



Board

Roosevelt Brown
Beree Cox
Ridgley Curry
Tyrone Drake
Paul Gladden
Patrick Kiruki
Stan Kong
Christopher Thomas
Palencia Turner
Dana Walker
Kevyn Wallace
Deidre Washington
Everard Williams
Cecilia Ybarra

120 GROUP, AN ALUMNI-BASED DIVERSITY INITIATIVE, FORMED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MINORITY STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND ALUMNI OF ART CENTER COLLEGE OF DESIGN.

(Pasadena, CA.) January 27, 2012 - 120 Group, an ethnically diverse, alumni-based organization was recently established to promote educational and career opportunities in art and design for underrepresented minority populations. Its members seek to create a diverse, inclusive, culturally- and ethnically-rich global community of artists and designers.

The group's founding members include Art Center alumni, staff, faculty and students, and is led by current president Tyrone Drake, Creative Director at Natsun America, faculty member at Art Center and alumnus of Art Center's Graphic Design program.

120 Group will serve as a vital resource to Art Center College of Design and the greater art and design community through three key areas: Diversity and Inclusion; Outreach and Accessibility; and Mentoring and Support.

Although its members are primarily committed to increasing diversity at Art Center College of Design, they also seek to create awareness and opportunities for underrepresented minority students, faculty, staff, and alumni interested in studying, teaching or working in art and design related fields.

In addition to mentoring and outreach efforts, 120 Group seeks to bring a diversity of creative voices to Art Center.

120 GROUP founded, continued

-2-

In November 2011, 120 Group, in conjunction with Art Center's Archetype Press and the Southern California Chapter of the American Printing History Association, co-sponsored a lecture and workshop series with guest artist Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr. The artist is a letterpress printer and bookbuilder based in Gordo, Alabama; at age 40, unsatisfied with his comfortable, middle-class life, he abandoned the traditional American Dream to follow his own. He traded in his computer for a printing press, his white collar for overalls and is now a self-proclaimed "humble negro printer" whose letterpress work raises emotionally charged questions about race and individuality.

The founding members of 120 Group invite interested Art Center alumni to assist in their mission by becoming part of this valuable network. Please contact Dana L. Walker at dana.walker@artcenter.edu or <http://www.onetwentygroup.org/join/>.

For more information about 120 Group, please visit: onetwentygroup.org.

Founding members of 120 Group are:

Tyrone Drake (*GRPK '96*), *faculty; president, 120 Group*
Roosevelt Brown (*PROD '95*)
Ridgley Curry (*GRPK '82*)
Paul Gladden (*GRPK '92*)
Patrick Kiruki (*PROX '05*)
Stan Kong (*PROD '83*), *faculty*
Christopher M. Thomas (*ILLU*) *student*
Palencia Turner, *former staff; consultant*
Dana L. Walker (*PHOT '95*) *staff*
Deidre Washington (*ENVLx*), *staff*
Everard Williams, Jr. (*PHOT '89*), *faculty*
Cecilia Ybarra, *staff*
Kevyn Wallace* (*ILLU '90; MFI*)

**deceased*

About Art Center College of Design

Founded in 1930 and located in Pasadena, California, Art Center College of Design is a global leader in art and design education and the first design school to receive the United Nations' Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status. Art Center offers bachelor's degrees in advertising, entertainment design, environmental design, film, fine art, graphic design, illustration, photography and imaging, product design and transportation design. A graduate program of study can lead to a master's degree in art, broadcast cinema, industrial design and media design. The college also offers a series of programs for the general public, including Art Center at Night, its continuing studies program; Saturday High for high school students; Art Center for Kids for children in the fourth through eighth grades; and the Design-Based Learning program for K-12 educators.

* * *