



Kate Fleming is the founder and director of Bridge Initiative , a nonprofit that bridges art and science to create public art for environmental advocacy. The organization came to fruition in 2015 after Fleming’s explorations in Antarctica enabled her to witness the enduring impact of climate change. Fleming’s mission became to synchronize art and advocacy for a positive impact. Through Fleming’s leadership, Bridge Initiative has collaborated with artists, scientists, and disruptors to create immersive educational campaigns that highlight facets of the climate crisis within localized and global environments. In her capacity as a creative community leader, Fleming currently serves as an advisor for [The ReefLine](#), an environmentally functioning artwork, artificial reef, and public park proposed to run 7 miles along Miami Beach’s shoreline. This project will provide a habitat for endangered reef organisms and enhance coastal resilience through its interactive installations. Fleming’s advocacy work has led to additional ongoing partnerships with artists, designers, and environmental groups such as OMA, Coral Morphologic, NOAA, Michele Oka Doner, Orlando Estrada, Alaska Whale Foundation, Path of the Panther, National Geographic, The Everglades Foundation, University of Miami, and Mission Blue among others.

Prior to her environmental advocacy work, Fleming graduated from Parsons School of Design in New York City. She worked as a creative director, entrepreneur, and advisor in the luxury fashion sector, establishing a foundation in design that would later prove instrumental in her mission to bring awareness to the global climate crisis through the arts.



Loni Johnson is a multi-disciplinary visual artist born and raised in Miami, FL. As an artist, educator, mother and activist, Ms. Johnson understands that as artists, there is a cyclical obligation to give back and nurture our communities with her creative gift and it must be utilized to better our world. Through movement and ritual, the artist creates healing spaces for Black women and explores how ancestral and historical memory informs how, when and where we enter and claim spaces. Ms. Johnson graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from SUNY at Purchase College School of Art and Design.

Selected exhibitions and performances include: Remnants at Locust Projects, Miami, Making Visible: The Studio Archives of Chire Regans and Loni Johnson, WAAM at Dimensions Variable, Miami (2020); Say Their Names, Chire Regans/Vanta Black Memorial Mural Project Unveiling, Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami (2020); Performans Fanm/Global Borderless Caribbean XII: Focus Miami, Little Haiti Cultural Arts Center, Miami (2020); Homegoing, NADA Art Fair, Miami (2017); Offerings III, Bas Fisher Invitational and O'Miami, Miami (2017); Offerings II, Common Field Convening, Miami (2016).

Johnson is the Lead Coordinator of Art Detectives-an arts education program rooted in the framework of Social Justice at Perez Art Museum (PAMM) Miami, Prevention Coordinator of youth arts prevention program at Concept Health Systems, and Chairperson for the National Visual Arts Selection Panel for National YoungArts Foundation. Johnson is one of the founders of Miami Melanated Arts- a collective of Black artists who are creating space to reimagine what effective and impactful Arts eco-systems in South Florida could be. She continues to work with community organizations such as Girl Power, S.O.U.L Sisters Leadership Collective, and Voices United by providing youth the opportunities to find and nurture their identities and creative voices. She received a Knight Champion Award in 2019 and is a frequent guest speaker, lecturer, facilitator, and performer.



Dejha Carrington is an arts worker and co-founder of Commissioner. Her work focuses on supporting artists and building models for access in the arts.

In 2017, Dejha co-founded Commissioner, an art membership program that helps people collect the work of contemporary artists in their cities. Inspired by African, Caribbean, and women-led savings strategies, Commissioner uses group economics to commission visual artists. In addition to running Commissioner, she consults on strategic planning, programming, and storytelling for organizations and social impact initiatives. From 2015 to 2022, Dejha served as Vice President of Strategic Communications for YoungArts, the national foundation for the advancement of artists. Previously, she led outreach and public relations for projects with Kimball Art Museum, the Medellin Biennial in Colombia, and National Film Board of Canada.

Dejha is a board trustee of MAP Fund (known initially as the Multi-Arts Production Fund) and a professional advisory committee member of Miami-Dade Art In Public Places and New York University's Center for Global Black Studies. She shares her time with The Black School and Artists in Residence in the Everglades (AIRIE). A Montreal native and McGill University graduate, Dejha calls Miami her home base.



Athalie Edwards is the Executive Director of the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust. At its helm, Athalie's focus is on strategic oversight and the revitalization of this landmark site through sharp analytical skills and robust problem-solving capabilities. As Executive Director, Athalie is dedicated to preserving the park's rich heritage while fostering community engagement and sustainable development.

Athalie's tenure as Senior Advisor and Emergency Manager with the City of North Miami Beach allowed her to hone her expertise in emergency management, directly contributing to community safety and resilience. With a track record of effective project management and operational leadership, Athalie's mission is to ensure that our historical treasures and public spaces continue to thrive for generations to come.



Gregory W. Bush, is the president of Nature Links for Lifelong Learning, which offers nature-based continuing education for adults with disabilities across the country. He served as the Director, Institute for Public History at University of Miami for 39 years and was an Associate Professor of History at University of Miami for 24 years. He is the author of *Lord of Attention: Gerald Stanley Lee and the Crowd Metaphor in Industrializing America* (1991) and *White Sand Black Beach Civil Rights, Public Space, and Miami's Virginia Key* (2016).