



Liz Alsina

**Senior Program Officer, Individually Directed Program
Walton Family Foundation**

Liz S. Alsina is a recent addition to the Walton Family Foundation (WFF), where she is a senior program officer. In her role at WFF, she supports individual family members as they build a vibrant Northwest Arkansas region with strategic investments in greenspace preservation, attainable housing, arts and culture, recreation, and diversity initiatives. Prior to joining WFF, she was a program associate in the Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) program at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, where she managed a diverse portfolio of nearly 100 active grants in the areas of music, art and artists at risk, culturally specific centers, and jazz, as well as shepherding ACH's efforts in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

Before becoming a grantmaker, Ms. Alsina was director of institutional giving at Roundabout Theatre Company, Florida Grand Opera, and TheatreworksUSA, where she also served as director of development. Additional experiences include: education and community engagement with Washington National Opera and New York City Opera; general management with INTAR Theatre and the Yale Cabaret; and public relations and events management with Sony Classical Records and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Ms. Alsina's community work includes lecturing in the area of arts and culture management, as well as performing meaningful volunteer work that aligns with her personal values. Over the past three years, she has lectured undergraduate and graduate students at California State University at Long Beach, Columbia University, Manhattan School of Music, Skidmore College, University of Connecticut, Wagner College, and Yale University, as well as serving as an adjunct lecturer in the theater arts department at Marymount Manhattan College. Additionally, she was a longstanding volunteer at the Hempstead Adult and Community Education program, where she provided office support and translation services for new immigrants. More recently, Liz has served as a member of the steering committee for the New York chapter of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy (EPIP) and was a member of its first Inclusive Leadership Cohort. Lastly, Liz has served in New York City's and Miami's municipal arts grant panels, as well as the New York State Council on the Arts, where she was an advisor on recent efforts to develop new diversity initiatives.

She received a bachelor of music from the Manhattan School of Music where she studied classical voice, developing a specialty in Spanish vocal literature. Ms. Alsina received a master's in fine arts from Yale University where she studied theater management at the School of Drama, developing a specialty in public arts and access. More recently, she completed a certificate in global affairs from New York University, with a research focus on intergovernmental organizations and cultural diplomacy.

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Eric Booth

**President
Everyday Arts, Inc.**

Eric Booth has worked with most leading U.S. orchestras on their connections to communities, in a variety of consulting, training, and program development roles. Referred to as the “father of the teaching artist profession,” he brings a theater background (many plays on Broadway, Off-Broadway and around the U.S) and a business background (he

started a small consumer research reporting company that in seven years became the largest of its kind in the U.S.) to his work in arts learning. On the faculty of Juilliard (12 years), he taught at Stanford University, NYU, Tanglewood (5 years), The Kennedy Center (15 years) and Lincoln Center Education (for 26 years), and he has given workshops at over 30 universities and conservatories, and 60 cultural institutions. He serves as a consultant for many organizations, cities and states and businesses around the U.S.. He is a frequent keynote speaker on the arts to groups of all kinds. He is a senior advisor to the El Sistema movement in the U.S. and abroad. He is the Co-Founder of the Community Engagement Lab (celvt.org), based in Vermont, and winner of the nation's highest award in arts education from Americans for the Arts in 2015. As an author, he has had five books published, including *The Music Teaching Artist's Bible*. He has written dozens of magazine articles, and was the author of *The Teaching Artist's Bible* and up the upcoming *Playing for Their Lives* (September, W.W. Norton) about the international growth of El Sistema



Afa Dworkin

**President and Artistic Director
Sphinx Organization**

One of Musical America's Top 30 Influencers, recipient of the Kennedy Center Human Spirit Award and Detroit Crain's 40 Under 40, Ms. Dworkin is President and Artistic Director of the Sphinx Organization. She has developed a comprehensive national roster of musicians of color, launched partnerships with more than 100 global partners and led the organization's most successful fundraising campaign.

Ms. Dworkin is a frequent speaker, including the International Arts & Ideas Festival, Chamber Music America, National Association for Schools of Music, League of American Orchestras, ICSOM, Americans for the Arts, Association of Canadian Orchestras, and others. She has served as an adjudicator for the

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Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, 3Arts Awards, the National Endowment for the Arts, Charlotte Arts and Sciences Council, Independent Sector's American Express NGen awards, Florida, Indiana and Oklahoma State Arts Council grants and Atlanta Symphony's Talent Development Program. As a writer, she has contributed to Strings Magazine, Polyphonic.org, and the Michigan String Teachers Association magazine.

Ms. Dworkin serves as faculty for Roosevelt University's Master's Program in Performing Arts Administration. She is a Trustee for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and CultureSource.

A pupil of the former Soviet conservatory training, Ms. Dworkin graduated with High Honors from the University of Michigan with Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Violin Performance. She may be heard as an electric violinist on a CD entitled "Bar-Talk".

She previously served as a tri-lingual interpreter and Executive Assistant to the President at ARCO, The International Oil and Gas Company in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Sarah Johnson

**Director of the Weill Music Institute
Carnegie Hall**

As Director of the Weill Music Institute, Sarah Johnson is responsible for developing and overseeing all educational and community activities at Carnegie Hall. The Weill Music Institute annually serves over 500,000 children, students, teachers, parents, young music professionals, and adults in the New York City metropolitan area, across the United States, and

around the world. During her time at Carnegie Hall, Ms. Johnson has led the Weill Music Institute in enormous programmatic growth and has launched numerous initiatives including the award-winning Musical Connections program, which serves people in acute need in healthcare settings, correctional facilities, including juvenile justice centers, homeless shelters, and senior service organizations, the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, and most recently NYO2, a summer training program for outstanding musicians ages 14-17. In the fall of 2012 Musical America named Ms. Johnson one of the 30 Rising Stars in the Performing Arts under the age of 40. She was the 2013 American Express NGen Leadership Award winner, an honor given each year to one accomplished leader under the age of 40 who has demonstrated significant impact in addressing society's critical needs. Ms. Johnson is a member of the selection committee for the 2015 CECP Excellence Awards, and she serves on the Hunter College Music Advisory Board.

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Prior to joining Carnegie Hall in April 2007, Ms. Johnson served as Director of Education and Community Partnerships at The Philadelphia Orchestra. She has also worked as a teaching artist with the New York Philharmonic and Lincoln Center Institute. A graduate from the Juilliard School, Ms. Johnson received her bachelor's and master's degrees in oboe performance, and she is a founding member of Ariel Winds.