

# **BILL BATES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**



**August 20-22, 2025  
McDowell Camp and Conference Center**



*The Bill Bates Leadership Institute is a program of the Alabama State Council on the Arts.  
Administrative assistance has been provided by the Alabama Dance Council.*

# Daily Schedule

## DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

4:45 – 5:45 pm	<i>Social Hour</i>
Phifer Hall	Grab a beverage and meet other arts leaders during our welcome reception.
6:00 – 6:45 pm	<b>Dinner</b>
Stough Dining Hall	
7:00 – 7:30 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Orientation</b>
Hall Hall	
7:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>Light &amp; Sound: Luz y Sonido</b>
Hall Hall	Teaching artist Calliope Pettis leads an interactive musical experience exploring colors, light, language, movements, and sound.
8:30 pm – until	<i>Evening Social/Fellowship</i>
Phifer Hall, Lodges	Gather on the porch of Phifer Hall (or other communal spaces) for an evening of fellowship with your peers.

## DAY 2: THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

6:30 – 8:00 am	<i>Casual Coffee Talk</i>
Phifer Hall	Start your day with a cup of coffee and conversation.
8:00 – 8:45 am	<b>Breakfast</b>
Stough Dining Hall	
9:00 – 9:30 am	<b>Alabama Legislature 101</b>
Hall Hall	Dr. Elliot Knight provides an overview of Alabama’s legislative process focusing on the appropriation of state arts funding.
9:45 – 11:45 am	<b>Redefining Arts Advocacy in Alabama: Part One</b>
Hall Hall	Angela Meleca leads participants in multiple interactive sessions focused on rethinking advocacy frameworks for better communication; utilizing data-informed, outcomes-driven storytelling to connect with elected officials, funders, and cross-sector allies; and reimagining arts advocacy in Alabama through guided collaborative exercises.
12:00 – 12:45 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
Stough Dining Hall	
1:15 – 2:30 pm	<b>Redefining Arts Advocacy in Alabama: Part Two</b>
Hall Hall	
2:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
	Free time to enjoy and explore Camp. Available activities include Folk School workshops, hiking, swimming, and canoeing.

● *Italicized agenda items are optional*

## DAY 2: THURSDAY, AUGUST 21 (continued)

<b>2:45 – 4:45 pm</b>	<b>Alabama Folk School Workshops</b>
Pop's Blacksmith Shop, Epiphany Art Studio	Join Camp McDowell for two Alabama Folk School workshops! Blacksmith Quinn McKay provides a demo in forging scrolls of metal and gives students a chance to try their hand at bending their own creations. In Epiphany Art Studio, quilter Jamie Alvey leads a demo in improv-pieced quilting and guides participants in piecing and sewing their own small quilt square.  Workshops are offered on a rotating schedule, so it is possible to attend both. No experience is required for either workshop. Supplies are provided.
<b>6:00 – 6:45 pm</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
Stough Dining Hall	
<b>7:15 – 8:00 pm</b>	<b>Bill's Follies</b>
Hall Hall	Take the stage and share a two- to five-minute-long story, poetry reading, monologue, song, dance, narrated slide deck, or other performance. Think of <i>the Moth</i> or a <i>Ted Talk</i> , only cooler, because it's by and about Alabama's arts professionals.
<b>8:00 pm – until</b>	<b>Evening Social/Fellowship</b>
Phifer Hall, Lodges	Gather on the porch of Phifer Hall (or other communal spaces) for an evening of fellowship with your peers.

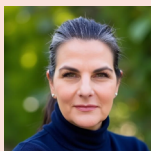
## DAY 3: FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

<b>6:30 – 8:00 am</b>	<b>Casual Coffee Talk</b>
Phifer Hall	Start your day with a cup of coffee and conversation.
<b>8:00 – 8:45 am</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
Stough Dining Hall	
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check Out of Your Room</b>
<b>9:15 – 10:15 am</b>	<b>Alabama's Local Poets Laureate Initiatives</b>
Hall Hall	Salaam Green, inaugural poet laureate for the City of Birmingham, will share her experience navigating the program as an artist, including successes and challenges encountered along the way. Angela Montgomery, executive director of the Mobile Arts Council, will speak on the behind-the-scenes administrative work and collaboration that makes programming like this possible.
<b>10:15 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>What We Did at Summer Camp</b>
Hall Hall	The "collaboration pool" returns this year, providing a space to float an idea, dip a toe in, or give someone a much-needed resource. This session is for you to share about collaborations that have developed from the pool (or otherwise) during this year's Institute, or about exciting partnerships that have developed recently at your organization.
<b>11:15 – 11:45 am</b>	<b>Redefining Arts Advocacy in Alabama: Part Three</b>
Hall Hall	

# Presenters



**Calliope Pettis** is a versatile artist with awe inspiring ability to captivate audiences both young and young at heart. She plays a multitude of stringed instruments from the mandolin to cigar box guitar, and is equally talented at performing jazz standards as inviting kids to sing along with her as she engages with her audiences. Calliope earned her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Montevallo in 2017. Since then, she has toured throughout the Southeast and Pacific Northwest. When she's not making music you can find her out on a hiking trail or designing her next interactive children's musical!



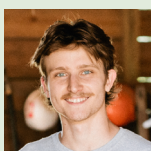
**Angela Meleca** is the founder of Meleca Creative Advisors. She helps arts CEOs, advocates, and creative leaders reframe their relevance and build measurable, meaningful impact strategies. Angela is also the host of the ARTS Redefined podcast, adjunct faculty at Miami University, and a national speaker on data-driven storytelling, arts entrepreneurship, and cross-sector innovation. From 2020–2023, she led Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA), a coalition that secured \$160.7 million in state funding for Ohio's nonprofit arts organizations—preserving thousands of jobs and reshaping advocacy for the creative economy. Prior to OCA, she founded the Angela Meleca Gallery, a contemporary art gallery located in downtown Columbus. The gallery was active in elevating and transforming arts and culture in Central Ohio through connecting individual artists, arts advocates, and arts organizations. Angela has extensive experience in communications, media, and public relations. Before her career in the arts, she was a political journalist and press secretary for the Ohio Senate Majority Caucus.



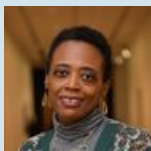
**The Alabama Folk School** at Camp McDowell was founded as a way to enrich lives and reconnect people to music, art, and each other. They provide opportunities for people to work creatively with their hands, minds, and spirits while preserving Alabama's cultural heritage. The Folk School offers workshops in traditional folk arts such as basket weaving, dancing, quilting, banjo, fiddle as well as the culinary practices of cooking, foraging, and canning food.



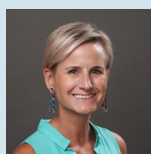
**Jamie Alvey** is a therapist and artist in Birmingham, AL. She believes creativity is one of the most powerful and inspiring ways we can connect with ourselves and the world around us. Whether she's painting, sewing, collaging, quilting, drawing, or playing instruments (especially the fiddle!), Jamie finds endless ways to bring more creativity into her life. In her classes, she creates a welcoming space where students can explore, follow their curiosity, and express themselves freely through different kinds of art. Whatever a student chooses to create, she's there to support their vision and guide them through the process. Jamie loves helping people tap into and expand their creativity as a way to support wellbeing, build confidence and community, and most importantly—have fun!



**Quinn McKay's** creative energies are rooted in a love of architecture from an early age, blended with a deep connection to nature. Elements of his designs are inspired by the natural forms around and apart of us as well as the clean lines which we surround ourselves with. Attending the American College of the Building Arts (ACBA) in Charleston, SC, solidified Quinn's love of forging metal. He celebrates the material in his practice by preserving the natural displacement when forged, leaving the evidence of each manipulation of the material. Acting with this sense of preservation is his homage to the tradition of forging. Through his time spent at ACBA, Quinn explored many different styles within his ironwork taking the most influence from Art Nouveau and the Arts and Crafts movement. He has experience working in multiple metal shops, most recently Iron Horse Metalworks in Birmingham, AL.



**Salaam Green** is the inaugural poet laureate of historic Birmingham, AL, 2024-2025 and 2025 Poet Laureate fellow the Academy of American Poets. Green is the author of *The Other Revival* (Pulley Press, 2025). She graduated from the University of Montevallo with an English degree and has a MS in Early Childhood Education from the University of North Dakota. Green has garnered residencies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, The Wallace House for Arts and Reconciliation, and Auburn University. She has spent more than 16 years as an arts educator, healer, and community leader.



**Angela Montgomery** is the executive director for the Mobile Arts Council (MAC) and has been with the organization since 2017. She has over 20 years' experience of nonprofit work under her belt including tenures with the Alabama Coastal Foundation and the Lone Star Film Society and the Lone State International Film Festival. At MAC, Angela oversees the strategic direction and day-to-day operations of the nonprofit organization that is dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the Mobile community through support, coordination, and promotion of the arts. With her leadership, MAC continues its mission of providing resources and opportunities for artists, fostering creativity, and enhancing the arts scene in Mobile.