Karen Gahl-Mills  
Executive Director  
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Karen Gahl-Mills is the Executive Director of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the local public funder of arts and culture activities in Cleveland, Ohio. Since 2007, CAC has invested more than $125 million into over 300 organizations who serve millions of area residents. A former orchestra manager turned grantmaker and teacher, she has worked passionately throughout her 25-year career to connect the talents of arts and culture organizations with the needs of the community. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from DePaul University and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business; and she still makes music, singing regularly in the community choir at Oberlin College.

Kjristine Lund  
Board Member, Seattle Symphony  
Principal, Lund Consulting, Inc.

Kjristine Lund serves on the Seattle Symphony Board. She recently co-chaired the Symphony’s Strategic Plan and chairs the Marketing & Communications Committee. Kjristine owns a consulting firm in Seattle, Washington that she founded in 1990. Her firm develops strategies and provides management and communication services, chiefly for clients whose projects are community focused. Her mission is to bring civic projects to life. Examples include securing public funding to build cultural facilities, to preserve historic sites, to build public infrastructure, and securing legislation to improve urban design and amenities. She is an avid amateur classical pianist.

Kjristine’s career in the Northwest started with documentary film production on public affairs issues, and she went on to establish the King County Cultural Resources agency, known today as 4-Culture, funding arts and historic preservation. She is most proud of her work that resulted in dedicating the King County
Hotel-Motel tax to arts projects beginning in 1990, including significant funding for arts facilities such as Seattle Symphony’s Benaroya Hall.

Kjristine earned her MBA from the University of Washington, and her BA in Urban Affairs, from George Washington University in Washington, DC. She participated in the League of American Orchestra’s 2002 Leadership Academy.

Nick Rabkin
Principal
reMaking Culture

Nick Rabkin is the managing partner of reMaking Culture, a research and consulting firm focused on revitalizing the arts and culture and reimagining their roles in community building, learning, and making our democracy and our lives richer. He has directed a nonprofit theater, been Chicago’s deputy commissioner of Cultural Affairs, senior program officer for the arts at the MacArthur Foundation, director of the Columbia College Center for Arts Policy, and senior research scientist at NORC at the University of Chicago. A team member for Chicago’s first cultural plan, he was a consultant to its second in 2012. He has studied public benefits of the arts in the Cleveland area for Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, and is working now on a cultural plan for Oak Park, development of an El Sistema-inspired youth orchestra in Chicago’s infamous Back of the Yards, and program evaluations for two theater companies and an art museum. He’s written widely on arts education, including Putting the Arts in the Picture, Arts Participation and Arts Education in America, and Teaching Artists and the Future of Education.