April 2011-present, Executive Director, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina**

- Led effort to stage first McKissick exhibit at Columbia, SC airport (2011)
- Spearheaded McKissick's first-time participation in annual Artista Vista gallery crawl by engaging guest curator to commission six public art installations exploring the role of art in place-making and community building (2012)
- McKissick's "Public Hearth" project proposal recognized by EmcArts, the American Association of Museums, and Met Life as an "Innovative Project of Excellence" (2012)
- McKissick secures \$77,685 Institute for Museum & Library Services grant (2013)
- McKissick awarded \$25,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant for *Discovering Community Through Traditional Arts* (2013)
- McKissick awarded \$20,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant for *Heard at Every Turn: Traditional Music in South Carolina* (2015)
- Curated *Crafting Civil (War) Conversations*, a juried exhibit of contemporary craft marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Civil War (2015)
- Awarded Fulbright Research Fellowship, Arts Academy Lodz, Poland, to study the post-WWII crafts revival (April-August 2015)
- Rudy Mancke Curator of Natural History Endowment Fund established with \$40,000 gift to commemorate the Museum's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2016)
- McKissick & partners awarded \$83,500 ASPIRE Research Grant (2016)
- McKissick awarded \$150,000 NEH Creating Humanities Communities Challenge Grant (2017)
- McKissick awarded \$20,000 NEA Artworks Grant (2018)
- Curator, *Place It/Face It: Pottery by Eugene* (opening August 2018)

#### **November 1998-March 2011, Executive Director, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles**

Responsible for building the board; doubling the operating budget; managing and professionalizing the staff; leading change in organizational culture to foster a more team- and metrics-based approach to program planning and evaluation; growing multi-cultural programming via strategic partnerships with other non-profit organizations; and forging a new model for how small-to-mid-sized nonprofit organizations can achieve an ownership interest in their facilities. Undertook & completed facility project to renovate historic building as SJMQT's permanent home in San Jose's downtown arts district. Co-curated first exhibit of contemporary Chinese fiber art in the US in partnership with the Fiber Arts Program at Tsinghua University, Beijing. Curated *Contradictory Comforts: Women and Their Quilts, 1914-1945*, based on faculty grant-funded research at University of South Carolina.

### **PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

*"Place-Based Art: Post WWII Polish Textiles*, forthcoming presentation at Textile Society of

America Symposium, Vancouver, BC, September 2018

***“Preface,” Revisiting “I Made This Jar: The Life and Works of the Enslaved African-American Potter, Dave,*** forthcoming collection of essays, University of South Carolina Press.

Presenter, ***Modeling Dramatic, Literary & Advocacy Options***, Civil Rights Champions Colloquium, Wed., May 25, 2016.

***“Lineage and Legacies: Two Generations of Textile Art at Arts Academy, Lodz, 1963-2014,”*** exhibition review published in anniversary exhibition catalog, Arts Academy, Lodz, 2016.

***“Cepelia Revisited,”*** article about the role that a communist government agency played in the revival of craft in post-WWII Poland; published fall 2015 inaugural publication of Arts Academy Lodz, Poland.

***Crafting Civil (War) Conversations***, juried contemporary art exhibition, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, February 2-May 30, 2015.

***“Nat Fuller’s Feast,”*** the culminating exhibit-related public program staged in connection with *Crafting Civil (War) Conversations*, honoring the courage of Charleston’s premiere pre-Civil War caterer and chef—Nat Fuller. Fuller was enslaved, yet achieved mastery of French cooking techniques and had his own restaurant in downtown Charleston. Within weeks of the end of the War, he hosted what one participant observed was a “misegenated” feast—a meal at which white and black folk shared a meal at the same table.

***“The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum as Social Entrepreneur,”*** a presentation at the Southeastern Museums Conference, Savannah, GA, October 2013.

***Juror’s Statement***, exhibition catalog, ***Quilt Visions 2012: Brainstorms***, Visions Art Museum, San Diego, CA.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Accreditation Review, American Alliance of Museums, Michigan State University, 2017.

Advisory Board, South Carolina Arts Commission’s ***Promise Zone Project***, 2016 to present. This federally-funded program seeks to leverage community-specific arts and culture to promote economic development in rural communities.

Founding Board Member & Treasurer, ***Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Foundation***, a 501©3 organization formed to serve as a fiscal agent for the federally appointed Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, July 2012 to 2017.

Associate, ***Preston College***, Fall 2011-2017, serving as an informal mentor to students

admitted to Preston College at the University of South Carolina.

Member, then Chair, *USC Press Committee*, Fall 2011-2017, reviewing and responding to book proposals under consideration by USC Press.

Accreditation Reviewer, Alliance for American Museums, Weatherspoon Art Museum, March 2 – 3, 2015