

THE CANDIDATES / LES CANDIDATS

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How to vote? (Until July 4)

- Head to <https://form.jotform.com/232384895224362>
- Page 1 requires you to vote on the 2024 Activity Report and Accounts (whose approval by members is required by French law)
- Page 2 lets you vote for the candidates
- Done! The results will be posted before July 15.

Comment voter ? (Jusqu'au 4 juillet)

- Rendez-vous à <https://form.jotform.com/232384895224362>
- La page 1 correspond au vote du rapport d'activité et des comptes
- La page 2 vous permet de voter pour les candidat·es
- C'est fait ! Les résultats seront publiés avant le 15 juillet.

Petra Ardai

Hungary

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/laurenecheilan/>



Bio

Petra Ardai is a pioneering artist, experienced educator, and scenario writer specializing in immersive and interdisciplinary experiences across various media including serious games, interactive performances, multimedia installations, workshops and living heritage tours. She is the artistic director of the art initiative SPACE, explorers of the continuous present, rooted in Amsterdam and Budapest.

With a background in documentary theatre, Petra's docu-fiction narratives balance fiction and reality, making complex issues like polarization, inequality, migration, unprocessed historical past, and climate change intimately relatable through the politics of personal. She works with deep democracy, speculative art and narratives of unresolved pasts. The projects construct imaginary worlds around the fundamental question: "Who owns the Future?"

SPACE's upcoming production "The Last Human," is a mixed reality storytelling proposing radical change in our relationships to the other; human and more-than-humans. Petra collaborates closely with cross-sector partners from the arts, sciences, and NGOs. She serves as an advisor to Fonds Podiumkunsten (FPK) and is a founding member of Plurality University Network (U+).

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

U+ is a global network that mobilizes the imagination to envision inclusive and sustainable futures. That mission aligns deeply with my goals—in both my work and my life. I create immersive art experiences that raise awareness of the impact of narratives and empower participants to challenge, question, decolonize, and depolarize (dominant) narratives.

Although our interdependence is increasingly evident in virtually every aspect of life, it seems to have little effect on how we understand ourselves in relation to others and the environment. We have developed creative and destructive powers on a global scale—yet we fail to cultivate a corresponding sense of ethic and responsibility.

My work is an invitation to form temporary communities that uncover what we share, without moralising or denying our differences. It is a space to reclaim ownership of the stories that shape us, and to reimagine how they could serve a more just and connected world.

U+ generates new inclusive narratives, embraces the local within a global perspective, and brings together people of diverse backgrounds and expertise who use the power of imagination to develop transformative storytelling practices. That is why I wish to be an active participant: to learn and be inspired, to share knowledge and build networks, to shape policy and create change—urgently. The world needs healing, regenerative stories that support collaboration and courageous action.

What contribution to/point of view on diversity could you bring to U+ ?

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Comment contribuerez-vous à (ou quel point de vue apportez-vous à propos de) la diversité au sein du Réseau U+ ?

I am an Eastern European migrant living in the Netherlands—two differently polarised countries, each with its own way of sustaining a dominant white, heteronormative culture. All my work with communities challenges these narratives. I am a practitioner, a fieldworker who seeks collaboration with diverse, often unseen forms of expertise. I create safe and daring spaces where people who would otherwise never meet—and who seemingly share no values—can connect, exchange, and find common ground.

Although we don't represent a single marginalized group, the members of the SPACE team come from varied cultural backgrounds. Our lives, like everyone's, are shaped by narratives rooted in unprocessed historical pain—stories that linger in collective memory and ripple through the present and future. These include the colonial past, the position of Eastern Europe, experiences of being a newcomer, Western supremacy, racial and gender discrimination, the notion of privilege, and the exploitation and ownership of land.

We connect people across divides, giving space to unheard stories and unrecognized knowledge.

I deeply believe in the transformative power of imagination—especially through co-creative art experiences. I can advise Plurality in creating embodied narrative experiences and dramaturgical structures that foster horizontal exchange with participants. These methods minimize power dynamics, offer flexible frames, and unfold in the moment—qualities that I believe are highly relevant to Plurality's work with diverse communities.

My contribution to U+ is grounded in my practical experience: working with diverse communities, bridging fragmented socio-economic bubbles, breaking through echo chambers, connecting different domains of knowledge and expertise, and facilitating dialogue between people who believe they have conflicting interests.

Laurene Cheilan

UK

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Bio

I began my career in France in the theater before joining the world of science centers, where I facilitated collaborations between the arts and sciences and designed exhibitions and science outreach events. My doctoral thesis (University of Bristol, MSCA program) was an auto/ethnography on the institutionalization of public engagement practices within a European research network.

Since 2023, I have been conducting research at the Centre for Sociodigital Futures (University of Bristol), where I contribute to interdisciplinary research that questions the construction of sociodigital futures. My interests include speculative methods and the development of queer theoretical frameworks in the field of sociodigital futures, as well as participatory research practices adapted to so-called marginalized communities.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat·e

U+'s work lies at a particularly interesting intersection for me, between creative practices, civic engagement, and questions about what constitutes a just and sustainable future. I am particularly aligned with the organization's sensitivity to issues of power and domination in the field of participatory futures. Joining the U+ board would be an opportunity for me to forge a link with a French grassroots organization whose values and practices resonate strongly with my work in the UK. I hope to contribute through my experience of adjacent or similar approaches and my critical thinking, informed by my expertise in Futures Studies.

What contribution to/point of view on diversity could you bring to U+ ?

Comment contribuerez-vous à (ou quel point de vue apportez-vous à propos de) la diversité au sein du Réseau U+ ?

My research is rooted in participatory practices that contribute to the pluralization of futures, with one of the main focuses being the development of methods adapted to audiences who do not perceive their imaginaries of the future as socially performative (i.e., as likely to come true). In addition, I am involved in the emergence of an academic community around queer futures—in connection with my own non-binary queer identity and my theoretical work on adapting queer thinking to futures studies.

James Kataliko

Democratic Republic of Congo

<https://kijijichaamani.org/en/home>



Bio

Specialist in human rights, Peace builder, public health and environmental justice, Coordinator of Kijiji Cha Amani (The Sentinel Project). James Kataliko graduated in Neuro-Psychiatry and Public Health. He now leads or contributes to several community and activist initiatives, including Extinction Rebellion and Kijiji Cha Amani, a platform designed to counter the spread of false information through transparency and early mitigation of conflict.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat·e

I would like to help U+ by:

- Actively participating in board meetings.
- Engaging in constructive dialogue with management to ensure good governance within our network.
- Contributing my useful skills.

What contribution to/point of view on diversity could you bring to U+ ?

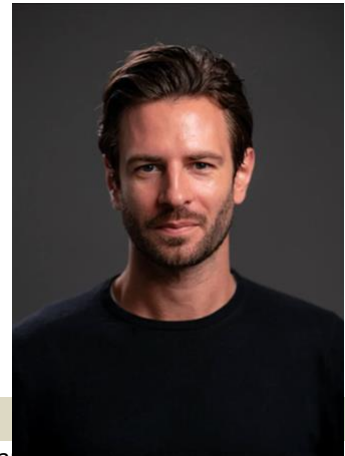
Comment contribuerez-vous à (ou quel point de vue apportez-vous à propos de) la diversité au sein du Réseau U+ ?

- Increase its impact in other regions, including countries in the Global South.
- Continue to strengthen the strong cohesion between existing members.
- Ensure that members are confident that our objectives are being achieved.
- Participate in defining U+'s overall strategy.
- Validate our network's long-term objectives and action plans.
- Ensure that the decisions taken at our meetings are aligned with U+'s mission and values.
- Serve as a link between U+ and our partners to strengthen our relationships.

Albéric Maillet

Canada

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Bio

Albéric Maillet leads strategy and transformation at Nurun, a global technology and design consultancy where digital business reinvention is grounded in human experience. With a background in applied human sciences and a decade of projects at the intersection of strategic design, systems change, and organizational development, Albéric supports individuals and teams as they navigate complex cultural and technological transitions. His work centers on one question: How can we enable people and systems to thrive sustainably within emerging technological futures?

Passionate about strategic foresight and social innovation, he launched the Montreal chapter of the Design Futures Initiative, where he curated conversations and practices around futures-led design for five years. He has taught foresight-driven design at the Centre Interdisciplinaire De Recherche En Opérationnalisation Du Développement Durable (CIRODD). He also contributes to Canada's cultural innovation landscape as a board member of MUTEK and UKAI, two pioneering not-for-profits advancing creativity and experimentation in the arts.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

As a foresight practitioner and systems thinker for nearly a decade, I've long admired U+ as a bold and inspiring organization that bridges art, activism, and research in ways that deeply resonate with my own path. The opportunity to contribute to a community of changemakers aligned with my commitments to building social infrastructures for collective imagination is incredibly meaningful to me.

My motivation to serve on the board stems from four key intentions:

1. Grounding systemic thinking in local action. Having studied system change and community development in academic and professional settings, I am now seeking opportunities to root that knowledge in concrete, place-based projects. I believe U+'s work offers a fertile context to move from theory to embodied impact.
2. Expanding my focus on community resilience. While I've supported not-for-profits like MUTEK and UKAI in building infrastructures for more equitable and creative futures (particularly through digital art and creative tech), I'm eager to broaden my involvement to include pressing social and ecological challenges. U+'s mission aligns with my desire to contribute to systemic approaches to resilience beyond the cultural sector.
3. Supporting alternative forms of learning and capacity building. I've had the privilege of teaching futures thinking and curating communities of practice through my leadership of Speculative Futures Montréal. I would now love to contribute to an organization like U+ that is actively exploring alternative approaches to education, capability building, and knowledge transmission across generations, especially with youth.
4. Reconnecting with European foresight communities. Though originally from France, much of my foresight and transformation work has taken place in Canada. Serving on U+'s board represents a meaningful opportunity

to rebuild ties with my cultural roots, support European foresight communities, and cross-pollinate practices across geographies.

Across these areas, I see my experience in strategic foresight, cultural innovation, and organizational transformation as highly complementary to U+'s mission. I would be honoured to support the organization in expanding its reach, deepening its systems impact, and shaping new forms of collective imagination.

What contribution to/point of view on diversity could you bring to U+ ?

Comment contribuerez-vous à (ou quel point de vue apportez-vous à propos de) la diversité au sein du Réseau U+ ?

Thanks to my work at the intersection of strategic design, organizational development, and digital transformation, I believe that my contribution to plurality can span across three different areas:

Plurality of Experiences in Approaches to Change

My graduate studies in Human Systems Intervention at Concordia University fundamentally shaped how I approach transformation: not as a process to be managed, but as a deeply human, social, and emergent phenomenon. Trained in dialogic methods, collaborative design, and group process facilitation, I've learned to see organizations and human systems as living, dynamic collectives of relationships, where change requires not just strategy, but trust, reflexivity, and shared sensemaking. Since then, I have had the opportunity to apply these stances to various complex challenges, ranging from digital transformation to community building.

Plurality of Views on Technological Futures

As a board member of MUTEK Festival and Forum, I've been actively involved in shaping a platform that invites artists, researchers, technologists, and cultural workers to critically examine and reimagine the role of digital creativity in shaping the future. Through residencies, masterclasses, talks, and hybrid programming, I've witnessed how artistic practice can serve as a pluralistic lens on technological futures by disrupting dominant narratives of scale, speed, and control, and making room for slower, relational, and speculative forms of innovation.

Plurality of Initiatives in Organizational Development

Through my pro bono projects, I have been involved with creative communities, foresight networks, and socially engaged organizations, which I see as each being a node in a plural ecosystem working toward futures that are inclusive, regenerative, and ethical. At MUTEK and UKAI, I support the nurturing of artistic ecosystems that amplify underrepresented voices, challenge dominant aesthetics, and question the political economy of creativity. At Nurun, I apply this same philosophy to large-scale transformation work with mid-to-large-sized organizations. As a business design lead, I guide teams through shifts in culture, structure, and capability, helping them adopt more human-centered, participatory, and adaptive ways of working. Using methods drawn from design thinking, systems theory, and behavioral science, I support the redesign of governance models, team rituals, and strategic roadmaps that enable more inclusive and plural forms of collaboration.

My point of view on plurality is deeply influenced by my background in human systems intervention and strategic design. On the one hand, I think that real change happens when we embrace the social, cultural, and emotional dimensions of collective life. On the other hand, I believe the future is plural not by default, but by design. And that design must be done together, across boundaries of identity, discipline, geography, and power.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Ketty Steward

France

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Bio

Ketty Steward is a poet, essayist and author of fantasy and science fiction. She is the president of Plurality University network, an association that explores alternative imaginaries for the future. Clinical psychologist and doctor in psychology (Paris 8- LPPC), she works on the use of narrative in care.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

As a writing workshop facilitator, I've learned much working with U+ and I hope to contribute to our mission, especially the plurality part, which means, to me, providing space for people to tell their stories. I also would like to be part of the experiment and researches about the future and its representations. I want to keep on growing with the association.

What contribution to/point of view on diversity could you bring to U+ ?

Comment contribuerez-vous à (ou quel point de vue apportez-vous à propos de) la diversité au sein du Réseau U+ ?

I'm still one of the few black female sci-fi writers in France, which I hope will change. I've written about the lack of plurality in the science-fiction fandom and I struggle for this to change.