



Break a Leg, Renata!

Read a reflection on the contributions and time Renata Petroni has dedicated to the International Program at the National Performance Network. As she says goodbye to NPN/VAN and starts a new adventure in interior design, we wish her the best. Renata's leadership will surely be missed by all.

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Get to Know NPN/VAN's New Staff Member

NPN/VAN is pleased to announce that Sage Crump is the program manager for the new LANE initiative. Sage has worked with the NPN/VAN family in various capacities over the years. Most recently as the project manager for NPN/VAN's new home. Get to know more about her and her new role.

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A New Collaboration

NPN/VAN is working in collaboration with the Nonprofit Finance Fund on a new capitalization initiative, LANE (Leveraging a Network for Equity). This ongoing collaboration hopes to strengthen our network Partners, and the field at large.

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A New Home for NPN/VAN



Arts Estuary 1024 is a multi-tenant arts facility that recently opened at 1024 Elysian Fields Avenue in New Orleans. The Arts Estuary is the fulfillment of a long-time dream of NPN/VAN to create a fertile, collaborative space that fosters the growth and development of individuals and organizations that are dedicated to the creative arts and community engagement. While used primarily as administrative space for local cultural organizations, the Arts Estuary can also accommodate public meetings, gatherings, rehearsals, receptions, and events.

Arts Estuary 1024



Located in a historic building, the Arts Estuary has offices, meeting rooms, event space, and parking that are available to rent. The office space and mutual infrastructure allows tenants to share resources and knowledge in furtherance of their missions, and also have access to amenities such as high-speed internet, a full kitchen, outdoor patio and meeting space. Arts Estuary meeting rooms and lush outdoor space are available to rent to other organizations, community groups, and individuals for single events or for long-term recurring events. Adjacent to the property is a secure parking lot with 24-hour access that can also be rented for events or as individual spaces with a monthly contract.

To check on availability and rates for office or parking rentals, or to discuss meeting room or event rentals, contact us at 504-595-8008, facility@npnweb.org or npnweb.org/artsestuary1024. You can also schedule a visit to see the creative space that is Arts Estuary 1024

Instagram: [instagram.com/artsestuary1024/](https://www.instagram.com/artsestuary1024/)

Facebook: [facebook.com/ArtsEstuary1024/](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsEstuary1024/)

The Contributions of Renata Petroni

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As of January 1, 2015, Renata Petroni, director of the International Program for the National Performance Network (NPN), has retired from her direct work in international cultural exchange to pursue her career as an interior designer. Several years ago, she returned to school and got her degree in design. While it is a great loss for the international cultural exchange field, it is exciting that Renata is working full-time in an area where she has great passion and talent.

Renata has worked internationally since 1980 when she joined The Kitchen first as director of special events and then as The Kitchen touring program director. She then worked at Dance Theater Workshop as director of the National Performance Network, NPN's first dedicated staff person, and The Suitcase Fund, programs that sought to increase touring, commissioning and to encourage cultural exchange. Subsequently, Petroni spent two years as managing director of Teatro Central, a multi-purpose theater specially built for the Universal EXPO 92 in Seville, Spain. In 1993 she founded her own production company, Two Moon, which

produced new works by many artists and coordinated the Polverigi Festival in Italy from 1998 to 2000. In May 2000, Renata Petroni became director of the Projects and Partnerships division at Arts International (AI), a New York based not-for-profit organization dedicated to the development, support and promotion of global cultural interchange in the visual and performing arts worldwide. After the closing of AI, Ms. Petroni joined NPN's International Program, designed to increase cultural exchange and knowledge building between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as with Asia.

"Renata built NPN's International Program," says MK Wegmann, NPN/VAN president and CEO. "She developed a multi-national system of exchange based on long-term relationships, reciprocity and equity. NPN will forever be in her debt and the groundwork she laid will continue into the future. Her leadership will be missed."

For the time being, MK Wegmann will direct NPN's international program. She has been

involved in the program since its inception and has been part of the development of its various programs. Kyoko Yoshida, the founder and director of the U.S./Japan Cultural Trade Network (CTN), will coordinate the U.S.-Japan Connection and the U.S.-Korea Connection, where she has been assisting Renata for the past three years. Kyoko has served the performing arts field for 30 years as a presenter, producer and consultant. Elizabeth Doud will continue to coordinate the Performing Americas Program, which since 2002 has fostered cultural exchange between Latin America and the Caribbean with the United States.

NPN's programs in the global arena remain a high priority to NPN, complementing its National Programs with our NPN/VAN Partners in the United States, and our Local Program in New Orleans.

And, thank you, Renata. ■

NPN/VAN Welcomes its newest staff member....

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Meet NPN/VAN's newest team member, Sage Crump, program manager for Leveraging a Network for Equity (LANE). You may recognize Sage from her previous work with NPN/VAN as multi-tenant arts facility project manager, where she helped develop NPN/VAN's new home, Arts Estuary 1024. Although based in New Orleans, Sage works nationally as a culture strategist with a social justice focus where her work leverages art and creative practice for the cultural transformation of systemic oppressions. Sage's work with artists such as Detroit-based Complex Movements highlights the way shifts in intention can create new strategies that intersect artistic practice, organizing and movement building. Sage serves on the National Advisory Committee for Women of Color in the Arts, the board of the Center for Media Justice, is a member of Alternate ROOTS and is board vice-chair for Art2Action. Welcome Sage!

Leveraging a Network for Equity (LANE): A New NPN/VAN Program

by Sage Crump, LANE Project Manager

Over the course of many years, NPN/VAN staff and board have observed that long-term organizational stability has been a consistent struggle for some NPN/VAN Partners, especially organizations of color, geographically isolated and/or small to mid-sized community-based groups. Additionally over the past decade, the NPN/VAN Network has lost over ten organizations of color. Many organizations are suffering from multiple years of struggling to make-do with insufficient resources, which speaks to a larger systemic problem.

Leveraging a Network for Equity (npnweb.org/2015/03/25/leveraging-a-network-for-equity/) is a collaborative national capitalization program between the National Performance Network/Visual Artists Network and the Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF®) (nonprofitfinancefund.org). LANE will deliver methodology and resources to address the sustainability challenges faced by organizations of color, geographically isolated, and/or small to mid-size community-based groups. Unlike similar efforts in the past that focused on large arts institutions, LANE focuses on organizations that are most vulnerable to shifts in the field that can have devastating consequences.

As an existing network with a focus on relationship building, NPN/VAN is uniquely positioned to tackle the issue of systemic financial inequalities within the arts and cultural infrastructure of the U.S. For more than 30 years, NFF® has helped nonprofit organizations connect “money to mission.” This partnership will provide education, financial advice, and capital that is relevant to this sector and will enable critical arts organizations to achieve their missions. NPN/VAN and NFF® have initiated a pilot capitalization project that moves beyond a conversation about the importance of equity into one of strategy and action.

LANE is an eight-year initiative that builds the financial capacity of the organizations involved in four ways. LANE supports cohorts of organizations with diagnostics, financial education, recovery, and risk capital. The current diagnosis, education and planning stages are funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This initiative is conceptualized to allow for careful planning, continuous learning and iterative evaluation. NPN/VAN is excited about this partnership and its potential for the Network and the field. ■

A Big Thank You to the

Thank you for showing your commitment to the National Performance Network/Visual Artists Network in 2014, especially during the Annual Meeting in Tulsa, OK. Your support contributed to NPN/VAN's ability to meet its individual fundraising goal for the year. Your donation not only shows commitment to NPN/VAN, but also to the Partners, artists, staff and board of directors — all of whom play a part in advocating for the creation and touring of contemporary art.

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Paul Bonin-Rodriguez

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Susan Bowling

Will Bowling

Stanlyn Brevé

Ann Brusky

Suzanne Callahan

Jane Castillo

Bobby Celentano

Leilani Chan & Ova Saopeng

Julianne Clark

Steffani Clemons

Laura Colby

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Sage Crump

Celso Curi

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Arts Estuary 1024 Grand Opening



The National Performance Network/Visual Artists Network celebrated the grand opening on January 22, 2015 of Arts Estuary 1024, located in the Faubourg Marigny neighborhood in New Orleans. Many people braved the weather to come out and take a peek inside the new building, which houses

NPN/VAN's own offices as well as KIDsmART, Make Music NOLA, and Junebug Productions. Food and beverages were generously donated by Gene's Po Boy, Red's Chinese, Loretta's Authentic Pralines, Tito's Vodka, The Franklin, Cake Café, and Whole Foods. Check out more photos: <http://on.fb.me/1Ct4luo> ■