Art & Innovation Design Gathering

A Phillips Collection & University of Virginia collaboration

Monday, May 3, 2010
9:00 am - 6:30 pm

The Phillips Collection
1600 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

For Additional Information, please contact:
Cheryl Wagner, cheryl-vpr@virginia.edu/434.243.1100
**Agenda**

9:00-10:00 am  Seeing the Collection, open interaction time
*Guests enter through annex*

10:00 – 10:05 am  Welcome
George Vradenburg, Chair of the Board of Trustees
*Music Room (Coffee & snacks in the dining room)*

10:05 – 10:15 am  Frame ideas, goals, and essential questions
Dorothy Kosinski, Director, The Phillips Collection
Tom Skalak, Vice President for Research, UVa
Beth Turner, Vice Provost for the Arts, UVa
*Music Room*

10:15 – 10:30 am  Performance – Rita Dove
*Music Room*

10:30 – 12:00 pm  Value of Abstraction/Power of Associative Thinking
10:30-10:35 am  Introduction - Tom Skalak
*Music Room*

10:35-11:10 am  Innovation and Creativity
*Music Room*

11:10-11:20 am  Break/Walk up to 2nd floor galleries

11:20-11:40 am  Linn Meyers, artist
Discussion of Linn’s math-inspired wall drawing that responds to a van Gogh painting. 2nd Floor Gallery

**Goals/Outcomes**

The event aims to create an intimate and profound experience and should be a transferable exemplar of collaboration among talent from diverse disciplines, enabled by the world class resource of The Phillips Collection. The model could be replicated by others seeking to link their attributes and talents with diverse disciplines to fully realize social significance an enhance corporate innovation – a potential model for reeducation, improving creativity and intellectual freedom. Dissemination of models of collaboration will improve quality of life and grow the creative economy.

**Big Ideas/Essential Questions**

“What is the power of associative thinking?”
“What is the power of abstraction?”
“What elements of innovation contribute to fulfillment in life of an individual and as part of a community and culture?”
“What are effective ways of teaching and disseminating design thinking?”
“How do art and innovation help frame issues needed to revitalize the economy?”
“What is the potential for disruptive change?”
“What is the role of talent and judgment?”
Biographies continued ...

Barbara Liotta lives and works in Washington, D.C. She received her BA from Sarah Lawrence College where she studied composition and choreography with Bessie Schoenberg, the great mentor of modern dance. Liotta was included in the Sculptors at Work show at the Organization for American States and the Corcoran, and the Art at The Embassies Programs in Pristina, Tirana, Athens, and Addis Ababa. Recently, she has been featured in both Architecture/Sculpture and Multiplicitocracy shows at the Katzen Museum of American Art at American University; Collector’s Curate at the Arlington Art Center, and Idylls at the World Bank, Washington D.C. and Reyes + Davis gallery. Her work is in the collections of Corcoran Gallery of Art, Heather and Tony Podesta, and Susan and Dixon Butler.

Peter Schjeldahl is an American art critic, poet, and educator. He was born in 1942 in Fargo, North Dakota, and grew up in Minnesota small towns. He attended Carleton College and the New School. In 1964 he went to Paris for a year. In 1965 he settled in New York. He has published several books of poetry and is an influential art critic and reviewer. In 2008, The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute named Peter Schjeldahl the winner of the Clark Prize for Excellence in Arts Writing. In 1964 he traveled to Paris for a year before settling in New York City in 1965. Since coming to New York he has worked as an art critic for ARTnews, The New York Times, The Village Voice, and 7 Days (The Cooper Union). In 1998 he joined The New Yorker where he is currently the head art critic. During his career Schjeldahl has written several books of poetry as well as art criticism. He taught at Harvard University in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies for four years as well. He has been honored with a Guggenheim fellowship for his poetry and the Frank Jewett Mather Award for art criticism by the College Art Association (The Cooper Union). Schjeldahl currently resides in New York where he continues to write regularly for The New Yorker. He is married to Brooke Alderson, an actress.

11:40-12:00 pm Matthew Burtner, University of Virginia Associate Professor of Music, Composer, & Musician
Performance and discussion. Eco-acoustic opera based on the Arctic Ocean regions of earth.

Music Room

12:00-12:15 pm Shayn Peirce-Cottler, University of Virginia, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Visualizing pattern formation in living systems.

Music Room

12:15 – 1:30 pm Lunch Amidst the Art

Gallery Parlors (conversations with innovators)

1:30 – 2:10 pm Bill Sherman, Architect, University of Virginia
A ‘voyage’ through the spaces and art of the Phillips Collection, emphasizing how space, arrangement, and lighting create distinctive contexts for the art work and unconscious interpretation of the work.

Throughout galleries

2:10 – 3:00 pm Septime Webre, Artistic Director, Washington Ballet & Barbara Liotta, artist
A balletic interpretation to artist Barbara Liotta’s sculpture Icarus is viewed and discussed. Septime, Barbara, and dancer Andile Ndlovu, of the Washington Ballet, responded to the abstract forms of the artwork and music by Maurice Ravel to demonstrate the associative passages between visual art, performing art and music.

Music Room

3:00 – 3:15 pm Break

Continued...
Agenda continued...

3:15–4:45 pm "What Happened Today? Remarks and Conversation"
Peter Schjeldahl, Art Critic for The New Yorker, writer Remarks on the day’s events in the context of the collection, conversation with the group.

Main Gallery

4:45–5:15 pm Vision for “Art Innovation Fellowships” and Summary
Summary and announcement of the Phillips Collection-UVa “Art Innovation Fellows”. Work by the fellows will be displayed at Phillips and UVa Art Museum and will present their work at a similar event in spring of 2011. The visibility of the Design Gathering will be a draw for talent in the art and innovation fields.
Dorothy Kosinski, Director, The Phillips Collection
Tom Skalak, Vice President for Research, UVa
Beth Turner, Vice Provost for the Arts, UVa

Main Gallery

5:30–6:30 pm Reception and Meet the Practitioners
Sculpture Garden & Café

George Vradenburg, nominally retired since 2003, is a passionate civic activist; among his wide-ranging public service, he currently serves as Chairman of the Board of The Phillips Collection and the Geoffrey Beene Foundation-Alzheimer's Initiative. Mr. Vradenburg also currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative (a public/private collaboration involving Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and the Federal Government focused on life science, energy and security). Prior to December 2003, Mr. Vradenburg was Strategic Advisor, AOL Time Warner, having served in senior executive positions at AOL, AOL Time Warner and Time Warner. Previously, Mr. Vradenburg served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of CBS Inc. and Executive Vice President of Fox, Inc. He then launched the Entertainment & Media Practice Group of the law firm of Latham & Watkins. Mr. Vradenburg received his B.A. from Oberlin College and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Bill Sherman, Associate Professor of Architecture and a practicing architect. Bill Sherman’s research, practice and design studios have been focused for many years on the interaction between architecture, the city and ecological systems. His work explores the cultural, political and environmental responsibility of architecture as an act of incremental construction of a binding and sustaining infrastructure. His required undergraduate and graduate course, Systems, Sites and Building, investigates the role of the built environment in mediating human experience, energy flows and dynamic natural systems. In addition to this course, he is currently teaching a graduate design research studio in collaboration with the Community History Workshop studying strategies to increase density through sustainable design in Charlottesville and continuing his involvement in international programs with the UVA Vicenza program.

Bill Sherman

Septime Webre was appointed artistic director of The Washington Ballet in June 1999 after six years as artistic director of American Repertory Ballet in New Jersey. Much in demand as a choreographer, he has created works that appear in the repertoires of many companies in North America, including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, North Carolina Dance Theatre, Ballet Austin, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet and Colorado Ballet, among many others. As a dancer, Mr. Webre was featured in works by George Balanchine, Paul Taylor, Antony Tudor, Alvin Ailey, and Merce Cunningham, as well as in principal and solo roles from the classical repertoire. A former member of the board of directors of Dance/USA, Mr. Webre sits on the board of the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and has been honored by Young Audiences of the District of Columbia and has received a number of fellowships for his choreography. Mr. Webre is the seventh son in a large Cuban-American family, and he graduated from the University of Texas with a B.A. in History/Pre-Law.

Septime Webre
Matthew Burtner. First prize winner in the Musica Nova International Electroacoustic Music Competition, Burtner's music has received honors and awards from Bourges, Gaudeamus, Darmstadt, Prix d’Ete, Meet the Composer, ASCAP, Luigi Russolo, American Music Center, Hultgren Biennial, and others. His music has been commissioned for leading ensembles and festivals in Europe and the US. Burtner's instrumental and electroacoustic music explores ecocoustics, interactive media, and extended rhythmic and noise-based musical systems. Burtner is an Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Virginia where he is Director of the Interactive Media Research Group (IMRG) and Associate Director of the VCCM Computer Music Center. Originally from Alaska, he studied philosophy, composition, saxophone and computer music at St. Johns College, Tulane University (BFA 1993), Innis Xenakis's UPIC Studios, the Peabody Institute of JHU (MM 1997), and Stanford University's CCRMA (DMA 2002). At Stanford he studied and worked closely with Max Mathews, Jonathan Harvey, Brian Ferneyhough and Jon Berger. Burtner spent his early childhood in a small village on the Arctic Ocean of Alaska, and on fishing boats on Alaska's Southwest coast. His earliest acoustic memories include the sound of wind, and of storms on the ocean. He has traveled extensively and lived in Australia, Santa Fe, New Orleans, Paris, Barcelona and Palo Alto. Since 1999 Burtner has developed the Metasaxophone, a project involving imbedded computer systems and augmented performance.

Shayn Peirce-Cottler, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Shayn received her Ph.D. from University of Virginia in 2002 and was named by MIT’s Technology Review’s 2004 list of the world’s 100 Top Young Innovators. Shayn is one of the University of Virginia’s most prolific inventors, she has developed a number of innovative tools to assist clinicians in battling some of medicine’s most difficult challenges. Her research interest are focused on the microvasculature, a complex network of highly specialized blood vessels, capable of growing and altering its structure and function to regulate blood flow and accommodate the changing metabolic needs of the body's tissues. Microvascular growth and remodeling are important in pathological conditions, such as wound healing, ischemic disease (e.g. peripheral vascular disease and heart disease), and tumor growth. She also works to develop therapeutic approaches to grow and regenerate injured and diseased tissues by manipulating the structure and composition of the microvasculature. You Tube video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLtTZJh-Xhs

Dorothy Kosinski, Director, The Phillips Collection. Dorothy Kosinski became director of The Phillips Collection in May 2008. Prior to the Phillips, Dr. Kosinski worked at the Dallas Museum of Art, where she served in a number of capacities for over twelve years, last as Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture. She worked for over a decade in Basel, Switzerland with the Douglas Cooper Collection of cubist art, and as a curator of exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts, The Kunstmuseum Basel, the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, and the National Gallery in Prague. Her exhibition projects ranged from Fernand Léger and František Kupka, to collectors of Impressionism. Her early museum career included posts at the Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut. Dr. Kosinski is a distinguished scholar, who has lectured widely and has taught at the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Basel, and New York University, among others. She has published a wide array of work on Joseph Cornell, Gustave Courbet, Henri Matisse, Henry Moore, Robert Rauschenberg, Vincent van Gogh, and on topics ranging from 19th century Symbolism to Dada and Surrealism and contemporary art. She received her PhD and MA from New York University’s Institute of Fine Arts, and her BA from Yale University.

Thomas Skalak, Vice President for Research and Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Virginia. He received the B.E.S. in Bioengineering from The Johns Hopkins University in 1979 and the Ph.D. in Bioengineering from U.C.S.D. in 1984. Dr. Skalak is President of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) and a past-President of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). As Vice President for Research at U.Va., Tom is responsible for the integration and enhancement of research activities across U.Va.’s eleven schools and multiple research centers. He is leading university-wide strategic planning activities, including multidisciplinary groups in environmental sustainability, innovation, and biosciences. During the last year, he led the launch of the Science & Art Project, bringing 300 faculty and community members together for cross-boundary collaborations; the U.Va. Venture Summit, which brought $10 billion in active venture capital to U.Va. to discuss windows on the future of emerging fields and the U.Va. Bay Game, a computer simulation game that predicts behaviors of the nation’s largest estuary in relation to the human communities that surround it. The university’s goal is to integrate the unique resources of a comprehensive research and learning organization to explore, discover, and invent, bringing diverse talents and approaches to bear on major societal problems and producing innovation that drives the creative economy.
Elizabeth Turner, Vice Provost for the Arts at the University of Virginia. Turner is the former senior curator of The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. During her 18-year tenure at The Phillips Collection and as a member of their senior staff, Turner was involved in developing the strategic plan for the expansion of the Phillips and for the creation of its Center for the Study of Modern Art. She directed exhibits and wrote extensively on Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Jacob Lawrence, Joan Miró, Piet Mondrian, Man Ray and Alfred Stieglitz. Turner serves on the advisory board for the Alexander Calder Foundation and is currently working on a biography of Calder. She is a native of Charlottesville and a member of the U.Va. family, having completed all of her degrees (B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.) at the University.

Rita Dove, served as Poet Laureate of the United States and Consultant to the Library of Congress from 1993 to 1995 and as Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 2004 to 2006. She has received numerous literary and academic honors, among them the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and, more recently, the 2003 Emily Couric Leadership Award, the 2001 Duke Ellington Lifetime Achievement Award, the 1997 Sara Lee Frontrunner Award, the 1997 Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award, the 1996 Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities and the 1996 National Humanities Medal. In 2006 she received the coveted Common Wealth Award of Distinguished Service (together with Anderson Cooper, John Glenn, Mike Nichols and Queen Noor of Jordan — see the press release, newspaper coverage and photos), in 2007 she became a Chubb Fellow at Yale University, in 2008 she was honored with the Library of Virginia’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2009 she received the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal and the Premio Capri (the international prize of the Italian "island of poetry"). Ms. Dove was born in Akron, Ohio in 1952. A 1970 Presidential Scholar, she received her B.A. summa cum laude from Miami University of Ohio and her M.F.A. from the University of Iowa. Ms. Dove contributed — in a live reading at the Lincoln Memorial, accompanied by John Williams’s music — a poem to Steven Spielberg’s documentary The Unfinished Journey. She is the editor of Best American Poetry 2000, and from January 2000 to January 2002 she wrote a weekly column, "Poet's Choice", for The Washington Post. Her latest poetry collection, Sonata Mulattica, was published by W.W. Norton & Company in the spring of 2009.

Chic Thompson Chic’s passion is inspiring executives, MBA students and children to be “curious first… critical second” while problem solving. Chic is the founding partner of the Creative Management Group, a Fellow at the University of Virginia’s Darden Business School and an adjunct faculty member at American College of Physician Executives, The YPO University (Young Presidents’ Organization, The Brookings Institution, and The Federal Executive Institute. Chic’s first book, What a Great Idea!, published by HarperCollins, was a main selection of the Executive Book Club and is also published in Japanese, Portuguese, Chinese and Spanish. What a Great Idea! 2.0 was released in January 2007 by Barnes & Noble. In 2001, Harvard Business School released a case study on the speaking career of Chic Thompson entitled “What a Great Idea.” In 2004, Darden Business School awarded Thompson a Batten Fellowship in Entrepreneurship. Chic’s second book, “Yes, But…” is a guide to overcoming the bureaucratic language that stifles continuous innovation. He wrote this book after consulting with GE to design their successful continuous improvement process called Work-Out. Chic received his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Delaware and his Masters in Education from the University of Virginia. He then worked in new product development and marketing for W.L. Gore and Associates (Gore-Tex®), Johnson & Johnson, and Walt Disney. During the last 25 years, Chic has given over 3,500 presentations and has teamed up with talent ranging from Tony Robbins and Stephen Covey to Cirque du Soleil and Second City Improv.

Linn Meyers, artist. Linn has a BFA The Cooper Union, New York, NY and a MFA California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA. She lives and works in the Washington, DC. Over the past seven years, she has used rules and systems in her drawings. Originally, she felt that this mathematical approach would lead to images that were rock solid, controlled, and somehow undeniable. But, in reality, it is the loss of some of these qualities that makes the images interesting. The slightest involuntary movement of her body causes an ever-so-minor slippage in the line, which, over the course of the drawing, has a ripple effect. She finds herself embracing these patterns of imperfection. Her studio practice focuses on the uniqueness of each line and each image. At Tamarind, she learned that with lithography she was able to make one image that could be printed on multiple sheets of paper and repositioned by means of two, four, or six times on a larger sheet of paper. This discovery had a dramatic impact on the images she completed during her residency and it will have ongoing consequences in her studio practice.