

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: THE TENTH ANNUAL CCL FELLOWSHIP CONCLUDES IN NYC

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONCLUDING WEEKLONG INTENSIVE FOR THE CENTER FOR CURATORIAL LEADERSHIP

New York City, June 1, 2017 — The Center for Curatorial Leadership’s (CCL) 2017 Fellows convened this May for a one-week intensive in New York City. As a culmination of their five months in the fellowship, these twelve inspired curators participated in a targeted selection of instruction, meetings, and reflection on their Diversity Mentoring Initiatives and residencies with museum directors. The clear personal and collective growth that has developed since January manifested in a week of impassioned and productive dialogue, surfacing the curators’ heightened levels of engagement with issues of leadership both in theory and practice.

Highlights from the May program include:

DIVERSITY MENTORING INITIATIVE PRACTICUM

A signature module of the May program is a team-based practicum exercise considering the situation of a specific organization. This year, the Fellows looked inwards toward CCL itself through the lens of its Diversity Mentoring Initiative—a component of the fellowship program first introduced in 2012. The practicum tasked the group to examine the existing structure and potential impact of the Initiative and track its growth and reach through the projects developed by nearly 80 Fellows to date.

Through conversations with stakeholders and thought leaders in the field of mentorship, analysis of past project descriptions and outcomes, and surveying colleagues and peers, the curators examined how the Initiative fits into the organizational structure of CCL. The practicum concluded with a presentation of recommendations for the ongoing evolution of the Initiative and, as a direct result, we look forward to sharing updates on the next stages of CCL’s commitment to a more diverse curatorial and museum field.

CONVERSATIONS WITH CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

Throughout the week, the group met with an array of visionary leaders in the museum sector for sustained conversations on the issues facing today’s cultural institutions. During one such session, Richard Armstrong, Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, and Catherine Dunn, the museum’s Deputy Director, Advancement, spoke to the importance

of cultivating and stewarding donors and aligning fundraising efforts with institutional vision. Complementary courses on financial management and public speaking as well as conversations and visits to local institutions rounded out a wealth of insight into effective museum leadership.

REFLECTION & WRAP-UP

In this final week reuniting the cohort, the curators' close rapport and continued openness resulted in salient discussions on both the state of museums and the Fellows' roles in steering their success. Sharing anecdotes from their residencies with current museum directors across North America and Europe allowed the Fellows to create a more vivid picture of leadership in action. Active dialogue around the desired impact of their own Diversity Mentoring Initiatives gave rise to new ideas for collaboration and implementation.

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As the tenth class of CCL Fellows, the participating curators truly embraced the values of the program in meaningful and lasting ways. We're incredibly proud of the class of 2017 and see such tremendous opportunities in their future. Congratulations to our 2017 Fellows!

Contact:

Joseph Shaikewitz

646-405-8067

joseph.shaikewitz@artcurators.org