

APPENDIX A  
QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

As a cultural director as well as a producer, Sandro Dernini since 1980 has his focus on multicultural interdisciplinary events in art, science and technology.

Born in Cagliari, the capital of the autonomous County of Sardinia, an island in the Mediterranean sea which is part of Italy, he received his doctorate in Biology at the University of Cagliari, 1974.

After his doctoral degree, Dernini moved to Rome. As assistant professor of prof. Carlo De Marco at the Biochemistry Institute of the University “La Sapienza,” from 1974 to 1978, he specialized in researching on qualitative and quantitative aminoacids separations, and published in 21 national and international scholarly journals of the field such as Journal of Chromatology, Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Molecular & Cellular Biochemistry, Italian Journal of Biochemistry.

At the same time, in the mid- 1970's, he became sensitive to the separation between university life and outside world of Italy's then critical social and political reality. Therefore, he became actively involved in the cultural planning of a new alternative cultural group, L.I.A.C.A. (Italian League of Cultural Alternative Associations), and he promoted the opening, in 1976, in Cagliari, of an alternative performance space, Spazio A, the first multimedia performance space opened in Sardinia. At the end of the '70s, Dernini gave his resignation from the university and moved to New York.

In New York, he conceived a new operating model for national cultural institutes operating abroad. He presented his proposal to the French and Italian Department of New York University that approved it. Then Dernini raised the funds and as executive director, opened the activities the new Center for Contemporary Italian Culture of New York University, in 1980.

At New York University he organized many cultural events. Of particular interest for this study was the successful program "The Artist in the First Person." He resigned from his position at New York University and in 1982 founded Plexus. Plexus started as a non profit cultural organization running a performance space in the Chelsea area of Manhattan .

Moving to the Lower East Side, in 1984 Dernini with Giuseppe Sacchi opened and produced the Shuttle Theatre, a community-based performance venue. In 1985 he conceived with Butch Morris the format of the first Plexus "artopera" Goya Time, New York, 1985, which was performed at the Cultural Civic Center CUANDO. In 1986 Dernini as artist appeared in several "eating art" performances, and "Nuraghic" ritual art performances, in addition to creating ritual art altars. From 1986 to 1989, and from 1992 to 1994, he received a full scholarship from the Art and Art Professions Department of the School of Education of New York University to attend the Ph.D. program in Art Education. As graduate assistant of prof. Angiola Churchill, co-director of the International Center for Advanced Studies in Art, (ICASA). There from 1986 to 1989 he had a long training which allowed him to become more familiar with current contemporary art issues which were discussed and raised up within four international ICASA symposia which he helped to organize at New York University: "The Dematerialization of Art;" "The Redefinition of Art in the

collision of the Post-Modern World;” “The Convergence of Art and Philosophy;” and “Art and Societies.”

In the Spring of 1989, in New York, a group of representatives of academic institutions and cultural organizations, including Plexus, established the 1992 Christopher Columbus Consortium. He became the coordinator of the Consortium. In the middle of 1989 he moved back in Rome to develop internationally the 1992 Christopher Columbus Consortium project, and performed the first historical presentation of "Plexus Black Box" within the art opera 1992 Cristoforo Colombo: Viaggio nel Pianeta Arte. In 1990, in Sardinia, he was appointed by prof. David W. Ecker, executive director of I.S.A.L.T.A. (International Society for the Advancement of Living Traditions in Art), director of the Mediterranean basin operations. In the middle of 1990, he organized the first Plexus International Forum, "Plexus Black Box.”

In 1992, within the Italian national program for 500th Columbus’s Anniversary, he coordinated in Carloforte, in the island of San Pietro, Sardinia, site of the controversial "Columbus' route correction, " the First International Columbus Reconciliation Forum on the theme “The Well Being in the XXI Century.” On that occasion he managed the signature of a collaboration agreement signed by the rector of the University of Cagliari and the University of St. Louis in Senegal. From 1992 to 1994, at the University of Cagliari, he developed and managed with prof. Franco Meloni, the opening of the Interdepartmental Well Being Center which was established formally in the Fall of 1994. In 1993, he moved back from Italy to New York. From 1992 to 1994, he served as graduate assistant to prof. David Ecker, He assisted him in the development of the 1993 NYU Lower East Side Living Traditions Summer Institute, and in 1994, he was appointed by prof. Leonard Lehrer, chairman of the Department of Art and Art Professions,

coordinator of the activities in the community of the NYU Lower East Side Living Traditions in Art Summer Institute. This experience improved his knowledge of the Living Traditions field research and of the institutional setting of the relationship between the academy and the community. In 1994, he moved back in Italy, continuing to work to build international collaborations with the New York University project "Navigating Global Cultures." In 1995, within the Italian national program for the Marconi's 100 Years Anniversary, Dernini organized at the University of Cagliari a series of events within the New York University project "Navigating Global Cultures," in collaboration with the NYU Commission on Experimental Aesthetics of the School of Education. "Navigating Global Cultures" events were concluded with the Second Well Being International Reconciliation Forum. During this forum at the University of Cagliari, participants established the Consortium for the Well Being in the XXI Century and he became the coordinator of the Consortium. In the Fall of 1996, on the occasion of the World Food Summit in Rome, he co-organized the art event "From Welfare to Well Being" held in Rome by the Organizing Committee of the Consortium for the Well Being in the XXI Century, in collaboration with the FAO Food and Nutrition Division.

Since 1985, he has given several lectures on Plexus and its activities. These lectures were hosted in 1985 at New York University by I.C.A.S.A. (International Center for Advanced Studies in Art); in 1986 at the African Cultural Center Malick Sy; in 1987 at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and in 1996 at Spelman College in Atlanta.

From 1985 to the present he has organized large interactive international art events, held in Rome, Dakar and Goree Island in Senegal, in New York, and Sardinia.