KARLEEN GARDNER

Karleen Gardner, is Director of Learning Innovation at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) and leads the Center for Empathy and the Visual Arts. Gardner serves on Mia's leadership team and collaborates to develop and implement institutional strategies and impactful community-focused initiatives. With a strong belief in museums as spaces for dialogue and reflection, she works with cross-functional teams and partners to develop programs and exhibitions that foster conversation, new ways of thinking, empathy, and global understanding. Prior to Mia, she served as Curator of Education at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and also on the board of the Museum Education Roundtable. Gardner is a frequent presenter at national and international conferences, is a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Museum Education*, volunteers for the American Alliance of Museum's Education Committee, and serves on the advisory board of the Seattle Woodland Park Zoo's Empathy Initiative. She holds a BA in English from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a BA and MA in Art History from the University of Mississippi, as well as a MS in Museum Education Leadership from Bank Street College.

Changing museums for a changing world

Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) believes in the power of art to engage, connect, and transform our communities. Art sparks curiosity and creativity, connects across cultural differences, engages our individual and shared values, and fosters empathy. With our incredible collections filled with the stories of humanity, museums are well poised to play a vital role in inspiring new ways of thinking and helping people understand one another. In our ever-changing and divisive world, Mia is focused on becoming more integral and impactful in the lives of our communities by serving as a place of reflection, connection, discovery, and dialogue. Through experimentation and developing innovative programs and exhibitions, the museum is engaging audiences in meaningful social and civic interactions. Learn about ways that art can be utilized to inspire audiences to respect and value different cultures, perspectives, and ideas and think of multiple possibilities and innovative solutions.