

*Akmaral Kulbatyrova (she/her) is an arts administrator and cultural policy researcher pursuing her Master's degree in Arts Administration and Policy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she is a recipient of the prestigious New Artist Society Scholarship. Before moving to Chicago, she worked as a cultural project manager at the Kazakh National Academy of Choreography in Kazakhstan, fostering partnerships with international ballet organizations like Opera de Paris, Beijing Dance Academy and Teatro alla Scala. Because of her experience with both arts and international cultural exchange, Akmaral transitioned to working as Senior Legislator at the Kazakhstani Ministry of Justice. In 2025, she received one of the prestigious ArtTable Fellowships and continued her work as a Curatorial Fellow at the Bass Museum, Miami Beach. Akmaral has expertise in administration and communications at arts and cultural organizations, having worked with Public Housing Museum in Chicago and Blue Rhino Art Consultancy in London. She is dedicated to advancing arts ecosystems through cultural policy and arts administration internationally.*