



Visionary Initiatives in Art.



Brooke Davis Anderson is the Executive Director of VIA Art Fund. Prior to VIA, Anderson was the Museum Director of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, a position she held from 2017-2021. In this role Anderson was responsible for building the permanent collection and originating exhibitions for the first art museum in America: central to her leadership was expanding and making elastic the American art story to more fully include women artists and artists of color: *ArtNet* celebrated how PAFA was leading the way, nationally, in its acquisitions of artists of color and women under Anderson's direction. Anderson was recently honored by Rush Philanthropic Arts with an award for her dedication to diversity in the arts. Prior to moving to Philadelphia Anderson was the fourth Executive Director

of Prospect New Orleans/U.S. Biennial (2013-2017) where she successfully implemented Prospect.3 and jump-started Prospect.4, all while making the organization debt free for the first time in its history. Brooke also moved all operations from NYC to New Orleans with the belief that the project would be better poised for success if it emanated from its host city. She also changed the project from a biennial to triennial. Anderson was the inaugural Deputy Director of Curatorial Planning at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) from 2010 to 2012. In this role, Anderson oversaw the Watts Towers Conservation and Community Collaboration, and the Curatorial Diversity Initiative, a Mellon-funded pilot program aiming to change the demographics of professionals in museums across the nation. From 1999 to 2010, Anderson was founding Director and Curator of The Contemporary Center at the American Folk Art Museum in New York, where she curated countless exhibitions (most notably projects on Martin Ramirez and Henry Darger), authored several books, numerous articles and lectured extensively around the country and abroad. Here, Brooke continued her commitment to demonstrating the porous nature of art history and made work by self-taught artists central the “mainstream” discourse. From 1992-1999 Anderson was the first director of the Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University, where she tripled the budget, audience, programming, and publicity. During her tenure in North Carolina, she was recognized by the Chronicle Newspaper as Curator of African American Art and was honored by an endowment established in her name to ensure the museum's future. She has been an Assistant Professor at Columbia University, City College of New York, and Winston-Salem State University.