



## **MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Keats Myer, Executive Director**

Keats Myer, a nonprofit institution builder by training, has served as Executive Director of Madison Square Park Conservancy since 2013. Over the past five years, Myer initiated and implemented a critical strategic-planning process leading to an institutional focus on the art and horticulture programs. Under her leadership, the park has become an Arboretum and an American Public Garden and has been selected as the Commissioning Institution for the United States Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, in 2019. Myer has quadrupled fundraising in as many years and overseen a facilities restoration plan that will keep the park peaceful, green, and safe for generations to come.

Prior to joining the Conservancy, Myer was Executive Director of the Children's Museum of the Arts in Lower Manhattan, where she quadrupled the museum's audience and funding and was responsible for the relocation, design, and capital campaign for the museum's new home, which was built in 2010 in Hudson Square. She was also a founding member of the team responsible for conceptualizing, fundraising, designing, and building the National Track and Field Hall of Fame and Learning Center in Upper Manhattan, where she served as Museum Director upon its opening.

Myer completed her B.S. in economics at the University of New Hampshire and received her master's degree from the Wagner School of Public Service at New York University. Myer currently serves as Board President of the Tamworth Community Foundation in New Hampshire.

### **Brooke Kamin Rapaport, Deputy Director and Martin Friedman Senior Curator**

Brooke Kamin Rapaport is Deputy Director and Martin Friedman Senior Curator at Madison Square Park Conservancy and Commissioner and Curator of the United States Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia. Since joining the Conservancy in 2013, Rapaport has overseen its program of commissioned public-sculpture exhibitions by contemporary artists including Diana Al-Hadid, Tony Cragg, Leonardo Drew, Teresita Fernández, Josiah McElheny, Iván Navarro, Giuseppe Penone, Martin Puryear, and Arlene Shechet. Through Madison Square Park Conservancy, she established the Public Art Consortium, a national initiative of museum, public-art-program, and sculpture-park colleagues.

Rapaport has worked as a museum curator, independent curator, and art writer. During her 13-year tenure at the Brooklyn Museum, she organized numerous exhibitions and wrote corresponding catalogues in her roles as assistant and then associate curator of contemporary art. As part of the Brooklyn Museum's Grand Lobby series of installations, she worked with contemporary artists to realize their projects. As guest curator at the Jewish Museum, New York, she organized *Houdini: Art and Magic* (2010), an interdisciplinary exhibition on the life and enduring significance to contemporary artists of the magician and escape artist Harry Houdini, and the retrospective exhibition *Louise Nevelson: Constructing a Legend* (2007). Rapaport has also held positions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and the Jamaica Arts Center in Queens, New York. She is a contributing editor and frequent writer for *Sculpture* magazine and a regular lecturer, moderator, panelist, and catalogue essayist on contemporary art and public art.

Rapaport received her B.A. *cum laude* in art history from Amherst College and completed her M.A. in art history from Rutgers University. She is also the recipient of a Helena Rubinstein Fellowship in Museum Studies from the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program. She serves on the Board of Directors of Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City and is Vice President of the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation in New York. She currently serves on the board of the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College.