

## Two AEI Artists:



### **Daniel Minter/ Public Works**

Daniel is a visual artist. He designed the U.S. Postal Kwanzaa stamp as well as Portland's Freedom Trail Markers. Daniel will work with prints from carved linoleum blocks.



### **Elizabeth Jabar/ Health & Human Services**

Elizabeth is a printer & bookmaker. She is an Associate Professor at MECA and Head of the Print Department. Elizabeth will create books out of prints and materials from participants' work lives, journals & dialogues.

All 8 AEI artists will make their own art about the city & their departments, as well as teach a monthly class for departmental employees in their discipline. The art created will explore heritage, history, the work itself, and diversity & discrimination in Portland allowing difficult conversations to begin & insights to unfold.

What Maine leaders are saying about the Initiative *and the play "home land security"*

*"The Arts and Equity Initiative skillfully employs art to catalyze change – provoking new thoughts while informing the public about the nature of racism and white privilege as well as the challenges we face in ensuring that all peoples have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives." Reverend Rincon, Tengo Voz*

*"It showed that someone who's homeless like me and the Mayor of a big city like Portland can share a stage." Billy Woolverton, Preble Street Resource Center*

*"The production home land security opened my eyes to how tenuous our safety as a community can become if we are fooled into seeing ourselves as separate and disconnected from one another. home land security gave poignant and public voice to those who are often not seen – it was stunningly honest and moving – and reminded us all of our deep connections." State Representative Anne Haskell*

*"Our interactions (during home land security production) were rich and deep and made a lasting impact. I know first hand the fruits of that process and the experience continues to inform and influence my approach to diverse communities as I go about my work as a City Councilor charged with representing the entire city." Jill Duson, City Councilor, former Mayor*

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# Arts & Equity Initiative: Portland Maine

WHERE CREATIVITY IS THE SOLUTION

A NATIONAL ARTS INITIATIVE  
BY THE CITY OF PORTLAND  
& TERRA MOTO INC.



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# ARTS & EQUITY INITIATIVE

## Innovative Approaches to Municipal Challenges



The Arts & Equity Initiative is a three-year project of The City of Portland and non profit arts organization Terra Moto Inc. The Initiative will bring the imaginative intelligence inherent in creative activity to the mechanics and policy-making of Portland's municipal government as a way to address the City's current challenges with demographic changes (race, ethnicity, religion, language). Through art, the Initiative will alter Portland's social environment to create and support authentic equity, representation and inclusion.

### Five Elements of AEI

- **Public Artists in Residence**  
*arts residencies in city departments & unions. Ex: Poet & Police, Drummer & Teachers Union Digital Storyteller & City Council.*
- **highschoolportlandmaine:2008**  
*An original district-wide play with students focusing on reclaiming pride in self, school, city.*
- **We & U.s. Civic Dialogues**  
*Invitational & public arts-based civic dialogues on social issues such as immigration, taxation, healthcare and education.*
- **“home land security #3**  
*New community performance with Portland's ideologically conservative citizens about life since 9/11.*
- **Exhibits, Readings, Conferences**  
*Public events of the work created as well as an ongoing exploration of AEI as an innovative process for improving city government, leveraging diversity and increasing civic engagement.*

[www.artsandequity.us](http://www.artsandequity.us)  
**launch date: January 2008**

### About the Director of the Arts and Equity Initiative

Marty Pottenger, Executive/Artistic Director of the Arts & Equity Initiative is an Obie-winning playwright, performer and director. Nationally recognized for her work as a pioneer in community arts, she has been a finalist for the United States Artists Award and the Alpert Award. In 2005, Portland's Center for Cultural Exchange planted the seeds for AEI by commissioning Marty to create *home land security* which opened to rave reviews. In 2007, she moved to Portland Maine from New York City to lead the Arts & Equity Initiative for its first three years. The Initiative has received generous support from the Maine Community Foundation, the Rines Thompson Fund, the Nathan Cummings Foundation and the City of Portland.

**How to Become Involved?**  
**Donate time Donate money**  
**Volunteer**  
**Visit the website**  
**Come to events**

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