



Multidisciplinary Level 3

Panelist Bios

Margot Emery **Palm Beach County**

- Managing Director of the Core Ensemble, Lake Worth, FL
- Former Development Director for the USS Constitution Museum, Boston, MA
- Former Director of Development Services for the Palm Beach County Cultural Council
- Former Palm Beach Development Manager for the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra
- Studied at Laval University in Quebec City, Canada and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria

Joan Friedman **St. Lucie County**

- Executive Director, Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Fort Pierce, FL
- Skilled in grant writing and management, with a certification from Grant Writing USA
- Has raised over \$1.5 million in state and federal funds throughout her career

Natalie Kennedy

- Director of Statewide Engagement, Bell Museum, St. Paul, MN
- Co-founder and Chair, Minnesota Access Alliance
- Board Member, Walker West Music Academy
- Former Program Officer and Accessibility Coordinator, Minnesota State Arts Board

Paula Parrish **Pinellas County**

- Director of Administration & Human Resources, Morean Arts Center
- Former Assistant Director, Finance and Administration, The Ringling
- MBA, Management, University of South Florida

Carol Velasques Richardson
Alachua County

- News and Public Affairs Director, WUBA 88.1 FM
- Board Member, Arts Council of Alachua County
- Board Member, City of Alachua Recreation and Culture
- Former Board Member, City of Gainesville Department of Cultural Affairs
- Program Coordinator, A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center

Ann Schmidt
Miami-Dade County

- Former Director of Special Events, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Miami, FL
- Coordinated “Night Under the Kampong Moon” at The Kampong, National Tropical Botanical Garden (Miami, FL), featuring Gamelan musician and puppetry
- Coordinated the International Bamboo Festival at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Jane Thayer
Miami-Dade County

- Program Manager at Artists in Residence in Everglades
- Former Artistic Program Coordinator and Production Manager at the National YoungArts Foundation in Miami, FL
- 10+ years of experience in planning, producing, and managing artistic events
- Bachelor’s degree in Theatre from Goucher College, Baltimore, MD; Master’s degree in Theatre Practice from the University of Exeter, Devon, England