

# Creative Aging Symposium



## Host and Guest Speakers Bios



Creative Aging Symposium host **Katie Wade, MEd, LPC**, is the senior director of Front Porch's Creative Spark, an innovative program that designs creative, interactive workshops that energize staff and inspire new approaches to meaningful programming for older adults. Katie is passionate about ensuring all have access to creative means of connecting with ourselves and others as we grow older. After working as a mental health therapist with older adults in an inpatient setting, Katie maintained a private practice while providing social connection programming and other services to older adults and caregivers. She now nurtures and grows innovative creative aging programs. Her expertise is in virtual connections, program expansion and organizational behavior. Katie is available for one-on-one interviews with media by contacting [communications@frontporch.net](mailto:communications@frontporch.net).



**Lee Herrick** is a widely celebrated author and professor and Californian Poet Laureate. Lee's work cuts at the core of human experience, exploring ideas of self and humanity through stories of creativity, justice, home, and more. Lee is the author of three books of poems: *Scar and Flower*, *Gardening Secrets of the Dead*, and *This Many Miles from Desire*.



**Liv Schaffer** is a celebrated dancer, teaching artist, and serves as the Intergenerational Programs Director with EngAge and Director of the Dance Generators, an intergenerational dance company housed at the University of San Francisco. She explores dance as a tool for bridging generational divides.



**Margaret Fabrizio** is an internationally acclaimed mixed-media and fiber artist who has gifted the world with colorful, intricate textiles born of deep curiosity about the world and cultural traditions. Margaret will be in conversation with Nick Brentley as they explore the lifelong pursuit of creativity and how it leads to new paths of joy.

**Nick Brentley** is an artist and performer who brings his imaginative curiosity to all endeavors, nurturing meaningful connection through image styling, dance, theatre, music, and more.



**Rochelle Rabouin** is a master teaching artist, author, and social science ethnographer. Rochelle will playfully guide us through a reading from *Beautiful Oops* and an interactive exercises to embrace the value of mistakes.



**Jordan Evans** is the co-founder for Art Against Ageism, an alliance dedicated to identifying, amplifying, and creating art that confronts stereotypes and misperceptions about age and promote age positivity. Jordan will be in conversation with nationally recognized photographer and art activist **Heidi Wagner** of THE PASSIONS MOVEMENT, which embodies the work of THE PASSIONS PROJECT.

This project combines art with individuals' stories to create a new narrative around living with passion and purpose inclusive of all races, creeds, genders and gender identity, providing a dynamic platform to ignite social change.



**Sharon Lee Minor (aka Auntie Afrika)** is a Visual and Performance Artist, Cultural Anthropologist, and Arts Educator. Sharon is a recipient of two Artists/Scholars Grant Awards for her research on Aging & Creativity, by the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, USA (AHCMC). In this moment, we will celebrate the legacies of our influential elders by collectively envisioning our own

Heritage Box. Sharon will be in conversation with **Park Cofield**, a builder of products, programs, and experiences that facilitate community.



**Ari Seth Cohen**, photographer and creator of *Advanced Style*, has spent 15+ years using the lens of personal style to feature people who live full creative lives in older age, lives of growth and panache. Ari's work is internationally renowned, sparking thought-provoking conversations about what it means to grow older in our society. Ari will be in conversation with **Judith Boyd**, *Advanced Style* sartorial

subject and the engaging voice of *Style Crone*, and **Katie Wade**, founder of the Creative Aging Symposium.