

ARTS AND QUALITY OF
LIFE CONFERENCE
— 2025 —

*Arts for Health in Medical and
Community Practices*

Friday, February 7, 2025

8:30 AM - 6:15 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

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WELCOME FROM THE DEAN AND VICE PROVOST

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Greetings and Welcome to the 2025 Arts and Quality of Life Conference!

Since founding the Arts and Quality of Life Research Center (AQLRC) in 2004, our constant aim has been to promote research, training and innovative programs that demonstrate the unique role of the arts in making a difference in people's lives. This has led to wide-ranging research showcasing the influence of the arts on the lives of historically underserved youth, people experiencing homelessness, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS or cardiovascular disease, fighting cancer, recovering from spinal cord injury, or facing chronic pain.

For today's conference, our 12th such event, our theme is "Arts for Health in Medical and Community Practices." Where last year's conference reasserted our aim to explore the impacts of dance, film, music and theater on quality-of-life measures, this year you'll find expanded involvement from across the Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts and various other programs across Temple University. I hope that you will make connections with familiar and yet unmet colleagues during the course of the day, and that you'll consider your role in the arts within the context of all of the presentations that you experience.

A huge thank you to the Conference Steering Committee for today's event! Toward the end of the program you'll find a listing of those committee members. Please acknowledge each of those individuals for their hard work as you see them.

Enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,



Robert T. Stroker
Dean and Vice Provost for the Arts

SCHEDULE

8:30 AM - Registration

9:00 AM - Dean's Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:15 AM – Themed panel: *Narratives* in Arts for Health in Medical and Community Practices

Panelists:

Jessica C. Warchal-King, MFA

Director and founder of JCWK Dance Lab and performer, choreographer, educator, and arts advocate

Kinesthetic Storytelling to Support Neuroplasticity

Dr. Girija Kaimal, ATR-BC

Professor, Creative Arts Therapies Department, Drexel University

Arts as the secret sauce of health and well-being

Rea Tajiri, MFA

Associate Professor in Film and Media Arts, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, Temple University

Wisdom Gone Wild: Sixteen Years of Dementia Caregiving

Moderated by Dr. Wendy L. Magee

Professor of Music Therapy, Boyer College of Music and Dance, Temple University

10:30 AM – Break (coffee, tea, and water provided)

10:45 AM – Explanatory Performance: Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple (PACT) Singers

11:30 AM – Story Slam: Arts-based Narratives on *Patient Experience*

12:15 PM - Lunch (See Lunch Options on Page 30)

1:45 PM - Themed panel: *Improvisation* in Arts for Health in Medical and Community Practices

Panelists:

Bobbi Block, MA

Adjunct Faculty, Theater, School of Theater, Film & Media Arts, Temple University
Applied Improvisation for Communication & Connection

Jessica Jane Julius, MFA

Associate Professor of Instruction and Program Head, Glass, Tyler School of Art + Architecture, Temple University

What I Say Vanishes: Risk and Resilience in the Ecology of Making

Dr. Gayle DeDe, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor (research track), Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Public Health, Temple University

Applications of Improvisation in Rehabilitation of People with Aphasia

Moderated by Dr. Mike Zanders

Assistant Professor of Music Therapy, Boyer College of Music and Dance, Temple University

3:15 PM – Explanatory Performance/Plenary Speaker

Dr. Cynthia Folio, Professor Emerita of Music, Boyer College of Music and Dance, Temple University

Folio's *When the Spirit Catches You...* performed by the AQL Chamber Players, conducted by Rick Barrantes Agüero

Personnel: Nicole Hom, flute; Oliver Talduker, oboe; Gabriel Nishikawa-Madden, bassoon; Andrew Gioannetti, saxophone; Julia Kuzmina, viola; Omar Martinez, bass; Erik Meyer, piano; Griffin Harrison, percussion

4:30 PM – Jazz band and cash bar in the Temple Performing Arts Center lobby with student poster presentations: Temple students from across the arts, health sciences and medicine will present their research

6:15 PM - End of Conference

PRESENTER INFORMATION⁶

— 3:15 - 4:15 PM —
Lew Klein Hall

Explanatory Performance/Plenary Speaker



Dr. Cynthia Folio

WHEN THE SPIRIT CATCHES YOU...

When the Spirit Catches You... delves into the experience of epilepsy, inspired by my daughter's life-long struggles with the condition. Commissioned and premiered by the Relâche ensemble in 2004, the piece goes beyond a purely musical exploration, incorporating visual art, spoken phrases, and improvisation to create an immersive and multi-faceted portrayal of living with seizures. I drew inspiration from several literary sources, including Anne Fadiman's book, *When the Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, which tells the story about a Hmong family navigating cultural differences while seeking treatment for their daughter's epilepsy. I also incorporated accounts from Dr. Stephen Schachter's *Brainstorms*, which provides first-person perspectives of the experience of seizures. I recorded Lydia (age 12 at the time) speaking select phrases from his book. While writing this composition, Dr. Schachter sent me proofs of another book he was completing, *Visions: Artists Living with Epilepsy*, and I decided to add a visual dimension. The contributing visual artists from that book are Patricia Bernard, Vincent Buchinsky, Jude Rouslin, and Betsy Zukin. Aleck Brinkman helped me create many of the multimedia effects.

10:45 - 11:30 AM
Lew Klein Hall

Explanatory Performance



Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple (PACT) Singers

The PACT singers is a group of people with aphasia who come together to sing at Phila Aphasia Community at Temple. Aphasia is a communication disorder that impacts speech and can impact understanding both spoken and written language. The PACT singers will discuss what the opportunity to sing together brings and perform some of their recent songs.

— 9:15 - 10:30 AM —
Lew Klein Hall

Themed Panel:

**Narratives in Arts for Health in Medical and
Community Practices**

Moderated by Dr. Wendy Magee

This panel offers interdisciplinary perspectives of the role for narratives and storying in dance, film and art to process and enhance the health journey. Discussion will also explore the science for how and why the arts can help.



Jessica C. Warchal-King, MFA
KINESTHETIC STORYTELLING TO
SUPPORT NEUROPLASTICITY

— — — — —

Our bodies hold our stories. In this session, contemporary dancer and choreographer Jessica Warchal-King will guide participants in Kinesthetic storytelling through BrainDance, a mind-body centering technique. She will share first-person accounts of creating individual joy and community connection through dance by incorporating play and imagination into wellness programming to enhance neuroplasticity. Warchal-King will provide examples from populations ages Pre K-Senior Citizen in school settings, rehab centers, universities, and senior living communities.



Dr. Girija Kaimal, ATR-BC
ARTS AS THE SECRET SAUCE OF
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Dr. Kaimal will present findings from recent research studies examining outcomes of artmaking for a range of populations including older women, military service members with post-traumatic stress and TBI and patients and caregivers with hematological and oncological conditions.



Rea Tajiri, MFA

WISDOM GONE WILD: SIXTEEN YEARS OF DEMENTIA CAREGIVING



Wisdom Gone Wild is a vibrant tender cine-poem; a filmmaker collaborates with her Nisei mother as they confront the painful curious reality of wisdom ‘gone wild’ in the shadows of dementia. Made over 16 years, the film blends humor and sadness in an encounter between mother and daughter that blooms into an affectionate portrait of love, care and a relationship transformed.

Rea puts her mother’s storytelling wisdom at the heart of this film. This presentation offers a different story about aging, and about living with dementia: rather than centering a disease, the film centers Rose’s perspective, in its form and its content, telling the story of a life to be valued, rather than a problem to be willed away.

1:45 - 3:00 PM
Lew Klein Hall

Themed Panel:

**Improvisation in Arts for Health in Medical and
Community Practices**

Moderated by Dr. Mike Zanders

This panel discussion will explore the role for art, theater and musical improvisation to enhance confidence, trust and relationships throughout the health journey. The panel will examine the science explaining improvisation's effects.



Bobbi Block, MA

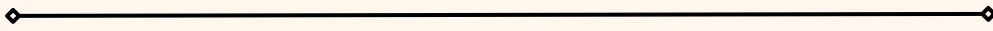
APPLIED IMPROVISATION FOR
COMMUNICATION & CONNECTION

Professional Improvisers use an array of skills when creating onstage: listening, releasing internal scripts, supporting and building on others' input, adapting smoothly to change/disruption, embracing unanticipated outcomes, being present and focused, confident decision-making, recovering quickly and learning from missteps. These are the very behaviors most of us need in order to build productive trusting relationships. This brief session allows us to experience some of these behaviors. The panelist will explain how healthcare workers can use these behaviors to increase patient trust and compliance, and that anyone can use them to improve relationships and wellbeing.



Jessica Jane Julius, MFA

WHAT I SAY VANISHES: RISK AND RESILIENCE IN THE ECOLOGY OF MAKING



In glassmaking, risk-taking is not merely an act of creation but one of connection. Glass, with its transformative fragility and unpredictability, becomes a metaphor for disruption and destabilization, while also revealing unseen connections. Through improvisation, risk-taking, and resilience, we explore how these qualities are deeply embedded in the materials and communities that surround craft.

Drawing from my own practice as an artist and educator, this talk examines how the act of making offers both personal and collective connection. By embracing material uncertainty and communal risk, we create spaces where the boundaries between self, material, and community blur, fostering a dynamic process of becoming. This ecology of making highlights the interdependence between thought and action, speech and silence, and maker and material.



Dr. Gayle DeDe, CCC-SLP

APPLICATIONS OF IMPROVISATION IN REHABILITATION OF PEOPLE WITH APHASIA



This presentation will discuss applications of improvisation in treatment for people with aphasia. Aphasia is a communication disorder that results from stroke or other injury to the language regions of the brain. Aphasia is different for every person, but it can be associated with impairments in both verbal and written language modalities, and both language production and comprehension. In the Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple (PACT), we have used art, theater improvisation, and music improvisation (as a co-treatment with music therapy) to address language goals for people with aphasia. We include the arts in our programming both as an alternative means of expression for people with language impairments and because principles of improvisation are aligned with theories of neuroplasticity. This presentation will review how and why we have implemented improvisation with people who have aphasia and possible mechanisms of action underlying benefits of improvisation in aphasia rehabilitation.

EXPLANATORY PERFORMANCE: STORY SLAM

◊—————◊ 11:30 - 12:15 PM ◊—————◊
Lew Klein Hall

Patient Experience

◊—————◊

Story Slam on the theme *Patient Experience*, explores the moments of transformation within healthcare. Invited winners share their unique experiences as a patient or as someone connected to a medical setting from across the Temple Community.

Special thanks to Temple University's Narrative Medicine Program for the idea of Story Slam

"Narrative Medicine is medicine practiced with the narrative competence to recognize, absorb, interpret, and honor the stories of illness. This competence lets doctors imagine and enter patients' worlds, represent complex events or situations so as to understand them, and reflect on their own experiences in caring for the sick."

(Columbia University Medical Center
narrativemedicine.org/mededucation.html)

Temple's Narrative Medicine Program, founded in 2016, is offered as part of the school's MD program curriculum, with additional workshops, events, and activities available to all Temple students, faculty, and staff. As of Fall 2021, a Graduate Certificate Program in Narrative Medicine is available as well.

EXPLANATORY PERFORMANCE: STORY SLAM

Performers

Sarah Brewster

Sarah is a board-certified music therapist and a graduate student in the Music Therapy program at Temple University. She is currently engaged with the Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple, where she also provides supervision for fieldwork students. Additionally, she serves as a per diem music therapist at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Betsy Roy

Betsy Roy is pursuing an MSW with a Clinical Focus at Temple University. She teaches Composition 101 and 102 at Rutgers University, in Camden, where she earned her MFA in Creative Writing. She's passionate about teaching, storytelling and accessible mental health care (and how they intersect)!

Armani Singh

Armani Singh is a Philadelphia-based creative arts activist, researcher, and producer. A proud Spelman College graduate, she earned a Master's in Dance/Movement Therapy from Pratt Institute and is now a first-year doctoral student in the Boyer College of Music & Dance at Temple University. Her research explores Africanist aesthetics in dance therapy, and she is building 'The Arts Warehouse' to nurture artistic expression and mental well-being for children in underserved communities.

EXPLANATORY PERFORMANCE: STORY SLAM

Performers

Jeffrey Solow

Jeffrey Solow's impassioned and compelling cello playing has enthralled audiences throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia. His multi-faceted career embraces performances as recitalist, soloist with orchestra and chamber musician, as well as teaching, writing and lecturing on a variety of cellistic topics and arranging and editing music for the cello; two of his many recordings were nominated for Grammy Awards. He is professor of cello at Temple University.

Judith Addison

Judith Addison is an interdisciplinary artist currently pursuing their MFA in ceramics at Tyler School of Art and Architecture. Addison uses material to ground herself, ultimately using the process of making and movement as a meditation to find a sense of home within her own body.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS ¹⁷

— 4:30 - 6:00 PM —
TPAC Mezzanine

Student Focused Poster Presentations: **Arts in Healthcare Settings**

Tom Biglin

A PhD candidate at Temple University, Tom aims to bridge the academic and clinical worlds by teaching, researching, writing about, and providing psychotherapeutic treatment through music therapy. His PhD research involves a phenomenographic exploration of the value and praxis of personal music therapy for music therapists.

Qi Yang

Qi Yang, M.S., CMT, MIT, is a PhD candidate in music therapy at Temple University. Her diverse professional experience spans hospice care, private practice, counseling centers, cancer care, and teaching at a conservatory in China, all of which enrich her research and clinical practice.

Lily Rae Smith

Lily Rae Smith recently completed her BA in Art Therapy and is currently working in community outreach for The Leatherback Trust. For her Fieldwork in Art Therapy course (Fall 2024), she completed her hours and arts-based project at Moss Rehab Institute for Brain Health in which she will be showcasing.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS ¹⁸

Jennifer Gravish

Jennifer Gravish, MMT, MT-BC (she/her), is a doctoral candidate in music therapy at Temple University. Her research explores group music experiences with South Jersey moms post-pandemic. She integrates resource-oriented and environmental frameworks in community music programs, collaborating with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Broad Street Ministry, and Project Home.

Karen Anne Melendez

Karen Anne Melendez (she/her), LPC, MT-BC, FAMI, is a Doctoral Candidate in Music Therapy. Her dissertation research will explore music as a coping resource for Correctional Police Officers. An employee of Rutgers Health – University Correctional Health Care, Karen Anne has devoted most of her career to working with incarcerated women. She received the Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Music Therapy award from TU's Department of Music Education and Therapy in 2020.

STORY WEAVING



Throughout the day, participants will have the opportunity to contribute to a collaborative weaving centered on the theme of health and wellness. Using a straightforward and accessible art-making process, each person will create a representation of their experiences, thoughts, or feelings related to this theme. As we work together, we will also reflect on the ways in which the concept of "community" has played—or could play—a role in supporting health and wellness in our lives.

The resulting StoryWeaving will be a collective expression of our shared and individual stories, serving as a tangible symbol of connection and support. This piece will be displayed prominently throughout the conference, inviting continued reflection and dialogue. Additionally, it will be documented on the conference website, ensuring its impact reaches beyond the day's activities and serves as a lasting reminder of the power of community and creativity in fostering health and wellness.



DR. CYNTHIA FOLIO

EXPLANATORY PERFORMANCE/
PLENARY SPEAKER

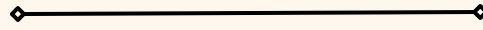
Cynthia Folio is Emeritus Professor and former Chair of Music Studies at Temple University, where she was honored with the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Creative Achievement Award, and the Faculty Senate Award for Outstanding Service. Before teaching at Temple, she taught theory and flute at Texas Christian University (1980–1990) and played flute and piccolo in the Fort Worth Symphony. She earned her Ph.D. in music theory and Performers Certificate in flute from the Eastman School of Music.

Composition awards include an NEH grant, composer residencies at Yaddo, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the American Academy in Rome, and grants from Meet the Composer and the American Music Center. Her multimedia composition, *When the Spirit Catches You...* received the 2019 American Prize in Composition: Special Judges' Citation for "Raising Awareness and Understanding for those Afflicted with Epilepsy." Her commissions include Network for New Music, the Relâche Ensemble, the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, Astral Artistic Services, the Women's Sacred Music Project, Pi Kappa Lambda, the ZAWA! flute duo, and the National Flute Association. As a music theorist, her essays on the topics of jazz, contemporary music, pedagogy, improvisation, and the relationship between analysis and performance, are published in journals and books.

Cynthia's CD recordings include (2024) *New Music for String Orchestra* (Centaur), featuring her composition, *Pentaprism*, a (2014) *Inverno Azul*, featuring nine compositions (BCM+D); (2007) *Press Play*, by the Relâche Ensemble (Meyer Music LLC); (2006) *Flute Loops: Chamber Music for Flute* (Centaur), featuring eight of her compositions; and a jazz flute CD, *Portfolio* (Centaur). In addition to her musical accomplishments, she is a second-degree black belt and winner of the 2019 Student of the Year Award for Region 8 in Tang Soo Do karate.

<https://www.cynthiafolio.com/>

PHILADELPHIA APHASIA COMMUNITY AT TEMPLE (PACT) SINGERS



EXPLANATORY PERFORMANCE

The Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple (PACT) is a very supportive, engaging, comfortable, and social group at Temple for people who have aphasia. PACT provides us with information about how to participate in various group activities, which then carries over and impacts our daily living within our communities. We promote a safe and accepting environment for people with similar communication needs and styles. We participate in all different groups, including Active Living, spirituality, technology, PACT singers, CHAT (a conversational group), games, art group, and “Finding the Words” (a book writing group), which are all incredibly fun and exciting. In PACT we have the freedom to choose the groups and activities that we participate in.

<https://sites.temple.edu/pact/pact-singers-music-group/>



JESSICA C. WARACHAL-KING, MFA



THEMED PANEL: NARRATIVES
IN ARTS FOR HEALTH IN
MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY
PRACTICES

Jessica C. Warchal-King, described as a “post mod(ern) ballerina” by the Philadelphia Inquirer, is founder and director of JCWK Dance Lab, a Reading- based contemporary dance company; she has performed, taught, and presented nationally and internationally. Warchal-King’s research incorporates and demonstrates STEAM concepts through education and performance. She has been developing programs that integrate dance and physical/ mental well-being for much of her career. The mission of JCWK Dance Lab is to Create Joy, Connection and Wellness through Kinesthetic storytelling.

<https://jcwkdancelab.org>



GIRIJA KAIMAL, EdD, ATR-BC

THEMED PANEL: NARRATIVES IN ARTS FOR HEALTH IN MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY PRACTICES

Dr. Girija Kaimal is Professor and Chair of the Creative Arts Therapies at Drexel University. In her Health, Arts, Learning and Evaluation (HALE) research lab, she examines the physiological and psychological health outcomes of visual and narrative self-expression. She has published over 80 peer-reviewed papers and a book with Oxford University Press called *The Expressive Instinct*. Her research has been continually funded since 2008 by federal agencies like the Department of Defense, Department of Education, National Endowment for the Arts as well as foundation and academic centers and has been featured by NPR, CNN, *The New York Times* as well as a range of media outlets worldwide. Her research studies examine outcomes of art therapy for post-traumatic stress among military service members, an integrated nutrition and creative arts therapies intervention for post-menopausal women, and, arts-based approaches to mitigate chronic stress among patients and caregivers in pediatric hematology/oncology units. Additional international research projects include examining the therapeutic underpinnings of indigenous and traditional artforms and she has a book forthcoming with Save the Children on arts-based psychosocial support for children and families in adversity. Living out her research interests, she has been a lifelong visual artist and her art explores the intersection of identity and representation of emotion. Dr. Kaimal has a doctorate from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Master of Arts from Drexel University and Bachelor's in Design from the National Institute of Design in India.

<https://drexel.edu/news/experts/kaimal-girija>



REA TAJIRI, MFA

THEMED PANEL: NARRATIVES IN ARTS FOR HEALTH IN MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY PRACTICES

Rea Tajiri is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist and educator who creates installation, documentary and experimental films. She grew up in Rogers Park, Chicago and graduated from California Institute of the Arts with her BFA and MFA degrees in Post-Studio Art. Tajiri's work situates itself in poetic, non-traditional storytelling forms to encourage dialog and reflection around buried histories. Tajiri's documentary feature *Wisdom Gone Wild*, screened on the PBS docuseries *POV* in 2023 and she was selected to screen at the International Competition at IDFA. To date, the film has won seven awards including the Audience Award at Blackstar for Best Documentary. Tajiri's groundbreaking, award-winning film, digital video, and installation work has been supported by JustFilms, Ford Foundation; Pew Fellowship in the Arts, a 2022 Chicken and Egg Award, CAAM Documentary Grant, ITVS Diversity Development Fund. She has also received fellowships from Rockefeller Foundation, NEA Visual Arts Fellowship and NYFA. Tajiri is a professor in the Film and Media Arts Department in the Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts at Temple University where she teaches Documentary Production.

<https://tfma.temple.edu/directory/rea-tajiri>



BOBBI BLOCK, MA



THEMED PANEL: IMPROVISATION IN ARTS FOR HEALTH IN MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY PRACTICES

Bobbi Block is an experiential Facilitator and Coach with a unique background in both Learning & Development and the performing arts.

Bobbi develops people. She specializes in Relationship Management, Presence, Collaboration/Team Dynamics, Leadership, Presentation and Creativity. Bobbi is a Certified Practitioner of Applied Improvisation; the principles of acting and improvisational theater inform her training approach.

In addition to her independent consultant work, Bobbi facilitates and designs for **The Ariel Group**; **Work.Life.Leader**; and **Wharton Executive Education**. She has been the Director of Applied Improvisation for **CSZ Philadelphia** for 25 years. Recently Bobbi co-founded the **YesandNature Collaborative**, for which she co-facilitates *Climate Conversations*, a program that uses applied improvisation and scientific research to help environmental activists communicate more effectively about the climate crisis.

Bobbi teaches and performs Improvisational Theater in Philadelphia and is an Adjunct Professor in the Theater Department at **Temple University** and **Drexel University**. She has taught her signature ‘Actors’ Improv’ approach around the globe, including the **University of Otago in New Zealand**.

Bobbi founded and is the Artistic Director of critically-acclaimed theater company, Tongue & Groove Spontaneous Theater. In addition, she co-founded and performs with Barrymore Award-winning ComedySportz Philadelphia, the longest-running live theatrical show in Philadelphia (30 years). Bobbi plays drums in the Afro-Brazilian percussion bands **Unidos da Filadelfia** and **Batala Philadelphia**.

Bobbi graduated from the **University of Pennsylvania**, and went on to get her master’s from **Villanova University**. She studied with renowned improv gurus in Chicago and NYC. Bobbi is a member of and served on the Board for the International Applied Improvisation Network.

<https://bobbiblock.com/>

JESSICA JANE JULIUS, MFA



THEMED PANEL: IMPROVISATION IN ARTS FOR HEALTH IN MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY PRACTICES



Jessica Jane Julius is a contemporary artist whose practice engages glass and mixed media to explore systems of classification, transformation, and interconnectedness. Her expansive installations, objects, imagery, and wearables operate at the intersection of perception and materiality, questioning the structures through which we comprehend the world. By integrating science, technology, and personal experience, Julius disrupts conventional paradigms of language and communication, cultivating spaces that invite empathy, critical inquiry, and the exploration of emergent, often invisible, networks of meaning.

Julius has been dedicated for 20+ years to the arts as an artist, educator, collaborator, and performer. She is currently the Program Head of Glass, Associate Professor at Tyler School of Art and Architecture and was the President of the Glass Art Society. She is the co-founder of the artists collective and performance group The Burnt Asphalt Family who produces collaborative participatory works. They have performed at prestigious venues across the country including The Corning Museum of Glass, The Chrysler Museum, and Urban Glass. Her mixed media works have been exhibited widely, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Traver Gallery, Heller Gallery, and the Museum of American Glass, NJ. Her work has been published in the Washington Post, Glass Quarterly Magazine, and New Glass Review and she is the recipient of the York Cultural Alliance grant and awarded residencies at The Creative Glass Center of America and the Museum of Glass.

<https://tyler.temple.edu/programs/glass/faculty>



DR. GAYLE DEDE, CCC-SLP²⁷



THEMED PANEL: IMPROVISATION IN ARTS FOR HEALTH IN MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY PRACTICES

Dr. DeDe's research area is language comprehension, as well as the relationship between language comprehension and general cognitive processes such as working memory. Current research is focused on understanding the mechanisms underlying real-time sentence comprehension including the types of conceptual and linguistic information that contribute to sentence processing, how and when those types of information are integrated, and how those processes are affected by aging and aphasia. Dr. DeDe is also interested in developing and testing treatment approaches for people with aphasia. Her research in this area has focused on group treatment approaches and the development of reading comprehension treatments.

<https://cph.temple.edu/about/faculty-staff/gayle-dede-tug25293>

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Madeline Bell

Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications, Boyer College of Music and Dance

Gayle Dede

Director, Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple (PACT)
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Temple University

Daniel Edmundowicz

Chief, Cardiology, Temple University Health System

Jason Horst

Assistant Dean of Communications and Operations, Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

Lisa Kay

Professor, Department Chair of Art Education and Community Arts Practices and
Program Head of Art Therapy, Temple University

Amy Lynch

Associate Professor, Trauma Institute, OT Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences,
Temple University

Wendy Magee (Co-Chair)

Professor, Music Therapy Program, Temple University

Chet Pancake

Associate Professor, Chair, Film and Media Arts, Temple University

Heather Porter

Professor of Instruction, Recreational Therapy Program, Health & Rehabilitation Sciences,
Temple University

Alison Reynolds

Professor and Chair of Music Education and Music Therapy, Boyer College of Music and Dance

Naomi Rosenberg

Assistant Dean for Narrative Medicine and Health Humanities

Mike Zanders (Co-Chair)

Assistant Professor, Music Therapy Program, Temple University

THE ARTS AND QUALITY OF LIFE CONFERENCE 29
STEERING COMMITTEE OFFERS ITS SINCERE
APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING:



Robert Stroker, Dean and Vice Provost for the Arts, Temple University

Shahara Benson, Lead Administrative Specialist,

Boyer College of Music and Dance

David Brown, Vice Dean for Administrative Affairs,

Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

Dustin Krautter, Event Manager, Temple Performing Arts Center

Jason Lindner, Associate Director of Marketing and Communications,

School of Theater, Film and Media Arts

Lauren Nanni, Director of Administrative Operations and Projects,

Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

Henry Malueg and Sarah Petko, Student Marketing Assistants,

Boyer College of Music and Dance

Sean Roche, General Manager, Temple Performing Arts Center

Ian Schiela, Production Manager, Temple Performing Arts Center

Helen Shoemark, Professor and Director of Music Therapy,

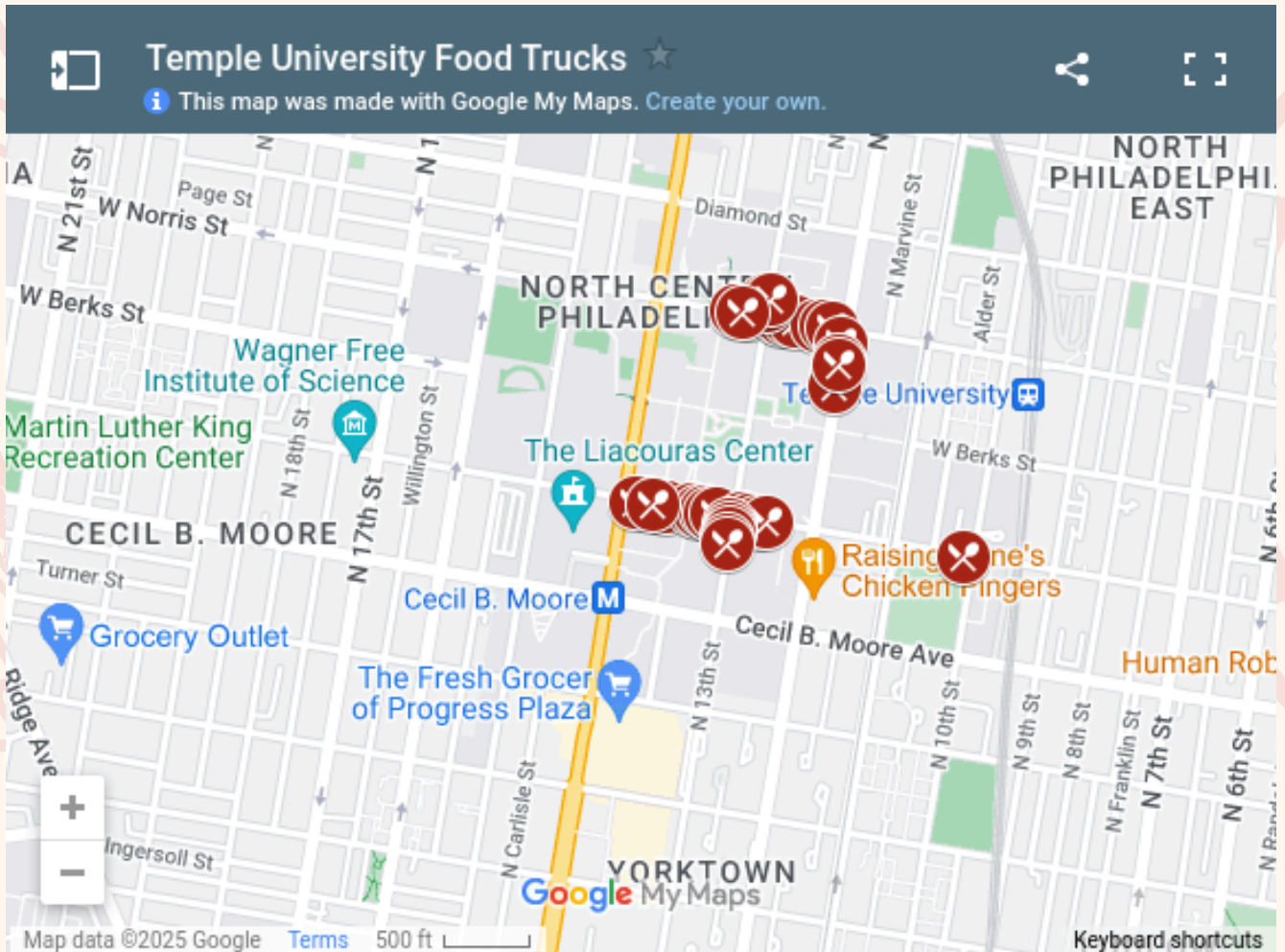
Boyer College of Music and Dance

Evelyn Shuker, Associate Production Manager, Temple Performing Arts Center

Temple Performing Arts Center Event Staff

LUNCH RECOMMENDATIONS

We here at Temple are big fans of our incredible food trucks! Check out the interactive map below to find one that interests you:



OTHER FAVORITE LUNCH SPOTS IN THE AREA INCLUDE:

Yummy Phở

Bagel Hut

Oh Brother Philly

Richie's Cafe

Champ's Diner

Pub Webb

PARKING OPTIONS

The closest parking lot is the 15th Street Lot.
[Click here](#) to view all Temple University parking options.

ARTS AND QUALITY OF LIFE CONFERENCE

— 2026 —

**Stay tuned for more
information!**

