

**MICHAEL A. FELDMAN**  
MFeldman@MFeldman.net  
(202) 277-6486  
@ARTSconnectedDC

---

## SUMMARY

Theater, arts, and humanities curator with experience in conceiving, designing, and executing policy and community outreach events. Demonstrated ability in distilling complex current and historical dilemmas into accessible podcast and written media pieces, organizing museum exhibitions, and curating panel discussions and symposia. Visionary thinker practiced in investigating how to translate themes in theater and artistic works into real world questions while motivating audiences to delve deeper into societal and policy issues.

## SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Researched, designed, and launched new panel discussion** series at leading theaters in DC.
- **Awarded a Humanities Fellowship** by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and a **HumanitiesDC** grant for launching a policy discussion series.
- **Organized** digital outreach events on **climate change** and **social issues** featuring academic and community panelists.
- **Promoted new theater works** as **Creative Producer** for a DC-based African-American playwright, including facilitating a shift to virtual performances during the pandemic.
- **Advised** playwrights and directors on **education curricula** and **audience engagement** components for new theater works.
- **Counseled** U.S.-based international **cultural institutions** on research exchanges and public outreach strategies, including a research collaboration on religion and refugees.
- **Planned** and **produced** a **podcast** series on arts policy and equity in partnership with Fractured Atlas and Createquity.
- **Published** “Rebuilding Theater Around the Audience” for Dramaturgs Union (LMDA).
- **Supported DC’s Alliance for a New Music-Theatre** as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) task force member and post-show facilitator.
- Helped produce **reading and panel on Vaclav Havel’s Protest** as the centerpiece of **The Gathering theater summit** at Georgetown University.
- **Curated** and **moderated post-show conversations** as member of Mosaic Theater Company’s public programming committee.
- **Organized** environmental **photography and land use exhibition** in Prague and Budapest and oversaw environment and policy event series.
- **Edited** the Czech edition of **Strategic Planning in the Arts** primer, as part of hosting a Kennedy Center seminar for cultural institutions in Prague.
- **Conceived** and **implemented** a Prague symposium on fostering democracy in countries in transition , including **overseeing publication** of the proceedings volume.
- **Managed** symposia in Europe, including **preparing documentation,**

- **monitoring contractors**, and **overseeing evaluations** and financial reporting.
- **Stage-managed** gatherings in **New York** and **Africa** to mobilize **AIDS funding**, including shepherding program content, participants, and strategic alliances.
- **Developed** and **aligned policy messages** on new opportunities for afflicted countries, donors, philanthropists, and foundations to finance the fight against HIV/AIDS.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Creator, Theater and Policy Salon**, Washington, DC, 7/17 – present.

Conceive intellectual framework, shape artistic and policy milieu, and build coalitions of theaters and policy, academic, and community partners for the Theater and Policy Salon.

- Organize, publicize, and moderate Theater and Policy Salon panel discussions.
- Recruit inclusive, engaged, and knowledgeable panels.
- Distill key societal and policy issues from works of theater in DC area
- Foster civil and productive conversations about tough social and policy issues.

**Principal, Transitions International**, Washington, DC, 10/13 – present.

Provide strategic and partnership advice to organizations and development agencies.

- Deliver partnership and public outreach strategies for cultural and academic institutions such as museums and universities.
- Provide strategic advice for Washington-based cultural institutions and development consultancies.

**Facilitator, Talk Tank, Forum Theatre**, Silver Spring MD, 6/16 – 6/18.

Working with Forum Theatre’s OpenForum Coordinator, designed and launched the Talk Tank initiative to explore policy issues underpinning Forum Theater productions.

- Curated, with the Center for American Progress, Talk Tank discussions for *Building The Wall*, for performances both hosted by Arena Stage and at Forum Theatre.
- Organized Talk Tank discussion of Forum’s *The State* hosted by Woolly Mammoth Theatre.
- Developed Talk Tank conversations for Forum productions of *Dry Land*, *What Every Girl Should Know*, *I Call My Brothers*, and *Love and Information*.

**Editorial Team Member, Createquity**, Washington, DC, 6/15 – 12/17.

Served on Alliance Building and Research teams at arts policy and equity think-tank.

- Synthesized arts policy research and conducted literature reviews.
- Provided analysis and commentary for publication.
- Developed partnerships with foundations, academia, and external advisors.
- Promoted content and research through key policy experts and social media campaigns.

**Director of Interdepartmental Coordination, Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Department of State**, Washington, DC, 8/2011 - 8/2013.

- Pioneered new role providing outreach to State Department and external stakeholders for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) \$6.5 billion aid portfolio.

**Director for European Affairs and South and Central Asia, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC, 9/2009 - 8/2011.**

- Developed creative proposals for deepening U.S. engagement with Europe and Central Asia.
- Advocated for labor rights and fair and transparent economies in South and Central Asia.

**American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, Senate Budget Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 9/2008 - 8/2009.**

- Consulted with stakeholders and constituents for Chair of the Senate Budget Committee.

**Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Prague, Czech Republic, 11/2005 - 08/2008.**

- Board Member and Treasurer of the Fulbright Commission.

**Economic Officer, Office of European Union and Regional Affairs, European Bureau, Department of State, Washington, DC, 8/2003 - 8/2005.**

- Coordinated U.S. policy on Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

**Program Officer, Office of the Coordinator for Assistance for Europe and Eurasia, European Bureau, Department of State, Washington, DC, 8/2001 - 8/2003.**

- Oversaw \$150 million assistance portfolio for Yugoslavia and \$11 million regional program.

Foreign Service assignments in Italy, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Germany.

#### **EDUCATION**

**Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, B.A. Economics, 5/1984.**

**Foreign Service Institute, Arlington, VA, Cultural Affairs, African and European Area Studies, Religion and the Muslim World coursework between 1985-2008.**

**Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Honolulu, HI, Executive Course, 8/1999.**

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

Member of Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA).

#### **LANGUAGES**

Fluent spoken French, Italian, German and Czech.