



Elevating and Preserving Black, Indigenous, and Immigrant Foodways through Arts and Humanities Funding

May 1, 2023

Co-sponsored by Mellon Foundation & Philanthropy New York

[Event link](#)

Agenda

Welcome

- Adam Liebowitz, [Community Food Funders](#)

Framing

- Justin Garrett Moore, [Mellon Foundation](#)
- Maria Sachiko Cecire, [Mellon Foundation](#)

Examples

- Yin Kong, [Think!Chinatown](#)
- Zella Palmer, [Dillard University Ray Charles Program in African American Material Culture](#)

Open Q&A

Speaker Bios



Justin Garrett Moore is the inaugural program officer for the Humanities in Place program at the Mellon Foundation. His transdisciplinary work focuses on advancing equity, inclusion, and social justice through place-based initiatives and programs, built environments, cultural heritage projects, and commemorative spaces and landscapes. He has extensive experience in architecture, planning, and design—from urban systems, policies, and building projects to grassroots and community-focused planning, design, preservation, public realm, and arts initiatives.



Maria Sachiko Cecire is a program officer for Higher Learning. Before joining the Mellon Foundation, she was the founding director of the academic concentration and Center for Experimental Humanities at Bard College, and associate professor of literature (currently on leave). She graduated from the University of Chicago before going on to the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar. There she earned a master's in English medieval studies and a doctorate in English, which she completed in 2011.



Yin Kong 邝海音 is a community-based designer and curator living and working in Manhattan's Chinatown. Think!Chinatown is the culmination of her work in urban design, museum, culinary & cultural instruction, and community engagement. Previously an Urban Curator of the Dashilar Project, she consulted a municipal agency of Beijing on urban revitalization strategies in the city's historic hutong core. She also spent time teaching at the Black

Sesame Kitchen in Beijing and onboard Semester at Sea. She loves sharing Thomas Jefferson facts which she picked up at her time working at Monticello. Yin holds a Masters of Architecture, Urban Design from the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London and a Bachelors of Arts, Urban Studies from Columbia University. Her work has been presented at the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2016 and the Shenzhen Biennale of Architecture 2007 & 2009. In 2019 she was a fellow of both the New Museum's IdeasCity and Coro's Neighborhood Leadership programs. In 2020 she was a David Prize finalist.



Zella Palmer is an author, professor, filmmaker, curator, scholar and the Chair and Director of the Dillard University Ray Charles Program in African-American Material Culture in New Orleans, Louisiana. Palmer is committed to documenting and preserving the legacy African American, Creole, Indigenous and LatinX culinary history. As the Chair of the Dillard University Ray Charles Program, Palmer filmed and produced the *Story of New Orleans Creole Cooking: The Black Hand in the Pot* documentary. In 2020, under Palmer's leadership, Dillard University launched a Food Studies Minor, 1 of 2 accredited academic Food Studies programs at a

(HBCU) Historically Black College & University.