

# TRANSFORMA

*national resource team* —————



**JESSICA CUSICK** has been cultural affairs manager for the City of Santa Monica since early 2005. She is also president of Cusick Consulting, which she established in 1998 to build upon her more than twenty years of experience working in the arts for government agencies, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations. The firm specializes in cultural policy, civic art, and community development through the arts. Cusick's initiatives have received awards from the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Architects. She has also been recognized by the Women's Caucus for Art for her work in the field of public art and on behalf of women artists and artists of color. Cusick has a degree in art history from the Sorbonne in Paris and a master's degree from New York University. She has written numerous articles about civic art and has contributed to a variety of publications, including *Public Art: By the Book* (University of Washington Press, 2005). She has been an adjunct professor in the Public Art Studies graduate program at the University of Southern California and a guest lecturer at the University of Houston and Otis College of Art and Design. She is currently an adjunct professor in the Arts Management Program at Claremont Graduate University.



**SAM DURANT** is a multimedia artist whose works engage a variety of social, political, and cultural issues. His work has been widely exhibited internationally and in the United States. Durant teaches art at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia.



**RICK LOWE** is the founder of Project Row Houses, an arts and cultural community located in a historically significant and culturally charged neighborhood in Houston. As an artist, he has participated in exhibitions and programs nationally and internationally. His work has been shown at the Phoenix Art Museum; the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Neuberger Museum, Purchase, New York; the Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Glassell School of Art, Houston; and the Kumamoto State Museum, Kumamoto, Japan. From 2001 to 2002 he worked in collaboration with arts consultant Jessica Cusick on the arts plan for the Rem Koolhaas–designed Seattle Public Library. Lowe worked with artist Suzanne Lacy and curator Mary Jane Jacobs on the Borough Project for Spoleto Festival 2003, in Charleston, South Carolina,

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**JESS GARZ** has served as the sole staff person for Transforma since 2007. In addition she conducts research for the Urban Institute on how arts and cultural activity influences the health of communities throughout the country. She is also working as the interim project director on the Multi-Tenant Arts Facility Project for the National Performance Network. Previously she worked on various aspects of the post-Katrina recovery of New Orleans with an urban-planning firm, H3 Studio; an architecture firm, Waggonner & Ball Architects; and the Tulane City Center, the community outreach program of the Tulane School of Architecture. Garz holds a bachelor of arts degree in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and will begin graduate studies in city planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall of 2010.

and was lead artist for the Delray Beach Cultural Loop, Delray Beach, Florida. He has received many honors, including the American Institute of Architects Keystone Award (2000), the Heinz Award in the arts and humanities (2002); and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture Governors Award (2005). He was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University in 2001–2. Lowe has taught at the Skowhegan School of Art, Skowhegan, Maine; has been an artist-in-residence at universities throughout the United States; and has lectured internationally.



**ROBERT RUELLO** is an artist who was born and raised in New Orleans. He received his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his MFA from Columbia University, New York. Ruello's work has been exhibited nationally to critical acclaim. He has participated in numerous residencies, including the CORE Residency Fellowship in Houston, the Skowhegan residency in Maine; and the Dora Maar Residency in France. His awards include grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Gottlieb Foundation. He continues to work as a studio artist, an educator, and a Web designer.