

## BATTLE OF THE TEAL 2020-2021 ADJUDICATION PANEL

(complete bios)

### PERFORMING ARTS

**Jessica  
Howard**

Jessica Howard is an artist living and working in Cleveland, Ohio. Through a combination of digital and traditional media, her work illustrates a deep spiritual connection to the natural world. She is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art (Painting, '14), and has worked there for three years as the coordinator for the Continuing Education department. Her work can be viewed online at [jessicaleihowardart.com](http://jessicaleihowardart.com).

**Honorable  
Peter Lawson  
Jones**

Peter Lawson Jones is an attorney, business consultant, professional actor and master of ceremonies, dramatist and former elected official.

From February 2002, through December 2010, Jones, a graduate of Harvard College (magna cum laude in Government) and Harvard Law School, was a member of the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners, and its president for three of those years. He previously served two and one-half terms in the Ohio House of Representatives, where he was the ranking member of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee and second vice president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. Jones was formerly the Vice Mayor and a Councilman in the City of Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Jones is the executive producer of *Fatherhood 101* a documentary on the critical importance of responsible fatherhood. He is a consultant in the areas of government relations, community engagement, event planning, fundraising, market development and fatherhood programming.

Jones, a member of SAG-AFTRA and Actor's Equity, has appeared in well over twenty films (*White Boy Rick*, *Alex Cross*, *The Assassin's Code*, *Starve*), on network television (ABC's *Detroit 1-8-7*), on stages throughout Northeast Ohio. He received the 2016 Indie Gathering International Film Festival Best Ohio Supporting Actor Award for his work in *How to Change the World*. Jones's drama, *The Family Line*, has been successfully produced at Karamu House, Harvard University and Ohio University. His most recent drama, *The Bloodless Jungle*, has enjoyed two full productions at Ensemble Theatre in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. *Land of Cleve*, an arts and culture blog, ranked the second production as one of the best in Northeast Ohio in 2017. The play has enjoyed staged readings at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Dallas Convention Center, the National Black Theatre Festival and in Harlem.

Jones and his spouse Lisa are the proud parents of three children: Ryan Charles, Leah Danielle and Evan Cooke.

**Matthew Alec**

Matthew is an experienced jazz and funk saxophonist who has been performing for over 20 years and holds a bachelor's degree in Music from Kent State University. He has toured nationally and has opened for a number of national acts including Earth, Wind, and Fire, Incubus, Robert Randolph and The Family Band, Keane, Average White Band, Lupe Fiasco, OAR, and many others. He has been fortunate enough to perform with Victor Wooten, Roy

'Futureman' Wooten, Steve Turre, Billy Beck, and he has recorded with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Bernie Worrell. His debut album with his group 'Matthew Alec & The Soul Electric' is due out in 2020.

**Ameer  
Williamson**

Ameer Williamson aka MINUS THE ALIEN is a positive hip-hop recording artist and songwriter from Akron, Ohio. He has a strong passion for mentoring youth and community outreach. He is a recipient of the 2018 "Men of Champions" Award presented by Mayor Dan Horrigan and the Joy Park Neighborhood Federation. He is a 2016 Alumni of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute of Summit County. He is an active mentor for the iCare Mentoring program through United Way. He developed an after-school program model called "A NEW WAY PROJECT" which teaches youth positivity through creative writing, performing arts, videography and community outreach. He also developed an educational hip-hop workshop that teaches the history of hip-hop culture and how it can be used a tool for positive change. He has a partnership with 91.3FM (The Summit) and ORMACO (Ohio Regional Music & Arts Cultural Outreach). He owns the trademark to "Alien Nation" which is a brand that serves as an independent record label and clothing line. His motto is "Dare to be Different". Visit <https://alienartshiphop.org/>

**Gemma Lascio** Bio coming soon.

## VISUAL ARTS

### **Jessica Howard**

Jessica Howard is an artist living and working in Cleveland, Ohio. Through a combination of digital and traditional media, her work illustrates a deep spiritual connection to the natural world. She is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art (Painting, '14), and has worked there for three years as the coordinator for the Continuing Education department. Her work can be viewed online at [jessicaleihowardart.com](http://jessicaleihowardart.com).

### **Jordan Wong**

Jordan Wong (WONGFACE) loves to delight, inspire, and share his quirky sense of humor through illustration and graphic design.

He draws inspiration from his experiences as an Asian American as well as from his nostalgic adoration for narratives found in comic books and video games.

Since relocating to Cleveland in 2015, Jordan has started his own business, showcased artwork throughout the city, became AIGA Cleveland's Community Outreach Director, worked on the CAC SfAPT (Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Support for Artists Planning Team), and assumed the role of design partner at the art organization SPACES.

### **Catherine McManus**

Catherine McManus is a photographer, digital artist and designer. Born and raised in Northeast Ohio, Catherine grew up exploring the many parks, beaches and other natural areas surrounding her... capturing their essence with her camera and a vivid imagination.

A lifelong creative, Catherine has always been immersed in the visual arts. While completing her undergraduate degree, she gained professional experience as a photo lab technician, honing her skills in both analog and digital image processing and printing. She then began a career in web and graphic design while further exploring the art of photography, digital manipulation and composite imaging.

Catherine's work has appeared in exhibitions and publications in the United States, United Kingdom, and as part of the permanent collection of PhotoMuse in Kerala, India. In 2009, she presented her first solo exhibition in Seattle, Washington. Most recently, she participated in the first annual Cleveland Photo Fest.

Website: <https://catherinemcmanus.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catherinemcmanusphoto>

Behance: <https://www.behance.net/catdmcmanus>

### **Daniel Lozada**

Daniel Lozada is a Cleveland-based portrait and editorial photographer. His photography explores a personal connection with his subjects to convey authenticity through each image. He also is the creator and co-leader of Creatively Speaking, a Northeast Ohio community aimed at connecting and educating local artists. You can find his work at [DaniellLozada.net](http://DaniellLozada.net).

### **Samantha Bias**

Bio coming soon.

**Elaine  
Hullihen**

Elaine Hullihen is an interdisciplinary artist who works with themes of presence, embodiment, and systems of support. The scope of her practice is studio-based, collaborative, public, and educational in the desire to spark a creative curiosity that fuels life. In this effort, she is continually drawn to movements, actions, and experiences that create, process, and transform this fundamental energy. In addition, her expanded practice includes teaching yoga- where she sculpts experiences into opportunities for connection to both one's self and community. She regularly presents work in the Cleveland area and has participated in residency programs in Chile, Scotland, and Germany. She lives in Cleveland Ohio.