



Strengthening arts, culture,  
and creative expression as the  
tools to cultivate a better  
California for all.

Gavin Newsom, **Governor**  
Jonathan Moscone, **Executive Director**  
2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833  
(916) 322-6555 | [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov)

**PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA**

**April 28, 2023**

**1:00 PM – 5:40 PM**

**University of the Pacific, College of the Pacific**

**Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House**

1022 Dave Brubeck Way, Stockton, CA 95211

**Online meeting access will be provided at**

<https://arts.ca.gov/about/council-meetings/>

1:00 PM (5 min)	<b>1. Call to Order</b>	C. Montoya
1:05 PM (15 min)	<b>2. Land and People’s Acknowledgment</b>	C. Duarte
1:20 PM (5 min)	<b>3. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum</b>	A. Armenta
1:25 PM (5 min)	<b>4. Welcome from University of the Pacific, College of the Pacific</b>	UOP Representative
1:30 PM (10 min)	<b>5. Chair’s Report (<a href="#">TAB A</a>)</b>	C. Montoya
1:40 PM (5 min)	<b>6. Executive Director’s Report (<a href="#">TAB B</a>)</b>	J. Moscone
1:45 PM (5 min)	<b>7. Voting Item: Council Minutes from Previous Council Meeting, March 24, 2023 (<a href="#">TAB C</a>)</b> <i>The Council will review and vote on the minutes from the March 24, 2023, Council meeting.</i>	C. Montoya

<p>1:50 PM (20 min)</p>	<p><b>8. Public Comment (General)</b>  <i>Two forms of public comment will be offered:  LIVE and ONLINE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Written comments will be accepted online prior to and during the Council meeting.</i></li> <li>• <i>Live comments will be accepted during this agenda item in the meeting in person, on Zoom or phone. Live public comment is limited to 2 minutes per person.</i></li> <li>• <u><i>General public comments will be limited to 20 minutes, as allowed by Bagley-Keene</i></u></li> </ul> <p><i>Access and instructions will be provided at</i>  <a href="https://arts.ca.gov/about/council-meetings">https://arts.ca.gov/about/council-meetings</a></p>	<p>A. Armenta</p>
<p>2:10 PM (40 min)</p>	<p><b>9. Voting Item: Grant Review Panelists Pool (TAB D)</b> <i>Council will review and vote to approve grant review panelists.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overview: (10 mins)</li> <li>○ Voting Item Public Comment (10 min)</li> <li>○ Voting Item Council Discussion and Votes (20 min)</li> </ul>	<p>A. Kiburi E. Gollub</p>
<p>2:50 PM (60 min)</p>	<p><b>10. Presentation and Discussion on Bagley-Keene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Department of Justice Presentation (30 min)</li> <li>○ Q&amp;A with Council (30 min)</li> </ul>	<p>Milad Dalju Julia Zuffelato,  V. Estrada</p>
<p>3:50 PM (30 min)</p>	<p><b>BREAK</b></p>	
<p>4:10 PM (15 min)</p>	<p><b>11. Presentation from San Joaquin County Office of Education</b>  <i>Presentation on the arts education programming and the Color the Summer Art Camp.</i></p>	<p>Erika Chapman Jane Steinkamp</p>
<p>4:25 PM (40 min)</p>	<p><b>12. CAC Youth and Arts Programming: Presentation and Discussion (TAB E)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff presentation of the CAC Youth and Arts Programming (20 min)</li> <li>○ Council discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>	<p>A. Kiburi  C. Montoya</p>

5:05 PM (15 min)	<p><b>13. Committee Updates (TAB F)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Legislative (5 min)</li> <li>○ Governance (5 min)</li> <li>○ Equity (5 min)</li> </ul>	C. Montoya N. Miner G. Clarke
5:20 PM (10 min)	<p><b>14. Voting Item:</b>  <b>Fiscal Sponsor Change Request (TAB G)</b>  <i>The Programs Policy Committee will present a recommendation to the Council on a grantee request to change their fiscal sponsor.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presentation (5 min)</li> <li>○ Discussion and Vote (5 min)</li> </ul>	E. Gavin L. Goodwin
5:30 PM (10 min)	<p><b>15. In Memoriam</b>  <i>Council will announce names and summary of careers of recently departed California artists and cultural bearers.</i></p>	V. Estrada
5:40 PM	<b>16. Adjournment</b>	C. Montoya

1. All times indicated and the orders of business are approximate and subject to change.
2. **Any item listed on the Agenda is subject to possible Council action.**
3. A brief mid-meeting break may be taken at the call of the Chair.
4. The CAC retains the right to convene an advisory committee meeting pursuant to Government Code Sec. 11125 (d).
5. Per Executive Order N-29-20, the Council Meeting will be held via teleconference. There will be no physical meeting location in order to comply with public health guidelines. If you need additional reasonable accommodations, please make sure you request no later than April 24, 2023 at 5 pm. Please direct your request to the Public Affairs Specialist, Kimberly Brown, at [kimberly.brown@arts.ca.gov](mailto:kimberly.brown@arts.ca.gov).
6. Public comment instructions will be provided at <https://arts.ca.gov/about/council-meetings/>.
7. Arts and cultural organizations or coalitions that wish to be scheduled on an upcoming agenda must submit a request to [info@arts.ca.gov](mailto:info@arts.ca.gov) outlining a synopsis of their work and their purpose for inclusion at a Council meeting. All requests will be sent to the Council Chair for consideration and may or may not be accepted and subsequently scheduled.

# TAB A

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California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/28/2023

This agenda item was provided to Council as an oral report. A detailed summary will be included in the record of the meeting's minutes, published to the CAC site following Council's approval at the next scheduled business meeting.

# TAB B

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California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/28/2023



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Dear Colleagues,

On April 11, 2023, several state agencies were called in to testify in front of the Sub 4 Budget Committee of the State Assembly.

Our staff diligently supported my presentation with facts and figures, detail and descriptions. And so, as my report for the April 28 Council meeting, I am submitting to you the transcript of my testimony.

With gratitude,

Jonathan

## Testimony to the California State Assembly's Sub 4 Budget Committee

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### April 11, 2023

- My name is Jonathan Moscone, and I am the Executive Director of the California Arts Council
- I would like to thank Chair Carrillo and Members of the Sub 4 Budget Committee for the opportunity to present on the work we are doing at the CAC to meet the needs and aspirations of our expansive and diverse sector.
- First, some gratitude on behalf of our field. In 2022 through baseline funding and one time funding opportunities afforded to us by the Legislature and Governor Newsom, **we dispersed over \$144 million dollars to 2,145 grantees, serving all 58 state counties.**

- Over the last several months in the role, I have been working with agency staff and our 11 member Council, led by our chair Consuelo Montoya and vice-chair Vicki Estrada to create a transparent, accountable and responsive organization.
- At the March 24 Council meeting, after months of listening tours and open meetings, our Council completed their voting on guidelines and allocations for 2023 programs that focus on the accountability of spending our state dollars to have the greatest impact on communities, prioritizing those that have been historically underrepresented and/or under-resourced due to historically inequitable policy decisions.
- To do so, we will use data that enables us to identify these populations in a way that is compliant with Prop 209 and the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.. The most active data source that has informed our Creative Corps pilot program and will be implemented in our equity guidelines for all of our programs in 2023 is the Healthy Places Index - or HPI.
- The HPI, from the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, looks neighborhood-by-neighborhood throughout California, mapping data on social conditions that drive health — like education, job opportunities, clean air and water, and other indicators that are associated with life expectancy at birth.
- 13 other state agencies deploy the HPI, including CalTrans, Department of Emergency Services, and California Department of Public Health.
- Though focused on place, the index maps through detailed and accessible data the intersection of place and race, and thus will allow our council to reach communities to advance health equity and dismantle discriminatory, racist systems. We will do this by focusing on those living in the lowest quartile of the HPI.
- Finally, we look to increase geographic diversity in state funding through concerted in-person and online outreach, focusing on areas with the fewest number of grantees with the highest populations, and specific outreach to tribal nations throughout the state, to provide grant writing workshops and whatever technical assistance is needed so as many Californians as possible have a chance at getting state funding.

## **Overview of CAC baseline funding**

- Overall, the proposed CAC budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year includes \$34,819,000 in the General Fund with
  - \$26,055,000 devoted to granting through our local assistance funds,
  - \$8 million for the Arts in Corrections program,

- and \$4.8 million to run the agency.
- In addition to General Fund monies, the CAC also receives funding through the National Endowment for the Arts, Graphic Design License Plate Account, Keep Arts in Schools Fund, and other reimbursements.
- **Highlights of our local assistance funds programming include:**
  1. Cultural Pathways for orgs under \$100,000 in revenue: 2nd year of a \$2 million allocation
  2. Folk and Traditional Arts which several years ago was at \$35k and is now @ \$1million for an administering organization to support folks and traditional arts, and is our main conduit of support for tribal nations.
  3. Arts Administrators Pipeline Fellowships @1.2 million
  4. Individual Artist Fellowships - money directly to artists @ \$3.7 million
  5. General Operations - increased cap to include organizations led by underrepresented leaders who have built organizations up to 1.5 million dollars to continue to serve their communities, while maintaining majority of the funding for organizations under \$250K. @ \$9.3 million
  6. Impact Projects @ \$9.3 million

## **Arts in Corrections Program**

- California's Arts in Corrections program is made possible by funding from the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR) and is implemented through an interagency agreement with the CAC.
- Since the program's re-launch in 2013, CDCR's investment has increased from \$2.5 million to an \$8 million annual commitment.
- We are currently in every one of the 34 state correctional facilities through 21 organizations, plus 2 program development organizations and 4 training organizations.
- This amount is not part of our \$26 million local assistance budget.
- CDCR put forth a Budget Change Proposal that would move the funds from CDCR's budget to ours, which would dramatically increase the speed with which we can pay our contracted organizations.

## Youth and Arts Programs

- Our programming is funded through General Fund Local Assistance funds. Programs under Arts and Youth include Creative Youth Development (CYD), Artists in Schools, Arts Education Exposure, Arts Integration Training, and JUMP StArts, which focuses on serving justice involved youth.
- With the one-time \$40 million investment in Arts & Youth in 2021, the CAC was able to more than double its grant funding in the field for the 2022-2023 program year, reaching 26% more grantees with multi-year awards and greatly increasing impact for youth served.
- In 2022, \$39,418,938 was awarded to 870 grantees
  - Compared to 2021, when \$12,500,000 was awarded to 693 grantees
- 10% more counties were reached in 2022 than 2021 helping to expand our reach into rural communities.
  - (including Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, Kings, Lake, Shasta)
- Final grant reports, including numbers and voluntarily provided demographics of those served, will be due in early 2025 once grant terms end. We are bringing on staff to help lead the evaluation of this program.

### 2022-2023 grants include:

Arts & Youth Grant Program	Total Awarded	Total Requested	# Orgs Applied	# Orgs Funded	# Counties Served
Creative Youth Development (CYD)*	\$16,207,015	\$36,838,053	674	401	34
Artists in Schools (AIS)	\$ 9,379,201	\$10,049,641	178	174	30
Arts in Schools-Exposure (AEE)	\$ 8,738,660	\$10,150,216	192	175	33

JUMP StArts (JMP)	\$ 4,596,579	\$ 1,796,686	40	40	16
Arts Integration Training (AIT)	\$ 497,483	\$ 532,980	36	35	15
	<b>\$39,418,938</b>	<b>\$59,367,576</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>44</b>

## Overview of Other Two One-Time Funding Opportunities for new programs:

- California Creative Corps
- Cultural Districts

### California Creative Corps

- The 2021 Budget Act included \$60 million one-time General Fund to implement the California Creative Corps pilot program, modeled after the WPA program to provide artists, cultural bearer and cultural workers with work to amplify messages around four key areas;
  - Civic Engagement
  - COVID safety
  - Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Safety
  - Social Justice
- In August of 2022, our agency announced that it selected 14 organizations to administer Creative Corps funding. All organizations have either opened their regranting applications, about to, or just closed them and by late June-mid July, we will know which artists and arts organizations have been awarded these job opportunities.
- All the funding has already been processed with contractors directly.

### Administering Organizations Updates:

- [18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center](#) , Santa Monica, serving entire state

- 18 awardees: \$65k salary, \$50k project budget, medical/dental/simple IRA.
- The [Arts Council for Long Beach](#) Orange and Los Angeles counties.
  - Grants of \$30 K will be awarded to 30 organizations and grants of \$50 K will be awarded to 30 individual artists.
- The Center for Cultural Power”: Oakland, serving the entire state.
  - Four “[Constellations Fellows](#)” (including a liaison to work with tribal nations) who will work on large projects as part of the Center’s staff
  - and they will award a further 70+ grants of \$15k each to artists across California.
  - Constellations X California Fellowship: 4 awardees get: \$120k grant, \$50k for partner organization.
  - Oakland Futures and subsequent regional projects: 70+ grants of \$15k
- Community Partners in Los Angeles, serving Orange and Los Angeles counties.
  - 33 awardees: Each receives a \$50k stipend and a project budget of up to \$50k.
- [Creative Corps Inland SoCal](#) servicing Inland Empire.
  - IE SoCal will be awarding organization grants of \$25,000 - \$150 K and individual artists grants of \$10 K up to \$50K.
- [KDA Creative Corps](#) in Bakersfield Central Valley.
  - Over 80% of the applicants to KDACC’s call for applications have never received funding from the CAC before. ( 4,223,447)
  - Grant Request Amount: Individual Artists up to \$150,000, Organizations up to \$300,000
- The Latino Community Foundation’s [PoderArte](#), San Francisco, statewide.
  - 170 submitted applications.
  - 25-30 grants at 2 levels: Program Level grants for arts and culture orgs (\$100k-150k) and the Project Level grants for arts and culture projects (\$25k-50k).
- The [Upstate Creative Corps](#), Nevada County Arts Council and serving 19 upstate counties.
  - Grants are available for individuals between \$5 - \$60 K, for resident artists between \$15K - \$150 K, and for artists coalitions of up to \$250 K
- The [Capital Region Creative Corps](#), Sacramento based.

- 20 grants of \$117 K will be provided to 20 organizations, 5 large organizational grants of \$300 K will be awarded, and the City of Sacramento will hire 5 artists in full-time positions at \$100 K salary for one year.
- [Far South Border North](#), a program of the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, serving San Diego and Imperial counties.
  - Individual grants of \$33 K will be awarded and \$50 K grants for organizations.
- The San Francisco Foundation, serving the entire Bay Area,
  - 25-30 grants of \$75k-\$100k to orgs.
- The [Central Coast Creative Corps](#), which spans Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties,
  - 23 grants of over \$100k to arts organizations
  - They are also creating a networking platform to connect these agencies with local artists. ( 4,750,000)
- [Heartland Creative Corps](#) serves Merced, Stanislaw, and Tuolumne counties. ( 4,230,21 )
  - Grant awards of up to \$150 K for individual artists, and up to \$300 K for arts organizations will be awarded.
- The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, serving the Bay Area.
  - About 50 grants for \$70k-\$72k for artists (who must partner with arts orgs) to create projects on impact areas.

## Evaluation of Creative Corps

California Creative Corps and the Creative Workforce Evaluation:

The CAC collaborated with the National Assembly of States Arts Agencies to create an evaluation plan for the California Creative Corps. As this is a creative workforce development program on a scale not seen since the Work Progress Administration (WPA), we wanted to proactively design ways for CAC and our 14 AOs to capture stories, data, narratives, and imagery to tell the story of the California Creative Corps over the next few years. \\\

This evaluation and HPI data will be crucial for us and for our 14 partners to do two things: 1) ensure that the one-time funding is spent equitably across the state; and 2) to prepare for future creative workforce development projects, such as SB 628, which currently stands unfunded.

## Cultural Districts

- A community investment strategy driven by community, that integrates the arts into vitalization of neighborhoods and cities, safeguarding cultural heritage and living traditions as a core component to strengthen and stabilize communities.
- We maintained a \$10 million allocation as proposed in the January 10 budget, aimed at supporting the 14 existing pre-designated Cultural Districts.
- Each of these designated districts were approved for a uniform, lump sum amount (\$671,429) for the three-year grant period of (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2025), and redesignated for five years (beginning January 27, 2023, when Council approved the vote):
  1. Balboa Park Cultural District
  2. Barrio Logan Cultural District
  3. Downtown San Rafael Arts District
  4. Eureka Cultural Arts District
  5. Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District
  6. Little Tokyo in Los Angeles
  7. Oceanside Cultural District
  8. Redding Cultural District
  9. Rotten City – Emeryville Cultural District
  10. San Pedro Arts & Culture District
  11. SOMA Pilipinas –Filipino Cultural Heritage District
  12. The BLVD Cultural District (Lancaster)
  13. Calle 24 Latino Cultural District

## 14. Truckee Cultural District

- In their contract they are required, and willingly so, to serve as mentors to non-designated districts, - 15 of which have already expressed interest in designation. Plus we know there are hundreds more cultural hubs around the state, deep in urban areas and out in rural locations.
- So we will spend this year mapping these hubs throughout the state, focusing on gaps of funding and opportunity for fuller representation.
- I have been traveling through the state to meet with current designated districts, as have members of the Legislature, and I plan on doing a listening tour throughout the state to help the districts and hubs who aim to be designated, and **when the funding is available, we will be ready to add more districts.**

In fact we are preparing for the future in all of our work, as we foresee limited funds due to state-wide budget deficits, we will be relying heavily on partnerships, Leveraging relationships within government to increase support for artists and cultural workers.

- Like our partnerships with Arts in Corrections, we have been excited to work with sister agencies and expand our impact..
- Parks Department: proposed \$25 million dollar Arts in Parks Program
- California State Library which is helping to financially support our California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick as he tours throughout the state's libraries and other community centers and devises his state-wide poetry project.
- County Arts Agencies - currently at 53 with the goal of establishing one in all 58 Counties. These are our partners and are also held accountable to actionable equity plans that go beyond statements.

Thank you.

Jonathan Moscone

# TAB C

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California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/28/2023

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
March 24, 2023  
10:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

The members of the California Arts Council convened via web conference to discuss and vote on various items as listed in the minutes below. The full audio and video of the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

PRESENT:

Council Members

Consuelo (Chelo) Montoya, Chair  
Vicki Estrada, Vice-Chair  
Gerald Clarke  
Caleb Duarte  
Ellen Gavin  
Leah Goodwin  
Alex Israel  
Phil Mercado  
Roxanne Messina Captor  
Nicola Miner  
Olivia Raynor

Arts Council Staff

Jonathan Moscone, Executive Director  
Kayla Ungar, Chief Deputy Director  
Ayanna Kiburi, Deputy Director  
Liz Azevedo, Director of Program Services  
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist  
Kristin Margolis, Director of Legislative Affairs  
Qiana Moore, Outreach and Events Coordinator  
Zachary Hill, Information Technology Associate

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Montoya opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

## 2. Land and Peoples Acknowledgement

Council Member Mercado acknowledged the following: *“We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Tongva, the Tatavium, Serrano, Kizh and Chumash people who are the original inhabitants of what we now call Los Angeles County. As the indigenous stewards of this land, the Tongva, Tatavium, Serrano, Kizh and Chumash peoples have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging all members of the indigenous communities here and throughout the state and by affirming their sovereign rights. The California Arts Council is committed to developing the competencies and the relationships to support all indigenous people throughout our state.”*

Council Member Mercado noted that there are more than 140,000 Native American people in Los Angeles County of these 30 tribes.

## 3. Roll Call an Establishment of a Quorum

Director of Legislative Affairs Margolis conducted a roll call.

**Present:** Chair Chelo Montoya, Vice Chair Vicki Estrada, Gerald Clarke, Caleb Duarte, Ellen Gavin, Leah Goodwin, Phil Mercado, Roxanne Messina Captor, Nicola Miner and Olivia Raynor.

A quorum was achieved.

Council Member Alex Israel joined the meeting after the roll call was taken.

## 4. Chair’s Report

Chair Montoya reported the following: April is designated as the Arts and Culture and Creativity Advocacy Month in California. I encourage all of you to get out and advocate in that art is everything, everywhere all at once and April is the month where we spotlight the work that we are doing.

I would like to welcome a few Council Members and staff to share about what makes you so passionate about this work and what inspires you.

I have spent my entire career building opportunities for individuals and communities who have not had access. I grew up in a very rural town in California where I always wanted more and more art. I would like to get us closer to covering those communities who have been excluded.

Council Member Gavin shared the following: I was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and it was a mill town and the home of the Bread and Roses Strike of 1912. It was an amazing example of multi-culturalism. California is such a beautiful, contemporary of cultures from all over the

world and I so love California. I am thrilled to celebrate all the diversity that we are able to experience.

Council Member Clarke spoke: As a member of the tribal community we gather together and we sing and we dance together and it is a very powerful thing. This is a form of community wellness. Everything we do here involves community wellness which is so needed. These are ancient practices and I am proud to advocate for that.

Vice Chair Estrada commented: As a landscape architect I have been working in San Diego since the mid-1970s and from early on I have been involved with the arts. I have been involved particularly with under-served communities who typically do not get to see that and over the years I have noticed the incredible change in people's attitudes and their demeanor and their self-esteem when the arts come to their communities. I am very excited to serve on the California Arts Council.

Council Member Duarte shared the following: Como migrante, an economically-displaced, field-working family from the Central Valley we see systems of power, large economies, and evidence of capitalism; and art allows us to be the historians of our own lives. It is how we demonstrate our humanity. It is the parallel to the evidence of violence and hardship that we see in the world - it is that parallel alternative that we provide for the arts that just moves me.

Council Member Mercado stated: As somebody who is an arts advocate and arts supporter - I and my husband are not artists - we are thrilled with the work that this Council does. Our oldest one is going to be going to art school next year and we are thrilled about it.

Council Member Messina Captor commented: I have been in the arts since I was a child in Chicago and was on the Illinois Arts Council and then in New York and now here in Los Angeles. I have worked up and down the state of California in various theatres and dance companies. We have gone into areas that do not get the arts and I have seen the change that happens when you bring the arts because people who do not want to talk to each other - when you start playing theatre games or doing a dance project together they come together as if there were no boundaries. Art is the great equalizer and it is one of the most important things in our lives.

Executive Director Moscone shared the following: When my dad took me to see at ACT a play and it was a big theatre and the lights went to black and then when the lights came up - a world appeared. In that moment I thought, oh, plays are dreams. You do not have to wait to go to sleep to be part of a dream. I started by acting in the dreams and I realized I get to direct dreams. I believe that my dreams are as real as anything else that goes on in my life. I have never forgotten that one moment that got me there.

Deputy Director Kiburi chimed in: My childhood was filled with dance. The first dance style I learned was Congolese dancing in Oakland. What I learned about dance as a young person was that there is a relationship between the dancer and the drum and that has stayed with me my entire life. When I danced I felt free and alive and we used to do performances in the community for free. I also did the same when I danced with the Afro-Cuban dance troupe. Dancing, music

and creativity is part of my fabric as a being and I have been so grateful to have that here in California.

Council Member Raynor was recognized: The arts has always been a part of my life and of my families. I was born in New York, raised in New York, Los Angeles and Paris, France. I am the product of a film-industry family and married to a television producer. I have participated in the arts as an avid audience member and lover of all kinds of music. It is something key that informs my perspective of the arts for Californians. John F. Kennedy said many decades ago that the arts very centered to a nation's purpose. I would like to be a part of the arts resonating as the soul of Californians.

Council Member Goodwin spoke: I am from Berkeley, California and the arts have been a part of my whole life. I took dance in high school and I took theatre and poetry. Much like Jonathan I fell in love with the arts and the San Francisco Opera House where my dad took me when I was little. I have been really blessed to spend my whole career working as a poet, an artist and art administrator. I firmly believe that the arts are the tool for healing. The arts create a safe place for us to be human with one another.

## **5. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Moscone reported the following: What a beautiful way to start the day. During the last two weeks I have been travelling down the Central Coast to Los Angeles and all the way up to Humboldt County via plane to visit with the Eureka Cultural District and many diverse artists and cultural workers there and in Arcata.

First I spent the morning at Corcoran State Prison experiencing creative acts of profound work engaging incarcerated individuals in solitary confinement through innovative arts practices including virtual reality.

After that I visited with Stephanie Magnia at the Kings Art Center in the town of Hanford in Kings County. I spent time at the Kings Art Center and with the Hanford Multi-Cultural Theatre Company, a company of artists and artisans who are centrally located in downtown Hanford and provide classes and performances for people in the area all year round.

I spent a few days in Bakersfield meeting with Jeanette Harrison, Director of the Bakersfield County Arts Council as well as with Andrea Hansen of Kern Dance Alliance who is administering the Creative Corps Program for regions throughout the Central Valley.

In Los Angeles I was honored to finally meet with Kristen Sakoda, Director of the Los Angeles County Office of Arts and Culture. The next day Council Member Ellen Gavin and I went to a dress rehearsal of a new play entitled, *Immigrants of the State* co-directed by Rich Loya currently a teaching artist with the Actor's Gang and a formerly incarcerated member of our society.

That night, Chair Montoya and I saw a revival of, *Twilight Los Angeles 1992* by Anna Devere Smith at the Mark Taper Forum during which a testimonial by Cornel West talks about the

artist's capacity to enter bravely into a state of despair and yet find hope - hope beyond evidence. And quote, "Hope that attempts to create new possibilities based on visions that become contagious so that people can engage in heroic actions always against the odds, no guarantee whatsoever, that's hope", unquote.

In Riverside I visited Director, Rachel Dzikonski with the Riverside Arts Council which is partnering with the Inland Empire Community Foundation to administer the Creative Corps Program serving artists and arts organizations throughout the Inland Empire.

And next time you are in Riverside you must see Martin Sanchez', epic community-driven art work all made from recycled materials.

Finally, in Eureka and Arcata one experience that stood out was my visit with Brenda Perez and her colleagues with the Jardin Sanctuario, a program of Centro Del Pueblo in Arcata. They grow from the ground. They perform on the ground. They are a community center. They have been vandalized and they have been resilient. It was quite a sight to see such hope.

While all this was happening our staff and our Council committees were working non-stop to incorporate conversations, comments, feedback, and deep-diving analyses to prepare us for today.

Our Council will be voting on guidelines for our 2023 programs as well as for allocations to grantees for our remaining 2022 grants.

I could not be prouder of this organization, Council and staff alike. This Council does not rubber stamp. This staff does not just go through the motions; they are actively listening and adapting policies that move closer and closer to reflecting and meeting the needs and aspirations of our expansive and diverse field.

We will continue to listen. We will continue to learn as promised and I expect all of you to hold us accountable. We know that we have to get our 2023 Guidelines and 2022 Allocations voted on today. And if there is something that needs more time to discuss we will take the time. As long as we get the Guidelines and Allocations voted on our staff can get to the next phase of their work and that is our goal today.

So let us approach this day with a belief in good intention, grace for the time it takes to do the good work and a promise to have a positive impact that we all aim to have for you, our field and the communities you serve and with whom you engage.

At our next meeting I hope to yield time to our new Chief Deputy Director Kayla Ungar to share some of the exciting developments in our building new relationships with agencies throughout the state. We are also looking at all the ways we can increase opportunities for artists, culture bearers and culture workers to be paid as a workforce that will be an essential one in achieving a California for all. That is hope - indeed.

Chair Montoya added that Jonathan is also everything, everywhere all at once. You are so involved in everything and it is so helpful because reinforces the work that we are doing here. Thank you for being there for everything.

We are going to go on to Item 6, Voting Item Council Minutes from previous Council meetings, February 24 and Open Programs Policy Committee Meeting on March 13. Maybe we should make a motion to approve them one-by-one.

## **6. Voting Item: Council Minutes from Previous Council Meetings**

**MOTION:** Council Member Raynor moved approval of the [February 24, 2023 CAC Meeting Minutes](#) as amended to include the actual numbers that were allocated to each of the grant programs, seconded by Council Member Messina Captor.

**VOTE:** Yes: Chair Chelo Montoya, Vice Chair Vicki Estrada, Gerald Clarke, Caleb Duarte, Ellen Gavin, Leah Goodwin, Phil Mercado, Roxanne Messina Captor, Nicola Miner, Olivia Raynor.

No: None.

The February 24, 2023 CAC Minutes were approved.

Discussion was as follows:

Council Member Goodwin commented: I found the Minutes detailed but also confusing. In particular to the motion around funding for State and Local Partnerships. Approved that the funds suggested were 75,000 including the 3500 - I thought it was for the convening but I realized that the scenario was saying the funding was 75,000 plus 3,500 meaning that the suggested motion was the 78,500. Somehow if we could clarify the motions for the record that funding for the SLPs is 75,000 which includes Poetry Out Loud then we will easily change our policy when it comes up for review from the Policy Committee to suggest the funding for SLPs to be 75,000. Thank you.

Chair Montoya stated that I will also take part in just making sure we slow down and try to recap. I want to make sure that we are all honoring what we understand is the thing that we are voting on.

Council Member Raynor was recognized: I wanted to suggest that under the voting item or the allocations that we actually add the specific amounts that were voted upon. I am happy to report out loud what we approved. Moving forward we should repeat each of our final votes and any friendly amendments would strengthen the use of our minutes which is what their function is.

The amounts are as follows: State and Local Partners: \$4,050,000, State and Local Partners Mentorship, \$200,000, Statewide and Regional Networks, \$2,105,000, Folk and Traditional Arts, \$1,000,000, Arts and Cultural Organizations General Operating Support, \$9,350,000, Impacts Projects, \$9,350,000, 2023 Local Assistance Total, \$26,055,000.

Council Member Gavin thanked the staff because Leah and I had different understandings on what we had voted on. We were able to go back and look at the verbatim transcript and we were able to listen to the meeting again and there were actually two different versions of the motion on the table and yet it was clarified by the graphics.

Council Member Clarke recommended that in the future the motions be numbered. It makes it easier to reference back into the minutes when we are making these clarifications. In reference to the most recent minutes there is a difference between the two sets of minutes in terms of us being referred to as, Mr. and Mrs. or referred to as Council Member. There needs to be some consistency there.

Chair Montoya stipulated: I would appreciate removing the gender references all together. We are approving the February Minutes first.

**MOTION:** Council Member Raynor moved approval of the [March 13, 2023 Programs Policy Committee Minutes](#) as amended, seconded by Council Member Messina Captor.

**VOTE:** Yes: Chair Chelo Montoya, Vice Chair Vicki Estrada, Gerald Clarke, Caleb Duarte, Ellen Gavin, Leah Goodwin, Phil Mercado, Roxanne Messina Captor, Olivia Raynor.

No: None.

Abstain: Nicola Miner

Chair Montoya stated that the recommendation is to refer to Council Members as “Council Members” and not reference them by gender.

Council Member Raynor recommended that title of the minutes be changed to the name of the committee.

The March 13, 2023 Programs Policy Committee Minutes were approved.

## **7. Public Comment (General)**

Chair Montoya explained the purpose and prohibitions for making Public Comment at CAC meetings. Staff Member Margolis explained the process and provided specific instructions.

Julie Baker with Californians for the Arts speaking from the Nevada City Rancheria commented: We are proud to present Arts, Culture and Creativity Month as part of our work as a statewide regional network through the California Arts Council. This year we are bringing the California Arts and Culture Summit with our partners at Create California to Sacramento on April 17 and it is sold out. Because of a grant from the CAC we have 43 people who have scholarships to come to that. We will be meeting in Berkeley on April 6 to launch with the mayor, Arts, Culture and Creativity Month there. We will be in Watsonville on April 14. And on April 18 we will have

Arts Advocacy Day in the park outside the Capitol with the Mayor's Office from Sacramento as well as Speaker Rendon attending and others that we expect from the Legislature. We know that \$20,000,000 in Cultural District funding is slated to be put back into the General Fund. We want to make sure that maintains in the California Arts Council's budget among other things.

Marie Acosta thanked everyone for their hard work. From our vantage point as working artists and non-profit, arts-producing organizations it is very helpful that a renewed focus on our role as contributing residents of California is becoming more of a priority, kudos. The Council Members are one of the most thoughtful groups of individuals to serve the Agency and it is exciting to hear your comments and experience. Jonathan is an exceptional listener and he is concerned about the Arts Council's mandate to grow, strengthen and support artists and arts-producing organizations and the support systems that assist in their development. I hope the Arts Council and reviews its history and find those successes that have happened in the past like the Multi-Cultural Advancement Program to guide its future.

Leticia Soto Flores the Development Manager of the Alliance For California Traditional Arts (ACTA) and it was founded in 1997 to support statewide services for traditional and folk art. We are speaking in favor of a proposal to allow organizations above \$250,000 to apply for operating support. It is important for midsize organizations of up to 1.5 million dollars to also be nurtured. We are living in a boom-and-bust funding economy in the arts and the 30,000 core operating grant will have an important impact on these organizations. I was born and raised in San Fernando Valley where I learned to play traditional Mexican music in 1991. I received my PhD in Ethno-Ecology from UCLA. I am now helping traditional arts communities from diverse cultural backgrounds thrive in California.

Lily Kharrazi, Tri Tip Special Initiatives also from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts where I have had the privilege of working for over 17 years to lift up practices of artists and culture bearers and their unique communities throughout the state of California. We have been in the field for over 25 years with the CAC as our partner and now as an AO poised to re-grant the new traditional arts monies. We will provide bilingual outreach, tech assistance and we anticipate engaging with many first-time grantees. We want to thank the Council for your continued trust in ACTA. Cultural workers are a key part of the arts ecosystem and we thank you for recognizing by providing additional costs that are aligned with our mutual ambitions. Thank you so much Council

Riselda Suarez stated, I am proud to let you know that as an administering organization of the California Creative Corps we recently closed our application phase for non-profits and received 90 applications across Los Angeles County and Orange County. This opportunity has given us the room to reach out to other organizations. We had a 60/40 split with 40 percent being new applicants and new partners. Artists with the Queer Mercado and Southeast LA Corridor were very thankful for the CAC providing funds. They have never seen this kind of investment and they hope that it continues. I want to thank you on their behalf.

Katrina Schneider stated that she was a consultant specializing in watershed and climate science. I work with the California Creative Corps administering organizations for the upstate region. I am here to provide feedback and perspective regarding the use of the Healthy Places Index as a

means of measuring and evaluating rural community conditions with an aim towards geographic equity. While I applaud the use of this amazing tool I have concerns particularly relevant to the rural regions in the upstate. After looking at the HPI data for all 374 upstate region census tracts combined with all 19 upstate counties on a listening tour our team saw many instances where the HPI metrics used did not adequately reflect on-the-ground, rural-community conditions. In some instances the HPI metrics may serve to indicate urban health conditions yet a tract actually demonstrate less healthy conditions and higher risks in rural settings such as with measure of forced canopy and density. We are also looking at a number of other areas in the lens of rural communities. I provide this feedback due to the importance the metrics that best identify and represent rural community conditions in the pursuit of geographic and health equity. Last fall we provided feedback to the California Arts Council's Creative Corps Team and the Public Health Alliance staff regarding these observations and I am happy to continue such work.

Kathleen Gallegos former Council Member and founder of the Avenue 50 Studio based in Highland Park addressed the Council. A few years ago we were awarded a grant from the CAC for the Fellows of Color Mentorship Program. We came up with a plan to submit an application to the LA Cultural Heritage Commission to designate a Chicano mural in Highland Park a cultural, historic monument for the city of Los Angeles. At the end of the project Jade stayed with the project taking ownership of the designation. I am thrilled to say that after three years of going meeting to meeting, last Wednesday the City Council voted unanimously in support of the very first freestanding mural designated an LA Cultural Heritage Monument. This is historic for all Angelinos. We could not have done this without the support of the CAC. Please continue to fund this fellowship - it works.

Hanna Rubalcava, Grants and Contracts Manager for the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture commented. We are proud to be serving as an administering organization for the California Creative Corps for the Central Coast Region. I am excited to announce that we launched our program two weeks ago in partnership with the Arts Council from Monterrey County, Arts Council Santa Cruz County, San Benito County Arts Council, San Luis Obispo County Arts Council and the Ventura County Arts Council. The Central Coast Creative Corps Program is an extraordinary opportunity for community-based organizations and artists to drive social change. We have 23 community partners, non-profits and government agencies or tribal governments that will be selected to receive \$140,000 to hire artists or cultural practitioners to co-develop bold and inspiring engagement campaigns to communicate powerful messages on one or more themes including civic engagement, social justice, public health and climate impacts. Thank you for this amazing opportunity.

Sabra Williams stated that she could see that the California Arts Council was really listening and that this was inspiring. I wanted to thank Jon for coming to Corcoran State Prison to solitary confinement to see the power of the arts for the people who are most invisible and silenced. I would urge Council Members to visit programs in all 34 California prisons. This will inspire you by the power of the arts. We are funded by CDC Art, the Department of Corrections. I would urge the CAC to look at the recent CDC Rights Grant. It was one question, one page long, one report at the end and the money can be used as we see fit. That is in line with trust-based philanthropy and I pray the CAC finally gets in line with trust-based philanthropy and gives the money to artists to decide for ourselves what to do with the money.

### **Written public comment submissions:**

- Dina Asna (She/Her/Hers), IWIN Iranian Women In Network, Contra Costa County

My name is Dina Asna the founder/CEO of IWIN (Iranian Women In Networking) a SF/Bay Area grassroots Non profit with the mission of empowering women through art. We launched the Woman Life Freedom Quilt Project early Jan 2023 and in this short period of time we got over 300 beautiful artworks from Iran to Paris and of course many cities here in the USA.

We received beautiful artworks from 5 years old kids to 86 year old grandmas. From original painting to calligraphy and of course many mixed media and textile art.

As of today with full support and endorsement of the National Aids Memorial Quilt team we have been able to create 16 magnificent quilts and there are more to follow. (Format 3 x 6 Feet).

Our vision in support of this project extends beyond the cause of supporting the women of Iran to encompass the struggles of women worldwide who face discrimination.

Here is the link to a short introductory video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FICBijKBGXk>

As part of this commitment, we are seeking an indoor venue that can offer a pageantry of grandeur and sophistication to display our cherished pieces or any other form of support to be able to stand up for women's rights and to heal and connect more communities.

Our next preview exhibit (sneak preview) will be on March 24th at 12 noon at San Francisco City Hall in the presence of our honorable Mayor London Breed.

Grateful for time and consideration.

- Katrina Schneider (She/Her/Hers), consultant to Nevada County Arts Council, Nevada County  
RE: Agenda Item 8. Presentation and Discussion: Healthy Places Index

I am a consultant specializing in watershed and climate science. I work with your CA Creative Corps AO for the Upstate Region. While I applaud the use of the amazing HPI tool, I have concerns particularly relevant to the rural regions in the Upstate.

After looking at the HPI data for all 374 Upstate Region census tracts, combined with visiting all 19 Upstate counties on a Listening Tour, our team saw instances where the HPI metrics used did not adequately reflect on-the-ground rural community conditions. Examples include: the measure of forest canopy; wildfire threat and prolonged smoke particulate exposure; rural housing challenges not captured by current HPI metrics; the challenges to attracting medical, educational, and other professionals to live in many rural communities; "Retail density" metric and its disconnect with the choice for rural living; mental health metrics

In some instances, the HPI metrics may serve to indicate urban health conditions, yet in fact actually demonstrate LESS healthy conditions and higher risks in rural settings (such as with the measure of forest canopy and density). There are other areas worth looking at with the lens of rural communities including: functional internet; PSPS events; public land considerations.

I provide this feedback due to the importance of advancing metrics that best identify and represent rural community conditions in the pursuit of geographic and health equity.

## **8. Presentation and Discussion: Healthy Places Index**

Chair Montoya moved on to Item 8 on the Agenda. Helen Dowling is the Director of Data Initiatives at the Public Health Alliance of Southern California. At the Alliance Helen leads work to advance state, local and local-data projects. She also serves as the Project Manager of the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) a data and policy platform created to advance health equity through accessible data. Helen will describe the interactive Healthy Places Index and how it maps data on social conditions that drive health and wellness in communities.

Helen Dowling, Director of Data Initiatives at the Public Health Alliance addressed the Council. I am also the Project Manager for the Healthy Places Index series of projects. I am here to talk about our approach to using race and place to get a more in-depth and complete picture of the communities in California.

I represent the Public Health Alliance of Southern California which is a coalition of 11 local health departments stretching from San Luis Obispo to San Diego and Imperial County and we represent over 60 percent of California's population. We are on a mission to mobilize the transformative power of local public health for enduring health equity.

Our Shared Value Statement guides the work we do with the HPI and our work overall as public-health practitioners. We at the Public Health Alliance believe that everyone deserves a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.

To achieve this goal we need to understand and address those factors that are driving the health disparities we see in our communities and we need to promote policies and services that enable good health while seeking to remove systemic barriers to health.

Ms. Dowling via a slide presentation discussed many details, concepts, data, applications and strategies in furtherance of the organization's Shared Value Statement.

### **Council Discussion**

Vice Chair Estrada stated that access to the arts makes for a healthier community. On your website am I missing how well a community has access to the arts? On the demographics; is that derived from the most recent national census? How did you obtain that data?

Ms. Dowling replied that access to art is important but in our HPI we had several considerations of what is included. To be included as part of the HPI score data had to be available at the

census-tract level and it had to be available for the entire state. Importantly it also had to be publicly actionable. So it needed to be something that we knew there were policies associated with to improve and access to arts would definitely fall into that category. Our HPI is empirically associated with life expectancy at birth and every indicator is correlated with life expectancy. That correlation is what is used to help derive the weight for our HPI score. We have over 375 Decision Support Layers which are additional measures of community contacts that do not have to fit into that rubric. We are always building and expanding.

Council Member Miner said, I thought in the state of California we were not allowed to use race. Can somebody clarify that for me?

Deputy Director Kiburi mentioned that HPI serves as a proxy to get to the communities that we want to serve that have race and base as the considerations. Helen, could you explain how the tool has been used to support agencies doing that?

Ms. Dowling explained that we are a non-profit organization which means that we could in fact include race and ethnicity in HPI but there are lots of reasons why we did not do that not the least of which is that for it to be used in state, grant-making programs - race and ethnicity cannot be explicitly considered per Prop 209. Recognizing that, we wanted to give people the flexibility to use the pathway that they are able to use. If you are not a state organization you can lean more heavily on the race and ethnicity data as well as complementing it with the place-based data. The HPI score itself is a Prop 209 safe way to do grant making that largely still gets at those communities of color that have been systemically disadvantaged.

Council Member Gavin stated that this presentation does give us a way to have a proxy to talk about race and ethnicity and that is incredibly valuable. We have other groups of folks that we are intent on representing culturally which would include women, LGBTQ folks, disability, seniors and rural communities and I am wondering if you have incorporated any of that. And are you planning on expanding out to any other groups? It would be interesting if you could bring into the conversation in some way cultural assets. What does a community look like? It could be that we had more assets there than we realized and that would be important to know.

Ms. Dowling replied that regarding special populations - Decision Support Layers are truly our under-advertised trove of incredible supplemental data. That includes measures that cover elderly populations and disabled populations so you can use that and overlay that or look at that alongside the HPI map to provide additional context. Demographic data is coming from the Census. Cultural assets is a thing that we can include. We would be open to including more data like that as part of our Decision Support Layers or within the Index itself. We have had conversations with people regarding some of the issues raised by the Health Places Index. We cover 98 percent of the population in California and we modified some of our measures to perform better in rural areas.

Council Member Raynor asked if the organization relied on existing databases or do you also partner to do some of the research that would be needed? I am looking at the issue of inclusion of the arts as part of the Index.

Ms. Dowling explained that typically we are accessing primary data sources in which they are making the data available across the state of California and we may do some post processing. There are a number of indicators where we actually take a source data set that is very different from what you end up seeing on the map and we do the analysis and the processing that is necessary to get it there. In terms of doing primary survey data, that is not something that we have embarked upon but if there are data sets we can combine them. We can look at novel approaches in order to be able to provide that data. We are always open to discussion.

Council Member Raynor had a question related to mental health and loneliness. We also recognize that loneliness has become an international public-health crisis. How is that included or addressed? Is it addressed within the Index?

Ms. Dowling explained that with mental health along with many other health outcomes; we have 20 or 30 health outcome measures and are available in our Decision Support Layers. There is an empirical reason why we do not include mental health or any other health outcomes in the Healthy Places Index. One is that our focus is on place-based measures, so those upstream determinants of health not individual-level concerns. We use the Index to predict life expectancy which means that we actually cannot have health outcomes as one of the components of the Index because it is predicting itself. We do have a significant number of data layers available for mapping at the neighborhood level for health outcomes including mental health in our Decisions Support Layers.

## **9. Presentation: Poetry Out Loud Winner Recitation**

Chair Montoya continued to Agenda Item 9, Poetry Out Loud Winner Recitation. Jonathan will introduce this Item.

Executive Director Moscone stated that Poetry Out Loud is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts and it is administered statewide by the CAC. It aims to develop high school student's public-speaking skills, help build the self-confidence and to educate about literary history and contemporary life. California's Poetry Out Loud is the largest event of its kind in the US with the greatest participation of students, teachers and schools. On March 19 our staff produced a live, virtual event hosted by California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick where the 10 finalists competed in the presence of our judges who included Council Member Nicola Miner and several artists recommended by Council Members Goodwin and Gavin. Our first partner, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, celebrated all the contestants via video and family members and teachers were able to watch the 10 finalists perform. The winner of that contest will go on to compete nationally in DC from May 8 to 10. That winner is Alex Yue from John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento in Sacramento Valley.

[\(A video showing Mr. Yue reciting his poem was played\)](#)

Executive Director Moscone continued: We are also honored to show you a video of the poem written and performed by the winner of the Poetry Ourselves contest which is a competition for original work by Poetry Out Loud county champions. The winner of Poetry Ourselves is Olivia Le of Orange County.

[\(A video showing Ms. Le reciting her poem was played\)](#)

Executive Director Moscone thanked the presenters and all those involved in running the program and for putting on an extraordinary event.

**10. Voting Item: [Programs Policy Committee Recommendations for 2023 Grant Guidelines](#), including presentation of [Equity Committee Memo](#)**

Chair Montoya continued on to Agenda Item 10. We will be presenting the Programs Policy Committee Memo as well as the Equity Committee Memo. This will be followed by Public Comment and then we will have a motion to open the discussions.

Council Member Gavin started by announcing that she and Council Member Goodwin would go this section by section and I will start with an overview. This will help clarify and make it easier for the conversations. In our meeting today the Programs Policy Committee is presenting for a vote our suggested changes and our edited Application Guidelines for five different programs: General Operating Support, Impact Projects, State and Local Partners, State and Local Partners Mentorship, Folk and Traditional Arts, Administrating Organizations and Statewide and Regional Networks.

Our overview is that we are making recommendations for grant period lengths that are either one or two years for each program.

We are offering changes to grant amounts and in one instance we are raising the ceiling on the total organizational budget size to include more groups.

We are offering a recommendation on overhead and length of grant period for Folk Arts.

We have incorporated new language about people with disabilities including creatives, audience members, and collaborators - all of this into the Guidelines.

We have detailed new reporting requirements for SLPs and SRNs and supported the Equity Committee's work on promoting diversity with these groups.

We have reviewed each program's guidelines to be sure that they are now comports with the new changes.

We have done an extensive decision support tool that you can read and all of this interacts.

In summary, all of our work has been guided by one principle - to ensure that those artists and arts organizations which represent California's evolving culture can be healthier and more stable.

**General Operating Support**

Council Member Goodwin covered recommendations for General Operating Support. We are hoping that we can make things easier, accessible and intentional in our work.

Extend grant activity for two years.

Institute a three tier system prioritizing smallest organizations.

Organizations with revenue up to \$1.5 million eligible to apply.

Applicants with total revenue less than \$60,000 exempted from match requirement.

Program allocations anticipated to be 55 percent to smaller organizations.

Tier one would be organizations with total revenue up to \$250,000.

The middle tier would be organizations with total revenue from \$250,000 - \$1.0 million..

The third tier would be organizations with total revenue from \$1.0 - \$1.5 million.

### **Impact Projects**

Maximum request amount \$25,000.

One year program.

### **State and Local Partnership Program**

Maximum request amount \$75,000 which includes \$5,000 for Poetry Out Loud.

Allow flexibility with full-time equivalency staffing and maintaining office spaces.

Require statewide convening to deepen equity practices.

Use the Healthy Places Index to flesh out evaluation planning and CAC technical assistance.

### **State and Local Partnership Mentorship Program**

Maximum request amount \$50,000 with up to 20 percent going to the mentee.

Grant activity period of one year with ability to re-apply for up to two years.

### **Folk and Traditional Arts Program**

Grant activity period of two years.

Program design and implementation costs up to 30 percent.

## **Statewide and Regional Networks Program**

SRNs must submit a report providing quantitative and qualitative data on artists and art organizations and the audiences served.

## **Equity Committee Report**

Revision of language pertaining to “Centering Community Artists” inclusive of current language, Prop 209 and the Federal Equal Protection Clause.

Policy Committee consulted on equity language.

Healthy Places Index and other state agencies looked at to see allowable language.

Research utilized to help rename criteria to, “Centering Equity for an Inclusive Arts Landscape”.

Language submitted that inspires organizations to be clear and concise with their answers allowing them to be transparent and submitting specific information relating to centering community artists.

New language and old language was shown on the screen for reference.

## **Public Comment**

Chair Montoya explained the purpose and prohibitions for making Public Comment at CAC meetings.

Director of Legislative Affairs Margolis explained the process and provided specific instructions.

Susie Tanner addressed the Council: I want to thank the Council for the work they are doing and thank Executive Director Moscone for the new tone that he has set; it is really welcoming. I am the Founder and Director of Theatre Workers Project. We are a longtime and very grateful grantee. I am disappointed that Re-Entry Through the Arts Grant Program has been diminished and put under the umbrella of Impact Grants. We were one of original Re-Entry Through the Arts grantees. We were one of the first to implement incentivizing the program. We have been able this year to serve 11 participants. If we had a \$20,000 Impact Grant we would not even be able to pay our artists. I encourage you to rethink Re-Entry Through the Arts for the next funding round.

This grant serves participants some of whom have been incarcerated for 30 years and have not had the opportunity to have an arts experience.

Chair Montoya recapped motion parameters and options for Agenda Item 10.

There are two paths pertaining to this conversation. This includes voting on the individual Guidelines. It also includes from the Programs Committee a recommendation on accessibility

application review criteria and we want to include that in the motion as well as recommendation from the Equity Committee.

So one option would be someone can make a motion to adopt all recommendations from both Committees as a means to open up conversation and then we will discuss it as a whole or if we do it individually we have to keep in mind if we do the individual grant programs first; we need to consider the other recommendations for the accessibility and the equity items.

So it is a little complex. I am leaning on the conversation as a whole and I will make sure we discuss each item and our staff is on standby to capture any amendments and restate those at the end. I leave it to the Council to make an opening motion.

Council Member Messina Captor commented: I really would like to do it on each individual thing. The Committee incorporated the checks and balances discussed and that was my big deal.

Chair Montoya stated that ideally we would make the motion and then have discussion. If we do it individually we should discuss the accessibility criteria and the equity criteria first otherwise if we move forward with the individual programs we would lock ourselves into the Guidelines and not be able to re-open them to make those additional adjustments. It would be very messy.

Council Member Goodwin echoed what Council Member Messina Captor stated because clarity in the minutes is important and these are three huge items. I think if we took them in a block of two it will give us more clarity. I could make the first motion if that would help move us along. Would you want a motion on the equity and accessibility language?

Chair Montoya acknowledged and said that we are discussing those two items, the accessibility recommendation and the equity. Council, do we have any comments, any questions, feedback?

Council Member Gavin asked if it would be good to read the accessibility language.

Executive Director Moscone read the recommended changes to the Council.

Executive Director Moscone read the Council instructions to applicants to include a line item in their budget tables to provide accommodations for persons with disabilities to access their programs and services including in-kind or partner support for the provisions of such accommodations and that this was a consideration and not necessarily a recommendation.

Council Member Gavin said that this was the last program the Committee considered and disability should be separated from the equity piece because it would be nice to put a minute or two into this last issue which is - should we have a line item in budgets? It is a major change in that we are asking people to identify the resources that they commit towards accessibility.

Perhaps we could have a friendly amendment to separate these for discussion. Discuss the disability and then vote on that and then discuss the equity and vote on it.

Chair Montoya suggested that we have to proceed with the motion as is but you can make a friendly amendment on any of the key elements. I did make a note that the last bullet is a consideration so that motion will have to be clarified from the amendment if we are adopting that recommendation.

Council Member Raynor opined that this is a really important and valuable change that we are proposing to go across all of our grants. It points to two things. We talk about accessibility to the arts in a number of different ways that reach all populations. This points to accessibility to a wide swath of people inclusive of disability. Accommodations is more on an individual level and how you plan to incorporate creatives with disabilities or audience members with disabilities on an individual level. I believe that unless we point in our budget that we expect people with disabilities to be participants or involved in a meaningful way in the projects and grants that we support; that is a critical recommendation and I hope that we make it , “should” not “may include”, in your budget. You can make it a requirement. We know as a Council that it does take planning. I am also basing this on 20 years of experience of running the Arts and Accessibility Program and getting organizations that had very little resources to organizations that had millions of dollars asking for dollars to support accommodations. I think it should be the bread and butter of what we do.

Vice Chair Estrada was recognized and stated that I agree with Olivia on that last bullet. Anytime you have something that says, “may consider”, it is just wishy/washy. It does not really mean anything. I would rewrite that to say, “applicants should include a line item”, period. If they do not want to then they give us an explanation.

Chair Montoya commented that I wonder if you should recommend a starting point because some may not know how much to budget. Should the Council specify that applicants must include a starting resource of a certain amount to allocate to this?

Council Member Raynor replied that it really does depend on the size and the scope of the activities being planned so this is a little difficult to answer. At a minimum it should be somewhere around \$500 to \$1,000.

Chair Montoya added that when we specify the friendly amendment we have to make it clear what we are putting in those Guidelines.

Council Member Gavin announced that, I would like to add a friendly amendment to Leah’s motion that says, applicants should include a line item in their budget table to provide accommodations for persons with disabilities to access their programs and services including in-kind or partner support for the provision of such accommodations.

Council Member Goodwin suggested that it should say that the Council will add instructions to applicants that they should include this item. We should make it easy because it already is in.

Council Member Gavin stated that it is fine to do what Council Member Goodwin just said.

Chair Montoya said that we will go back to the original motion maker, do you accept the friendly amendment?

Council Member Goodwin stated - absolutely and yes.

Chair Montoya stated: Olivia was the first to make the motion.

Vice Chair Estrada said, I second it and I accept as well.

Chair Montoya continued: Do I have Olivia as the motion maker?

Council Member Gavin replied that no, Leah was the motion maker.

Council Member Goodwin reiterated, I was the motion maker.

Chair Montoya acknowledged, yes, then you accept the friendly amendment?

Council Member Goodwin stated yes and Vice Chair Estrada also accepted the friendly amendment.

Director of Program Services Azevedo clarified that three of the programs that are in Operating Support Programs would not have a budget table in them. For those programs they can absolutely within the accessibility and accommodations criteria describe those efforts. Those applications have a match table where they are describing the match source, the amount of match being provided and the status. So I am trying to clarify with Olivia - is the intention therefor that to be where they are capturing that in-kind or partner support for the accommodations?

Council Member Raynor explained that they currently do not provide to the Council a budget of their activities. Is that what you are saying?

Director of Program Services Azevedo reiterated that for the Operating Support grants they are not providing a budget table in their application. Now when they do their contracts the matched table is captured in those application documents. It is all of the things that might be supported by the General Operating Fund. Those applications provide their operation budget in the application that describes what they have been using the funds for. We will just have to figure out how to implement that particular change for the General Operating Support.

Chair Montoya moved on to the Equity Recommendation that is included in this motion.

Council Member Raynor asked about the application questions. I am having a little bit of a challenge understanding what the intent of question one is and the kind of responses that you expect from the applicants and how you would score it.

Council Member Clarke fielded this inquiry and stated that one of the things that we tried to do was to approach this in a way that we were not imposing certain ideas onto these organizations. We used the word, "inspire", and that was the idea of uplifting these organizations to give an

opportunity to tell us their story and how they are approaching these equity questions. As far as scoring - it is really a basis of them clearly, concisely explaining what they are doing in terms of equity and outreach.

Council Member Raynor was still puzzled by the first question. I have to give some thought to what I would actually, specifically recommend. I recognize that we want this to come from a good place within that organization and a deep recognition for what is going on in their communities or with the artists that they serve. I am just wondering - are you sort of asking for some kind of context? Is it what they know about their communities or in what ways have they served their communities or responded to issues or priorities; I do not know what vocabulary exactly to use. While I like the word, “inspired”, I might be thrown by it also in terms of what is it that you are asking me. Is it an ideal or is it a real activity or historical focus?

Council Member Clarke referred to question one and shared that it kind of connects what we are asking with each of these organizations. They are all mission statements on what are their goals? And how are they engaging with their communities? How are they serving their communities? That is the basis of the question. We are trying to get at how is equity part of what you do? The purpose of your organization and how are you engaging with these equitable practices?

Council Member Duarte added that some organizations would just jump to the questions because they are doing the heavy work. Other organizations might find it really hard to articulate what they are doing because that is not their focus. That is not their strength. And so we want to make sure that they are able to find inspirational language within the area that they are working in that could inspire them to push further into this equity mindset. Not everybody is into this hard work. It is hard to create this kind of equitable art organization. A lot of our organizations feel a burden when they have to fill this out. We want it to be very personal and honest. This is a working document and we are going to keep revisiting it. We are having discussions in ways to get more honest responses from these organizations.

Council Member Gavin was relieved that Prop 209 stripped out our equity language - things got simpler. I really love the new criteria description. I have the same concern that Olivia has with number one and also a question with number four. The way that we went about having conversations in one Committee meeting without a vote and then a sub-committee meeting that invited other Members of the Council to give input around our suggestions - I do not feel like we have had that conversation. I would really love to see an open Equity meeting where we can have a broad discussion about this because I feel really badly that LGBTQ, women, disabled, veterans - all of that has been stripped from all of our applications. It is heartbreaking to me. I am not sure it all should be because Prop 209 is particularly about race. There is so much more to explore here and so much more to talk about and get feedback about. We are talking about going back to the lawyers with another interpretation. It is like an othering language to say, what are you doing to build trust with “them” when you are them or what experiences inspired your organization to do this? In keeping that in mind we have to be careful that we are not insulting the people that have been doing this work for 20 and 30 years. They do not see themselves separate from the community; they feel themselves to be the community. I want to start challenging in the Arts Council the notion that we are going into communities trying to build trust, trying to reflect

them, giving them tools to transform their community - I just think some of that language does not feel right to me.

Council Member Clarke added that I read question four a little differently. If we take a Latinx dance troupe example; it does not mean that they encompass the entire community. We may want the dance organization to engage more than just the dancers in their community; they want to engage the entire community. And then we want communities to be involved with one another. This was language that was going to promote this idea of not creating these silos but where they would go out and interact with one another and address the diversity within their community.

Council Member Goodwin stated that I hope at our retreat we can pick this up. On number four if we just got rid of the word, “these”, because these is the othering, the colonial like, these are the people. Because it is these and them and the othering that I think Ellen is alluding to.

Council Member Clarke added that I do not see, “these” as an othering. It is referring to within the criteria going after and engaging with these under-served communities. I see it as a direction towards who it is that we are seeking to engage.

Council Member Duarte noted that these conversations need to happen in the retreat. Language continues to evolve. Underserved communities, kind of implies that we were left alone and not served but in reality we were placed in specific situations, strategically to create this level of inequality. It is based on white supremacy enable-ism. We really have to dig this stuff out in order to create the best language moving forward because language changes and evolves - it adapts new meaning.

Chair Montoya noted that we have an open motion at hand and this will help us to go forward with the individual guidelines. Are there any refinements to the Equity Recommendations?

Council Member Gavin noted that I was to suggest using the word, “to transform and express culture”, and Leah was referring to how do we look at those two, one and four, and Olivia had problems with it as well. We need to make the language a little more specific. Would the guys be open to having one more conversation about it? The staff has to incorporate this into the Application Guidelines.

Chair Montoya suggested it as a friendly amendment to refine the language before it is published within the Public Programs Committee because you are the last Committee to work on the Guidelines. If you work with staff to refine the language we can defer the finality.

Deputy Director Kiburi counseled that the issue that we are scheduled to have these Guidelines published so applications can come in April 11. That is when they have to go out the door and be finished.

Chair Montoya continued by saying if a friendly amendment were to include deferring to staff in consultation with the Programs Policy Committee to further refine the language and make sure it is alignment with Prop 209 might be useful.

Council Member Gavin added that I would want it to go back to Gerald and Caleb if possible.

Deputy Director Kiburi offered that today is the day. You are all here and it is an open public meeting. Maybe you can take a break and come up with a motion of what could be edited and everybody can agree on it today. That would be very helpful so we can move forward. The friendly amendment that I heard is some language tweaking. So maybe someone can take a moment to write down exactly what it is that you think would be better and it happen today.

Council Member Gavin stated that I feel it should have been a longer process. I do not want anyone to feel that they are getting railroaded. I am not comfortable with a few words.

Council Member Duarte stated that I am open to considering number four and then adding a few things in number one.

Council Member Goodwin asked if it was possible to have one member of the Policy Committee meet with one member of the Equity Committee and talk about language?

Executive Director Moscone stated that, no we cannot do that. What I am hearing is that, Caleb and Gerald, if they feel that they can make a couple of word changes and present it again; we can maybe vote on this today.

Chair Montoya shared that in order to proceed we would have to do that first before we vote on the individual items. We also have an Agenda that includes other discussions.

Deputy Director Kiburi counseled that my recommendation is that you go to question one, read it again and somebody make an amendment to edit and see if that works for everybody and the same thing for four and then you can vote.

Council Member Gavin referenced number one and stated that it is hard for an organization to have an experience and not a person. What if we say, what has inspired your organization to incorporate or evolve policies and programming that uses the arts as a tool to transform and/or express culture?

Council Member Clarke said, that is fine by me but I thought, “inspired”, was one of the issues.

Council Member Duarte stated that I think it still leaves a lot of room for each organization to really take the time to tell their story where they are coming from on that part.

Council Member Gavin continued to number four where Leah was suggesting to take out, “these communities”. Maybe there is a way to walk back by saying, “describe the actions you have taken to build trust in ongoing relationships with - is it something like, “the stated community”, or the - the way I would have transformed it would be to say, “your community” perhaps the “identified community”? It is a simple word change.

Council Member Duarte stated that this leads for a really rich conversation. Not all art is made to incorporate all people. I think that would be great. In the Latino community there is so many different faces and expressions and languages within our own communities.

Council Member Clarke stated that I guess I am fine with it but I do not see it as being that different from just, “these” to be quite honest with you. I do not see, “these” as an othering.

Executive Director Moscone attempted to move this item along. Gerald I hear is not against it and does not see quite the difference. And Caleb is okay with the change. It feels like this does not preclude us from going into a deep dive as we need to in the retreat. It gets us what we need to get done today.

Chair Montoya asked that the friendly amendment be recited.

Council Member Goodwin read the following into the record: The friendly amendment for the Equity is to change new application question number one to say, “What has inspired your organization to incorporate or evolve policy/programming that uses the arts as a tool to transform and/or express culture?” And to change item number four in the same application question segment to say, “Describe the actions you have taken to build trust in ongoing relationship with the identified communities, artists and cultural practitioners.”

Chair Montoya noted: And I hear Leah has accepted her own friendly amendment. Vicki, do you?

Vice Chair Estrada said, I will accept as well.

Chair Montoya continued: Let’s make sure on the first part - are we all clear on the first friendly amendment? Okay, I am seeing thumbs and heads. I will proceed. Kristin can you call for the vote?

**MOTION:** Council Member Goodwin moved to approve the Equity and Accessibility Language as presented by the Committee and as amended, seconded by Vice Chair Estrada.

**VOTE:** Yes: Chair Chelo Montoya, Vice Chair Vicki Estrada, Gerald Clarke, Caleb Duarte, Ellen Gavin, Leah Goodwin, Phil Mercado, Roxanne Messina Captor, Nicola Miner and Olivia Raynor.

No: None

Chair Montoya announced: We just advanced accessibility and equity in one fell swoop. Thank you all Council Members. Now we can open one motion, go through each item making the friendly amendments and then make one vote.

## Discussion

Chair Montoya continued by stating: We can do as we did in this one - open one motion, go through each item making the friendly amendments, making sure they are clear at the end and then make one vote. Whoever wants to lead the motion, lead the way. Council Member Gavin moved this item, seconded by Vice Chair Estrada. As promised we will continue with the individual items. The Memo starts on page 36 and Arts and Cultural Organizations, General Operating Support, page 37 at the bottom. In gray there are recommended changes having to do with the tiered approach.

Council Member Messina Captor started by saying that I believe in the tiered system and I also believe in adding the two years. My concern on all of this is everything has been upped and all we are hearing is that our budget is going down. I want to know how we think we are going to get this money to up these grants.

Executive Director Moscone responded by saying, Let us be very clear, our baseline has not gone down. We had roll-over funds from previous years that made it appear that this is a decrease. When it was decided not to allocate to Cultural Pathways this year has provided impetus to be able to go into Gen Ops and Impact Projects. The money still does add up.

Council Member Raynor had a question for the Executive Director. When you say the money has not gone down, what fiscal year are you referring to?

Executive Director Moscone replied that if you looked at what we got last year, it is the same amount. We had roll-over funds from previous years that added on to it.

Deputy Director Kiburi pointed out that this current fiscal year still in 2022, the funding for our Local Assistance pot of money was exactly the same as previous years. We did not get an increase or a decrease. Last year was a combination of what we had for 2022 which had to be carried over from 2021 and even funds from 2020 were also included. We are expecting the baseline funding for 2023 will be the \$26 million dollars that we have been getting for the last four years.

Council Member Raynor added that I did want to say that based on this as well as other two-year proposals in the overall grants funding, this would lock 40 percent of our funding next year. And that may be good or it may not be good.

Council Member Clarke stated, I still have concerns. I see that the percentages of the tiers have changed since the last open Committee meeting. I see in the Decision to Support Tool on Tier 3, Equity Alignment, you identify as a Committee that it is going to harm - Will this action disadvantage small organizations - and it says, yes. In general the smallest organizations are going to have less funds to go after. I do not think we have to jump and support all three tiers this year. It could be that we change these percentages and we save consideration of Tier 3 to a future year. I still think our impact and our focus should be on those smaller organizations in Tier 1.

Chair Montoya advised that if you wanted to make a friendly amendment or if there is further discussion before that happens I am going to let Ellen respond.

Council Member Gavin said that I just want to remind people that it was not until three years ago that there was ever a cap of any kind and for almost 40 years the Organizational Support Program had no cap whatsoever. And that was done in relation to the pandemic and there was never a Decision Support Tool done to weigh the impact of how that would affect BIPOC and other diverse, midsize organizations. We also heard from a total of 46 different public testimonials. If we could strip everything away we would realize that these two programs that are direct to artists and art organizations should be our absolute priority. We should get to a point where we are not pitting small against middle against large particularly when it comes to diverse organizations. Both the one million dollars to the traditional arts is going to go to small organizations and artists of color and then they are still applying and getting 55 percent of the funds here. The big difference here is that we are going back to the midsize groups and picking them up again which they were funded for 40 years. And I think it should be even higher because I know organizations that are at 1.7, 1.8 and they are anchor institutions of color in the state. I hope people will hear that our anchor institutions are suffering.

Chair Montoya spoke in regards to a point made by Council Member Raynor. It is nice to have a two-year grant but my caution with this is if we commit to the second year are we then not offering it for two years? We will not have a big enough pot to continue these and then let new grants in next year. We only offer this once a year so if we do two years that commits us to that amount of money leaving very little resources for a new cohort of applicants.

Director of Program Services Azevedo stated that this is communicated in the Decision Support Tool that a grant activity period of two years would mean that this commitment has to be set aside for the future budget year to be able to fund that second year because the second year is contingent on the passage of the State Budget that year. In approving a two-year grant activity period the Council would have to ensure that that amount of funds is set aside for the second year for the awardees and that the program would not re-open again until the year after.

Chair Montoya added that the gap of not being able to re-enter for organizations that are just learning about the opportunity and they have to wait two years now. That is the area I caution you on.

Council Member Miner stated that one of the things that I like about the two-year approach is that it allows arts organizations to have some continuity and to be able to plan. In terms of the three tiers approach; after listening to all the different arts organizations I think it is a nice compromise over satisfying a larger group of arts organizations in California. I support the three-tiered approach.

Council Member Clarke mentioned that I too have heard the feedback from public comments in our meetings about the need to support the middle-tier and the upper-tier organizations but I also think sometimes those comments could be skewed because maybe the lower, smaller organizations do not have the time or the personnel to be able to chime in on some of those public comments. A lot of the feedback gets skewed towards those organizations who have

funding and who have staff. Again, I support the 30,000 but the impact of that money is going to be felt greater with these small organizations. I like the idea of the tiered system but I do not think we have to do it right now. I think we can gradually work our way into it without impacting these smaller organizations as much.

Executive Director Moscone was recognized and stated that there is one-to-one match as you go up the economic chain. That is important because it does waive the match requirement for organizations with less than 60,000. So there is a structural intentionality around that to help keep the barriers down so as the further up you go the chain the more committed you have to be to one-to-one match.

Council Member Raynor added that I also think that the way to think about a match is it is also a commitment to the project. Typically you are indicating what that match is going towards. I am on the fence about the Tier 3 organizations.

Council Member Clarke appreciated the waiving of the match for smaller organizations. He continued by saying that we will probably have an increase in applications from smaller organizations because that match has been waived. Limiting it to 55 percent of the program funding we might end up not being able to fund some of these smaller organizations.

Council Member Goodwin commented about the fact that knowing that Cultural Pathways has this year and then it is going off - the \$30,000 is what those organizations had and we do not want to leave them in the Never, Never Land as they move forward. However, we kept hearing that artist organizations need sustainability and security and that having two years of funding makes a world of difference in this post-Covid time. It would be amazing to have 65 percent organizations in the under \$250,000 category to consider. We are still looking for more data on all of that.

Chair Montoya stated that we have had a robust conversation and is there a friendly amendment that would like to be posed or do you want to move on as is?

Council Member Messina Captor stated that I move that we accept the recommendation of the Committee with no amendments.

Chair Montoya acknowledged by stating that there is a motion but we hear your endorsement.

Council Member Clarke said that I would offer that we drop Tier 3 and we change the percentages for Tier 1 and Tier 2 to say something like 35/25.

Council Member Gavin stated: I am not accepting that amendment. I feel we have taken a lot of consideration and we have had a lot of testimony and I would like to move the motion as it stands.

Chair Montoya continued by asking: Okay, can I clarify the motion maker?

Council Member Gavin asked: Didn't I make the motion?

Chair Montoya acknowledge by stating, Okay, just wanted to triple confirm. We have had a long day. So the friendly amendment was not accepted. Are there any other thoughts or friendly amendments?

Deputy Director Kiburi made a request: Could the friendly amendment just be stated one more time for the record?

Chair Montoya instructed the Council as follows: We are voting on the Arts and Culture Organization General Operating Support. I guess we are clarifying within the motion of the whole. So this is just capturing the friendly amendments and then we are going to call the vote at the end of the conversation. This is only to clarify the friendly amendments and if the motion maker and the seconder would accept. We are restating the friendly amendments.

Council Member Clarke stated that my friendly amendment was to delete Tier 3 and to change the percentages from Tier 1 and Tier 2 to 75 percent and 25 percent.

Chair Montoya asked: Ellen as the original motion maker would you accept the friendly amendment?

Council Member Gavin replied: No I don't.

Chair Montoya acknowledged: Okay, are there any other friendly amendments or if not we will move on to the next item. Are there any other friendly amendments?

Executive Director Moscone stated that I just want to clarify. We are sticking with the recommendation for two years, correct?

Chair Montoya answered that currently the recommendation has been discussed.

Executive Director Moscone replied that I wanted to confirm that we did not make that amendment.

Council Member Goodwin chimed in and said, Right - because that was the other thing that was discussed. And Madam Chair you were one of the people discussing committing this much money for two years. I do not know if there were people along with Gerald on that friendly amendment. Sometimes you take a poll on an amendment.

Chair Montoya replied that we can have further discussion. Is there further discussion on this item that we want to take the temperature or somebody wants to share their endorsement?

Council Member Duarte clarified and stated that the Tier 3, the matching funds; is that what the Council depends on to get the 10 million matching funds and that is why it is there?

Chair Montoya responded by saying, In part, yes.

Council Member Gavin requested that I would like us to move the question. I feel like we have so much more to cover and there have been endorsements. We have spent so much time on this and I feel that we have taken a lot into consideration. I would like to move the question to the Impact Grants.

Chair Montoya asked if there were any final comments on this item, on this program?

Council Member Clarke pointed out that it is also acknowledged in the Memo as well as the Decisions Support Tool that there is a limitation on these proposed changes because there was no robust or long-term data or analysis that was available in making these decisions. I agree with the need for additional staff to provide us with this data. But we are making this decision and we do not have a lot of deep data that we can rely to competently make this decision.

Chair Montoya stated that this is a very important point and we are at a crossroads because we have decisions to make. One variation could be, if a friendly amendment were to consider reducing even further Tier 3 and redistributing that to the other tiers. Otherwise, we would need to come up with a new strategy. Let's check the room on who is leaning towards Gerald's ideas toward eliminating the third tier.

Council Member Raynor commented that when we say, "anticipate at least 55 percent", so that is the low bar. I think ultimately it may make the allocations for the awards a little complicated only because we need to make sure that we are clear that these are not fixed bars.

Council Member Goodwin added, that is why they said, "anticipated". This is actually the third meeting that we have brought this in front of the Council.

Council Member Raynor said that I say all of this respectfully because I am trying to understand the commitments that we are making because they cascade.

Council Member Gavin agreed with Council Member Goodwin that, if there are so many more high-quality proposals from smaller groups - that the 55 was a low bar. So it could go up to 90. There was never any impact on the midsize organizations taken into account. It was never in the Decision Tool. We looked for it and there was not one. There was no data that supported shifting to a smaller organization. This is just a reset and even still it is a conservative reset because there never used to be a high top bar on organizational support grants - there was none for 40 years.

Council Member Raynor noted that I am going to need guidance. We are going to have to know how to interpret this in terms of scoring. You are going to hear later that we were down to decimal points in the scoring for some of our grantees.

Executive Director Moscone chimed in stating that I recommend that we move forward while we discuss that so that we can cover more of this ground.

Chair Montoya continued and noted that we definitely need to move forward. Does anybody else want to push forward with Council Member Clarke's recommendations and have further

discussion? Please say so now. I think that the smaller organizations are certainly a high priority and this is not the last time we will have this conversation.

Deputy Director Kiburi added that this is a point of order as you are asking for anyone's feedback - but anyone can also make another motion and that is still a possibility.

Chair Montoya responded in saying, but don't we have to vote this one down first before we move on.

Deputy Director Kiburi agreed and said, yes - exactly, correct.

Chair Montoya continued by saying, we are going to continue on. You have a last resort at the end of this one to vote it all down (collective laughter on several screens) so please bear with me all. I am going to move on to the next item, Impact Projects. Let's look at the recommendations on Impact Projects.

Impact Projects went from 20 to 25. Hearing no comments everyone seems to be ok it seems with the recommendations. Let's move on to the next one which is State and Local Partners (SLP). We have the recap here. It is 75 and thank you for the reminder and that is what we are correcting and voting on.

Council Member Clarke commented that I support the previous one. My only concern here is I have a little bit of concern about requiring the, "convening".

Council Member Gavin stated that it is number 3 and read the paragraph to the Council.

Council Member Raynor talked about the last bullet, Program Evaluation Outcomes and Metrics. How is that included within the Guidelines? Is that just for these guidelines or for all?

Council Member Gavin stated that all of these suggestions were in response to the idea that we wanted to know what the SLPs did and how they collected data, how they were responsive to the communities including the equity work. I think the last one was incorporated into the Guidelines but I cannot speak off the top of my head about it.

Director of Program Services Azevedo noted that this was just for the state and local partners. It is an update to the previous language around Outcomes and Evaluations to reflect the ongoing intention for this to be a collaborative process between the CAC and the state and local partners in committing to this ongoing evaluation, building outcomes, building metrics that really describes the ongoing partnership and helps to provide the Council as well as the public with that solid information about their impact to their communities.

Chair Montoya continued by saying that I want to bring back the conversation about renaming, reframing, rebranding the program. I do not have an answer or an amendment. We can put a pin it but let's work with them and make sure we clarify that this is a partnership with arts and culture organizations across California.

Council Member Raynor spoke about the renaming and saying that I really like what Chair Montoya suggested about using, “County Arts Agency Network Program or County Arts Agency Partner Program”. I want to keep it open to your previous recommendation for the naming.

Chair Montoya moved on to the State and Local Partner Mentorship Program.

Council Member Gavin stated that the only change here was for the recommendation of the Allocations Committee has gone from 40 to 50. We have added that we want to see up to 20 percent of the grant funds for the mentee.

Council Member Goodwin stated that we also added one additional grant. We decided to make it one year so that people could graduate into the state and local area whenever they are ready to.

Chair Montoya moved on to Grant Programs. We have the Folk and Traditional Arts Administrating Organization - any comments?

Council Member Raynor asked, how does this impact the current grantee? I was unclear when we were recommending change from one year to two years.

Council Member Gavin fielded this question by saying that with ACTA we went in thinking 20 percent in terms of the raise but then after talking with Amy we made it 10 and 20 for the next year. And it would turn into a two-year program and that was based on her desire but also on the desire that we have heard repeatedly from the field and from political representatives that people want the stability of multi-year funding.

Council Member Goodwin stated that this will not affect her this year. This will give her the opportunity to apply for next year.

Chair Montoya wondered if this breakdown is so specific to ACTA when it is re-offered other organizations may apply. So I want to make sure that we are mindful and not backing in specific details. I was only anticipating the administrative costs be called out but this gets into very specific other areas.

Council Member Gavin noted that Chelo when you sent us over to talk with Amy with the proviso that this was probably the highest level of expertise and we found that to be true when we talked to her about what it required to really reach out to traditional artists for the entire state. I would maintain that that is probably also replicable with artists with disabilities and maybe a few other very specific cohorts that are required such expertise. I do think it is not an AO recommendation across the board. We did want to take into account that she had already been approved for 30 percent, 23 percent that is staff that are artists that work with ACTA that are out in the field. It is a bit of a hybrid but there are some specific cohorts that it could be replicable for.

Chair Montoya wanted to know if the specific items were in the Guidelines?

Chair Montoya stated that I do not know if we need to be so specific but I appreciate that the 20 percent is called out. I do not want to back ACTA and any other organization that may apply into this dynamic if that is very ACTA specific. It should be very flexible. I would prefer it be very flexible because there is often innovation and shifting resources when you have the power to do that. I would lean on more flexibility but I do not have a specific recommendation yet.

Council Member Raynor added that I think a lot of this discussion came out of previous requirements for AOs such as the Arts and Accessibility Grant. As a re-granting program it looked like the way it was framed from the Council is that you were a passed-through organization and that money came to you and your job was to get it out. Having a minimum bar or an acceptable bar being at 20 percent to acknowledge the technical assistance and staff time that it takes to run a re-granting program was a really important variable and particularly around technical assistance for typically under-resourced communities.

Council Member Goodwin commented that particularly in the folk and traditional arts area where you are talking about going to the reservation and talking to the culture bearers who are people that are not going to jump on technology and apply for funds. Even a different AO would have to have offices in at least three or four parts of the state because it is a statewide program. This shows that we are aware of the human potential and needs in facilitating a program of this size.

Executive Director Moscone noted that the language that I see in the recommended changes has the words, “up to 30 percent”, and - up to - might that provide the flexibility that you are wishing is in there?

Chair Montoya responded that, absolutely - yes, thanks for calling it out. Seeing no other comments I will move on to the other item and then we will call for one last commentary to make sure that we have all the details and then we will vote. We are on Statewide Regional Networks.

Council Member Gavin stated that the only change to that is that we added the last line which says that they must submit a report providing qualitative and quantitative data on artists and artist organizations and audiences served.

Chair Montoya asked for additional comments and received none. I want to applaud the Committee for all of the work they have done on this. I would like Jonathan to read us any amendments that he has.

Executive Director Moscone read the amendment for the State and Local Partners that stated that the maximum request amount goes from 71,500 to 75,000. I see no other amendments.

Chair Montoya stated that we are voting for all of the recommendations for each individual program with the friendly amendment that Jon recited.

Deputy Director Kiburi clarified in saying, so Chelo you are saying that the changes to the Equity and the Accessibility are all included in this vote?

Chair Montoya answered that - No, we passed them separately. That was the first motion and we voted.

Council Member Raynor reminded that I do not know if it is added into the motion but we are now committing ourselves, assuming level funding, to 40 percent of our dollars for next year. I want people to know that that is front and center. I want people to be aware that we have made that commitment, assuming level funding.

Chair Montoya thanked Council member Raynor and asked for any final comments or amendments? Seeing none I want to triple confirm that the friendly amendments have been fully accepted now that they have been recited. Council Member Goodwin and Vice Chair Estrada agreed to the amendments and called for a vote.

**MOTION:** Council Member Gavin moved for approval of the Recommendations of the Program Policy Committee Recommendations as outlined by the Memo and the changes in the Application Guidelines that correspond to that Memo, seconded by Vice Chair Estrada.

**VOTE:** Yes: Chair Chelo Montoya, Vice Chair Vicki Estrada, Ellen Gavin, Olivia Raynor, Leah Goodwin, Caleb Duarte, Phil Mercado, Olivia Miner, Roxanne Messina Captor

No: Gerald Clarke

The motion was approved.

### **11. Grantee Presentation: Eugene Rodriguez, Executive Director of Los Cenzontles**

Executive Director Moscone introduced Eugene Rodriguez, Executive Director of Los Cenzontles. Eugene has played a pioneering role in raising awareness and value for a participatory Mexican folk music in California and has innovated adaptations of traditional pedagogy to suit contemporary urban contexts.

Executive Director Rodriguez expounded on Los Cenzontles, their history, their mission, their accomplishments and their aspirations. An original guitar composition was sung for the Council and very well received.

### **12. Voting Item: Allocations Committee Recommendations for 2022 Cycle 2 Grantees**

Chair Montoya thanked the presenter and moved on to Item 12. Vice Chair Estrada and Council Member Raynor presented this item to the Council.

Council Member Raynor acknowledged the quality of the grants as really notable. We had to go down to decimal points to make the awards that we have. The Allocations Committee has three

recommendations to put forth to the Council for the award of the 2022 Grant Programs for a total of \$2,840,831. The programs are:

Creative Youth Development (CYD) Program.

The Administering Organizations for individual Fellowship Programs.

CYD was one of five grants funded in 2022.

We were able with remaining funds to re-open for a second round of applications with a total allocation of \$1,764,475 in funds.

We are recommending the award of 42 applicants ranked at 5.5 and above at 100 percent and 3 applicants ranked at 5.4 percent at 90 percent.

Chair Montoya asked the Committee to present the full memo, then we open public comment on the voting item and then the motion to discuss.

Vice Chair Estrada stated that the second part is the Individual Artist Fellowships (IAF) in Region 4.

We voted in 2023 to re-allocate the unencumbered funds from 2022 Arts and Accessibility to the Individual Artist Fellowship grantees to support artist fellows with disabilities at \$125,000 for IAF and AO.

We recommend approving the highest ranked applicant at 100 percent of the requested amount of \$800,000 plus \$125,000 from Arts and Accessibility for a total award of \$925,000. This is for one applicant, Youth Speaks out of San Francisco.

Next is Cultural Pathways - Technical Assistance (CPTA) Awards.

Council voted in October of 2022 to re-open the program.

One organization will be providing technical assistance and capacity building to support the current 78 Cultural Pathways grantees.

The Committee recommends funding the highest ranked applicant at 100 percent which is \$150,000 which is World Trust Educational out of Alameda.

This concludes our presentation.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Montoya explained the purpose and prohibitions for making Public Comment at CAC meetings. Director of Legislative Affairs Margolis explained the process and provided specific instructions.

David Mack, Executive Director of Artists Magnet Justice Alliance addressed the Council. We are one of the recommended applicants for the CYD, Creative Youth Development program. I wanted to express much gratitude for opening up this cycle. This came at a wonderful time for us. We support black and brown youth through dance programming. This will be transformational for the careers of the leaders involved in this project.

Andrea Zacalario, Director of Dance Arts Community Projects presented to the Council. We are a very new organization and this was the first grant we have applied for. We are starting to grow quickly here in Marin County in the Canal District in San Rafael and in Marin City. Thanks for having us here today.

Chair Montoya stated that we are going to have a conflict-of-interest question for each Council Member so that anybody who feels in conflict can recuse themselves. I want to call for the motion first that will be either discussing them as a whole and voting as a whole or voting as a whole or opening up the first one and going one-by-one. I will ask the Council to make the first motion.

Director of Legislative Affairs Margolis read the Conflicts of Interest Statement to the Council followed by an individual vote by Members. No Council Members recused themselves from the vote.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Estrada moved to approve all three of the Allocations Committee Recommendations for 2023, seconded by Council Member Raynor.

**VOTE:** Yes: Chair Chelo Montoya, Vice Chair Vicki Estrada, Gerald Clarke, Caleb Duarte, Ellen Gavin, Leah Goodwin, Phil Mercado, Roxanne Messina Captor and Olivia Raynor

No: None

The motion was approved.

## **Discussion**

### **Individual Artist Fellowship, Region 4**

Council Member Clarke commented that there were a total of 302 applicants and the recommendation is to fund 45 of them. Is that correct?

Vice Chair Estrada responded that it was correct.

Director of Program Services Azevedo noted that it was for Creative Youth Development not for Individual Artist Fellowships, Region 4.

Council Member Gavin noticed that Youth Speaks and The Magic Theatre were neck and neck in terms of scoring. I was wondering what the process was in terms of making the decision when you have it so close.

Executive Director Moscone mentioned that this is an awardee for one. It is only one applicant. If it were two the Allocations Committee might have come with a different recommendation.

Director of Program Services Azevedo stated since there was only one awardee that could be awarded for the Region 4, we had to go with the highest ranking and that is why you see the decimal points represented here. Past programs and past practices have been looking at the final ranks. As it was so close we had to go to the not-rounded, final rank to be able to determine which one was the highest ranking. That is what you see represented here.

Council Member Raynor mentioned that when we have a situation such as this one - how do we build in some discretion on the part of the Council to revisit the scoring and add other criteria that we may or may not think is critical for our selection? There have been a number of issues that have come up that speak to geography, that speak to communities et cetera that we may want to have another layer because that is true of other councils where the panelists serve as the strongest advisers and you want to go with their recommendation but then maybe other considerations that are equally compelling to meet the goals and aims of the art work exist.

#### **Administering Organization, Region 4**

Council Member Goodwin commented that she echoed Council Member Raynor on this. I am also looking at the fact that there were the other four administrating organizations that got \$125,000 each. Was there a way to consider splitting it between the two?

Director of Program Services Azevedo clarified that there are two different pots of money going into this grant award. There is the original individual artist fellowships amount that was allocated for Region 4 which was \$800,000 that had not been awarded in October because there was not an eligible applicant for that Region at that time. Council voted at that time to re-open those applications. In the meantime there was a whole conversation that happened around re-allocating the Arts and Accessibility funds which is the \$500,000 for the 2022 Arts and Accessibility that was not awarded last year and Council voted at the February meeting to re-allocate that \$500,000 by breaking it up evenly across these four regions for individual artist fellowships with each of those regional grantees receiving \$125,000 of that original \$500,000 which means that for this motion, Region 4 is awarding them that \$800,000 for the Individual Artist Fellowships, Region 4 plus the \$125,000 re-allocated from Arts and Accessibility to this Region. So that is where you see the total amount at 925.

The other three have already been adjudicated. They have already been awarded. They are already in the process of those awards being paid out and this was the extra that went to them. They are also getting whatever amount was awarded in the original Individual Artist Fellowships. Now those first three are getting amended to add the additional \$125,000 and then we are awarding for this last one.

Chair Montoya asked for any further questions on Administrating Organization for Region 4 and she received no more questions on this.

### **Cultural Pathways/Technical Assistance**

Chair Montoya asked for questions regarding Cultural Pathways/Technical Assistance allocations and received none.

Council Member Raynor stated that we did not need to clarify Creative Youth Development if there are any.

### **Creative Youth Development (CYD)**

Chair Montoya replied that we had some conversation we started with but that was because it was miss-ordered in the Agenda. The way the Memo is written it starts with that so we can go back to that and make sure there are no other comments. Are there any other comments on this? She received no further comments on this and called for the question.

## **13. Committee Updates:**

### **Governance Committee**

Council Member Messina Captor reported that we did meet and Council Member Duarte was with us. Basically we are looking at and reviewing and revising the Council's Handbook. This had not been done since 2021. In addition to the timely updates to the Handbook our Committee is also envisioning a streamlined Handbook that is shorter and more direct. It will still contain critical information such as the dos and don'ts of being a Council Member including details on the Bagley-Keene Act and meeting guidelines et cetera. We did talk about the process on the Agenda of maybe moving some of more significant voting items to the front and moving the Public Comment toward the back to keep things moving. The Handbook also includes the CAC's Decision Support Tool as well as Council Member's responsibilities in onboarding resources. A major focus is to help streamline information presented in the Handbook so that the content is simplified and how it is presented. It will deal with the content of Council meetings including the suggestions that each meeting include a presentation by current or past CAC grantees. We are hoping that we can have this work completed by the retreat.

### **Discussion**

Vice Chair Estrada asked about Public Comment. To clarify, you are saying moving the Public Comment to the back - you want to move typically Item 3 and Item 4, you want to move them towards the end of the meeting. Is that what you said?

Council Member Messina Captor replied that this is correct. This is so we deal with the voting items first and then the Public Comment after we do the voting items.

Vice Chair Estrada stated that I am not quite sure how that would speed things up, but okay. I guess it would speed things up if we have too many speakers and the end they can go over because I guess that is your intent.

Council Member Messina Captor replied that I think it was more the idea that when everybody is fresh and present and we have not lost any Members; we do the voting items first and then we hear the Public Comment.

Vice Chair Estrada continued by asking that we will still have time to discuss this at the next meeting - yes?

Chair Montoya chimed in and said that this is not really a discussion item but they are sharing some of the projects they are working on.

Council Member Gavin mentioned that we did just change that. It was Vice Chair Estrada's recommendation that we have Public Comment before every vote so that we would get input. It just changed one year ago.

Council Member Messina Captor acknowledged and said that was one of the things we came up with was - it is an experiment that we have been doing now and is it working? It has to be evaluated.

Council Member Gavin continued, and there was a memo that Lilia had clarified from the legislature which was the role of the Arts Council in relation to the staff and in relation to creating policy and I have been asking for that to be shared with new Council Members. I think Executive Director Moscone has gotten clarification of it. I would really like to see the memo that describes how we are legislatively mandated and if it has been amended or it is the same. That would really help to clarify the Council's role as people come on new.

Executive Director Moscone announced that we intend to present that as part of The Reader which is the broader book of information that you are going to get at the retreat which is what is called, "The Enabling Legislation."

Chair Montoya added that it is fine to share it since it has been requested. It will be included in The Reader as well. I will now move to the Strategic Framework Committee Report.

### **Strategic Framework Committee**

Deputy Director Kiburi reported that there has been a lot movement and we now have a new staff person that has gone through the Strategic Framework and has taken the good work done by the Committee and has started to write all of the draft objectives for each of the aspirations in the Strategic Framework. There has not been a meeting yet but we are scheduling a meeting for next week and we will be bringing everybody together to talk about those objectives that have been drafted so far to make sure that we are on the right track and it reflects what the Committee wants. The intention is to have those all completed by the time of the retreat.

Chair Montoya stated that I have been working with ExCom and staff to develop Chair's Committee Priorities and I wanted to wait until this meeting to release it. It includes some of the things that you have already accomplished but also some of the goals that have carried over from my time on the Council that I want to make sure are recorded as interest areas of priorities. However, I also want your committees to be able to be innovative and think of other things that might be exciting to pursue. Let me know if there are other priorities that surface so that we are on the page and that we are all doing the work in the strategic way we can for efficiency. Thank you for all the deep work and for this amazing conversation today.

Executive Director Moscone added that I want to acknowledge the staff for not just the number of hours but the quality of thinking that they have done to support this which was the culmination of three months of meetings. You are working better as a Council because of the staff. I want to uplift this staff and I hope you can all join me in uplifting them and celebrating them right now. (On screen applause in unison)

Chair Montoya said, Yes, echoing, echoing, echoing. Thank you for reminding us this is service. We are all doing service and it is the *we* the *why*, the *who* and the *how*.

Deputy Director Kiburi continued by saying, I just want to thank you, Jonathan, for sharing that and I know that everyone appreciates it. We are all hearing the same sentiment that this Council, the composition of all of you is so motivated and so engaged and even though it is a little challenging when we are getting down to the nitty gritty and the timeline is running out; we love working with you and knowing that you are engaged. We really want to give back that gratitude that we get to work with such motivated and very committed people. On behalf of the staff I want to say that as well.

Chair Montoya continued by announcing, I am going to hand it over to our Vice Chair, Vicki Estrada.

#### **14. In Memoriam**

Vice-Chair Estrada presented the following:

A poem entitled, *Do Not Stand at my Grave and Weep*, by Clare Horner was read.

Lance Reddick was an actor and he died on March 17.

Wayne Shorter was an incredible musician and he died at 89 years old. Jazz, Hard Bop and Rock Fusion, he did a lot of things for jazz and brought the different genres together.

Ted Sizemore you have seen on TV, all the Way from *Saving Private Ryan* to *Natural Born Killers*. He was only 61. He died on March 3.

Robert Blake you will remember from *Berretta*. He died this year as well. He was quite an actor.

Peter Werner was a director who won an Oscar for Best Live Action Short as a Film Institute student and he went on to work on a number of TV series. He died on March 21.

Norman Steinberg was a screenwriter. He worked on films like *Blazing Saddles*, *My Favorite Year* and *Johnny Dangerously*. He died March 15.

Ted Donaldson was a former child actor and he starred in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Lately he had been teaching classes out of a book store in Hollywood on how to act. He died on March 1 at 81 years old.

Another musician, Carl Saunders, a very legendary jazz trumpeter. He went to different colleges teaching musicians how to perform jazz correctly.

Walter Mirisoh was a producer and lived to 101 years old. He did a lot of classics like *Some Like It Hot*, *Westside Story* and *In the Heat of the Night*. He was important to Hollywood.

Jackson Browne used to have an instrumentalist that played with him named David Lindley. He was quite a musician and a very important part of Jackson Browne's sound. We lost him on March 3 at the age of 78.

Council Member Gavin presented the following:

Robert Henry Johnson is a really big loss to the Bay Area. He was a dance room playwright who mixed movement style/literary influences with equal fluidity. He was one of the first students to graduate from the San Francisco School of the Performing Arts and he attended the San Francisco Ballet School on a full scholarship. He created works for the Oakland Ballet, the Bavarian State Opera Ballet, Oregon Valley Theatre and others. This a serious blow to the San Francisco dance community. He was well loved and respected. He died extremely young.

Council Member Raynor presented the following:

Judith Heumann is on the screen. The history of the disability rights movement began here in California in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Judy Heumann is an internationally recognized disability advocate. She served in the Clinton and Obama Administrations and was a Senior Fellow at the Ford Foundation. She went to Crip Camp in her late teens or early twenties and it was a playground for future leaders of the disability rights movement. Many of the leaders came from that early camp experience. Her friendship, leadership and mentorship is going to be missed by many.

Executive Director Moscone stated he knew Lance Reddick and they went to graduate school together. Graduate school is the most competitive place you can be. Everyone wanted everyone else to fail because that is the only way you succeed. Lance was probably the only person who was not like that. He was generous. He was a beautiful human being, generous to a fault. This just breaks my heart.

## 15. Adjournment

Chair Montoya adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

DRAFT

# TAB D

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California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/28/2023



# Memorandum

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**Date: April 28, 2023**

**To: Council Members**

**From: CAC Programs Staff**

**Re: 2023 Grant Review Panelist Pool**

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**The CAC Programs Staff is presenting the list of applicants for the 2023 grant review panelist pool for Council review and approval.**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this memo is to provide a list of applicants who wish to serve as panelists for the 2023 grantmaking cycle for Council to review and approve.

## **Background**

The California Arts Council (CAC) panelists play a critical role in the grant application process as representatives of their arts and cultural disciplines as well as of their respective communities. They work independently to evaluate grant applications based on review criteria approved by the Council. The CAC has developed this process to ensure an equitable ranking of applications by peers and transparent allocation of program funds.

The CAC invited members of our networks to apply and to help publicize this opportunity, including former panelists, our organizational partners (Statewide-Regional Networks, State-Local Partners, CA Creative Corps, and Cultural Districts), and shared widely through social media and communication channels. The CAC is grateful for the exceptional number of applications received.

The following pages present demographics and bios of 801 applications submitted between March 17, 2023, and April 18, 2023. The CAC pulls reviewers from this list to curate diverse

panels of peer reviewers for each program. Not everyone in this pool will be selected to serve in 2023.

**Note:** Data entries were submitted directly by panel applicants; language, spelling, grammar, and capitalization remain as originally recorded in most cases. Views and opinions expressed by panel applicants in their submissions do not represent those of the California Arts Council.

### **Demographics Summary**

**Race and Ethnicity:** Panelists were asked to select how they identify themselves and were given the capability to select more than one response. Many panelists selected multiple options and some panelists submitted write-in responses. The most frequently selected response was White/Caucasian at 44.57%. The broad range of responses entered is available in the table.

**Gender Identity:** The identity panelists selected most was female (71.3%). Some panelists selected multiple gender identities.

**Primary Artistic Area of Experience:** Visual Arts remains the largest category represented at 33%, followed by Multidisciplinary at 21% (Multidisciplinary can include all categories, such as Visual, Music, Theater, Literary, Dance, Media, and Folk/Traditional Arts).

**County:** 48 out of the 58 counties in the state are represented. This is the highest representation across counties to date.

**Age:** 35-54 was the highest percentage category at 43.4%, followed by 55-70 at 30%.

## Panelist Demographic Data

Data compiled from self-selected responses by panelists in Panelist Application.

Total number of panel reviewer applications: **801**

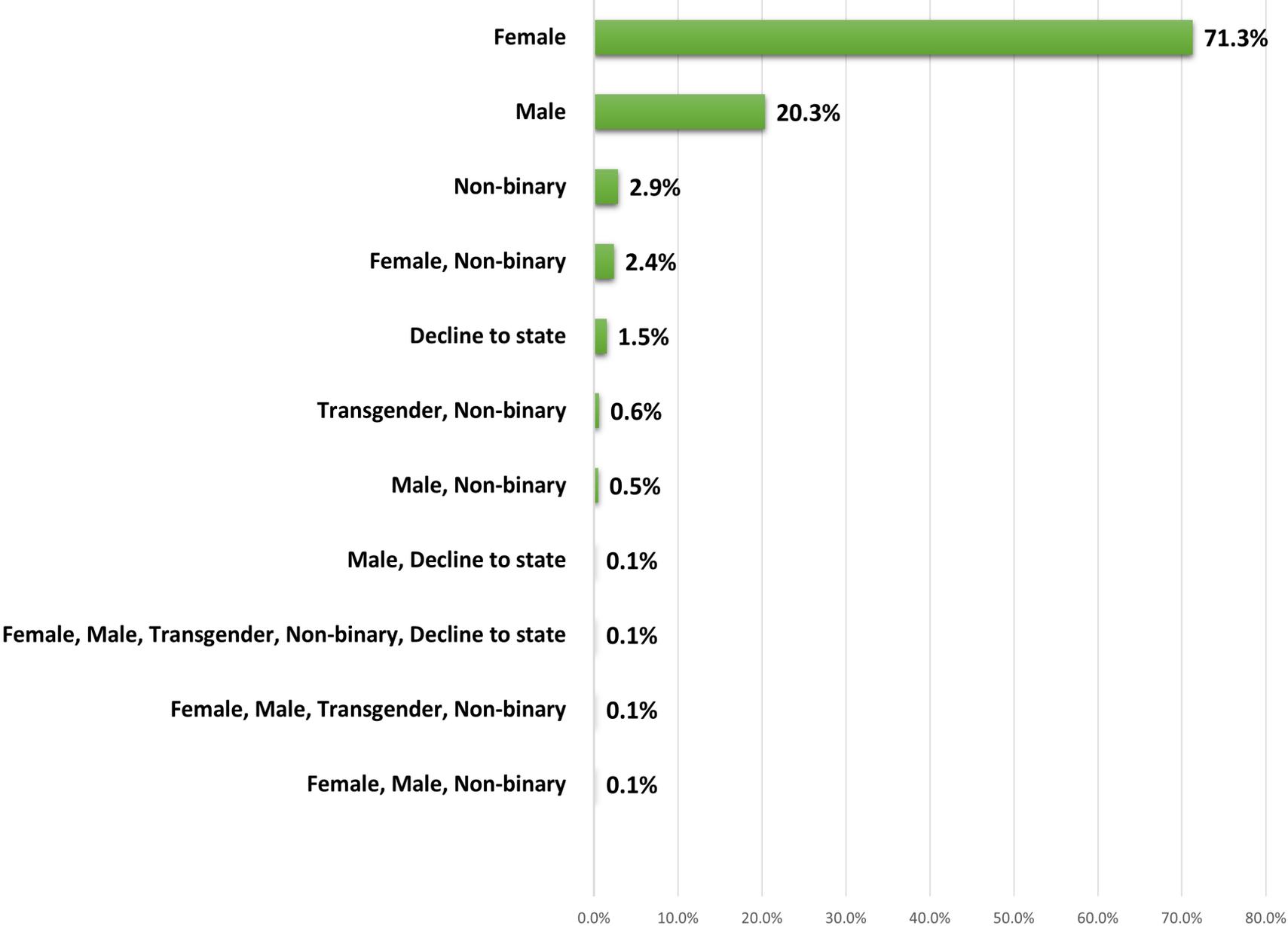
\*Note: All data displayed in percentages unless otherwise stated

<b>Race and Ethnicity:</b> Panelists submit what they most strongly identify as and can select more than one option.	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
American born abroad	1	0.12%
Armenian, Eastern Europe	1	0.12%
Asian / Asian American, Indian	1	0.12%
Asian / Asian American, Japanese American	1	0.12%
Asian / Asian American, Middle Eastern	1	0.12%
Asian / Asian American, Native American / Indigenous, Latinx / Chicanx	1	0.12%
Asian / Asian American, South Asian	1	0.12%
Black / African American, Afro-Caribbean	1	0.12%
Black / African American, Asian / Asian American, Latinx / Chicanx, Chinese Colombian Black Colombian but grown up with Mexicanos & Salvadoreños	1	0.12%
Black / African American, Jamaican	1	0.12%
Black / African American, Latinx / Chicanx	1	0.12%
Black / African American, Mixed race/ethnicity	1	0.12%
Black / African American, Native American / Indigenous	1	0.12%
Brazilian	1	0.12%
Decline to state, White / Caucasian	1	0.12%
Ethiopian American	1	0.12%
First generation Jewish-American (child of a Holocaust survivor)	1	0.12%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	1	0.12%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander, Asian / Asian American, Native American / Indigenous, Black / African American, White / Caucasian	1	0.12%
I am a third-generation California of Croatian and Portuguese ancestry	1	0.12%
I do not conform to the labels created by colonizers	1	0.12%
Immigrant	1	0.12%
Indian	1	0.12%
Indigenous	1	0.12%
Irish/Italian/Sicilian	1	0.12%
Italian	1	0.12%
Italian/French	1	0.12%
Latinx / Chicanx, Asian / Asian American	1	0.12%
Latinx / Chicanx, Asian / Asian American, Black / African American, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander, Native American / Indigenous, Middle Eastern, White / Caucasian	1	0.12%
Latinx / Chicanx, Asian / Asian American, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	1	0.12%
Latinx / Chicanx, biracial	1	0.12%
Latinx / Chicanx, Caribbean Islander	1	0.12%
Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous, Black / African American	1	0.12%
Mexican born and Spanish speaking	1	0.12%

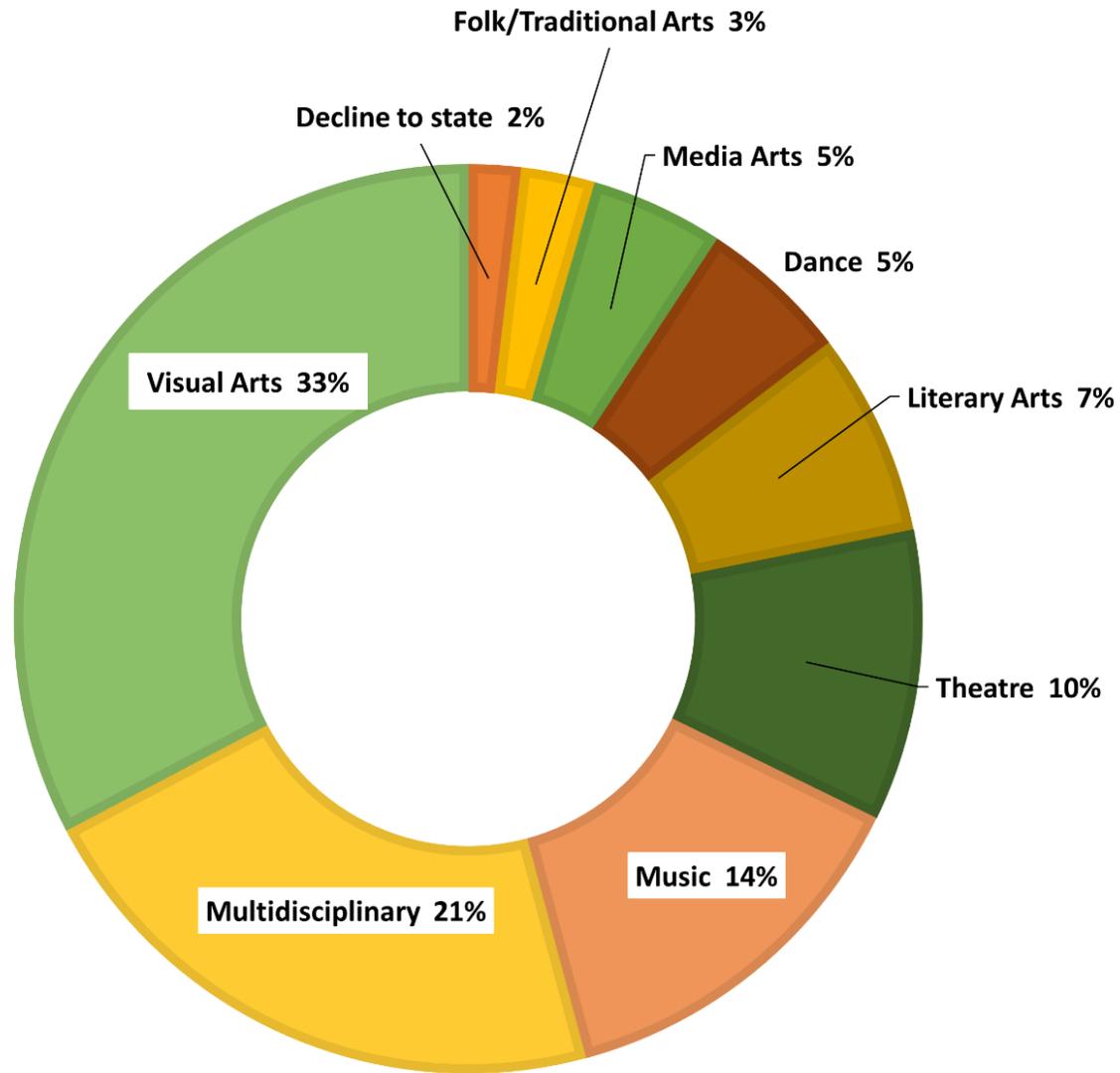
Middle Eastern, Asian / Asian American, Transcontinental	1	0.12%
Middle Eastern, White / Caucasian, Jewish	1	0.12%
Middle Eastern, White / Caucasian, Mixed	1	0.12%
Middle Eastern, White / Caucasian, Mixed race	1	0.12%
Mixed	1	0.12%
Mixed race: Middle Eastern (mostly), Western European	1	0.12%
Mixed/ More than one race	1	0.12%
Native American / Indigenous, Latinx / Chicanx, Indigenous Mexican: P'urepecha	1	0.12%
Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian, Latinx / Chicanx	1	0.12%
Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian, Latinx / Chicanx, European (Italian)	1	0.12%
New Afrikan	1	0.12%
Russian/ Armenian	1	0.12%
Spanish	1	0.12%
Surly	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Ancestry search reveals Iberian Peninsula;	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Armenian	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Ashkenazi Jew	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Hispanic	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Iberian	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, I'm Romanian, and although this means Caucasian, it's not exactly the same life experience as a white person born in the USA or Western Europe.	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Irish, English, Scandinavian, Ashkenazi, West Asian	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Native American / Indigenous	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, Native American / Indigenous, Latinx / Chicanx	1	0.12%
White / Caucasian, North African	1	0.12%
White- Jewish	1	0.12%
Asian / Asian American, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	2	0.25%
Asian / Asian American, Latinx / Chicanx	2	0.25%
Black / African American, Asian / Asian American	2	0.25%
Human	2	0.25%
Jewish	2	0.25%
Latinx / Chicanx, Mexican	2	0.25%
Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	2	0.25%
Latinx / Chicanx, Puerto Rican	2	0.25%
Mixed race	2	0.25%
Native American / Indigenous, Black / African American, White / Caucasian	2	0.25%
South Asian	2	0.25%
White / Caucasian, Ashkenazi Jewish	2	0.25%
White / Caucasian, Black / African American	2	0.25%
White / Caucasian, Black / African American, Asian / Asian American	2	0.25%
White / Caucasian, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	2	0.25%
White / Caucasian, Native American / Indigenous, Black / African American	2	0.25%
Black / African American, White / Caucasian	3	0.37%

Latinx / Chicanx, Middle Eastern	<b>3</b>	<b>0.37%</b>
Middle Eastern, White / Caucasian	<b>3</b>	<b>0.37%</b>
Native American / Indigenous, Black / African American	<b>3</b>	<b>0.37%</b>
White / Caucasian, Asian / Asian American	<b>3</b>	<b>0.37%</b>
Asian / Asian American, White / Caucasian	<b>4</b>	<b>0.50%</b>
Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	<b>4</b>	<b>0.50%</b>
White / Caucasian, Jewish	<b>4</b>	<b>0.50%</b>
Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous	<b>5</b>	<b>0.62%</b>
Native American / Indigenous, Latinx / Chicanx	<b>5</b>	<b>0.62%</b>
White / Caucasian, Middle Eastern	<b>5</b>	<b>0.62%</b>
Middle Eastern	<b>9</b>	<b>1.12%</b>
Latinx / Chicanx, White / Caucasian	<b>10</b>	<b>1.25%</b>
White / Caucasian, Latinx / Chicanx	<b>11</b>	<b>1.37%</b>
Native American / Indigenous	<b>13</b>	<b>1.62%</b>
Decline to state	<b>25</b>	<b>3.12%</b>
Asian / Asian American	<b>67</b>	<b>8.36%</b>
Latinx / Chicanx	<b>85</b>	<b>10.61%</b>
Black / African American	<b>90</b>	<b>11.24%</b>
White / Caucasian	<b>357</b>	<b>44.57%</b>

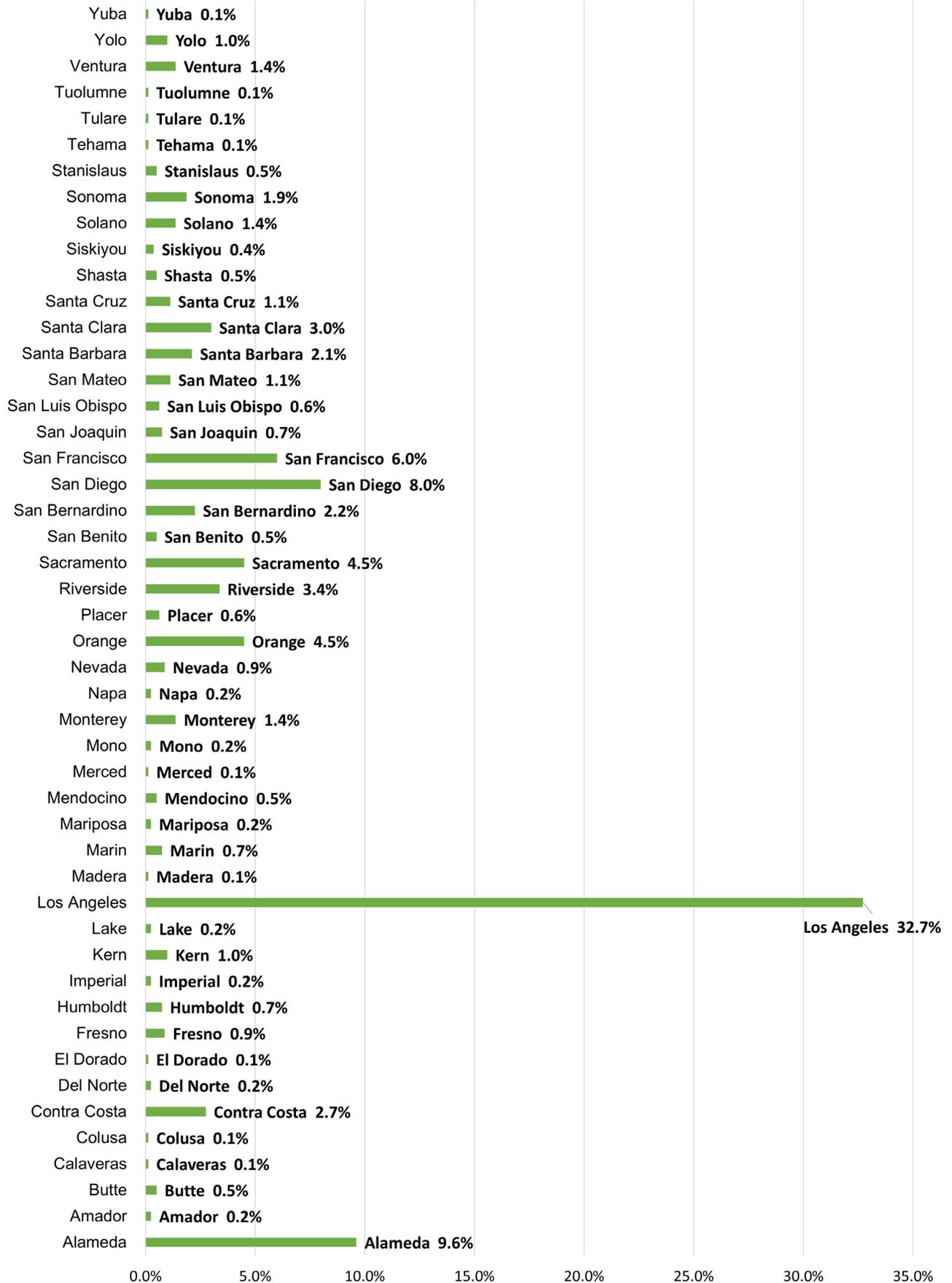
# Gender Identity



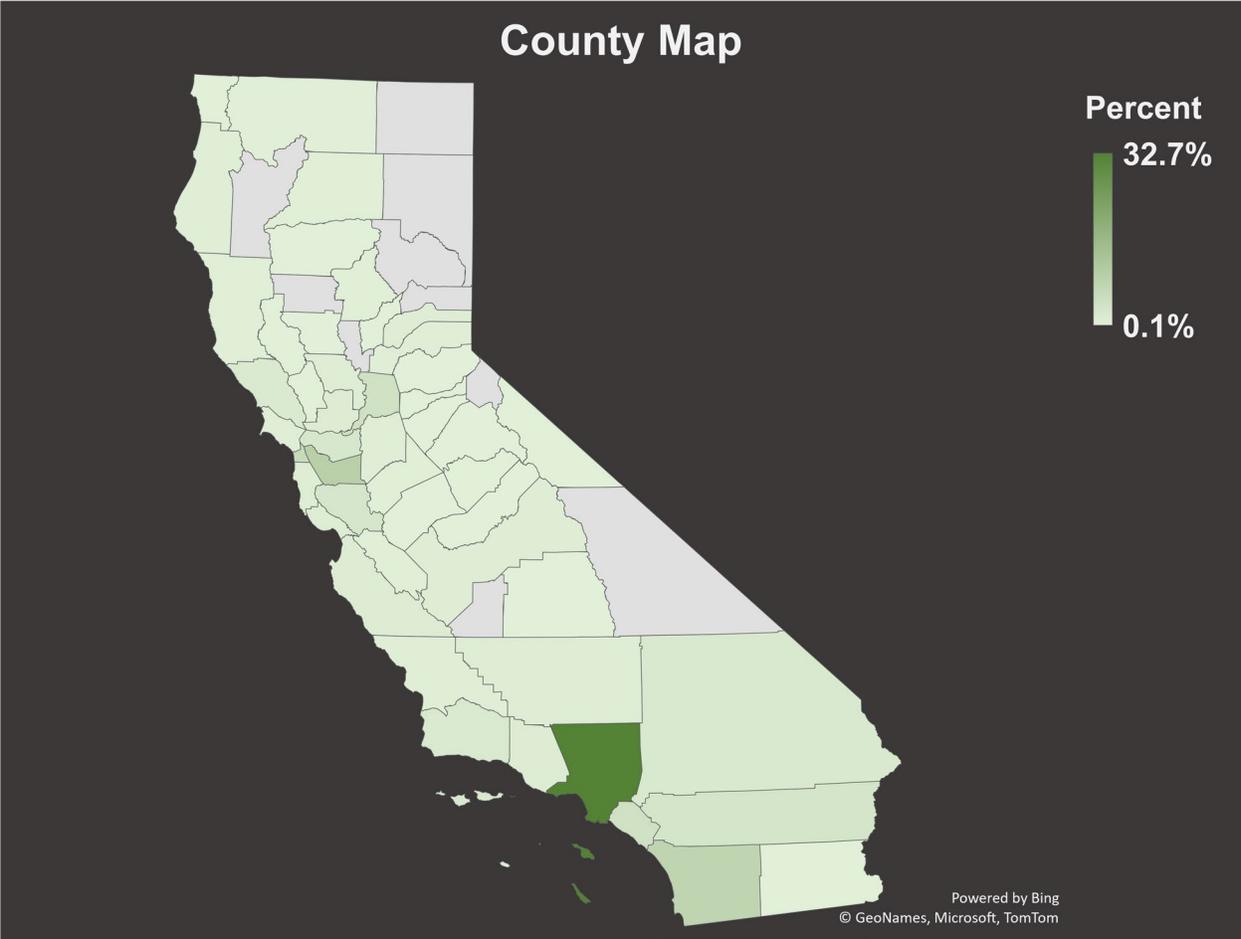
# PRIMARY ARTISTIC AREA OF EXPERIENCE



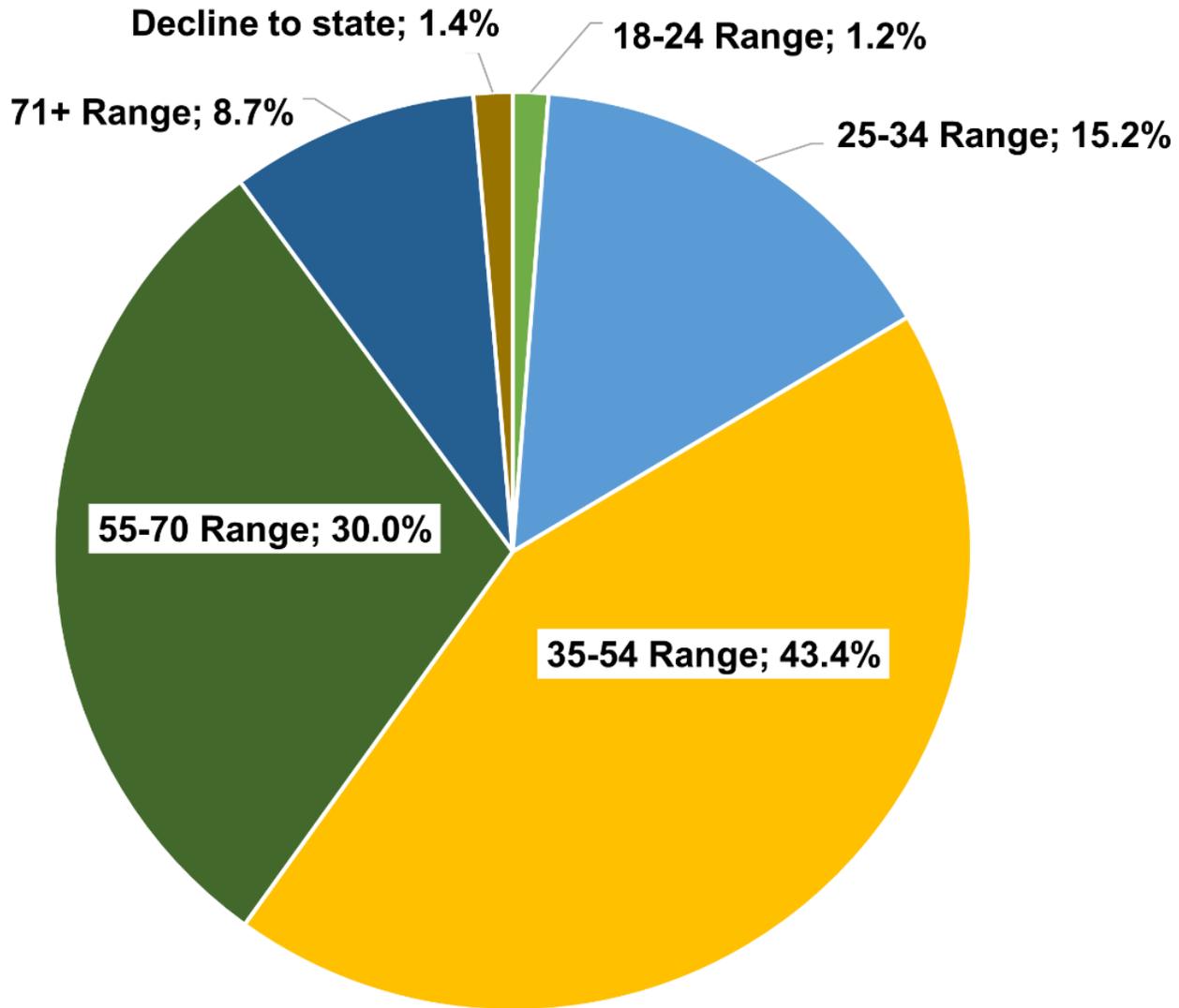
## County



# County Map



# Age



## **Panelists Biographical Information**

Note: Panelists listed in alphabetical order by preferred first name.

### **Adree De Luna; Los Angeles**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

In my personal time I use creative writing and poetry as a form of self preservation and healing. I have been working in youth development spaces for over 10 years now. One of the programs I helped lead and facilitate was called Camp Rosies Girls. The camp's goal was to encourage young girls and femmes to learn about traits such as welding, carpentry, fire fighting and mechanics. Through this exposure, each student worked on a 3 week long art project and would use the art of woodwork and welding to create it.

In my current position at Rainbow Labs, I work closely with partnering organizations to create curriculum and programming that is in the best interest of our students. I make it a point to teach our students LGBTQ+ history.

### **Adrienne Toomey; Los Angeles**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Adrienne has extensive experience in the non-profit arts and culture sector. Prior to joining Craft Contemporary, Adrienne was the Manager of Special Events at SFMOMA where she coordinated special artist projects and produced museum-wide events. After graduating from Eugene Lang College in New York City, she worked for several arts and non-profit cultural institutions including Fleisher Art Memorial, a nationally recognized community art school affiliated with The Philadelphia Museum of Art. Adrienne has worked producing community film festivals for The Philadelphia Film Society, and as an in-school artist-in-residence at The Philadelphia Print Center.

### **Agata Maruszewski; Shingletown**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Maruszewski is a classically trained sculptor and arts administrator of over 20 years' experience. For the last 11 years, she has worked for arts non-profit organizations in rural Northern California, managing programs and grants, organizing exhibitions. She has also worked with differently abled people, assisting in developing their own arts-based businesses.

From 2019 through 2021, she was the interim executive director for the local arts council. She currently manages the art gallery program and is the main grant writer for the organization.

In 2009, Maruszewski graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan, Poland with a Master's degree in sculpture, and a Master's degree in arts education specializing in art critique.

**Aireene Espiritu; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Aireene Espiritu is an artist, singer-songwriter and cultural practitioner/producer covering various genres from folk, blues, gospel, rhythm and blues to world music. Aireene was a soloist with the Glide Ensemble in San Francisco, has toured internationally and across the country, playing intimate venues such as Freight & Salvage to festivals such as Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival and more. Her project, A Color-Coded Symphony, first premiered at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum in 2017. This performance piece is a musical experience connecting the audience's ethnic origins to rhythms of the world and whose aim is to nurture curiosity and openness towards other cultures through music.

**Alan Yaffe; Fort Bragg**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Professional arts management (Coconut Grove Playhouse, Pittsburgh Symphony, Rites and Reasons Theatre, Shakespeare & Company); Consultant (Strategic Planning, Financial Planning, Arts Education, Marketing, Fundraising); Arts Administration (MBA Program, University of Cincinnati).

**Alan Leon; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Oakland muralist since 1995 , designer and arts facilitator thru weekly zoom art sessions.

I have conceived of dozens of public art pieces and installations and realized several.

My largest commission was \$100,000 Temescal Flows mural painted in 2011 in Oakland. As a teacher i applaud the use of design discernment as a discipline and can skillfully project a proposal's aesthetic into an imagined final realization. As a former landscape architect, i understand project design in context and the logistics of budget and schedule. Some of my works include The Fabric of the Cty-2015 and From Elk Tracks to Bart Tracks: Parallel Migrations-2002, and The Light of Knowledge on the Levonia Dejohn Middle School- 2006.

**Alejandra Enciso-Dardashti; La Mesa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Alejandra Enciso-Dardashti, is a Binational Consultant in communications through PR, Production and Translations. Founder of Enciso Consulting, a boutique firm that has worked on binational endeavors in the Tijuana-San Diego border for over 10 years with different clients like Broadway San Diego, La Jolla Playhouse, Moxie Theatre, The Old Globe, California Ballet, Tijuana Hace Teatro, SD Opera, and more. Alejandra also has been a reporter for 15+ years covering arts and entertainment in different media outlets as well as the bilingual blog and in 2020, she created a biweekly podcast in Spanish Desde Otro 0 and its alter ego in English From Another 0. A safe space dedicated to the arts and the industry. Has served as a panelist for CAC and NALAC.

**Alexa Lopez; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Alexa Lopez, is a San Diego-based dance artist who, through cross-disciplinary collaboration, uses movement as a vessel to examine social issues. She draws inspiration from her Latinidad and immigrant experience to influence her work. She is also a director of San Diego Dance Theater, where she uses her role in the organization to support other artists in the community.

**Ale O.; Whittier**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Before art, I was a girl scout organizing and leading events primarily service based. I had initiated the shoe donation for Japan after the tsunami in 2011 with my mom. Following commissioned murals and volunteer efforts, I researched art programs and found Ryman arts. It was the start of my artistic career, having participated in both, make your mark in the park, even more artistic events (which were fun). With even more help from my mom I found my way back, applying here, in hopes I can continue to. I mostly remember doing it to spend time with her. She inspires me to try new things. She is a huge reason why I'm here despite the struggles of transitioning. Retail jobs were blatantly "everythingphobic" but I live in constant fear. She helps me feel a lot less of it. Celebrating a year of legality, and months of passing, I simply would not pass this up. I hope to give back while somehow navigating what Art is going to mean in my life moving forward, because somehow I got lost in what art couldn't do for me. This is an interesting opportunity where I can maybe, give again. Give something to it instead of worrying about the opposite. She was a first generation american. I love her.

**Alexandra Urbanowski; Monterey**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Alexandra Urbanowski has over two decades of extensive project management, arts administration and organizational development experience. She has provided leadership, advocacy, fundraising, and strategic management for a range of community development projects and cultural advancement initiatives on both the east and west coasts. As Associate Director of Silicon Valley Creates (the county arts agency for Santa Clara County) she directs grant programs, designs capacity building and training curriculum, and leads regional expansion and other special initiatives. She is current managing the AO work for the 2023 CAC IAF program for Central California. Alexandra has held leadership positions with a number of nonprofit organizations including COO of American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley, VP at New Hampshire Public Radio, and San Jose Repertory Theatre. Alexandra is an alumna of Smith College and has participated in Harvard Business School's Executive Education program.

**Alexis Hyde; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Hyde lives in LA and wages her very breath on discovering the best of the finer arts in her fair and far-flung city. She is currently working as an art advisor/dealer/curator/podcast host/whathaveyou, but you may have seen her most recently as the Director of the Museum of Broken Relationships ,Co-Curator of soft. core. la. , or Curator of the Quinn Emanuel Artist-in-Residence program.

**Ali Karatay; Davis**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

As a multi-talented artist, designer, and treasure hunter, I explore various mediums to express my personal spiritual journey. My art is intended to inspire others to connect more deeply with their own path in life and to cherish the beauty of the Earth. Emotions, love, and human experience are my main sources of inspiration, and I strive to create work that challenges preconceptions, expands the mind, and evokes feelings of adventure and spirituality.

My ultimate goal as an artist is to uplift and inspire people, and I approach every project with a sense of passion, excitement, and motivation. I have attended numerous exhibitions, presentations, seminars, symposiums, and workshops to hone my skills as an artist, designer, and academic. My experience includes working with global brands as a graphic designer, animator, and interactive media designer.

**Alison Baxley; Belmont**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My parents always supported my creativity and never doubted that I could make a career in a creative field. My father is a hobby photographer and my mom is an amazing seamstress. My grandmothers were painters and crafters. Art has always been a priority in my family.

I was born and have always lived in California. I feel that being Californian is part of my identity and I love living here. Prior to earning my degrees in both Studio Art and Environmental Design from UC Davis, I was always interested in all forms of art and knew that creativity would be a permanent part of my life and career. I have held a variety of creative jobs from my time as a student manager at the UC Davis Craft Center, then building parade floats and websites to package design and now teaching art in local schools.

**Alison Kerr; Del Rey Oaks**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

My electrical engineer father encouraged us to think differently growing up. Arts were integral to all expectations. We built wire hanger mobiles instead of book reports. We hand screen-printed holidays cards. We were expected to study an instrument.

In my work with STEM students, art was integral. I saw the strong ties between math and music and art, for these English as second language learners. So all forms of communication were encouraged when it came time to describe their research. Improvisers were brought in to assist oral presentations. Videos were encouraged.

When I became Mayor, I was a strong proponent for the arts. I created a Mayor's Advisory Committee for Arts & Culture, which produced a first-ever Arts Showcase highlighting performing and visual artists within our community. We have the first public art display in our city park, a collection of young resident hand-prints.

**Alison Reilly; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Alison Marie Reilly was born and raised in Portland, Oregon and studied art history at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Maryland. Before moving to Los Angeles in 2017, she taught English in France, worked at an advertising agency, and was the managing editor of a Chicago arts magazine. Alison is an organizer at heart and loves to bring people together, whether in the workplace or with friends and family. Prior to joining the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, which supports the Los Angeles Public Library, she worked at the Getty Foundation where she managed grant programs related to arts conservation including a diversity internship program.

**Alison Sotomayor; Anaheim**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Alison is president of Moxie Media, a Latina-run and owned, small media production company built on the principles of inclusion, equality, and giving voice to vulnerable, diverse voices in the industry, particularly in Hollywood. She has produced the award-winning PBS documentaries *The Rise and Fall of the Brown Buffalo* (2018, executive produced by Benicio del Toro), *Bridging the Divide: Tom Bradley and the Politics of Race* (2016), the educational film for CA schools, *Tom Bradley's Impossible Dream* (2016), *The New Los Angeles* (2015), and countless short films. From 1990-2000, she produced KCET's critically-acclaimed daily public affairs show, *Life and Times*, in Los Angeles, was communication director for the media advocacy organization, the National Hispanic Media Coalition, and producer/fundraiser for *LatinaFest*, an outdoor festival that empowers marginalized Latina entrepreneurs. Alison has won two Emmy Awards, five Golden Mikes, and a Telly Award, and has earned a B.A. in Sociology at UCLA.

**Alix Asker; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have a Bachelor's in Legal Studies. As a long-time San Franciscan, I've worked in the nonprofit and government sectors and am familiar with Criminal Justice and Immigration Rights issues. I'm also familiar with many Arts Organizations as a patron.

In 2015, I served on Civil Grand Jury, investigating San Francisco's Citizens' Complaints and the City's Departments. More recently, I returned to school to pursue a film/entertainment career; since then, I've been involved with several Film Festivals as Development Intern and Programming Committee volunteer.

**Allison Cagley; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Education: BA in Sociology and Social Work; Continued education through nonprofit and arts administration workshops.

Experience - (most recent) Friends of Sacramento Arts Executive Director December 2018 – Present. Founding director of the organization. Manage all aspects of the organization including board of directors, strategic planning, budgets, fundraising, grants, marketing, social media, advocacy and community engagement.

Broadway Sacramento Development Director June 2009 - October 2018. Managed all aspects of annual giving and planned giving including grants, major gifts, event, direct mail marketing, budgeting and bequests.

Explorit Science Center Development Director February 2004 - May 2009. Development Director overseeing all areas of fund development for this hands-on science museum serving 18 counties. Cagley Consulting Consultant 2003 - 2009 (6 years) Consultant for nonprofit organizations focusing on annual giving, board development and grant research

### **Alma Villegas; Los Angeles**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Alma is a Development professional with extensive cross-sector experience in non-profit organizations, for-profit corporations, and government agencies. Alma specializes in strategic leadership by creating fundraising plans, managing and producing award-winning grants, producing annual galas and events, cultivating donor support and stewardship. As the previous Director of Development and Communications at the arts non-profit artworxLA, she was instrumental in raising funds to provide arts education programming to juvenile justice and alternative high school youth. As the Lead Capital Campaign Consultant at the non-profit arts center Self Help Graphics and Art, she led the fundraising efforts to renovate its 112 year-old building and create green spaces on the property. Alma's work in transportation projects includes facilitating community support for Metro's Subway Purple Line Extension. Alma is also Co-Founder and Business Director of chamanvision, a literary/arts studio, with husband Artist/Writer Gustavo Alberto Garcia Vaca.

### **Valley Nagle; Valencia**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Amber Valley Evangelista is a full-time mom of four children, a photographer, and a curator. Her specialized interest in vintage film cameras and Polaroids brings a nostalgic tone to her captured images. This passion for photography eventually led to her starting her own company. She is the founder of Valley in Film. A company that focuses on portraiture and other creative assistance, including fashion, campaigns, and workshops. Her company's mission is to make film photography more accessible to all audiences by sharing fun techniques and tips through social media, studio classes, and mentorships; and by providing affordable photo sessions to help resuscitate a dying art form.

### **Amrita Singhal; Berkeley**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a self-taught, full-time working painter, printmaker, and currently also working in digital and virtual reality mediums to produce art. My formal training is as a lawyer. My work is in the permanent collection of the UC Berkeley Art Museum and with collectors around the country. I show my work regularly in juried shows and have had several solo shows. I have received a 2023 Public Works award from the City of Berkeley to create a mural. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Kala Art Institute in Berkeley for 5 years, and am also the current Treasurer of Kala's BOD Finance Committee. As an immigrant and a painter, I'm extremely

sensitive to the details and sensibilities of different cultures. Finally, I love art and am interested in what talented people are creating.

**Amy Berk; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Amy is an artist and art educator who directs City Studio, the San Francisco Art Institute's award-winning youth studio program offering underserved youth high-quality arts education in their own neighborhoods. She has taught at SFAI since 2006, serving as Chair for the Contemporary Practice program from 2011 to 2013, and has taught "City as Studio Practicum," offering practical teaching experience to the SFAI student body since 2010. In 1996, she co-founded the innovative Meridian Interns Program serving inner-city teens and has taught in the Post-Baccalaureate program at UCBX since 2004. Since 2019 she and Chris Treggiari have collaborated on ARTIVATE, creating opportunities for youth to explore artmaking and citizenship in the public sphere. She has recently taken on the Directorship of Industrial Design Outreach, serving teens with a mentor format at Academy High School in San Francisco. She is looking forward to working with all of the mentors at IDO and creating some dynamic projects.

**Amy Hurst; Crescent City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

My educational background has provided me with a strong foundation in the social sciences while my work history has given me experience working with a wide variety of people from all walks of life. My work with National and State Parks as well as volunteer service throughout this country have exposed me to our nations various indigenous communities.

My work experience also includes reviewing grant/loan applications for Federal assistance programs. Having applied for and received grants as a Bookkeeper and Park Ranger, I understand the grants process from application to follow up reporting.

**Amy Spencer; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Amy Spencer has over fifteen years experience supporting community art at regional art centers, government entities and museums. This includes working as a community arts development coordinator at the Nevada Arts Council; and at Pro Arts in Oakland, where she managed exhibitions, communications and public programs, including East Bay Open Studios. Spencer holds a Master and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne, Australia. A seminal role in her career was working at Injalak Arts—an indigenous enterprise in remote western Arnhem Land—where she experienced firsthand the vital role art can play in shaping a healthy community.

**Amy Frances; Santa Barbara**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Amy Frances has a B.A in Music Therapy, from the University of Wisconsin. She attended Hartt College of Music as a classical violinist freshman year, and Los Angeles Music Academy for one year, studying under drummer Ralph Humphrey (Zappa). She taught traditional and disabled students at Devereux School, Girls Inc, and Children's Creative Project. Musician, poet/playwright, innovative painter, and photographer, she received grants from CAC, Santa

Barbara and San Luis Obispo Arts Councils, Actors' Fund, Sweet Relief, Dorset Foundation; was finalist for Alvin Dow Creativity award; and was nominated for Santa Barbara Poet Laureate. She is completing a long dense Jewish themed work combining poetry, novel, and play. Multi-instrumentalist/poet, she combines reciting and playing drumset or tabla; recorded a poetry CD; and records her original music. She has performed at galleries, festivals, UCSB, KIOT, KUNM, and KBS Seoul. Amy is an entry level giant broom painter and photographer.

**Ana Navarro; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Ana Isabel Navarro (she/her/ella) is the Executive Assistant to the CEO at the Bay Area Discovery Museum. She was born and raised in the Coachella Valley and came to San Francisco in 2015. From San Francisco State University, she has graduated with a B. A in History and is pursuing her M.A in Museum Studies. Ana has four years of experience ranging from creating art education programming to being a fundraiser. In her current role, she supports the CEO's day to day and acts as a thought partner for DEAI museum initiatives.

**Ana María Herrera; Chula Vista**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Ana María Herrera is a multidisciplinary cross-Border artist from Tijuana, with over 20 years of experience in the art scene. Her passion for breaking down invisible barriers that divide communities started in her youth. As an artist and teacher, she has worked on community-based projects with cross-border communities, including homeless teens in Tijuana and private colleges in the US. She supports non-profit agencies and community engagement projects between Mexico and the US to foster personal connections through art. She led a successful pilot program, sponsored by the Guggenheim Museum Children's Program, that aimed to motivate and teach homeless teenagers from Tijuana, who had experienced abused and lack of education, the skills to start a freelance job and earn their own income. Also, she worked as project coordinator for a non-profit organization in San Ysidro by beautifying the street with art and providing a safer living for low-income families.

**Anahit Poturyan; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Anahit Poturyan is a writer and art educator based in LA with a strong focus on technology, research, history, and culture. She received her B.A. in English Literature and an Art History minor from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and an M.A. in Aesthetics and Politics from the California Institute of Art (CalArts). She is currently employed at LA Commons and the Angel City Chorale. She has worked at the Peggy Guggenheim in Venice, Italy; the 58th Venice Biennale, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Hammer Museum, Artbook @Hauser & Wirth, and Otis College of Art and Design. She has lectured at numerous conferences across the world, such as the Nordic Summer University in Faro, Sweden, and the Western University of Australia in Perth, Australia. Her writings have appeared in the LA Review of Books, MediaTech Ventures, Whitehot Magazine, among others.

**Andrea Temkin; Palo Alto**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

My career has been in arts administration primarily working with community based cultural organizations and educational institutions. I have been an executive director and interim executive director. I have also worked with government agencies including Arts Program Manager for both the Alameda and Santa Clara County Offices of Education and as the Director of the San Mateo County Arts Commission. For the past 10 years my consulting practice has focused on supporting organizations experiencing both planned and unplanned transitions. My practice also has focused on supporting organizations founded and led by people of the global majority. I have worked across all arts disciplines and have particularly deep knowledge in music and folk and traditional art forms. I have experience managing teaching artists programs serving people in prison, community schools, hospitals, mental institutions, and preschools.

**Andrea Valentino Vieths; Dana Point**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My BA focus was in art history at FIU in Miami, FL where I held internships during Art Basel Miami Beach for several years and went on to curate an exhibition representing my own clients during 2011. My professional experience includes working in fine art submission coordination at Sotheby's, assisting the late and great feminist gallerist Bernice Steinbaum and exploring the non-profit sector through the learning and education outreach department at the Vizcaya Museum where I also volunteered as an education docent. My service to the arts has also included serving as on a committee member for the Junior League on an art enrichment after-school project for disabled students. I myself am an artist; I consider having been one since I learned how to work with oils 20 years ago but I cannot recall a time in my life without it.

**Andrea Saenz; Napa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been the Deputy Director / Director of Education and Civic Engagement at di Rosa since January 2017. Prior, I was the Museum Educator for School and Teacher Programs at the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin where I designed and implemented a national model for bilingual co-teaching in an art museum setting. I have held positions within the education departments at the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and consulted with the Jan and Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at the University California Davis.

My career began as a bilingual education teacher in San Diego and spent many years serving diverse communities as the first Director of Arts & Humanities for the YMCA of Orange County in Southern California. Relevant volunteer experience includes an appointment as the education representative to the Napa County Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and Peer Reviewer for the Journal of Museum Education.

I'm a fourth generation California native on my mother's side (Los Angeles) and a first generation Californian on my father's side (Bogota, Colombia). These bicultural roots have informed my career and personal life.

**Andréa Spearman; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Bay Area native, Andréa Spearman is an administrator, choreographer, performer, teacher, and student of a variety of modern-based movement with over 20 years of experience. Her company, A. Spearman & Co. is a contemporary fusion dance company where all artists are trained in various fields of art including ballet, jazz, hip hop, modern, cultural dance, photography, live vocals, poetry, acting, directing, production, and more.

Currently she produces and hosts, The Black Landscape podcast, a series of conversations that spotlight Black people doing significant work in the SF Bay Area communities in various industries including the arts, local government, local authors, the Peralta College system, labor unions, retail and costuming design, tech, and more!

**Andrea St. Clair; Sacramento*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Currently serving as the Education Director for the Woodland Opera House in Yolo County. Possessing a BA in Theatre Arts from SJSU, post-graduate training at CAP21 and iTheatrics Teaching Intensive (Summer '23) in New York, I have worked with children's theatres, educational theatre, and community/professional theatres up and down California. Also a member of Actors Equity Association with vast theatrical experience. Also lead School Outreach Program with the WOH that serves the WJUSD and Esparto school districts targeting lower income/Spanish-speaking communities bringing arts education into schools. Currently leading an Education Program with approximately 400+ students, ages 3 years to adult covering dance, theatre, and more.

**Angela Franklin; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I worked as a public information officer, budget analyst, and management analyst for 28 years with the City of Los Angeles. I spearheaded development of educational/outreach materials to inform the public about water quality issues and things people could do to improve our oceans and beaches. After retiring five years ago, I began pursuing a new career in the literary arts. I am a poet, essayist, visual artist, and documentarian, who holds an MFA from Antioch University Los Angeles. I am a fellow of Cave Canem, VONA, and Hurston Wright, which are prestigious competitive writing programs.

My work is published in anthologies such as: Korean Anthology Flowers Blooming from Scars: 30 Year Anniversary of LA Riots, The Gathering, Peregrine: Black Voices Speak, The Best of Poetry Salon, Voices of Leimert Park Redux, and online publications Cultural Weekly, Portside and Spectrum. I have two books underway, a chapbook of poetry and a coming of age memoir about growing up in Los Angeles during the 60's.

**Angela Richardson; Venice*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

For 20+ years Angela has worked in the nonprofit sector, guiding organizations and leaders in strategic planning, arts programming and effective program development for their communities. She's led over 60 trainings, 30+ retreat and countless group meetings all over the

country where participants leave not only with new knowledge but also a new learning community and a blueprint for creating organizations of culture and sustainable change

She is a proud graduate from Spelman College and holds an M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University in Arts Administration with a specialization in Nonprofit management.

Angela is also Writer and fierce advocate and practitioner for Women's wellness in all its forms. She currently resides in Los Angeles, CA.

**Angelia Gordon; North Highlands**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I currently manage an art center in the Sacramento area. In addition to my passion for arts programming and my community, I have a degree in studio art and technical theatre. In recent years I have also become interested in writing.

In addition to the arts, I am particularly interested in the environment and native wildlife.

**Jinji Sayson; San Jose**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Jinji earned a degree in Percussion Performance from San José State University. Prior, she toured with the Santa Clara Vanguard through their various winter and summer programs. Previously, she was a docent at the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies and performed mini-concerts on the center's historical keyboard collection. She has also worked as a hired piano accompanist for soloists, choral groups, and chamber groups. As a percussionist, she has performed with the San José Wind Symphony, Winchester Orchestra, etc. Her current project is an obscure form of Indigenous Filipinx music called Kulintang, which she performs with her band "Kulintang Dialect". She created a short film about the music, which screened in international film festivals, and wrote an article about kulintang that was printed in a local magazine. Last year she collaborated on a social justice-oriented art installation which featured a short story , and kulintang loops she composed.

**Ann Weber; San Pedro**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

After starting a pottery business in Ithaca, New York in which I created functional pottery with my then husband that we fired in the back yard in a kiln that we built and sold in our storefront, I relocated to New York City. With a new husband, I continued my business for another 4 years and then went to graduate school at California College of the Arts in Oakland studying with Viola Frey.

I started working in cardboard when I was inspired by Frank Gehry's furniture and because I wanted to move away from the cumbersome process of clay and make light weight monumental sculpture.

Working part time jobs at Creative Growth in Oakland and Berkeley Art Center, and a catering company, I maintained a studio practice that continues to this day. Eight years ago I moved to Los Angeles because of the many opportunities available for my artwork and to broaden my exposure to museums.

I have had residencies at the American Academy in Rome, the deYoung Museum in SF and the International School in Beijing. My artwork is in collections internationally and I am represented by Wönzimer Gallery in Los Angeles.

**Ann Tuomey; Lafayette**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Ann has developed a reputation throughout her career for successfully establishing dynamic programs, education, funding, audience expansion, and joy. She has cultivated partnerships and built fruitful constituency relationships at numerous institutions and organizations for over 25 years. Her arts management experience is extensive and diverse having served the field in a variety of capacities as a leader, board member, and consultant, including time as Director of Operations and Events for the South Street Seaport Museum, Executive Director of New York Theatre Ballet/Ballet School NY, Associate Director for Twyla Tharp Productions (W.A.T. Ltd.), strategic planning for the Baryshnikov Arts Center, Director of Studio Operations for New York City Center, and Head of Events for The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. She is a recent transplant to California and is delighted to be the Manager Director of Sozo Impact.

**Anna Gaitan; Highland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My name is Anna M. Gaitan. I have been employed with the University of Redlands Art Department as a studio art instructor for 14 years. The U of R is in the Inland Empire area in Southern California. This area is also where I grew up.

I completed my undergraduate degree at California State University, San Bernardino. My emphasis areas were graphic design, printmaking, and Chicano@ political art and activism. These areas carried over into my graduate work at the University of California, Santa Barbara where I earned my MFA degree.

My focus as an artist and educator has been to bring attention to social inequities and injustice and work with others to try to change these discrepancies.

**Anna Hayman; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Anna Hayman is a producer, teacher, and arts manager based in San Diego, CA after relocating from her hometown of New York City. While in New York she was the Managing Director of CultureHub, the Art & Technology center at La MaMa Theater, where she produced over 300 multimedia productions by artists from New York, Los Angeles, Seoul, Belarus, Iran, Italy, and the U.K, among others; and oversaw numerous community and education initiatives that used the media arts as a tool for social engagement. Other producing credits include: OBIE award winners *The Provenance of Beauty* and *Myopia/Plays*; Audelco winner *Angela's Mixtape*; *Havana Bourgeois*, *Ping Pong Diplomacy*, and Drama Desk nominee *Billboard* at 59E59 Theaters; and the film *Fingernail Moon*, which won awards at Amsterdam's *New Vision International* and *Garden State* film festivals. A graduate of Brooklyn College's Performing Arts Management MFA program, Anna maintains an ongoing roster of consulting clients including film directors,

choreographers, visual artists, musicians, and theatre companies. She also headed operations for Media Arts Center San Diego/San Diego Latino Film Festival from 2018 - 2020.

**Anna Win; Los Osos**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been a licensed architect for over 30 years having practiced in commercial, interiors, institutional and education sectors. My training as an architect required study of architectural history, and I learned that building design has been the ultimate expression of cultural art in every society, through large monumental structures paying homage to spiritual, governmental or egotistical needs to the most detailed mosaics or friezes which tell generational stories that connect us to our past. I believe the most successful architectural designs reflect and represent the specific communities for which the facility serves. At the same time, they are welcoming to visitors and promotes engagement and interaction. Good art and architecture brings people together in collective appreciation.

On a personal side, I enjoy and support performing arts and appreciate that music and dance in particular have unique cultural variations that make them so riveting to listen to and watch.

**Annie Clark; Sonoma**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

As Education Director of the acclaimed Bay Area Children's Theatre, Anne Clark led operations and strategic direction across 19 different cities. She developed international programming with Shanghai Children's Art Theatre and Free Performance Programs for over 800 students in the Bay Area. A nationally recognized, award-winning director, she directed, music directed and choreographed over 40 productions with children ranging in age from 2 years old to 18 years old all across the Bay Area. At 6th Street Playhouse, she built 6th Street Studio, the new education program at 6th Street, during the covid 19 pandemic, which now proudly serves over 800 students ages 5-16 a year onsite and at local schools and awarding over \$30,000 in scholarships. She introduced Theater for Young Audiences to the playhouse's 2022-23 season, directing and choreographing A Year with Frog & Toad, serving over 2400 audience members, including 800 youth who experienced live theater for the first time.

**Annie Saunders; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Annie Saunders is a multidisciplinary creator and director of site-specific experiences, and has created award-winning multi-platform projects for major arts institutions including The Los Angeles Philharmonic, as well as site-specific projects in disused spaces set for demolition and experiential campaigns for multinational brands. Her site-specific audio piece CURRENT won the Tribeca Festival's Best Immersive Creative Nonfiction, and her installation The Home received an Honorary Mention in Sound Art from Ars Electronica, a D&AD Yellow Pencil (Creative Excellence; Spatial and Installation Design) and UK APA awards for Best Experiential Project and Best Use of Technology for Good. She is a member of the inaugural ONX Studio (NEW INC/Onassis Foundation), and an alumnus of the Devised Theater Working Group at the Public Theater. Saunders is the founder and artistic director of site-specific performance

company Wilderness, and her experimental project The Wreck for Opera Omaha was called 'ingenious...a persuasive expression of complex female feeling,' by the Wall Street Journal.

### **Anne Smith; Oakland**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Dr. Anne W. Smith is an advocate, arts educator, arts professional, consultant, professor and arts educator. She has held leadership positions for California Arts Council, San Francisco Arts Commission, ODC Dance, Dance Spectrum Ballet, Book Club of California, San Francisco Center for the Book and San Francisco Circus Center.

She was arts administration chair at Golden Gate University, a tenured high school teacher of humanities, speech and theatre. Other faculty appointments: Showa University of Music, Japan, HEC, University of Montreal, American University (Washington, D.C.) and College of Charleston. Professor of Practice at GGU Ageno School of Business, and Shenandoah University.

She held leadership positions for California Arts Council, San Francisco Arts Commission, ODC Dance, Dance Spectrum, Dimensions Dance Theatre, Book Club of California, San Francisco Center for the Book, San Francisco Circus Center.

Smith is currently board president for Theatre Bay Area, board member Medical Clown Project, co-chair Commonwealth Club Arts Forum. Previously Board member California Arts Advocates, San Francisco Girls Chorus, California Lawyers for the Arts, and Chanticleer.

### **Anne Farrell; Del Mar**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an experienced fundraiser/administrator who spent 47 years in the nonprofit sector, raising more than \$200,000,000. I worked 34 years in the arts and education fields, fundraising for museums and universities. For 7 years, I was adjunct professor at the University of San Diego's nonprofit management graduate program and have trained/mentored many fundraising professionals in Southern California and beyond. Deeply concerned with the plight of foster children, from 2010-2017, I was Chief Philanthropy Officer at Voices for Children (San Diego & Riverside), doubling the budget and tripling the number of children served. In 2018, I moved to California CASA as Chief Philanthropy Officer. In 2023, I stepped down from that position and now work part-time as Senior Strategy Advisor to the CEO. I received my B.A. from San Jose State in art history, attended the University of Florence during a year abroad, and am a graduate of the Museum Leadership Institute (Getty Foundation).

### **Annette Paz; Los Angeles**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

I am Annette Paz, M.Ed (she/her) an abolitionist artist and the first-generation daughter of immigrants from El Salvador and Mexico. I founded Radiclay, a ceramics studio for sensitive and radical young artists that long to be agents of change through art, community and joy. Radiclay is for anyone that otherwise goes unseen in our society. In 2020, I was in conversation with Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of BLM, where we discussed the need for mental health and prison reform and I was part of the team that helped pass Measure J. I was selected by the California Department of Education to present about the short and long term effects of mass

incarceration and state violence on school aged children. My altar for my family, “Stigma = Muerte”, was selected as part of the Ancestral Lights Exhibition at Self Help Graphics. I have taught ceramic workshops at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, Twin Towers Jail, Self Help Graphics, CAST (Coalition for the Abolition of Slavery and Trafficking), The Other Art Fair LA, Trensitas Collective, Dignity and Power Now, at elementary schools and community gardens.

**Annette Fritzsche; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I began my career as a public schools music teacher and later as a school-wide instructional coach. Later I switched to the nonprofit world and was the Community Partnership Manager at the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory, and later worked at both the Los Angeles Philharmonic and El Sistema USA with the vision of making music education accessible and affordable for all. Since 2018, I have worked at the national philanthropic foundation, The Lewis Prize for Music, which supports youth-serving music programs who are working within their communities to shift inequitable systems. Since 2015 I have volunteered as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for youth in foster care. I hold a Bachelors of Music in Music Education (University of Dayton), Masters of Science in Organizational Leadership (Colorado State University), and School Administrator License (University of Colorado-Denver).

**Annie Barnes; Upper Lake**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I began as a actress with the New Shakespeare Company of San Francisco for 17 years. I received training at the American Conservatory Theater and one of the original members of the Asian American Workshop. During the 1960's to the 1980's I had been very involved in the using art forms of theater, dance, multimedia to bring awareness to the voice of the times, influence political change for the Pilipino American historical community, and most important empowerment of the underserved/ unheard communities. Through the years, I have become a mental health therapist, grant writer for tribal and rural communities statewide and co-founder of a non profit organization.

**Anthony Centeno; Bell**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a native Angeleno from the city of Bell, with a double Bachelor's in Music and Theatre Arts, as well as a Master of Fine Arts in music. In addition to being a performer, I've spent most of my career as a music educator. Prior to the covid pandemic, I was a public school music teacher for Aspire Public Schools in South Gate, Ca, where I enjoyed serving over 700 tk-5th grade students in an under-served community. Unfortunately, covid state budget cuts brought an end to my position, as it did to much of the arts. Most recently, I had the privilege of being a teacher at an art integrated school near Boyle Heights, where I developed curriculum that included visual and performing arts as a part of students' daily classroom experience. Furthermore, I'm also an alum of Arts for L.A.'s Activate, arts advocacy program.

**Anthony Oberbeck; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Nine years performing and teaching improv and sketch comedy in Chicago, six years performing and teaching performance and improv in New York, as well as acting in a wide range of projects from independent shorts and feature films to guest-starring roles on TV shows, have written and directed a number of independent films in LA.

**Anthony Sigala; Brawley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I received a BFA from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena Ca. I am a full-time artist who is based in Brawley Ca. I retired from the Ca Department of Corrections as an education principal. I managed all inmate education programs at one of the State Prisons. I also supervised the Arts in Corrections programs within the institution. I was an art instructor at Pasadena City College, Imperial Valley College and Art teacher at Los Angeles High School for the Arts. I am involved in my community by creating public art and donating some of my art services for non profit fund raisers.

**Antoinette Williams; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an independent art consultant, curator, and writer. I'm an enthusiast for art of all media. Founder of Apotheosis Art and serving as a consultant curator for Velvenoir. In addition to these roles, I continue to curate exhibitions in the US as well as internationally.

After completing a BA in Art History at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, I went on to earn my Master's Degree in Fine and Decorative Art from Sotheby's Institute of Art, London. I've worked in commercial and nonprofit galleries, and have also am a contributing writer for Rise Art, Or Does It Explode Magazine, and Vanguard Culture. I've previously penned articles for Discover North County Magazine, Fresh Paint Magazine, and Artfetch.

**Toni Bowles; Hollister**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

18 years with the Superior Courts in Special Projects (8 yrs of which consisted of leading the Grants Division, Interior Designer and Entrepreneur, California Reentry Grants Review Panelist, Contributing member of the Gilroy Arts Roundtable, Host (via The Neon Exchange) of various monthly arts programming inside of my venue, Former dancer, Art collector.

**April Breis; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a Sacramento Native who is very proud to be a new addition to the Office of Arts and Culture. Throughout my career, I have sought to merge my passion for the arts with my desire to serve my community. Before joining the Office of Arts and Culture I worked exclusively in the nonprofit sector in a variety of roles primarily centered in community building and empowerment. I supervised a program which provided arts instruction to adults with disabilities, worked in affordable housing to designed programs which ensured a successful transition from homelessness and briefly worked as an Advocate Director for a statewide program which empowered the voices of those with mental health diagnosis and criminal

justice involvement. While I have held management and support roles in a variety of fields, my connection to the arts and my belief in the power of the arts to uplift communities and strengthen voices has always been at the core of my approach. In addition to my professional work, I have volunteered extensively within my community, and I am an avid creator who has participated in a number of local shows.

**A'raelle Flynn-Bolden; Santa Clarita**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have worked within the performing arts for the majority of my life. Starting out as an actor from elementary all the way through CalArts, finding my way as a writer after graduation, and finally finding footing as an arts administrator and community facilitator/advocate. For better or worse, the arts are my home. With my unique vantage point, as participant, creator and manager, I believe I would bring a sense of well rounded understanding to this position.

**Ashleigh Worley; Santa Rosa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Ashleigh worked as public-school teacher, teaching Theatre and English for students in grades 6-12 while mentoring first year teachers, serving on curriculum review panels, and designing curriculum for the state. She served as Education Director at Marin Theatre Company working with incarcerated youth through trauma-informed arts outreach. In 2020 she founded Education Leaders in Arts Organizations, which rallies leaders together to collaborate in Sonoma County. In 2022, she began organizing mixers for members of the arts education community, serving over 200 to-date. Ashleigh has been highlighted in national publications such as TYA Today magazine, HowlRound Theatre Commons, and THED Talks podcast. Ashleigh was recognized as one of the North Bay Business Journal's Forty Under 40 award recipients for 2021. She holds dual teaching credentials from North Carolina and California, is the former Board Chair for the Sonoma AEA and co-chairs the AEA of the Bay Area's Board of Directors.

**ARose Little; Claremont**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

In 2012 I was given an opportunity to curate a local gallery named "Perolas Gallery" Located right in the center of downtown Claremont, Ca. This was a great opportunity to show my art and also the art of my co-peers. It was a success, the idea turned reality into an afterschool art program that was held once a week for 8 years. Lessons were given on formal art methodologies of great artists of the past. Soon students were showing their art in the gallery's exhibitions.

The community projects kept going until 2020 when covid hit. The gallery is still running and shows are curated almost monthly. I am still the art director and believe this positive outreach paved a way for young people to be able to express themselves. Creating a possibility to make their artistic expressions lucrative. It's important to me to help them learn how to shine their light because if we do not have children with the courage to shine their light this world would be dark. I truly believe as you express yourself you are set free.

**Astra Price; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Astra Price (she/her) is a moving image specialist and an educator in digital media, having taught for over a decade at California Institute of the Arts. She has worked in the digital collections of such artists such as Bill Viola, Jane Geiser, Lewis Klahr, and Sylvère Lotringer. Her publications on the preservation of time-based media can be found in Leonardo and the IIC Journal. Currently, Astra is the Technical Director at OUTWORDS, an LGBTQ+ elders oral history archive. In addition to working with other artists, Astra is also an artist and filmmaker with a focus in experimental documentaries.

**Barbara Fant; Glendale*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I am a poet and performer based in Los Angeles. I have been writing and performing for over 15 years. I am also a certified Healing Engagement Specialist, who has been working with young people and adults who are incarcerated and survivors of high-levels of trauma, teaching art as a form of healing for over a decade. I hold a BA in Literature, a Master of Theology, and an MFA in Poetry. For over 12 years, I have also worked in the nonprofit field in various ways as an administrator, manager, teaching artist, and artistic director. Additionally, I have worked for a community foundation for 7 years of my career, which gave me incredible insight into the funding world. During this time, I was able to serve as a grant reviewer, and educator, and an administrator for both funders/donors and nonprofits.

**Barbara Goodson; Auburn*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have performed in and worked for the advancement of the arts and arts education since the 1970s. I am a fundraiser for a historic theatre (and its acting company), and I have taught music privately, in middle and in high school. The performing and graphic arts are central to my being. I hold a bachelor of arts and a master of arts in music history. A past position was Development Director for the School of Music at the University of Oregon. I was also executive director of the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra. For the past 38 I have done all I can to promote the arts in our communities.

**Barbara Palley; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Barbara Palley is the Director of Program and Strategy for Turnaround Arts: California. Previously at Cool Culture, NYC, she helped narrow the arts education gap through citywide partnerships between early childhood centers and cultural institutions, which engaged families in out-of-school time. She led a federally-funded project to bring together 23 NYC museums in a "Laboratory for New Audiences" in which they utilized user-centered design methods to innovate diverse and inclusive educational approaches. Barbara is a recognized leader in the field, with over 20 years of experience in museum education, arts administration, and program evaluation at a variety of institutions including MoMA, Brooklyn Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Harvard Project Zero. She has served on the board of the NYC Museum Educators Roundtable and presented at national and international conferences. Barbara has a

BA in Art History, University of Virginia and an Ed.M. in Arts in Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Bobbie Jones; Chico**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

In 2018, I completed an Interdisciplinary MA in Art and Education: PreK-Older Adult followed by a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Visual Arts. My thesis focused on building community with Art Education and Socially Engaged Art (SEA). I currently serve as a Teacher Leader with The California Arts Project advising and teaching K-12 educators, and as a Teaching Artists in the Schools in Butte County Office of Education, bringing social emotional awareness through the arts to K-8 students. I also teach drawing at Butte College and have taught in the art education department at California State University Chico. I have served on the boards of the California Art Education Association of the Northern California Region, the Chico Art Center and Drawing On Earth as the Secretary. As a professional fine artist, I work toward exhibiting in painting, fiber arts and Socially Engaged Art practices.

**Belva Johnson; Rosamond**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

My background stems from experience in secretarial sciences, working in the legal field as a legal secretary, and over the years in administrative assistance. Currently retired and performing secretarial duties for the Safe Home Housing nonprofit organization, formed to create alternative housing for homeless individuals. We are also sponsoring community wellness workshops that provide information about healthy food and lifestyle choices. These workshops bring in expert guest speakers, give demonstrations, provide art classes, and give opportunities for attendee participation. Since inception, I have been the coordinator of these workshops and all fundraising events. In 2021 we hosted a black tie affair, and a Sees Candies Fundraiser. I've also co-authored a book entitled The Presence.

**Ben Miyaji; Pittsburg**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I have served on the San Jose Arts Commission (1992-2014), the Palo Alto Public Art Commission (2013-present) and the Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (2021-2022). I served on numerous grants panels for San Jose and Silicon Valley Creates as well as CAC grants panels for Veterans in the Arts, Creative Youth Development and Administrators of Color Fellowship. My experience being on both sides of the grants table gives me valuable insight on applying for and reading grant applications.

**Ben Frandzel; Pacifica**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Since 2007 Ben Frandzel has been the Institutional Gifts and Community Engagement Officer with Stanford Live. In addition to managing the organization's foundation and government grants, he has led the development of new programs including Stanford Live's first-ever conference for K-12 educators, an Artists-in-Schools program, increased access to performances for Title 1 schools, and the creation of many new educational and community partnerships.

As Managing Director of Oakland educational theatre company Opera Piccola, he supported the growth of the company's ArtGate program, which provided artist residency programs to over 20 Oakland public schools and its development of new multidisciplinary theater work.

Ben has also been active as a writer for many years and has published over 100 pieces including reviews, scholarly writing, program notes, and recording liner notes. He studied Music and English at Northwestern University and music composition at San Francisco State University.

**Berenice Badillo; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Berenice Badillo utilizes art therapy and communal art processes to create multifaceted platforms where inequalities can be identified and explored through art and dialogue. Badillo grew up straddling two worlds as a first-generation immigrant and started her career as a community muralist mentoring homeless youth. She co-created a monthly hip hop event in a cultural center called ELEMENTAL that showcased the art of local youth and developed after school programming that was recognized by the city of San Diego and the state of California. She was a MANA Honoree (Mexican-American Women's National Association) in recognition for "Outstanding Work and Dedication to the Community through Arts and Culture" and The California Wellness Foundation Violence Prevention Initiative Community Fellow. She worked with undocumented students and illustrated an award-winning children's book on their experiences. Berenice strives to change the environment and the communal narrative of disenfranchised people and communities through the co-creation of large-scale art where their stories, counter-stories and struggles can be disseminated and cross pollinated on a grand scale.

**Bernadette Vielbig; Eureka**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Bernadette Vielbig holds an MFA in Sculpture and design and has a teaching history of 20 years at the college and university level in fine arts. She has exhibited her work at museums and galleries nationwide. Her 40 years of being a working artist have given her time and experience working with artists of all levels in traditional and non traditional settings for viewing art. Her work has been featured in outdoor public art parks, experimental events, and even shopping mall parking lots. Her range of skills in many media is constantly growing. Bernadette has lectured and taught workshops in many parts of the US aside from her history as a professor. She has worked with many demographics as an educator in public institutions and continues to do so on a private level at large.

**Bernard Leibov; Joshua Tree**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Following an accomplished career in corporate settings, I followed my passions of art and community and became Deputy Director of Judd Foundation. I subsequently founded an arts initiative in Joshua tree, CA which supports artists in their development and brings socially minded art and dialog to an under resourced and under represented rural community. I also manage a community gallery for the Joshua Tree National Park and participate in the selection process of resident artists in the Park. I have been part of a committee that developed a

Strategic Plan for the Arts in the Morongo Basin and am a co-founder of Joshua Tree Arts Professionals.

**Bethany Jones; West Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

BETHANY JONES is a Californian born abroad, born to a father from Redondo Beach in the UK, she moved to California at the age of 9 1/2. Nicknamed “the inmate whisperer” she began her career in television working as a researcher on Prison Break. She has since produced hours of TV for Oxygen, History, A&E, CNN, Discovery, CBS and won best sports video of the year for Grantland, ESPN’s pop culture arm. She has also interviewed leading government officials, federal agents, United States Attorneys and law enforcement officers across the country. She has also interviewed spies, arms dealers, terrorists, and other notable persons who are system impacted. She was the VP of Communication on the board of directors for the FBI Citizen’s Academy Los Angeles and one of twelve people selected by Homeland Security to take part in a roundtable in Oct 2019 to discuss art and HSI’s relationship with artists and the media. Bethany holds an honors degree from the University of Wales, U.K. in English literature and French.

**Beverly Chang; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Beverly Chang is an award-winning marketing executive with three decades of work in the arts and culture space.

As president of The BRC Group, Inc., she provides marketing counsel to arts organizations and creative individuals looking to expand awareness of their offerings. These engagements focus on developing strategic plans; conceptualizing museum and gallery exhibitions; planning educational programming; and creating print and electronic marketing campaigns. Clients have included the California Art Club, A Community of Angels Public Art Program, Los Angeles Chinatown Business Improvement District, and numerous visual artists.

Prior to founding The BRC Group, she spearheaded national multi-tiered campaigns and new product development for Disney Art Editions, as marketing manager for the worldwide leader in animation art products.

She holds a master’s degree in business administration from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor’s degree in public relations from the University of Southern California.

**Bonnie Carpenter; Idyllwild**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Bonnie Carpenter is an arts leader who helps others develop their sense of self and purpose through creative play and imagination. Bonnie believes that arts are fundamental to the intellectual and emotional development of youth and are a core necessity to expression of the human experience. With over 20 years of experience, her students are working around the globe and using their artistic voices in all facets of life. She knows that this empathetic perspective will foster compassion and understanding across cultures. Bonnie holds a B.S. in both Theatre and Communications with an emphasis in Secondary Education from Carroll

University, an MFA in Theatrical Design from Northern Illinois University, and a Masters in Arts Leadership and Cultural Management from Colorado State University. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education from Alverno College.

**Bradley Waters; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I earned my Bachelor's in English from Michigan State University and my Master's in social work from the University of Michigan. I interned for one year as a therapist in a Detroit community mental health organization and was employed as a crisis counselor at a national crisis call center. I pivoted from the mental health field into the writing field, first by becoming an online contributor for Psychology Today. I wrote for PT for eleven years. Over the past four years I have focused on creative writing, getting poetry, fiction, and essays published in numerous print and online publications internationally. In 2022 my nonfiction was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. This year I began serving as the "Beyond Genre" senior editor for JMWW Journal. My responsibilities include reviewing and ranking submissions, choosing a short list, curating visual art pairings, and coordinating publication decisions with the managing editor.

**Breno Aragon; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and moved to the US when i was 4 years old. I lived in Florida, Houston, TX and Quebec, Montreal and moved backed to Florida until I returned to Rio when I was 15 years old. I have been a practicing musician from the age of 15. I have an undergraduate degree in Portuguese and English Literature. I moved to San Francisco in 2009 to earn my MFA in fine art photography from the Academy of Art University. I have been working in the photo industry since 2007 and focusing on my visual art practice since moving to the Bay Area.

**Brian Sheridan; Arcadia**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

Brian is celebrating 20 years of leading nonprofit organizations' fundraising and communications efforts. In addition to his core fundraising responsibility, Brian leads the Coalition for Clean Air's California Clean Air Day efforts, which in four years has grown to an estimated 1.8 million participants across the State thanks to the collective effort of 651 nonprofit, business and government partners.

Brian came to CCA from the Council for Watershed Health, where he founded the Environmental Funders and Media Forum and spearheaded the growth of outreach, funding and events. Prior to this, he was the Director of Development for Heritage Square Museum. In this role, he oversaw the growth of the museum from a sleepy outpost to one of the Los Angeles' landmark historic destinations. Brian received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UC San Diego.

**Bridget Rountree; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I came to be a visual artist through the influence of South African activist teaching artists Rose Shakinovsky and Claire Gavronsky, whom I met in 2000 and who I study with today in a collective of international eco-feminists. I also identify as a puppeteer which became part of my artistic practice 17 years ago and co-founded Animal Cracker Conspiracy Puppet Company. These two mediums have given me a diverse background in making work. Visually, in two dimensions, with a practical foundation in collage, painting, drawing, looking fundamentally and art historically at composition, line, and color. Puppetry which is performative, three dimensional, and time based, has more historical roots in theater, performance and community action. I have worked and exhibited with many non-profits and arts organizations. To name a few, San Diego Library, MCA San Diego, La Jolla Atheneum, Vanguard Culture, California Center for the Arts, Escondido, and La Jolla Playhouse.

**Bridgett Rangel-Rexford; Davis*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Bridgett Rangel-Rexford is a Mexican American woman residing in Mount Shasta, CA on the land of the Winneum Wintu tribe. She was awarded honors at UCSD wherein she received her B.A. in Art History/Theory and Criticism. A forever learner, she also received her A.A. in Graphic Design. One summer she served as the art director for Camp Krem (a camp for people with disabilities). Another summer she directed birthday parties and designed flyers for the Crocker Art Museum's events. Whenever she isn't working, her heart is dedicated to reaching out to the local art community as the President of the Siskiyou Arts Council.

Her 2020 project was titled, "Quotes of the Revolution". Since social media algorithms push posts into the internet abyss minutes after they are posted, her series document and illustrates the revolution 2020 brought a quote at a time.

Currently, she is working on her podcast titled, "How You Frame It". As a Mexican American art critic, she realizes there is a need for more Hispanic art critics' voices to be heard. She enjoys giving people the opportunity to explore their creativity and unique ways of framing the world around them.

**Brody Scotland; San Leandro*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have worked for the Burning Man Project in the Art Department for 12 years. We run a \$1.3 million dollar/year grants to artists program. I have been involved in the grant process and administration for 12 years, and a full voting member of the Grant Committee for several years now.

In 2021, I was invited to be a juror for the Esalen Institute's first Artist in Residence program, which involved reviewing applications online and attending virtual meetings.

I served as an Arts Commissioner for the City of San Leandro from 2020-2023, during which time I was on the Grant Committee for our Grants to Artists program. I have just been

appointed to our new Arts, Culture & Library Commission and expect that grant program to continue in the future.

I am also an artist and photographer myself, and have applied for grants and opportunities in the world. Both sides!

**Bruce Davis; Mountain View**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Former Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley; former Executive Director/Producer, San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival; former President/CEO of ArtsKC, Kansas City, MO; Singer/Songwriter

**Buena Johnson; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Buena Johnson is a local Los Angeles visual artist, arts instructor and owner of Buena Vision Art Studio. Buena's art most recently appeared with Band of Vices Art Gallery and showcased with the Los Angeles Lakers. She was awarded a solo exhibition opportunity at TAG Gallery, 2021 and The Los Angeles Art Association's Gallery 825, 2023. Buena was also an Artist in Residence and taught art classes at UCLA for eight years.

Most Recently, Buena's artwork was selected by the LA County Arts & Cultures for Illuminate LA: Collective Memories Installation and showcased in DTLA-Grand Park. She was also one of the 2022 NOT REAL ART GRANT WINNERS and featured in a Podcast: Art as a Tool for Positivity.

Her work has been showcased in the collections of the Smithsonian, collected by the Getty and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) LA.

**Camille Elston; Riverside**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Camille Ora-Nicole (she/they) is a Creative Placemaker, Photographer, Writer, and Artist residing in Southern California. Her work primarily focuses on the built and unbuilt environment, with an understanding of the beauty and stories residing in both.

Camille founded Oracami Studio as a way to further study diverse environments, develop the long-term Vernacular Project, and experiment with the use of prose and poetry to explain new ideas in placemaking.

Alongside her personal practice, Camille is the founder of The Queer 26, a non-profit multimedia organization that aims to support queer creatives of color thrive through filmmaking, writing, and photography. The Queer 26 provides a platform that gives queer folks the space to speak their truths, express themselves, grow in their craft, and find new opportunities.

Camille received her BFA in graphic design from Cal Poly Pomona in 2014, and her Master of Heritage Conservation from USC in 2018.

**Car Nazzal; San Jose*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Hi my name is Car Nazzal, I am an emerging interdisciplinary artist working primarily in ceramic sculpture with a history in film. My background being queer, mixed race, and neurodivergent has influenced not just my art but how I participate and serve my communities. My experience as a general manager for two large art materials companies, later opening my own ceramics company, and teaching at a local pottery studio has given me access to hundreds of artists who share their intimate needs and struggles with me. My artistic goal is to create a world that invites play for adults and the serious. My community goal is to use my BS in psychology, continue my studies and support the mental health of the artist in everyone.

**Cara Goger; Mariposa*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Cara Goger joined the Mariposa County Arts Council, Inc. in 2012 as Executive Director and oversees the entire organization and its staff. Ms. Goger holds a graduate degree in Political Science/International Relations and, before taking the helm at the Mariposa County Arts Council, worked for eight years with the AjA Project providing photography-based educational programming to youth affected by war and displacement and the Museum of Photographic Arts serving as the primary artist-in-residency for the Museum's senior programming (55+) and lead instructor for the School in the Park's 5th grade program. Ms. Goger brings 15+ years of experience at engaging a variety of audiences with the careful study and exploration of art, with particular attention to projects that facilitate representative community engagement, arts education and creative placemaking.

**Carin Jacobs; Long Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Carin Jacobs has designed over 100 shows for professional and educational theatre. Her work can be seen in many genres including theatre, film, live stage shows and professional cheerleading. In addition to her freelance design work, Carin teaches art, fashion and design courses and serves as an event planner at FIDM. Carin also served on the board of The Art Exchange, an arts organization as the events coordinator and community outreach liaison. She holds a B.A. in Art History from UCLA and an M.F.A. in Theatre from Cal State Long Beach. Carin loves her career and feels like one of the luckiest people in the world to be making a living creating art.

**Carina Tautu; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I'm currently the DEI coordinator for Local 600 International Cinematographers Guild, the first to be hired in this position in the history of the guild. I'm trained as a film director and screenwriter in the both Europe (Romania) and at Columbia University in New York, and I know well the artistic world on both continents. I was the Program Director for The Connecticut Film Festival prior to moving to Los Angeles in 2013, I also served as the Program Director for Youth Rights Media (a Yale University affiliate), and I worked and training film program in the nonprofit world for over a decade. I'm a professional mediator, graduated from Pepperdine Law/Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution in 2019, and for the past 20 years I am an

independent filmmaker. Most recently, I also work as a mediator for California Lawyers for the arts and provide conflict consulting services as well as coaching.

**Carlos Mayorga; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I was raised in a Nicaraguan household in Lamont, California, a small town in the Central Valley. I am a recent UCLA graduate, where I double majored in Dance and Chicana/o/x Studies, and minored in Education Studies. I currently work at the UCLA Lab School as a Teaching Assistant, where I have the flexibility to help integrate arts education into the student's core curriculum. As a UCLA undergraduate, I was fortunate enough to work with Versa-Style Next Generation. In this organization I trained intensively in street dance, primarily focusing on Hip-Hop and House. I also assisted in working various community events, all while learning more about the nonprofit sector, and the work needed to plan these events. I hope to one day return to the Central Valley so that I may help bridge accessible arts education to the community of Lamont.

**Carlos Navarro; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have studied, music, acting, production, and recording. I have a musical group SON Y CLAVE ORCHESTRA. Recently featured in the movie GOD AND SALSA, AND ALMOST A WOMAN. Have an album out entitled SONY CLAVE HAVANA WEST. I am also partners with INTERNATIONAL SALSA MAGAZINE Which has been published for 14 years. Showcasing local and INTERNATIONAL TALENT.

**Carmen Cooley-Graham; La Mesa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I studied art and appreciate all genres of art. I have served on CAC grant panelist for 2 years in various panels. I am active in California Association of Museums, San Diego Museum Council, Alliance of Museum Association and various other associations supporting the arts and museums. I am also business owner, museum director and curator.

**Caroline Nelson; Newman**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have an AA Degree in Art and Graphic Arts and will be pursuing a Bachelors Degree in both in the near future. I have critical local photo contests and art contests. I had been involved with a local art organization that offered scholarships to local graduating art students interested in pursuing art as a career. I was instrumental in developing the criteria for the scholarship program as well as verifying that each applicant complied with the requirements of the program.

**Carrie Hoffman; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

As a long-time artist, writer and activist, service has been foundational to who I am throughout my life. I have degrees in Studio Art and Linguistics from UC Santa Cruz, where I was immersed in the arts community and culture. I then served as a grant writer the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) in Santa Ana, the city I grew up in and a historically underserved area. In my position at RSCCD, I worked for four years alongside students and

faculty to successfully apply for grants from a wide array of federal, state and private funding sources, such as the U.S. Department of Labor, National Endowment for the Arts, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, US Bank, Bank of America and the Truth Initiative. I now work as a Registrar at Atthowe Fine Art Services, a worker-owned cooperative run by and in service of artists throughout the Bay Area.

**Carolyn Schutten; Colton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am the Director of Research & Development for the Arts Council of San Bernardino County. I am a trained public historian who is passionate about archives -- especially community arts archives. I am a data nerd, researcher, and program evaluation expert. But I am also a museum curator, social practitioner, and civic and environmental curator. Believe it or not, I also received a masters in urban planning and am interested in cultural investment, policy, and placekeeping. My doctoral work engaged social and environmental justice and border landscapes. I am currently interested in equitable grantmaking and addressing the need of Native culture bearers in grantmaking. I am bilingual and have 12 years of experience in arts and culture and want to share that with CAC.

**Carrie Ann Plank; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Carrie Ann Plank is an San Francisco based artist who's work is included in many private and public collections including the Fine Art Archives of the Library of Congress, Fine Art Museums of San Francisco, Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, the Guanlan Print Art Museum in China, Museum Meermanno in The Hague, Netherlands and The Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba, as well as corporate collections including Google and Genentech. Recent noteworthy solo shows include Themes + Projects in San Francisco, Bryant Street Gallery in Palo Alto, and Stanford's Linear Accelerator Campus. Recent residency projects include KALA in Berkeley, CA, Konstnärernas Kollektiva Grafikverkstad in Malmo, Sweden, Edition/Basel: Printed in Cuba at the Taller Experimental de Gráfica de La Habana in Havana, Cuba, the Íslensk Grafík in Reykjavik, Iceland, Edition/Basel: Printed in Basel at Druckwerk in Basel, Switzerland. Additionally, Plank has had a 20 year teaching career and most recently served as the Director of the Printmaking MFA & BFA Programs at the Academy of Art University before devoting herself solely to her artist practice in 2018.

**Catherine Scott; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

My life's work has been in the arts , My early days as a dancer , educator and vocalist and over 40 years as an arts administrator in community arts and museums. I came of age during the Black Arts Movement in New Jersey and NewYork and after completing a undergraduate degree in Political Science I found my self drawn to the performing arts and pursued an active career as a dance artist and dance educator. As a transplant to California, I have worked in community arts for over 40 years in various roles to include educator , department head and have participated in professional dance , educator , visual arts and museum organizations over the years facilitating the shift toward inclusion equity and diversity . In addition to public art practice have served on local panels and policy committees. I bring the experience of a life of

work, advocacy and creativity shaped by the witnessing of shifts and the evolution of the field. Serving on panels is a way to contribute and continue the work of supporting the arts as an integral part of most if not all communities.

**Kate Battenfeld; Carlsbad**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Kate Battenfeld is the Early Childhood Program Manager for the San Diego Youth Symphony and oversees the Early Childhood division, including parent-child classes and community outreach programs. She taught general music in the Carlsbad Unified School District for 11 years and has owned and operated an early childhood music studio for over 20 years. Kate is also a writer and editor, covering topics related to early childhood music education and parent education. In addition, Kate is an accomplished vocalist, recording artist, and singer songwriter. She received her M.Ed. specializing in Arts Integration from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA.

**Cati Porter; Riverside**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Cati Porter has been a leader in the nonprofit arts sector for more than a dozen years, and writing and publishing for three decades. She has a Masters in Fine Arts in poetry from Antioch University, Los Angeles, and is the author of *Novel* (Bamboo Dart Press, 2022), *The Body at a Loss* (CavanKerry Press, 2019) and the forthcoming *small mammals* (Mayapple Press, 2023), among others. She lives in Inland Southern California with her family where she directs Inlandia Institute, a literary and cultural arts nonprofit serving the Inland Southern California region.

**Catherine Roscart; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I always knew I wanted to work in the arts and I didn't realize it was public art until I became a Producer at 72andSunny working with their creative residency. Each Spring and Fall we would invite 10 creatives from around the world to join us in LA to create art for social good. Our first project was about the children being detained at the border. We called the project 14000 AND COUNTING and got enough people to sign a petition that was eventually taken to the Senate floor. Next, we partnered with Mayor Garcetti and the city of LA, along with multiple organizations that specialized in the field, to create a mural project about homelessness in LA, called DEAR NEIGHBOR. I have enjoyed working with artists and organizers of every race and religion. In my current role as a Senior Producer at Building180, I have the pleasure of meeting with many different artists in many interests and areas. I feel my vast experience in project managing and working with different people across many roles would make me an excellent candidate for CAC Panel Reviewer.

**Celeste Chan; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Celeste Chan is a writer, artist, and arts administrator. She's been selected for fellowships at Lambda Literary, Periplus, and Catapult, and awarded grants and residencies from Hedgebrook, CA Arts Council, and SF Arts Commission. A longtime contributing editor for *Foglifter*, she also serves on the journal's board. From 2016-18, Celeste joined a national cohort of 26 fellows in the Association of Performing Arts Professionals Leadership Fellows Program. For ten years,

Celeste co-directed Queer Rebels, a queer and trans people of color arts organization; she served as longstanding guest curator for MIX NYC Experimental Film Festival and OUTsider Festival (2012-2018). She has toured, presented work, and given workshops at colleges such as Williams, Indiana, UC Riverside, CSU Humboldt, SFSU, Berkeley, and beyond. As a queer woman of color artist, she's lived in San Francisco for nearly twenty years.

**Celia Hirschman; Oroville**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I spent 35 years in the Music Industry, starting at the very bottom, all the way to one of the the top slots. My last gig (8 years) was running One Little Indian, in North America, overseeing releases by Bjork, The Twilight Singers, Lloyd Cole and many others. Handled all aspects including artwork, touring, etc.

Simultaneously, I spent 8 years writing and delivering a taped commentary at public radio station KCRW in LA during prime drive time. The 4 min. weekly commentary was a cultural and business look at a rapidly change business (2003-2010).

Growing up with a father who was a poet/artist in a studio environment, and a mother who built the public radio arts and cultural landscape (KPFK, KCRW), I was bathed in the arts from birth. Always took the opportunity to see live shows, visit museums, and make cultural connections.

I currently live in Oroville, CA.

**Aubrey Mamaid; Glendale**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Aubrey Mamaid was born and raised in the Philippines, and moved to Los Angeles, California in 2015. As a first generation immigrant and student, she completed her B.A. in Dance, B.A. in Asian American Studies, with a minor in Public Affairs at the University of California, Los Angeles as UCLA Class of 2021.

Her work in the non-profit realm began in 2019 as an Administrative Intern for Versa-Style Dance Company (VSDC). Aubrey is now the Special Projects Associate for VSDC, where she specializes in grant writing, fundraising, and program development.

Aubrey is also an active Street Dance practitioner for 8 years and going, learning from legends and pioneers who originated Hip Hop culture. Aubrey is a member of Versa-Style Legacy, a pre-professional company that brings Hip Hop and Street Dance Culture to Los Angeles.

As a Teaching Artist, Administrator, and Street Dance Practitioner, Aubrey advocates to make Street Dance culturally accessible for the youth.

**Chambers Stevens; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Chambers Stevens has ten books in print. Besides being a successful author he is one of LA's top acting coaches. Actors he has coached have appeared on every network as well as countless films and theatre productions. Chambers is a graduate of Webster University & the founder of The Nashville Shakespeare Festival now in its 30th year. As a television actor, Chambers starred

in The Steve Spots, which received six Emmys and a George Peabody Award, Funnybones, which received an Emmy for “Outstanding Children’s Program”, and Geoscout, for which he received a personal Emmy nomination as “Outstanding Actor in a Children’s Series.” As a theater actor, Chambers has performed in over a hundred theater productions. He’s the recipient of the prestigious Backstage Garland Award for his one-man show Desperate for Magic.

As a playwright, he has won both the Ingram Fellowship. His play Biff and Charlie is published by Samuel French. Mother of Pearl is published by Dramatic Publishing and Desperate for Magic is published by Elderidge. Chambers latest play Twain and Shaw Do Lunch received its world premiere at the prestigious New Theatre in Miami.

**Charla Lawson; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I began my arts administration career in high school, where I created articles of association and bylaws for the band, in college I managed a summer music camp and orchestra festival. In the following 18 years I have worked at the Modesto Symphony, Townsend Opera (now Opera Modesto), West Edge Opera (summer festival), Opera Saratoga, and I currently work for the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera. My responsibilities have ranged from getting coffee, organizing props, liaising with boards and artists, to Program Creation and reporting.

I believe that the arts, in all forms, provide a deeper connection to society and our communities while creating well rounded citizens who have more creative lives, rooted in ownership and belonging in their community.

**Charla Teeters; Brawley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

For the past 15 years I have served as the Film Commissioner for Imperial County, CA. During my tenure I have been responsible for the organization of various film festival events, educational workshops and art exhibits. I work with various community and governmental partners to encourage our local and cross-border artists. I belong to the FLICS organization (Film Liaisons in California Statewide) and work with the California Film Commission on various projects and legislative issues. I also work with the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Interior to organize interpretive and arts events on public lands.

**Charles Williams; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Charles Douglass is the proud recipient of two coveted Beverly Hills/ Hollywood NAACP Theater Awards for “Excellence in Musical Theater, writing and production”. As an actor and director, he has numerous television credits, including the role of “Haskell” in the original Start Trek, the next Generation. He is also known for his role as “the Wiz” in the touring company and was also the understudy for the role in the Broadway production. He now brings to life as director, his rendition of the 1973 popular Musical, “Godspell 2021: The Call To Healing

**Charles Brack; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I bring twenty years of experience within lifestyle brands at the intersection of entertainment, arts & technology. Over my career, I've established a track record of implementing strategies to drive new user acquisition and customer engagement, and I'm always eager to apply my skill set to help our partners succeed.

I've held business development leadership positions at non-profit SFJAZZ, CNET Networks, Dwell Magazine, Uncrate Publishing & CBS Interactive where I managed strategy, development and assisted in financial planning for its arts, entertainment, and lifestyle business unit.

In my spare time, I support Oakland's local arts community as board president of Living Jazz Organization and as a development consultant for a dance arts non-profit, BANDALOOP.

**Cheryl Fabio; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Began my documentary filmmaking practice in the 1970s, became an independent media advocate in 1990s, and became an Administrator and nonprofit arts leader in 2003 as ED of SWFCenter. Currently, 3 feature-length documentary films, with one being released end of May 2023.

**Tammy Chen; Cupertino**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

A MarimbaOne educational artist, Tammy enjoys her life as a teacher, musician, and radio show host in Bay Area California.

She was the member of Taipei Symphony, Taipei percussion group, Taipei symphonic Band and Taipei philharmonic Orchestra. She studied piano at the age of 4, percussion at 10 and organ at 24. Tammy's teaching philosophy and style is deeply inspired by her teachers, YaWen Lian, Guo Guangyuan, Anthony Cirone and Gordon Stout.

She is now the VP of Northern California Chinese Music Teacher association, board member of United State international Music Competition, director of UchannelTV Chamber Music Group, radio show host at SingDao radio Station FM96.1 SF Bay Area and VP of Northern California Global Federation of Chinese Business Women Association.

Her book Bach for Solo Marimba published in 2020.

**Helen Chou; Mipitas**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a retired science researcher specializing in soil science and nutrient cycling. During the past decade, I have been creating art and teaching in my local community in the media of pencil/graphite, watercolor, acrylic, and oil. Before the pandemic, I taught painting in our city's community center and public and private graded schools as a contracted instructor.

**Chris Wolf; La Habra**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Christian's background in the arts is as eclectic as they come. After putting on plays in his living room as a child he was a performing magician by age 12. Christian has worked as a performer (actor and magician), writer (3 produced plays, print and media copy, award winning video script), producer, director (over 30 shows plus special events, music videos and student films), presenter (25 years for venues from 199 to 1,500 seats), arts administrator, acting teacher, graphic designer and marketing professional.

In addition to his current duties as the Executive Director for the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, Christian has also serves on the Artist Spotlight Committee for California Presenters, a state wide consortium of performing arts presenters and the Artist Showcase Committee for the Western Arts Alliance annual conference.

**Christin Neary; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

After growing up in the midwest (Indianapolis), earning my bachelor's degree in French and Psychology, and moving to France for seven years, I returned to the United States hoping to re-orient my career from education to the cultural sector. I am very happy to work now for Villa Albertine, an institution launched by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S. in 2021. Headquartered in NYC, our branch's small team is located at the French Consulate in Los Angeles. Villa Albertine is gaining notoriety as a residency program (among other ambitions) for both French and non-French creatives, with the aim of renewing international dialog on culture and spurring international collaboration. Some of my responsibilities include helping determine eligibility for the hundreds of candidates who apply, assisting the laureates with the practical organization of the residency projects, creating and following budgets, reaching out to established and new contacts who may be interested in our fellows' projects, and maintaining donor relationships. I also assist our Cultural Attaché, Film & TV Attachée, and Education Attaché in their various projects within our consular jurisdiction.

**Christina Ge; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Christina Ge currently serves as the managing director of the San Francisco based Left Coast Chamber Ensemble which specializes in the commissioning & performance of new music. In her role, she wears many hats, not only overseeing the daily operations of the group, but also leads grant-writing proposals, helps develop marketing and publicity strategies, creates & manages the budget alongside the Treasurer, and more.

Christina also currently serves as the Treasurer of the non-profit Calliope East Bay Music & Arts, an organization dedicated to building community and advancing social justice through the arts. Beyond leading Calliope's financial trajectory, she advises on grant proposals and sits on the

programming committee, helping to ensure a wide variety of differing musical practices and arts are included in each concert season.

Christina graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2020 with a triple-major bachelor's degree in music, rhetoric, and legal studies.

**Christina Humphreys; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a multidisciplinary artist and curator based in San Francisco. In addition to my individual art practice and curatorial work, I have supported the capacity building efforts of several nonprofit organizations, including Tempus Projects, a pioneering nonprofit gallery and artist residency space in Tampa, Florida, the Rainforest Action Network, the Museum of Craft and Design, the Internet Archive, and most recently Creativity Explored. I am a former member of Tampa artist collectives Quaid Gallery and Cunsthaus, where I organized exhibitions of artworks exploring themes of technology and the body. I have participated in artist and curator residencies in Florida and Cuba, and my work has been featured in exhibitions throughout the United States, internationally, and online.

**Christina Gessler; Carpinteria**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Dr. Christina Gessler holds a PhD in US history. She uses her training to explore what stories we tell, and what happens to the stories we never tell. Her own mediums of work as an artist focused on telling true stories include poetry, and photography. She also works as a teaching artist for journaling classes.

**Christine Tangarie; Del Mar**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I've toured with a theatre group in my twenties to underserved communities in high schools and colleges. I've also been hired as a "guest artist" to teach creative writing to third graders in underprivileged schools in New Jersey. An incredible opportunity and incredibly rewarding.

**Chryss Yost; Santa Barbara**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I am a poet, editor, and publisher. I served as Santa Barbara's Poet Laureate from 2013-2015. I have taught poetry to teens through the Santa Barbara Music & Arts Conservatory and through various conferences and adult programs. I am one of the founding editors of Gunpowder Press. I have a Ph.D. in Education from UCSB. I am committed to the role of the arts, especially poetry, in the health of our communities.

**Christine No; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Christine No is a Korean American poet, filmmaker and daughter of immigrants. She is a Sundance Alum, VONA Fellow, Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net Nominee. In addition to over a decade working in the film and advertising industry, Christine has served as Assistant Features Editor for The Rumpus, and a Program Coordinator for VONA. Christine serves on the board of Quiet Lightning, a literary nonprofit in the Bay Area. Christine is interested in the power of

storytelling at the intersection of health and social justice. Her first full length poetry collection “Whatever Love Means” is available via Barrelhouse Books.

**Chris Salinas; Mountain View**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Chris Salinas is a development expert with eight years of experience raising money for the arts, child welfare, youth development, K-12 education, interim housing, and cancer support. She is currently Director of Development at Quineto Latino, a 501c3 organization that performs Latino-composed classical music works, and works to end racism in the classical music world; and Director of Development at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, where she leads all development and marketing for a 46-year old community arts institution.

**Christopher Platt; Mammoth Lakes**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I serve on the Mono Arts Council Board, currently as Treasurer, recently as Board Chair. I understand from a firsthand perspective the power and opportunity of grant-funded work supporting the arts in our rural, often isolated communities. As a long time public library director in both urban and rural areas, I have long supported collaboration with artists and arts organizations in library programming as those in the arts and those in libraries work to achieve similar impacts in our communities. Currently I am County Library Director for Mono County, prior to this I was Chief Branch Library Officer overseeing 89 circulating branches of the New York Public Library, the largest, busiest public library in the U.S. In both roles I worked to adapt our programming from STEM aligned to STEAM aligned as art is a crucial gateway to success, empathy, and community building for ages 0-90.

**Claire Pearson; Santa Ana**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I’ve lived in California for my entire life. I grew up in Santa Ana, lived in Berkeley and Oakland for 6 years, and spent my summers in Fresno as a camp counselor. My undergraduate degrees are in Theater and Performance Studies and English from UC Berkeley and I am finishing up my first year of graduate school at California State University, Long Beach where I am receiving a dual masters in Business Administration and Theater Management.. I currently serve on the Audience Advisory Board Committee at Musical Theater West and am a project manager for California Repertory Theater in Long Beach, CA. I worked at Berkeley Playhouse, Aurora Theater Company, both located in the Bay Area, for three years and worked as an actor for 2 years. Additionally, I was just hired as a grant writer for Lyric Opera of Orange County.

**Clara Bird; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Clara M. Bird is currently working as a Philanthropy Coordinator at La Jolla Playhouse and a VAPA Visiting Teacher with the Arts Education Program at San Diego Unified School District. She taught as a full-time elementary and middle school teacher for five years. Previously, she was also a ballerina with Southern California Ballet, highly trained in visual arts, and spent many summers of her youth at San Diego Junior Theatre. She holds a Master's in Education and a B.A. in International Studies - Political Science, both from UC San Diego. She enjoys spending free

time with friends and family, attending theatre performances, discussing effective altruism, reading, hiking, snuggling with her cat, taking dance classes, and cooking ridiculously delicious vegan meals.

**Connie Pleasant; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I have served as a volunteer coordinator for AfroComicCon for 3 years from 2017 to 2020. I recruited and managed a group of volunteers, assigning them to appropriate tasks. Working with this organization, I was able to see first hand how an organization plans their programming, solicits participants, and secure a venue. I was inspired to start my own nonprofit organization called Veteran Comic Con. I used my experience to recruit, solicit participants and secure a venue for my comic con which supports disabled veterans who are artistic. Art is known to alleviate symptoms of PTSD and feelings of disconnection.

**Connie Tell; Santa Rosa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Connie Tell is an independent curator and arts programming specialist. She is the Chair of The Feminist Art Project National Committee and former Director and Curator of the Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities (formerly the Institute for Women and Art) at Rutgers University. Tell is well known nationally for organizing The Feminist Art Project Day of Panels at the CAA Annual Conferences (TFAP@CAA). She has extensive experience creating and overseeing exhibitions, and educational and scholarly public programs. As the Center's director and curator, she oversaw The Feminist Art Project, the Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series (the longest continuously running exhibition program for women artists in the U.S.), the Estelle Lebowitz Endowed Visiting Artist program, the CWAH Visiting Scholars Program, and Feminist Art Online Education curricula. Tell has an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and BFA from the University of Massachusetts.

**Corrie Siegel; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Corrie Siegel's work as a museum professional is rooted in collaboration, creativity, and pedagogy. Siegel's community-based approach is informed by her experience as a gallery director, exhibit curator, museum educator, museum administrator, and artist. As Co-Founder and Director of Actual Size Los Angeles, Siegel championed contemporary art and audience engagement for over a decade. In addition, she worked in museum education and administration at LACMA, The LA Philharmonic, The Armory Center for the Arts, The Norton Simon Museum, The Fowler Museum, and The Corita Art Center. Siegel received her BA from Bard College and her MFA from UC Irvine. She was a fellow at the Armory Center for the Arts, Six Points, and DreamLab. In her role as Executive Director of the Museum of Neon Art, Siegel deepens community connections, supports new artistic production and experimentation, and safeguards historic signage and art through new educational, artistic, and funding initiatives.

**Corrina Roche-Cross; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I currently work as a full time dance teacher in a title 1 public school where I design and implement dance curriculum with a culturally relevant and equitable framework for grades K-8.

2 years writing grants for the Dance Resource Center and Fusion Performing Dance Center, 4 years experience as a public educator in dance. Worked in anti racism work with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

**Cory Combs; Burlingame**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Cory Combs is a non-profit leader, educator, lecturer, bassist, and composer living in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has performed with many internationally known artists, recorded multiple CDs as a leader, and lectured frequently on the intersection of arts and culture.

Combs is currently the Executive Director of InterMusic SF, a San Francisco based non-profit arts organization dedicated to supporting professional musicians in the San Francisco Bay Area through programs including fiscal sponsorship, grant making, annual music festivals, and professional development.

**Cory Henry; Culver City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Cory Henry is the principal of the award-winning Los Angeles based namesake Atelier, Atelier Cory Henry. Cory Henry's approach to design integrates research and socially conscious ideals to create poetic contextually driven design solutions. His work ranges in scale and types, with projects spanning several continents. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (UK), has been recognized by NCARB as an emerging force in the field, and won the US National Emerging Architect OnOlive contemporary housing competition.

Cory is also accomplished in academia, having recently been twice named KEA Distinguished Professor by the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Prior to the GSD, he has taught at the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design, Syracuse University, the University of Maryland, Penn State University, and the University of Southern California.

He earned a Master of Architecture from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Architecture from Drexel University.

**Cory Woodall; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Cory Woodall is a museum professional that has recently served the Juneau-Douglas City museum as Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, where she worked with local artists for the winter season's solo artist exhibitions. She has spent 10 years working at The San Diego Museum of Art where she displayed, interpreted, and evaluated works of art in a variety of media. She has also worked as an art instructor for children aged 5 to 15. She studied Art History at the University of California, San Diego, and was hosted in Beijing to research and

report on emerging artists. An artist herself, Cory enjoys experimenting with alternative photographic processes and block printing.

**Diana Coryat; Little River**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I am an educator, community media practitioner, and scholar. Bilingual in English and Spanish, I co-produce *MendoLatino*, a Spanish-language public affairs program on KZXY, Mendocino's county's public radio station. I co-founded and directed *Global Action Project*, a youth media organization that for 30 years worked with young people most affected by injustice to create their own media. I teach media classes at the *Universidad Andina Simon Bolívar* in Quito, Ecuador, and *Mendocino College* in California. My oral history and podcast project here in Mendocino with the Latinx community has been awarded funds from *Cal Humanities*. I have also served on two of their funding panels, as well as panels with *NEA* and *Ford Foundation*, among others. I hold an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Communication from the *University of Massachusetts Amherst*, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from *New York University's Tisch School of the Arts*.

**Crysta Tim; Benicia**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been managing programming at *Arts Council Napa Valley* for just shy of four years. In my time with the organization, our three main programs have undergone changes to make them more accessible, equitable, and efficient for our audience and staff alike. Our three main programs include our *Community Fund* regrants program, *Visual & Performing Arts Student of the Month* program, and *Creative Directory* which hosts artist profiles, our events calendar, and creative opportunities board. I also serve as a co-captain for our *DEI* work with the *Of/By/For All* cohort, currently working on improving our relationship and programming to better serve the local Latinx community. To make improvements to the organization and our programming, I am working on building personal relationships in the community alongside taking part in different professional development workshops, conferences, web series, and more.

**Crystal Rocha; Fresno**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My experience began around 2012 at the age of 23. I was receiving mental health services in a *Transitional Age Youth* program and I had received an opportunity to go to the state capital to advocate for disability rights. I loved being able to voice my lived experience in hopes of making positive change. It changed me. I soon joined a non profit *CAYEN* (*California Youth Empowerment Network*) where I learned more skills in Advocacy. In 2014 I attended my first *CMHACY* (*California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth*) where I was introduced to panels of people and workshops of the most innovative ideas in mental health. I met a director from *YIM* (*Youth In Mind*) and was inspired to bring my whole self to the table of conversation through Art, Movement, Expression and my lived experience. I joined *YIM* and was an active member until age 30 (2019). I specialized in Advocacy for Mental Health, Juvenile Justice and Foster Care. I have been a direct organizer in communities all over the state from *Humboldt County* to *San Diego*, creating *Free Community Healing Spaces*, *Art Workshops*, and

Listening Circles. This work is at the heart of who I am and is second nature to my understanding.

**Crystal Sullins; Santa Maria**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Crystal Sullins has been appointed donor relations manager at Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Santa Barbara County, a local nonprofit serving children who have experienced the trauma of abuse and/or neglect.

Promoted from her role as recruiting and training director, Sullins will manage donor relations, including stewardship programs and acknowledgments and promoting giving campaigns to elevate and enhance donors' overall experience at CASA.

Sullins will also serve on the outreach committee for CASA's Serve Every Child campaign, expanding countywide awareness of the need for more CASA volunteers and supporters and growing the Circle of Hope monthly giving program.

Sullins joined CASA in 2009 as a volunteer advocate and in 2012 was hired as the volunteer and outreach manager. She quickly rose to lead the Recruitment and Training Department. She was previously employed with the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse as the Teen Court Program manager.

Sullins has spent the majority of her career working in nonprofits and volunteering her time to benefit vulnerable children and families in the community.

**Crystal Paris; Woodland Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Crystal Paris is a marketing professional. She is also a up and coming poet, singer song writer, and social justice activist . She is releasing her first album "RED" and a book of poems "Shades of RED" in 2023.

**Crystal Rodriguez; Rancho Cucamonga**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I'm a visual artist and also an advocate for access to arts education. I have been building art programs at a women's substance use disorder treatment facility over the past year for the patients there and also for patients and their live in children. I'm an enrolled member of the Peoria Tribes of Oklahoma although I have never lived on tribal lands, I am familiar with the need for cultural reclamation.

**Cyd GloverHill; Hacienda Heights**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

My professional credits: the Olympic Arts Festival, Tip Tap Festival, the Broadway musical Black and Blue, A Gala for the President & Jazz/Tap Hip-Hop Tour (Jacob's Pillow), as well as many TV, film, & stage productions.

I have co-owned 2 dance studios & founded a nonprofit dance company, over a 19-year period. Teaching credits: Debbie Allen Dance Academy, 32nd Street Magnet, LA & Portland Tap Festivals & All About Kids Acting Conservatory. My students have gone on to perform in The

Lion King, various award shows, on the Laker Girls & the Rockettes & to graduate from the Ailey Program at Fordham, UC Irvine, & Loyola Marymount. Choreography credits: BET Celebration of Gospel, Tap Girls, The Legend of the Chocolate Nutcracker, West Angeles Theater Group productions. I am also a recipient of the James Irvine Foundation's Dance: Creation to Performance Grant.

I continue to teach students through my company, DanceHill Productions, Int'l, providing private & group lessons in dance, Pilates, & Progressing Ballet Technique. I have an MA in Worship Arts from CBU, a BS in Public Administration from USC, and certs in Pilates & Progressing Ballet Technique.

### **Cynthia Parker-Ohene; Oakland**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Cynthia Parker-Ohene is an abolitionist, and therapist. She is an MFA graduate in Creative Writing at Saint Mary's College of California, and the Chester Aaron Scholar for Excellence in Creative Writing. She is an LA Times Book Prize Finalist, Golden Poppy Finalist, Foreword Reviews Finalist, winner of the San Francisco Foundation/Nomadic Press Poetry Prize. Her recent work has appeared or forthcoming in Best American Poetry 2022, Poetry Daily, Verse Daily. The Rumpus, Black Warrior Review, Bellevue Literary Review, Kweli, Obsidian, among others. She has received support from Tin House, Callaloo, Juniper, Post Graduate Writers Conference/Vermont Fine Arts College, Wright-Hurston Foundation, and elsewhere, as well as work in the anthologies, Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature, and The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South. She is also a Poetry Reader for The Adroit Journal. Her book Daughters of Harriet is published by The Center for Literary Publishing/Colorado State University.

### **Cynthia Pearson; Altadena**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I started my career directly in the arts as a staff member at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA), having received my BA in art history and my MA in Museum Studies. While I left the museum field to go to law school, my commitment to the arts space never stopped, and I have been fortunate to be affiliated with several great organizations throughout the last decade, including the Los Angeles Music & Art School (LAMusArt), where I currently serve as Board President, Theatre of Hearts/Youth First, where I am part of the Advisory Council (which I helped develop and launch), and Emerging Arts Leaders/LA (EALLA), now a project of Arts for LA, where I served as inaugural finance chair of its leadership council and advisory board member for many years. I try to remain aware and involved with arts and culture in LA and beyond.

### **Dakim Saadiq; San Pablo**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Born and raised in Detroit, I became engrossed in creating music from an early age. From competitive marching bands to the solace of samplers, I developed an essential connection to creativity that continues to drive and inspire me.

Upon relocating to California in 2007, I found a warm reception in the storied LA beat scene via Project Blowed and Low End Theory. Another move to the Bay Area found family in the SMARTBOMB Oakland collective, deepening my community ties and furthering my creative processes.

Over the past year I've renewed and nurtured my purpose through music education, working with MusicTechSF at June Jordan School for Equity in San Francisco and Samplemode at UC Berkeley as a volunteer coach.

**Dale Proctor; Woodland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

The arts have been a big part of who I am since I was a child. I began playing music at age seven in a small nonprofit community band in Canada and played my first real 'gig' at age sixteen. I studied music as a singular pursuit and made a living in my young adulthood working as a musician in the army and on cruise ships. My love of theatre took me from being on stage to working backstage in many capacities with organizations such as Ballet British Columbia and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Before launching my own company here in California I worked with some of the world's most celebrated performing artists at the Mondavi Center, UC Davis. I am a citizen of both Canada and the USA.

**Dana Leong; Redwood City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Dana Leong is a Grammy-winning musician, composer & producer. Known as a world class electric cellist and trombone player, he performs a unique blend of electronic rhythms and uplifting global music. Dana has won two Grammys in Latin Jazz & classical music, worked with Kanye West & Sean P. Diddy Combs in Hip-Hop, and topped iTunes Charts with DJ A-Trak & DJ Qbert in EDM. He has also taught Jazz at Stanford University, completed the public policy program at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and given performances & keynotes at TEDxShanghai & US OPEN Tennis Championship. Dana is a leading innovator at the intersection of music, technology & wellness, working on projects such as creating electronic symphony "iDragon" with DeepMusic.Ai & Dell Technologies, and pioneering live music + VR powered 3D art concerts with renowned artist Android Jones.

**Dana Patterson; Hayward**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

The arts have been integral to my childhood and career. Growing up in Title I public schools, music classes were on the brink of folding due to budget cuts, but provided critical experiences to enrich my educational experience. As an adult, I expanded my arts involvement through the grants profession.

Since I became a grants professional in 2017, I have provided services to arts nonprofits in CA's Central Coast that increase exposure to communities who are traditionally excluded from the arts. Through my grant writing services with Santa Barbara Dance Institute, Santa Barbara International Puppet Palooza, Boxtales Theatre Company, Marjorie Luke Theatre, Foundation at Hearst Castle, Museum of Ventura County, University of California Santa Barbara's Arts &

Lectures, among others I have become familiar with CAC's grants process and the agency's much needed shift to foster a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable California arts sector.

**Dana Torrey; Manhattan Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena CA. Before attending Art Center I worked as a medical illustrator for a hospital in Vermont. After Art Center I worked in movie set production/commercials, marketing for aerospace engineering, teaching art in a drug and rehab center for women, teaching art to abused children removed from their homes, teaching art at different city recreation facilities and creating public art for the city of Los Angeles. My most recent completed public art project was for the city of Rancho Palos Verdes during the pandemic. I am currently working on a new public mural project for the same city celebrating conserving land for native plant and birds.

**Dana Zell; San Jose**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Dana is currently celebrating 8 years as managing director for CMT San Jose. She is proud to have helped CMT navigate the pandemic while also managing a \$2M capital campaign and completion of a new Creative Arts Center for the organization. Prior to taking on the role of Managing Director at CMT, Dana's career allowed her to work for many of Broadway's top grossing productions including Wicked, Disney's Beauty & the Beast, The Lion King, Aida, Hairspray, and Contact. Dana has an MFA in theater management from Brooklyn College. She serves on the board of directors for Team San Jose and a member of the Strategies for Learning Forum with Georgetown University.

**Daniel Corral; South Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Daniel Corral is a mixed heritage Filipino-American composer/performer born and raised in Eagle River, Alaska. Based in Los Angeles since 2005, his creative practice draws inspiration from Marshall McLuhan's definition of art as "exact information of how to rearrange one's psyche in order to anticipate the next blow from our own extended faculties." Corral taught at CalArts 2016-2020. In 2022, the city of Los Angeles awarded him an "Individual Master Artist" grant, after having declared him a Cultural Trailblazer in 2019. Past residencies include APPEX, Marin Headlands Center for the Arts, I-Park, the Banff Centre, Djerassi, and Loghaven. His music has been released by Populist Records, Orenda Records, Innova Recordings, the wulf. records, MicroFest Records, and independently. His MFA is from CalArts, where his teachers included James Tenney and Anne LeBaron. Corral is also Operations Director of the Grammy-winning PARTCH Ensemble, on the board of MicroFest LA, and Co-Artistic Director of the Now Hear Ensemble.

**Dan Wasil; Mariposa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

With a B.A. in Fine Art, years as a Artists' Space Director, Museum Curator, Director of Development and three years in Philanthropy, I have a decades-long understanding of the needs of artists, the processes of public and private funding and have helped implement

policies and activities which enhance those efforts. I was a Board member of the National Association of Artists' Organizations, NAAO.

**Danielle Gorodenzik; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Danielle Gorodenzik is a curator and director of the In Print Art Book Fair. From 2018-2022, she served as the Director of Collections and Operations Manager of the Africa First Collection by Serge Tiroche. From 2016-2018, she served as Program Coordinator at the contemporary art organization Artis in Tel Aviv.

Danielle has curated exhibitions and programs at Artists House Rishon Lezion, Indie Group Photography Gallery, Off-Site - The Wrong Biennale, and the Hansen House. Her writing has appeared in national and international publications, including Art She Says, As Promised Magazine, Telavivian and Third Text.

Danielle received her MA in Curatorial Studies from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design and holds a BFA in Communication Design from Parsons The New School of Design. Her research focuses on Israeli and African contemporary art. She has delivered lectures and participated in panels at the Israel Museum, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design and Creative Mornings Jerusalem.

**Danielle Galvan Gomez; Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Danielle is a second-generation Mexican-American born and raised in Pasadena, CA. Danielle studied at the Rhode Island School of Design for two years before transferring to Brown University and finishing her degree in Comparative Literature (English and Spanish Languages). Danielle is passionate about public art and history, community building, and youth advocacy, and has worked in Los Angeles arts organizations, including museums, community art centers, and artist studios, and on a variety of projects including cataloging and managing collections, exhibition curation and planning, grants administration, and programming. She is a former MOCA LA apprentice, Getty Multicultural Intern, LACMA Fellow, Art Associate at the LA City Department of Cultural Affairs, Youth Advisor at the Snap Foundation and LA County Arts Ed Collective. She is currently a Civic Art registrar at LA County Department of Arts and Culture. Career highlights include leading the creation and digitization of an archive on the history of the Los Angeles Black Doll Show at the William Grant Still Art Center and illustrating the recently published Creative Well-Being Curriculum Guide with the Arts Ed Collective.

**Nikos Zoggas; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I would offer the CAC twenty-five years of proven experience managing creative capacity building services for artists and arts organizations. I've worked as Director of Advancement for a nonprofit educational farm and created environmental leadership programs for Latinx and Native American youth. I've also worked as a grant advisory panelist for the New Mexico Arts Commission.

I served as Executive Vice President of San Francisco Camerawork a fine arts photography organization, and helped manage Bay Area Arts Services, an capacity building initiative for organizations and artists. As a fund development specialist, I have secured over \$50 million for arts groups.

In addition, I was hired to serve as the first Senior Development Officer for the Farallones Marine Sanctuary in San Francisco and was elected and served for nine years as Advancement Committee Chairman for Wildcoast, a bi-cultural international, \$3.5 mil ocean and coastal wildlife conservation organization in San Diego.

**David Brown; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

David G. Brown is an NAACP award winning artist, educator, publisher and nationally recognized political cartoonist, who also produces graphic novels and comic books with positive messages for young people. He is a former Career Technical Education (CTE) instructor of Arts, Media and Entertainment for the LAUSD and also taught Cartooning for the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts).

The “Tales from the Kids” Program was conceived by David G. Brown beginning with an Artist in Community Program 1995-1996 grant from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs at the Watts Towers Art Center. Since that time the program has been successfully funded and replicated over fourteen years (1995 - 2009) at multiple community venues including the Watts Towers; the Canoga Park Youth Art center, Los Angeles Central Library, the Alma Reaves Woods Watts Branch Library, Grape Street School and David Starr Jordan High School.

**David Catanzarite; Palm Desert**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

David is a veteran director, activist, and theatre educator. He has directed in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Chicago, and Baltimore. As Visiting Artist for New Africa Theatre Project in Cape Town, he met Nelson Mandela during the country’s first free elections. He twice toured, taught, and performed in Communist Czechoslovakia in 1984 and 1989 under sponsorship of the International Theatre Institute. In 1989 one of his performances with the dissident Ha Divadlo was suppressed by Czech police, just days before the Velvet Revolution. In 2010 David and his wife Karen founded Green Room Theatre Company. Now in its fourteenth season, Green Room creates new works, reinvented classics, and site-specific performances for the Eastern Coachella Valley. In addition to hard-hitting productions for general audiences, the company has robust programs for young people. Over fourteen seasons, Green Room has provided more than \$93,000 in scholarships and internships for young artists.

**David Freeland Jr; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

My name is David Adrian Freeland Jr. I am originally from Jacksonville, Florida. I have been a dancer for over 20 years with 10 years of professional experience. After graduating high school I danced with a small ballet company in St. Louis before attending SUNY Purchase for two years. In 2012 I joined Ailey II and danced with the second company for 3 seasons. After Ailey II I danced with The Metropolitan Opera for one season before joining L.A Dance Project in 2016.

With Ailey and LADP I've had the opportunity to perform and teach master classes all over the world. In 2018 received the Princess Grace Award in Dance. In 2021 I received my BA in Dance through the LEAP Program at Saint Mary's College of California. In May 2023 will graduate with my Master's in Arts Administration from Rowan University in New Jersey.

**David Navarro; Hayward**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I study sound design at Berklee school of music. I put on events in the city for the community and for unheard artists to give back and shed light on those creative who need it. I've taught kids between the ages of 10-20 how to make beats and DJ during summer school. I've taught as a 5th grade assistant teacher and taught music after school.

**David Read; Plumas Lake**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

David Read is Executive Director of YSAC. He is a member of Rotary, and serves on the Yuba County History Commission and Friends of the Yuba County Library boards. He has successfully written grants and managed the funded programs for numerous public art projects, Veterans Arts Projects, and the ongoing Jump StArts program with the Yuba County Office of Education providing arts education for at-risk youth. David worked with CA Lawyers for the Arts' bringing arts programs to both the Sutter & Yuba County prisons.

A long-time champion for the arts and well-known community leader, David has brought his experience in marketing, finance and program management to YSAC. He has been actively involved with the organization for 10 years as a volunteer, board member and Board President before being hired to serve as Executive Director in 2016. David has a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from the University of Maryland.

**David Steffen; Gualala**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I spent 25 years in the music business at record labels like A&M Records (1972-1990), BMG Music (1990-1994) and GRP Records (1996-1998). I subsequently returned to college (completing a BA at Fairfield University, 2001) and then a Masters (NYU, May 2003.) While completing these degrees I was asked (by both universities) to create and teach (as an adjunct) courses on Music, Music History, Music Law, International Business and more.

In 2007 we relocated to the Mendocino coast. I managed Arena Theater in Point Arena for 15 months (producing more than 20 live performance events—all but one profitable,) and then moved to KZYX public radio in Mendocino County (underwriting and on-air work.) Since 2019 I've been Publicity Manager at Gualala Arts.

During the course of my professional career I worked with songwriters, producers, and recording artists and others, and at Gualala Arts since 2019 working with visual artists.

**Dave Titus; Crowley Lake*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Professional freelance illustrator living and working in California for the past 30 years. Current elected official with the Mono County Office of Education Board of Trustees. Current board member with the Mono Arts Council in Mono County. Lifelong muralist and sign painter. Presenter and lecturer with local schools discussing graphic design and illustration.

**David Roman; Tustin*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have participated in community arts organizations since 1975, serving as a vocalist, librarian, editor, publicity and events coordinator, as well as a variety of board and steering committee roles. Organizations include Laguna Festival Chorale, Saddleback Concert Chorale, Don Walker Singers, Pacific Symphony, and Meistersingers of Orange County. I have attended seminars, workshops and training programs produced by The League of American Orchestras, and worked numerous fundraising events from planning stages to hands-on coordinator and emcee.

**Dayton Grant; Berkeley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Dayton Grant, 54 y/o Wheel Potter, grew up in Venice Ca. immersed in the Arts, from day 1... I am the Main Apprentice of Michael and Magdalena Frimkess worked as a Bronze Chaser for Robert Graham, worked with William Attaway, Brian Scheller, hung around Self Help Graphics, and Inner City Cultural Center, Lula Washington Dance Company, The World Stage Jazz Workshop, been in Berkeley about 25years Teaching Wheel Pottery, I've recently formed a corporation, 'Blockchain Pottery Inc' to formalise my efforts , and I look forward to working with you all here.

**Debbie Y.J. Lin; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Debbie Y.J. Lin is an interdisciplinary artist interested in site-specific work focused on the architecture of human sound and languages. In a bilingual Mandarin and English household, she started piano at age four and painted pictures of my mother holding pumpkins going to work with D-shaped windows, and only retrospectively witnessing that in itself was a direct result of systemic change in the arts — the freedom to express. Her works address reconciliation of self to human/other/technology and have been exhibited in Barcelona, Berlin, London, Los Angeles, New York, Rome, Seoul. She graduated cum laude from UCLA with a B.A. in Music Education and holds Masters from The New School for Public Engagement and Berklee College of Music. She's the founder of VideoSoundArchive and spends most of her time working to restructure the historically and systemically erased voices and keep fair artist compensation in all the conversations.

**Deborah Wastling; Hawthorne*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

As Executive Director of Kings and Clowns 501 (c) 3 for 23 years, Debbie believes every school age student should have access to quality music and arts training. She formed Kings and Clowns in 1999 to teach and perform Shakespearean theatre renaming the program as dance

and music was added to classes with Arts Alive in 2004. This non-profit engages students in weekly classes in dance, rock band and instrumental music. Debbie has experience in volunteering on grant committees both for Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Long Beach Arts Council and consults with beginning non profits to help them navigate non-profit status and grant writing. She has taught and directed at Junior College level, High School (Head of Music, Drama and Dance) and K-8 in several schools. She started her music career in touring Rock Bands in England.

**Debra Payne; Rancho Cordova**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Over the past 30 years I have worked with and supported foster youth, underserved, low-income populations to access opportunities and thrive in their communities. Early in my career I began by planning services for transition age foster youth to gain work experience and enroll in college. I applied for and received grant funding for these projects and developed job opportunities in the arts and other areas of interest. I then was recruited and hired by First 5 Sacramento Commission to manage roll outs of RFAs and RFPs after researching gaps in services in Sacramento. Once applicants were selected I then monitored performance and provided technical assistance to contractors for optimal performance. During the RFP process I developed review teams to score applications and managed the entire process including writing letters to the Commission and to the Board of Supervisors after I was brought back to work on a special project for Sacramento County Public Health. I applied for and received \$11.2 million for an oral health program; that included arranging for the community partners to provide free services to the community and in low-income schools and developed outreach materials.

**JB Brayfindley; Williams**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Retired music & drama teacher; pianist & vocalist; retired Special Education teacher; retired owner of retail music stores; enjoy acrylic painting; currently working as a free lance write, photo journalist and video editor.

**Deirdre Marlowe; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a lifelong fan of the arts and an artist. A 10-year member of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre workshop, I collaborated on six shows, three of which were produced. I taught, wrote, and produced K-12 drama for more than a decade. I am currently a Teaching Artist in LAUSD secondary schools leading show-writing residencies. I've organized and led writing workshops and am working on my second novel. I developed and helped volunteers deliver a K-5 hands-on art history and appreciation curriculum that is still being used 30 years later. I developed and helped students deliver a K music program.

I've led two education nonprofits serving underrepresented communities. I am Board Secretary for the Foundation of New Musicals for which I raise funds and lead our Pathway initiative. I have served on many grants panels – the Long Beach Arts Council, NASA and the US Department of Education.

**Deitra Charles; Carson*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, I completed my undergraduate studies Loyola Marymount University where I studied art and costume design. After graduation, I entered the corporate environment where I worked for many years, first in the video game industry and then in the automotive industry. Ever hopeful of returning to my love of art and design, I often took art classes at local colleges, universities, and museums to satisfy my creative spirit. Finally seizing my opportunity, I returned to school in 2017 earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in Visual Art from Claremont Graduate University. Since then, I have been on a mission to combine two things that I most enjoy...creating art and educating students. My work has been exhibited in group shows, national and international publications, and artist residencies. Currently I sit on the artist advisory board for a local art gallery and I am an adjunct art professor. I create paintings, drawings, sculpture, and installation art. My inspiration comes from my love of family, nature, and harmony as I strive to evoke a sense of peace and calm from my art.

**Denise Montgomery; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Denise is founder and principal of CultureThrive, a consulting practice with clients spanning the social, public, and private sectors with a primary focus on arts and culture and youth development. She has spent more than two decades working to improve equitable access to and participation in the arts. Denise has held leadership positions as Director of the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, as Executive Director of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, and at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. Denise wrote the first peer-reviewed academic journal article on creative youth development, "The Rise of Creative Youth Development," Arts Education Policy Review Journal; Something to Say: Success Principles for Afterschool Arts Programs From Urban Youth and Other Experts; and The National Blueprint to Advance CYD. She is on the board of the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition and an advisor to the National Museum of the American Latino.

**Denise Oldham; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Denise Watkins Oldham has been a member of Luna Dance Institute's Board of Directors for over 8 years and serves as its current chair. Her relationship with the organization spans decades: taking adult dance classes at Luna whenever she visited family in the Bay Area in her 20s, witnessing one of her children thrive and find his artistic voice in the children's program, attending and volunteering at Luna fundraising events, and now as a board member. Denise recently retired from a long career as the director of civil rights compliance at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to serving Luna, she spends her time consulting for higher education clients and artistic projects.

**Diana Arbex; Nevada City*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Diana Arbex's experience as an arts coordinator spans a diverse expertise in the disciplines of the visual arts, dance, curating, managing, cultural practices and traditional folk art. From being a gallery curator in a rural area of Brasil, where she represented a diverse array of regional and indigenous artists; to coordinating programming at a Traditional Brazilian Folk Cultural Center in the State of Rio de Janeiro; she moved to the United States where she accepted a role as a program coordinator with the Nevada County Arts Council. Her role implies an extensive involvement with the Upstate Creative Corps, where she has been working directly with artists across nineteen Counties offering professional development and technical assistance in some extremely rural areas. Having created a bridge between North and South America, she sees the world with a social justice lens since moving across Country lines. With her experience of working in different organizations, she has gained a sense in consensus building and problem solving, she is an independent thinker with a critical eye for fairness; and respectfully listens to others, while also gently challenging the status quo.

**Diane Strand; Temecula*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Diane Strand is an award-winning Executive Producer at JDS Studios and the TV show Spirit of Innovation, the first Riverside County local news and information program. She is the majority owner of JDS Video & Media Productions, Inc / JDS Actors Studio and the founder of nonprofit JDS Creative Academy, she is also a bestselling author on entrepreneurship and Breaking into the Industry as an Actor. Diane provides pathways for career opportunities in the visual, performing and digital arts. Her passion for Workforce Development in the arts, led her to write two approved curriculums for video production. One's a Title 17 program for adults with developmental disabilities. The other is a California State approved apprenticeship.

**Dianne Vega; San Jose*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I've been engaged in the world of theater arts since 1989. I have been working with Teatro Vision de San Jose for 30 years this July. As the program and production manager, I have been engaged with creating new work production that lift the voices of our Latinx community that we serve by inviting our community to tell share their stories and experiences in their struggle to survive in a country that has yet to celebrate the richness of our culture.

**Domingas Person; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

A highly skilled media professional with over 20 years of experience as a reporter, editor, proofreader, writer, presenter, and voice-over artist. Extensive work as an actor too, performing on stage, on tv and on film. Also translating and producing a few plays too. Fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, with conversational proficiency in French and Italian. Exceptional communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills. Able to work well under pressure in a fast-paced environment, including remote cross-communications with other teams. I have created a course to coach people who want or need to work with the camera, so I coach individuals, or groups who want to understand the language of the camera and relate

better to their audience. I coach tv hosts and presenters that need to refine their skills to a new scenario that the social media has brought to television.

**Dominique Enriquez; Concord**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Working at the intersection of contemporary art practice and education, Dominique Enriquez (she/her) is a visual artist with over twenty years of experience working with learning audiences of all ages. Before joining the Arts Ed Alliance, she served in roles across all five regions of the Bay Area and beyond including the Executive Director at the Junior Center of Art and Science in Oakland, CA and various leadership roles at the Richmond Art Center, Headlands Center for the Arts, Palo Alto Art Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

She studied at the California College of the Arts, received her B.A in Studio Art from San Diego State University, and her Master's degree in Education from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Additionally, she has over 25 years of recreational dance experience in hip hop and ballet.

**DeeAnn Hopings; Cathedral City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I am a retired mechanical engineer and I have lived in Cathedral City for 7 years. I am nearing the end of my 3 year term on our Public Arts Commission; my 2nd and 3rd years serving as Chair. In addition, my work took me to 11 countries outside of the US, covering North and South America, Europe and Asia. I asked for and enjoyed these experiences because I wanted to be exposed to other cultures. Also, for the last 20 years of my career I was involved with various Diversity, Equity and Inclusion groups and led one for 3 years.

**Donna Bee-Gates; Cupertino**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I am recently retired from 20 years as a lecturer for San Jose State University in education. In this capacity, I exposed my college students to the ways in which the arts can help to build confidence and motivate youngsters in every aspect of their academic and social lives. For example, I took my students to the San Jose Museum of Art to learn about the Visual Thinking Strategy techniques. I also founded a nonprofit, Muza Kids: A Year in the Arts, to increase accessibility and more deeply involve school children and their families in the arts. Arts immersion included venues such as Taiko Drums, San Jose Museum of Art, DeYoung Museum, and Broadway San Jose. After a yearlong experience, many of the Muza families who believed the arts to be unwelcoming became excited about the prospect of returning to museums and other arts venues in the future.

In terms of education, I have a BS in Psychology, MS in Counseling, and PhD in Counseling Psychology, and a certificate in Art Gallery and Museum Studies.

**Doreen Sanchez; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Doreen Sanchez 's love for theater started back in elementary school. She studied at the Inner City Cultural center with founder C. Bernard Jackson in the summer programs. This love for the theater continued through high school where she joined Salesian High School Department. In

tge early 80's she discovered Danza Azteca, soon after she joined Xipe Totec and performed at the Ford Theater, Universal Amphitheater and many back yards. Casa 0101 has given Doreen the opportunity to assist with stage management and write her first 10 minute play dedicated to her Yaqui Grandmother and bias against Spanish-Speaking students in Los Angeles faced during the 60's.

**Dorka Keehn; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

An award-winning artist and filmmaker, Dorka Keehn is the Principal of Keehn On Art, an art advisory that specializes in public art, art master planning, and creative placemaking/placekeeping. She works with developers, city planners, and architects to enhance development projects and foster community engagement. She has been instrumental in the success of some of the most innovative and visible art projects in the Bay Area including The Bay Lights, the 25,000 LED light installation by Leo Villareal for the Bay Bridge. For over a decade, she served on the San Francisco Arts Commission where she chaired the Visual Arts Committee that commission's all artwork pertaining to the city's Public Art Program. Additionally, she is the co-founder of Sites Unseen, a project that brings arts programming to neglected alleys in downtown San Francisco.

**Doryan Dean; Palm Deset**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I've been making and selling my art since I was a teenager. I studied graphic design at Otis Parsons, University Without Walls (Antioch-for Art Therapy), as well as in the school of life living around the world.

**Myriam Kalmogho; Redding**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a first-generation immigrant from Burkina Faso. I am an African Storyteller, dancer, and cultural reciprocity professional. I am the founder/Director of the non-profit Reciproka which works on cultural reciprocity and regeneration.

I have over 20 years of experience in systemic change from my work with street children on the streets of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, to teaching West African dance in Redding in 2003 which evolved into a cultural program Understanding Africa and then Reciproka in 2006 which is empowering communities through cultural reciprocity. I have experience working with grassroots organizations.

I am a Senior equity program specialist facilitating United Way of Northern California North State Equity Fund working with grassroots organizations doing equity work in Northern California.

In case it matters, I have a BA in activism and social change and community sustainable development, studied sustainable enterprising from New College of California, and an MBA.

**Eileen Gittins; Healdsburg*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

In addition to founding and running Blurb for 12 years (see above), I am also on the Board of the Santa Fe Workshops - one of the preeminent educational institutions for photographers and writers in the US. Earlier in my career, I was a custom printer in a commercial darkroom where I also served as a field assistant for UC Extension photography students traveling to remote areas in Baja California. Separate from the visual arts, I have a lifelong love of music. As a child I sang with my brother in a chorale with the San Francisco Symphony -- but sadly had never learned to play an instrument -- until now! For the past four years I have been learning to play the guitar and am learning a lot about music theory. I have found it humbling and wonderful to apply myself to learning something completely new. It's good to be bad at things - it's only up from there! And finally, wrt to reviewing applications for grants - I have actually founded three startups all of which got funded via stories, and plans that I wrote. I understand what it takes to build something from nothing and think I can evaluate artists' applications from both the creative and practical points of view.

**Grace Smith; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Elena Grace Smith (Grace) is currently artistic Programming Manager with La Jolla Music Society. Grace has worked in the performing arts since 2010 when she began her career as a costume shop intern at the Arden Theatre in Philadelphia. Previously she held positions at Curtis Institute of Music, Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Marlboro Music Festival and School, New Paradise Laboratories, and more. Grace is a graduate of Earlham College with a B.A. in Classical Studies and Southern Methodist University/HEC Montreal with a M.M. in International Arts Management. Beyond, work Grace is an active volunteer in her community since 2015 working with youth, animals, and cultural organizations. Grace currently serves in her community as a tutor with San Diego Refugee Tutors and as a foster parent with San Diego Humane Society.

**Eliot Burk; Watsonville*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Eliot Burk is a composer, bassist, and music teacher who specializes in experimental and contemporary classical music. His research and music explore the political structure of concert situations, intonation, and extremes of non-traditional technique. His compositions have been performed internationally by performers including Robert Black, Hypercube Ensemble, the Bergamot Quartet, the UCSB Symphony Orchestra, New Century Voices, and others.

**Eliot Spaulding; Santa Barbara*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an interdisciplinary visual artist working with an emphasis on Sustainability, craft and community. I received my BFA from Chapman University cum laude with Departmental Honors. As a Display Artist for retailer Anthropologie, I ideated/created installations throughout stores across the country, mentored interns and assistants, and hosted free community workshops teaching a variety of craft techniques. I served as a member of the Contemporaries Committee for the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara for several years. In a freelance capacity, I

created custom installations for corporate campaigns/headquarters, boutiques, private homes, and nonprofit fundraiser events for Planned Parenthood and CASA. In 2020, I pivoted to launch a painting practice, selling original works to clients worldwide. In 2022, the concept for my public installation '10 Knots' earned a Scholarship for further development in Venice, Italy, and an invitation for exhibition, running in parallel with the 2024 Venice Arts Biennale.

**Elisa Shea; Encinitas**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My name is Elisa, I was born in Oceanside CA. I recently passed the Art CBEST and would like to become an art teacher. I went to college in San Francisco where I spent my 20s in a booking queer and trans community. I am a lesbian Mexican American, my mother is first generation American and my biological father does not have American citizenship. I have been married to a French woman since 2015, we went through a very long process to get her citizenship including us living in France for one year. I've been volunteering at a hospice thrift store for over 15 years, and food banks for 3 years. I currently administer English Language Proficiency test to elementary school children.

**Elissa Russell; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Elissa Russell joins San Diego Junior Theatre as Education Director after spending three years teaching, directing, and expanding outreach programming with Theatre Aspen Education in Colorado. Elissa has also worked as a teaching artist and administrator at Midland Community Theatre (where she was once a student!), Austin's ZACH Theatre, and Virginia Repertory Theatre. She holds a degree from the University of Texas at Austin with a specialization in Shakespeare, and formerly reviewed theatre for the Austin Chronicle.

**Beth Anderson; Eureka**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

My work has consistently been centered around a topic known as non-traditional social work. I received my Masters in Social Work in 2013, where I began applying concepts of relationship building, art, and music to support healing for young people in the communities I served. Due to this approach being different than sitting for 50-minute therapy sessions, it was often seen as ground breaking, non-traditional, and unique. The contradiction lies in the fact that these forms of healing have been passed down from generations from the beginning of human kind. Many of the programs that I created, provide direct service through, or supervised, often struggled with sustainability. To answer the question of creating sustainable nonprofits, I went back to school and will graduate with my Masters in Nonprofit Leadership and Management this May. I intend to further work towards bringing the areas of community, art, culture, healing, and sustainability together.

**Liz Baidoo; Citrus Heights**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Elizabeth Baidoo is an independent marketing, project management, and facilitation consultant based in Sacramento, CA. After a 20-year career in corporate marketing, she now focuses on helping small businesses and non-profit arts organizations with projects and services ranging

from board facilitation, marketing campaigns, website development, and leadership development.

A long-time supporter of the arts, her current client base is in the visual arts with project work at the Mannetti Shrem Museum, as the Interim Director of Education at the Crocker Art Museum, and the performing arts as the Marketing and Community Development Manager for Celebration Arts.

**Elizabeth Steele; Huntington Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have worked in the arts for over twenty years in various sales and administrative positions. I began my career in San Francisco as an art consultant in commercial galleries in 1999. I received a Master's in Art from Indiana University in Museum Studies in 2010 before joining the Indianapolis Museum of Art (now called Newfields) in the Design Arts department. After relocating to Southern California in 2012, I worked for the Bill Viola Studio in Long Beach as Curatorial Assistant to the artist and Executive Director, Kira Perov. I am currently employed part time as the Arts Development Coordinator at the Huntington Beach Art Center in downtown Huntington Beach, California.

**Elizabeth Cardenas; Santa Ana**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

My name is Elizabeth Cardenas, I am an artist, educator and single mother of 2. I am a chicana, a designer by training and an artist at heart. I am currently a teaching artist at Orange County Museum of Art and I also have my own business a mobile art studio, Artsy101. I teach art to all levels and all ages as well as adaptive art for adults with disabilities and senior citizens with alzheimers. I live in Santa Ana, California where I grew up. I have served my community in an artistic capacity with several public art projects dedicated to immigrant residents and the hopes and diversity of Santa Ana. I now serve various Orange County Communities through art programs and classes both at OCMA and Artsy101.

**Elizabeth Wild; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Elizabeth Wild is a multidisciplinary artist born in Richmond, Virginia and currently residing in Los Angeles, CA. She is the recipient of numerous fellowships including one from, the Fundación Valparaíso Mojacar, Spain, a FIVA fellowship from The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts in cooperation with the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and two fellowships from The Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle, WA. Wild has an undergraduate degree in Art and Art History from The University of Virginia and received her MFA from The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. Ms. Wild has created a number of public artworks in Southern California including works for the Department of Cultural Affairs/LA, the Community Redevelopment Agency/LA and the Art Council of Long Beach. Wild is the founder and director of Winslow Garage, an artist-run project space in Los Angeles in operation since 2002.

**Elizabeth Clary; Petaluma*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Elizabeth Clary is Executive Director of Alchemia. A non-profit organization, Alchemia supports artists who have intellectual and developmental disabilities to share their voices through the visual, performing, and creative arts. Elizabeth has spent over 25 years in service to people with disabilities and is dedicated to increasing equity in the arts. She holds bachelor's degrees in political science and music and a master's in public administration and currently serves on the board of directors of the California Disability Services Association, where she mentors organizations supporting people with disabilities to develop programs in the arts.

**Elizabeth Dolbec-Oliveras; Roseville*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a veteran art educator working only in Title I public schools serving underserved populations in rural and urban settings. I have a bachelors in Fine Arts from California College of the Arts and a Master of Arts in Educations. I have served on the Board of Directors for the Arts Council of Placer County, am a member of Blue Line Arts, and the Crocker Art Museum. I have also taught summer programs at the above mentioned gallery and museum. In addition I am a practicing artist. Most of my body of work consists of paintings, however recently I have moved more into mixed media.

**Elizabeth Jiménez Montelongo; Santa Clara*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Elizabeth Jiménez Montelongo is a visual artist, poet, and facilitator based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her artwork has been exhibited across the United States and her poetry is published widely. Elizabeth earned a BFA in Art (Pictorial Art) and a BA in French from San José State University. Elizabeth is 2021 Creative Ambassador of the San José Office of Cultural Affairs. She was Co-Editor of the 2020 issue of Culture Counts Magazine by Culture Counts Reading Series of San José State University. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Poetry Center San José, Manager of Roots Artist Registry, as well as Director and Editor of La Raíz Magazine.

**Elizabeth Lenthall; Woodland Hills*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

In my job as a Design Director in the publishing industry and a Communications Manager in the Marketing Department of a healthcare provider, I have had to assess the merits of many artistic works throughout my career.

Over the years, I have hired artists to fulfill my (and other stakeholders') vision. When selecting the individuals to work with, I had to review their existing images to decide if they possessed the talent and skill to produce the caliber of artwork I needed. Once I hired them, I continued to assess their work, ensuring that it measured up to the quality which I saw originally.

Additionally, I have reviewed portfolios for the SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) Los Angeles Chapter. I met—in person—with artists and shared my assessment of their illustrations. I provided feedback to help them improve individual pieces, as well as the breadth of their work.

**Liz Lydic; El Segundo*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Theatre administrator with over 15 years of experience at both the regional (professional) and community (non professional) level, and including work as an Interim Executive Director. I serve as an adjudicator for educational theatre festivals, have served on a board for a national community theatre organization, and continue to serve as bookkeeper for Long Beach Playhouse. I also run a free-to-members website, California Community Theatre, for community theatres in CA as a resource and community group; and from which I host conferences for members to discuss theatre operations and issues. I am called upon by theatres for assistance in connecting with peers, understanding the industry status, media for connections to theatres in the State, and with lobbyists and policy-makers to facilitate conversations and collaborations on bills and measures that impact small performing arts organizations.

**Lizzy May; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Lizzy May (they/she) is an educator, writer and director. They devise new work in community. Lizzy founded a nonprofit, Backyard Chicago Ensemble to develop theater in inter-generational, inter-racial ensemble and offer after school trauma-responsive theater education to arts-starved schools. Her original work as a playwright (*I'll Give You the Moon*, 2013) and director (Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*, 2014) has been performed with Inglenook, Dear Stone, Chicago Art Department and Agave Studios in Chicago, with the Woolgatherers (*The Between*, 2019), at the Midtown International Theater Festival (*The Angels Will Let You Fall*, 2016), and at Jump/Cut, a dance film festival (*Next Stop*, 2020) in New York, and with 3GT in San Francisco. Her poetry is published in *Des Pair Books Quarterly*, *pan pan press*, and *Stop/Gap Projects*. They currently consult with Chicago Children's Theatre on arts-integrated pedagogy and work as the Literacy Specialist for five Therapeutic Day schools in the Bay Area.

**Lyz Luke; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Lyz Luke is an "Executive Music Enabler" with over a decade of experience building relationships and working for numerous Bay Area arts organizations. A resident of Oakland, Luke has presented concerts and events throughout the Bay Area and has worked with hundreds of diverse local acts. Luke's performance management, production, and development background is bolstered by extensive experience nonprofit fundraising, event planning, and public relations. Lyz is known for founding the award winning series *UnderCover Presents* in 2010 and she has worked with Oakland Symphony, YBCA, Embodiment Project, Red Poppy Art House, ArtSpan (SF Open Studios), and others. She is a Governor on the SF Board of the Recording Academy (GRAMMYS) since 2016; Secretary of the Board, Levitt Pavilion Denver; Grants Panelist for Oakland Cultural Funding Program and City of Denver Music Advancement Fund. She has a B.S. in Economics from St. John's University an NCAA Championship ring in fencing.

**Elizabeth Tobias; Reseda*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I have spent my career hyphenated. I am an actor-teacher-arts administrator-grant writer-producer. What has always fascinated and excited me about the arts is their ability to build bridges and community. The multitude of roles I have played in diverse organizations tells the story of engagement. Whether it was touring in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino schools providing interactive, literature based theatre performances with Imagination Company; performing in the inaugural production at The Getty Villa's outdoor theatre space; working in community to create original works with Tracy Young, Bill Rauch, Keythe Farley, Larry O'Keefe at The Actors' Gang; producing cutting edge immersive theatre pieces for Both Arts at Inside the Ford and unique locations in LA; or dedicating 25 years to building an inclusive, comprehensive, representative stable of programs and teaching artists as the Education Director at Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum - the intention and focus are consistent. Invitation. Art, theatre, performance are an invitation. Throughout my career I have sought to welcome audiences, students, artists to a safe space to laugh, think, love, breathe, and engage.

**Elizabeth Uribe Hernandez; Bell*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Elizabeth Uribe was born and raised in South East Los Angeles in a working-class family. Her creative experiences range from theatre to film and has worked in Little Red at Casa 0101, Mujeres En Resistencia showcase at Centro Cultural de la Raza, and was an artist in the S.E.L.A. River Festival. In addition, she coordinates and facilitates art & culture programs and events in the SELA community and through the South Gate Museum & Art Gallery. Her current adventure is working on film projects as a PA and producing her own work inspired by her family, roots, and community.

**Elizabeth Withstandley; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been involved in arts administration since 1998 when I co-founded Locust Projects in Miami FL. I have a bachelors degree and masters degree in fine art. In 2021 I co-founded a new not-for-profit arts organization in California called Prospect Art. For both Locust Projects and Prospect Art I am the open call coordinator, in that role I review applications and put together review committees. Lastly I am a visual artist that has exhibited work internationally.

**Elizabeth Garo; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Elizabeth "Liz" Garo has presented and promoted live music for the past 20+ years in Los Angeles. She currently programs under Stepping Stone Presents and is the programmer for The Alex, a 1400 seated cap historical theater in Glendale, CA. In 2023, Garo is part of the programming team for the LA Phil's Ford Theater and for Levitt LA in MacArthur Park.

Prior to her current position, Garo was VP of Talent with Spaceland Presents which had her as the initial talent buyer for the venues Echo (350 cap) Echoplex (680 cap) and the Regent Theatre (900 cap).

Garo has also booked music series at cultural institutions such as the Santa Monica Pier, Getty Center, Natural History Museum, Geffen Contemporary and the Levitt Pavilion.

Garo is co-owner of Stories Books & Cafe in Echo Park and a venue / cocktail bar in Palm Springs, The Alibi. She is an active member of National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) and is working on committees within the trade organization that inform venues about funding and recovery planning. Garo is also a board member for internet radio station, Dublab.

**Beth McCoy; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have always been an artist. Everything I do has been informed by my artistic sensibilities. I studied architecture and design at Columbia University, but then decided I needed to save the world, so I joined the Peace Corps and then got an MPH at UCLA. Over the years, I have worked in Public Health and done artwork, sometimes related to the problems I saw in my day job. I have an artist resume and a professional Public Health resume. I have sat on several arts organization boards reviewing artwork and proposals and have sat on many review committees with the State Department of Public Health. One organization I worked with for 20 years, was a non-profit that used artwork to promote community health, mostly in underserved and underrepresented communities in Alameda County. Reviewing creative project proposals has always been one of my favorite activities.

**Elka Weber; Ventura**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I'm a writer and book artist who hasn't worked on a personal creative project since moving south from Oakland in 2018. I'd love to review grants because it would not only expose me to creative people and their purposeful endeavors, but it would give me a meaningful lesson in grants administration. I've been a CA resident all my life, except for one year where I attended Kansas City Art Institute in Missouri. After that, I went to Mills, where I studied writing and art. Mills championed marginalized genders, lifelong learners of all ages, and people of color. There, I learned about equity and creative process. I did not learn how to translate the safety and respect Mills fostered for my creative work into the greater world, so I did not practice my craft regularly. Now I am back in my hometown, older, wiser, and hopeful that I can help CAC lift up grantees that fit their review criteria, so that they can carry out their work with the respect it so deserves. I want to help.

**Ellen Berrahmoun; Monterey**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I'm a multidisciplinary artist (music, visual arts, writing), curriculum developer, administrator and arts educator with decades of practice in East/West Coast schools and community settings. In Boston, MA, I worked for over 30 years in positions including instructor (Arts in the Parks), Camp Art Director (12 summers), K-5 Arts Specialist, Art Club leader, Artist in Residence (Children's Hospital), arts presenter (Boston Public Library), Arts Manager (Boston Children's Museum), and Children's Art Centre Coordinator/instructor (United South End Settlements). As a Teaching Artist for 2 non-profits, I led citywide arts residencies, serving students in general, bilingual and special education classes. I designed arts-integrated themes aligned with English,

social studies, science and math topics. In Monterey, CA, I've presented art programs at the Monterey Public Library, Monterey Recreation, and the Pacific Grove and Monterey Peninsula School Districts. I hold a M.Ed in Arts in Education from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

**Ellen Boudreau Den Herder; Altadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Ellen Boudreau-Den Herder (she/they) is an arts programming specialist. As HFF's Co-Executive Director, they seek to create programming that connects HFF with the LA Theatre community at large. Previously HFF's Programs Director, they helped create Fringe Scholarships & Fringe Access, HFF's initiatives to help expand & diversify the pool of artists at the festival, as well as ran the Producers & Creatives Workshop & Networking series. Outside of the Fringe, Ellen has worked in programming and/or community outreach at various arts orgs such as B.R.I.D.G.E Theatre Project, Industry Opera LA & Grand Vision Foundation, as well as participated in Cornerstone Summer Institute & Arts for LA ACTIVATE program. Ellen is a proud former LA County Arts intern and is grateful for the program (and the incredible organization, Grand Vision Foundation) that gave them a solid start in the arts.

**Emily Hansel; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Originally from Rochester, Minnesota, Emily received their BFA in Dance from the University of South Florida. They currently dance for Post:ballet, Mark Foehringer Dance Project, Christy Funsch, Jennifer Perfilio, and David Herrera Performance Company, and previously danced with Robert Moses' KIN, Garrett-Moulton Productions, FACT/SF, and many others. Emily is a self-producing choreographer whose work centers the dancer's experience. In 2022, Emily was named an Individual Artist Fellow by the CAC, was awarded a free rental by ODC Theater, self-produced her first evening-length choreographic work, choreographed new work for Berkeley Ballet Theater in collaboration with multi-instrumentalist Vân-Ánh Võ, created a dance film commissioned by REYES Dance, published writing for the Life-as-a-Modern-Dancer blog and the ODC Dance Stories blog, and spoke on various panels on dancers' rights. Emily advocates for equitable working conditions for dancers, and is a proud member of the Leadership Committee at Dance Artists' National Collective.

**Figgy Figueroa; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I currently work at the J Paul Getty Museum as an Associate Education Specialist. My work revolves mainly around art access for underprivileged communities. My team and I run three separate programs that are intended to expose the Getty's collection to those with less access. For our in person field trips, we manage a bus fund that provides free transportation to Title 1 schools within 30 miles of the museum. For our virtual programming, we provide individualized tours in English and Spanish to classrooms around the world interested in the collection. More recently, we just launched a paid internship with East Los Angeles Community College where interns are given one-on-one coaching, professional development opportunities, and more. Prior to joining the Getty, I was a credentialed teacher that taught in Title 1 schools across California.

**Emma Hughes; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Emma Hughes is an experienced non-profit arts professional who is dedicated to supporting film and media and sharing stories across audiences. She is currently the Education and Special Programs Manager at NewFilmmakers Los Angeles. She holds an M.A. degree in Cinema & Media Studies from the University of Southern California, and a B.A. degree from Carleton College in the same field. She is passionate about education and research, having taught undergraduate students during her time at graduate school at USC. She has worked at film festivals and museums across the country, including the Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca, NYFF, and the Museum of the Moving Image, and her academic work has been published in the journal *Film Matters*.

At NewFilmmakers Los Angeles, she runs the organization's education and industry programs, which connect emerging and underrepresented filmmakers and students to resources, programs, and education so that they have every opportunity to tell their stories.

**Enrique Luna; Hollister**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I believe I have strong experience in the arts communities and institutional review process.

I have worked as a visual artist since 1980, participating in art shows in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Additionally, I have helped organize art programs at local schools, and helped develop culturally inclusive curriculum for after school programs.

Throughout my working career as a college teacher I served on a wide range of review committees. This included institutional committees seeking to assess innovative learning approaches like Supplemental Instruction, Learning Communities, First Year Experience, and Service Learning. As well as serving on selection committees for a range of college personnel that included grounds keepers, clerical staff as well as several college presidents.

**Eric Payne; Fresno**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Alabama A&M University: B.S. Biology, M.S. Microbiology. California State University Fresno: Certificate: Health Policy and Leadership, Grant Writing and Management. Work Experience: (Obama Administration) White House Director of Building, Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP).

**Eric Vosmeier; North Hollywood**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I came up through the nonprofit arts starting in box offices before moving to booking and operations. I've run two of my own theatres and produced or presented hundreds of performances including a theatre festival. I am currently an Executive and Creative Producer working primarily in live events in the experiential space. I'm an avid fan of theatre, dance and opera.

**Erick Rodriguez; Bakersfield*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Erick is a proud bilingual Latino and native Angeleno, an experienced youth mentor and instructor committed to supporting young people within and beyond the classroom setting. Erick attended California State University Dominguez Hills, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, emphasizing social inequalities and helping professions. Erick is an artist, educator, and champion of the life-changing power of the arts. Erick firmly believes that equitable arts education is essential to children's holistic growth and is proud to continue using art as a vehicle for learning. As a leader, Erick possesses ten years of experience building successful programs within the nonprofit and education sectors. He is the Program Director for the nonprofit organization CoachArt, which provides free adaptive arts and athletics lessons to children impacted by chronic illness and their siblings across the United States.

**Erika Minguela; San Bernardino*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I was President of The Spanish Theater at California State University San Bernardino during 2008-2011. I oversaw the sound operations, the stage management, and the financial management in order to ensure successful theater production. I participated in the publicity and acted as the spokesperson for events to heighten awareness of individual productions. I organized the promotional events to attain necessary financial resources. I engaged volunteers and provided necessary training to assist stage managers and fundraising team. I also helped select plays that were culturally relevant to the community, and that would enrich their lives. I enjoyed being able to bring Spanish plays to the community as there is a lack of Spanish and bilingual plays in the San Bernardino area. We also welcomed youngsters in the community to participate in order to deepen their understanding of the language and culture, but most importantly to expose them to enriching activities.

**Erika Miller; Anaheim*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Erika is a proud Founding Artist at Chance Theater alongside her husband, Executive Artistic Director, Oanh Nguyen. She is a graduate of the Fieldstone Foundation's Emerging Leaders Group, a recipient of the Annie Anaheim Accolades Award for her service to the community, and was a member of the Anaheim Arts Council Board of Directors from 2007-2012 (where she served as president for two years.) Erika is a costume designer, actor, and Development Director at the Chance. She has costumed at East West Players, Chapman University, many productions for the Chance, and has been nominated for two Ovation Awards. As a performer, she has been privileged to perform with Peabo Bryson, Barry Manilow, Andre Previn, Yo-yo Ma, Doc Severinsen, Luther Vandross, among others and many, many productions at Chance Theater including "She Loves Me" (LA Times Critic's Choice), "Jerry Springer: The Opera" (Ovation Award for Best Musical, LA Times Critic's Choice), and "Cabaret" (Garland Award nominee: Best Actress). Erika is currently serving her city as a commissioner on the Anaheim Cultural and Heritage Commission.

**Erin Aldana; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have a doctorate in art history and have experience teaching art history and working in museums. Within the past two years, I decided to make a career change and took classes in grant writing. I actually have previous experience writing grant applications to the Getty Foundation, Warhol Foundation, and other organizations. I began working for Outside the Lens as a contractor in February 2022 and as a permanent employee in April 2022. As part of my job duties, I wrote applications to six California Arts Council grants. We received all of them. Although I personally have never received a CAC grant, OTL has received multiple grants. In the past year, my successful grant applications have raised over \$1 million for my organization.

**Erina Alejo; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Erina Alejo (they/them/siya) is a cultural worker, artist, and arts administrator. Centering care, cultural preservation, and anti-displacement resilience, Erina's projects involve long-term collaborative relationships with micro communities— from students, to families, tenants, service workers, and organizations. Their artist practice informs their grantmaking work for undergraduates at the Office of the Vice President for the Arts at Stanford University, collaborations with grassroots organizations like SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District, and projects supported by the Center for Cultural Innovation, San Francisco Arts Commission, Southern Exposure, Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center and more. Erina is a third-generation San Francisco renter with family, and has work acquired by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Presently, they are pursuing a certificate in Social Impact Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania through National Arts Strategies. Erina prefers to surf at dawn, pending conditions.

**Esther Green; Richmond**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

While earning a BA in Spanish Literature at UC Berkeley, as a reentry transfer student. I mentored other non-traditional students and worked as an intake intern the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant. I used the skills acquired prior as Social Services Caseworker to connect students and migrants with essential resources.

Upon graduation, I accepted a position with the Disabled Students' Program at UC Berkeley in student services where I served as Program Administrator for the WorkAbility IV program (now defunct) while earning a Masters in Public Administration from San Francisco State University. I continue to work within the Disabled Students' Program as a student services professional.

I have been involved with the Friends of the Golden Gate Library Jazz on Sunday program as a volunteer supporter of the program and the musicians for 27 years and have recently joined the Board of Directors. Jazz on Sundays provides free Jazz music concerts featuring Bay Area Legacy musicians and developing youth musicians.

**Estrella Burks-Parra; Whittier*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Estrella Burks-Parra is an actress and playwright currently studying politics and theatre with a law, justice, and society minor at Washington and Lee University. Estrella has acted in over 20 productions, has stage managed, done lighting and been a props lead. Estrella is currently the artistic director of Mindbending Productions a student ran theatre company at W&L aimed at highlighting underrepresented pieces of work from both students and community members. Estrella was an education and community partnerships intern with Center Theatre Group during the summer of 2021 and was a CAC panelist for the past two summers.

**Fan Lee Warren; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have exhibited my works on paper, sculptures, and installations for over three decades. In addition, I have taught studio art and art history in many settings and currently teach drawing, painting, and art history at Laney College.

My art is in several private and public collections, such as the New Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago and the Alameda County Art Commission.

I have received various grants, awards, and art commissions, including a Western States Arts Federation/National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Regional Fellowship for Visual Artists. American Vision, The New Art Examiner, Art Week, and The International Review of African American Art have reviewed her work. And my work has been featured in publications and catalogs such as Alameda Arts Commission Public Art Program, A Contemporary History, and Gumbo Ya Ya Anthology of Contemporary African American Women Artists.

**Felicity Cowlin; Concord*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Felicity is a creative individual with a fiery passion for theatre arts, determined to work with ardor and diligence, utilizing administrative proficiency to provide a safe all-inclusive place of opportunity for others to find joy and purpose through the performing arts. Growing up appreciating how the arts can make a difference to individuals and communities started her on her way to working in the arts. A Master's in Arts Administration and working nearly six years in the non-profit arts industry, from the stage to the box office to the classroom, have prepared her for success in her current role as Interim Development Director at Aurora theatre Company.

**Fiorella Lema; San Francisco*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a self identified multidisciplinary/multidimensional queer artist existing in the Peruvian Diaspora. I create sculpture and hand-built pieces grounded in a queer spiritual pedagogy, exploring ideas of creation, temporality, speculative landscapes, and myth-making.

As an artist who is part of a diaspora, the purpose of my work is to transcend material reality and communicate experiences that exist within the imaginations and hearts of community members that are on a journey of reconstructing notions of homelands and belonging. Through ceramics, animation, and other visual mediums, I seek to reconstruct and manifest ancestral

lineages and fill in the gaps of knowledge that have been lost due to imperialism and white supremacy. Recently, my work has been featured at Root Division in San Francisco, CA as part of the “Ritual of Mythmaking” exhibition, an exhibition that seeks to uplift the visions and speculative mythos constructed by indigenous and diasporic artists.

**Fran Spector Atkins; Carmel**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Fran Spector Atkins is the Director of SpectorDance. She has directed venues in NYC, Cleveland, and Monterey and has been a guest artist throughout the United States and abroad. Some of her outstanding experiences include presenting her work at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C and at Stanford University and in Denmark, Italy, Egypt, England, Israel, the Island of Guam and Taiwan. Fran has created numerous socially relevant works and has received many honors. She was featured in Carmel Magazine for making “altruistic contributions to the community” and in the film Luminaries of Monterey County. She has twice presented at TEDx Monterey. SpectorDance was selected by The Arts Council for Monterey County as the Outstanding Arts Organization in Monterey County and as a national finalist for the Ovation TV award for Excellence in the Performing Arts. In 2020, she received the Florence Haspel Zeve Award for Outstanding Female Artist in Monterey serving Women, Families and the Arts.

**Franca Van Allen; Stockton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been teaching art to students for a couple of decades, creating curricula infused with art. As a retired educator, I am now a full time artist. My work is in the area of visual arts, mostly 2D work that include painting, printmaking and the use of mixed media. However, I also like to write poetry and incorporate it in my visual pieces, mostly 'leporellos', in the tradition of Etel Adnan.

**France Viana; Sausalito**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

O.M. France Viana is a Bay Area artist, curator, art historian, writer and mythologist who chronicles how Filipinx immigration is redefining what it means to be American. Her art practice includes social artistry, photography and installation spotlighting Filipinx nurses and museum guards, reimagining food culture in Ube Trade live performances and reinterpreting myths. Before moving to California and earning an MFA from Mills College, she founded the Diviana Gallery, the first Philippine photography gallery. She serves on the boards of Philippine International Aid, Asian Art Museum, Girls Leading Girls, and SOMA Pilipinas’ Arts & Culture committee. Recognitions include Murphy -Cadogan scholarship, FWN 100 Most Influential Filipina American Women, and 2023 Yerba Buena 100 awards. She created the ARROZidency, a FilAmerican artist residency; curated shows at the Dominican University and Minnesota Street Project and exhibited at the Manetti Shrem Museum, SOMarts, Mills Museum, Marin MOCA, Diego Rivera Gallery, among other venues.

**Freddi Rokaw; Burbank*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

As a flautist, I have played with many professional and community groups throughout Los Angeles. I originally studied graphic design and then computer animation in the 80's then went back to school to earn an MEd in Curriculum, Learning Design and Technology from Purdue University in 2013.

I have worked as a computer animator creating special effects for film and television for Walt Disney Feature Animation and more recently as a Facilitator and Instructional Designer for PayPal, Apple, and Google.

I have served as a Board Member for The Symphonic Jazz Orchestra and The LA Symphonic Winds, volunteered for organizations such as Burbank Arts for All and Partners in Care, and as panel reviewer and judge for the Humanitas Prize and California Arts Council.

**Frankie Paolino; Santa Barbara*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I'm an east-coast transplant to California from Boston MA with deep roots in arts and architecture. Undergraduate degree in Fine Arts in Architecture. Connections in the street art community grew into personal exploration of fine art with a focus on spray paint. Currently working as an architectural project manager for RD HOMES to build ADUs, and an acting board member of Children's Creative Project in Santa Barbara to foster youth art programs in local school systems. Previous board member of Santa Barbara Opera.

**Pancho Jiménez; Campbell*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I hold an M.F.A. in Sculptural Ceramics from San Francisco State University, and a BA degree from Santa Clara University. I have exhibited extensively in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally at universities, private galleries and civic spaces. My work is part of the permanent collection of the Crocker Museum of Art in Sacramento CA, the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles CA, the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara, CA, the University of San Francisco and Santa Clara University. I was named an Artist Laureate by SVCcreates. I have been featured in Ceramics Monthly and numerous publications including, "The Ceramic Design Book", "Extruded Ceramics" and "500 Ceramic Sculptures." I have taught courses at San Francisco State University and West Valley College. Currently I am a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Art and Art History at Santa Clara University where I teach ceramic sculpture and beginning sculpture classes. I also serve as our Departments Gallery Director and a University Academic Advisor. I have been teaching at Santa Clara since 1999.

**Frank McIlquham; Signal Hill*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a self starting and motivated individual. My personal ambition is to provide management with a dedicated, reliable, compassionate, professional and honest team player. My career history to date has encompassed a wide range of all relationship creation, building a business and US non for profit from scratch, key account management, banking facets, financial planning, foreign exchange trading and day to day management of people and tasks. I have met

all customer service standards with proven leadership skills and compliance objectives met. I have created business cases, from inception to implementation. I have the ability to learn easily and adapt quickly. Challenges are also met with vigour and enthusiasm. I have gained an international knowledge in banking, financial planning, foreign exchange, fund management, event planning, director of a 501C3, management and would become an asset to any organization that I may be a part of.

**Freddy Gutierrez; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Freddy Gutierrez, MFA, California poet and theatre maker. Freddy facilitates writing and performance art spaces with prisoners in the Bay Area and the United Kingdom, and has worked with Youth Speaks, Chapter 510, and the Oakland Public Library. Freddy employs metaphor alongside personal narrative to shape social commentary as catalysts for storytelling. His writing is a call to positive socialization and a welcome mat for the outcasts. He seeks to foster agency of voice in those he creates with. Freddy has been published by Los Angeles Poet Society Press, The Puerto Rico Review, The Acentos Review, Nomadic Press, and University of Houston's ArtePublico Press; and featured as LoWriter of the Week selected by U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.

**Joey Serricchio; Glendale**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have my BFA from ArtCenter, I participated in the creation of artist statements documentation stuff like that for school and learned the best practices in the field. I also work on my own as an artist and love to participate in the arts and culture landscape in LA, going to art exhibits and museums and really thinking deeply about the work and the artists who create them. I've had some previous experience exhibiting and so I am familiar with what that entails on the artists end and on the institutions end. I also continue my own artistic process, keep my resume, portfolio, and website up to date. I have worked previously at the California Art Club and gained a lot of knowledge there about the art world. I also worked as a CAC grant review panelist before and got so much experience on the process of reviewing portfolios.

**Gaby Palmadessa; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I currently work at an arts education nonprofit (P.S. ARTS) where I'm involved in several aspects of the organization dealing with marketing, the donor database, individual giving, language for asks, fundraising, budgeting, web design, and more. I'm first generation, born and raised in CA, have an AA in Art and a BA in Art History from UCLA, and I've found that this combined background has led to my passion to ensure that people have equitable access to the arts in their communities!

**Gabrielle Kelly; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

A highly accomplished filmmaker, screenwriter, producer, and educator with a wealth of experience in the global market she is an expert in media and script Labs for underserved global populations and to bring to light stories that would otherwise not be told. She is also an author, speaker, media curriculum, and program designer,

She was a Fulbright Scholar in 2010 in Philippines, where she facilitated a producing and screenwriting workshop for 10 filmmakers from Asia to create 10 short films on the theme of rice. She has worked in Asia and around the world as a screenwriter helps underserved populations and aspiring artists to share their stories.

As an author of a groundbreaking book on women directors worldwide, speaker, media curriculum, and program designer, she has contributed significantly to the field of global film education. Her consultancy work in marketing and publicity has helped numerous filmmakers and storytellers to reach their goals, thanks to her extensive connections in global media and education.

She is currently designing programs that link advocacy to the power of storytelling.

**Garth Grimball; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Garth Grimball has worked in dance for 17 years. He has danced with Asheville Ballet, Oakland Ballet, Dana Lawton Dances, Brontez Purnell Dance Company, and performed in works by Merce Cunningham, Mel Wong, Molissa Fenley, and Katie Faulkner. He received his MFA in Dance from Mills College. He has been on faculty at Mills College and Diablo Valley College. He is a contributing writer to SF Examiner and Dance Media publications. He has been a staff writer for Life As A Modern Dancer since 2018. He is the editor of ODC's Dance Stories, an online platform for dance writing that features first time writers. His dance research has been presented at the Dance Studies Association conferences in 2017, 2021, 2022. He was a resident critical writer for Art Space Geumcheon in Seoul, South Korea in 2021. He is coeditor of the forthcoming volume "Articulate Body: Dance and Science in the Long 19th Century" from University Press Florida. He is a research fellow at the upcoming PANHISPANIA symposium at the Casa de Velazquez in Madrid, Spain.

**Gary Erwin; Dixon*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

After High School I applied to work at Marriott's Great America in the "Grand Music Hall" 1980-81 and did 400 repeat performances of their show "Broadway". Next I applied to work for Royal Viking Line as a shipboard Stage Manager where I worked for more than 3 years. After years at sea I went to work at a company in San Francisco called Photo & Sound where I managed the set up of equipment in Hotels and Convention Centers. I was promoted several times including being promoted to A/V Manager at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. After working in Honolulu for three years I returned to San Francisco to work at the Moscone Convention Center where I stayed for 30 years. I built the Dixon History Museum during my Covid hiatus. I

conceptualized and built a music program at a brewery and now work at UC Davis at the Mondavi Center.

**Gary Graves; Fullerton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My name is Gary Graves, and I am a dedicated, tenured professor, entrepreneur, and artist. With over 25 years of experience in business management, marketing, and advertising, I founded Graves Communications in 1996. As a tenured and full-time professor of business management at Fullerton College, I specialize in teaching Entrepreneurial Mindset, Principle of E-Business, Small Business Management, Introduction to Art, and Creativity Matters. I also owned and operated several successful businesses, such as GravesGallery.com, a small glass-blowing artistry. I am also an avid learner and completed a Master of Arts in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism in 2019. As an artist, I use my expertise and knowledge to help guide those seeking a new personal perspective or hoping to discover their talents in plotting their path to success. I am passionate about volunteering and have completed my 13th year participating in the Aids Lifecycle. My vast experiences in business, entrepreneurship, and the arts and my dedication to volunteering make me well-qualified to assist and guide individuals and organizations within the arts and cultural communities.

**Gayle Nicholls-Ali; Altadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Gayle Nicholls-Ali is an award-winning fine arts photographer, creative writer, arts educator. Since 2007, she has been teaching photography and graphic arts at La Cañada High School, and served for 12 years as an adjunct professor at Pacific Oaks College School of Human Development and Education. Gayle has received many awards, including La Cañada USD Teacher of the Year, LACOE Technology Integration Award, 11th Annual Crystal Apple Award Honoree, and multiple LACOE Digital Voice Awards, as well as the Scholastic Art & Writing Distinguished Teacher Award. Gayle has served as the CTE AME Ambassador and co-facilitator of the CA-AME-EO Graphic Design/Visual/Commercial Arts Community of Practice and Creative Careers Leadership Lab Board Member.

Gayle was selected as a teacher leader for the NAEA Arts Education Community in the Connected Arts Network, a professional learning community focused on incorporating social-emotional learning as well as equity, diversity, and inclusion in arts education.

**Geneva Lai; San Leandro**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Born, raised, and currently living in the East Bay, I am the first child of Chinese immigrants in a low-income household to graduate college and become a musician and attorney. As part of my legal practice, I reach out to the community by speaking at universities and law schools about diversity and career paths for underrepresented communities in the legal field. I volunteer at immigration law clinics and advocate for low-income minorities obtain citizenship, especially within the Mandarin and Cantonese speaking community. I am looking for more ways where I can volunteer and advocate for the arts community.

**Genevieve Kaplan; La Verne*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Genevieve Kaplan is the author two full-length poetry collections and five chapbooks, most recently *Felines*, which sounds like feelings (above/ground press, 2022). Her poems can be found in *Third Coast*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Denver Quarterly*, *South Dakota Review*, *Poetry*, and other journals. Genevieve earned her MFA in Poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and her PhD in Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. In 2022, she co-edited *Et Al.: New Voices in Arts Management* (IOPN), an open-access collection of ideas, action, and inspiration from contemporary arts managers. Since 2003, she's been editing the Toad Press International chapbook series, publishing contemporary translations of poetry and prose. She's on the board of *Fourth Saturdays: Poetry at the Claremont Library*, a month public reading series, as well as *Focus on Book Arts*, a non-profit books arts education group that puts on a 5-day biennial conference. Genevieve lives in southern California and works as Associate Director of Communications and Stewardship at the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, CA and teaches poetry writing classes at Chapman University.

**Gia Canali; North Hollywood*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Gia Canali is an artist and art advisor who lives and works in Los Angeles. Born in Colorado, she grew up in New York, but was always a Californian at heart. She made her way to LA after she earned her BA in Literature from Indiana Wesleyan. In 2006 she earned an MFA from CalArts.

In 2021, Canali completed an artist book of her CW/R series, an ongoing body of temporary visual art works that she documents with large format cameras and sheet film.

She is currently working on a project that uses photographs and writing via Morse code transcription to create a one-sided narrative.

She co-chairs the Emerging Leader's Council at My Friend's Place, which serves young people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles, and actively volunteers with the Corita Art Center. Recent curatorial projects include helping establish the California Contemporary Collection at Glendale College.

**Gitta Williams; Moreno Valley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Gitta Williams has served in the education field as a teacher, facilitator, administrator, consultant, and University professor for 32 years. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, and a Master's Degree in Education Administration. Ms. Williams' diversified skill set and experience has made a positive impact on youth and families in a variety of educational environments including middle school, high school, alternative education, group homes, charter schools, Arts programs and correctional facilities.

**Gladys Ochoa; San Francisco*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have experience in outreach, event planning and administration. The institutions I have worked in the past included the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, The Prism Awards and the Queer Comics Expo. In the past I have also been a juror for Apexart, helping rank their exhibit proposals. I am currently working with the Sick and Disabled Virtual fair as a co-organizer, facilitating the event as well as being a juror for artist submissions. I believe heavily in physical as well as virtual outreach, reaching marginalized artists through gallery shows, street fairs and conventions. Having gone through a BFA in Illustration and an MFA in Museum Studies with a focus on fundraising, I feel appreciation for the work arts and cultural communities do to make spaces inclusive.

**Glenna Avila; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Glenna Avila is a visual artist, an arts administrator, and an arts educator dedicated to the arts, communities, and youth. She holds a BA in Art from UCLA and an MA in Art from the University of New Mexico. She worked as an Art Center Director for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs for 14 years, directing community arts and photography centers in Tujunga, San Pedro, Encino, and in the MacArthur Park/Westlake area of Los Angeles.

She served as the founding Wallis Annenberg Director of the Community Arts Partnership program at California Institute of the Arts for 28 years, creating visual, performing, literary, and media arts programs for youth in over 60 communities located throughout Los Angeles County.

She has worked as a teaching artist since 1985, teaching the visual arts in public and private schools, in juvenile halls and probation camps, and in after-school mental health programs. She has created over 85 public murals, the majority of which are collaborations with students and their communities. Her most well-known mural is the "L.A. Freeway Kids," commissioned by the Olympic Organizing Committee for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

**Gloria Willingham-Toure'; Bellflower*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am the CEO of AframGlobal Organization inc, a nonprofit charitable organization showcasing the back stories of the multi-faceted talents of Black persons. I launched the Annual Villager Awards in 2013- creating a Village of Mentors inclusive of authors, musicians, visual artists, photographers, etc - launching new connections.

I was a Fulbright Scholar in Public & Global Health(Malta); and I have interacted with emerging literary and visual artists in Saudia Arabia, Jordan, Thailand, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, Ghana, South Africa & China. I am an experienced grant reviewer. I am the mother and grandmother of visual artists & Musicians.

I have earned degrees in nursing and a PhD in Education. My life story is archived at the CSUF "Women, Politics, and Activism Since Suffrage collection."

**Guenny Pires; Tehachapi*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Guenny K. Pires is a distinguished Cape Verdean/American filmmaker, cinematographer, and film/digital media professor at several US and foreign institutions. He has received numerous awards for producing documentary and narrative films focusing on Cape Verde and the African Diaspora. In 2005, he relocated to Los Angeles, establishing Txan Film Productions & Visual Arts. For over 26 years, he has created films that address questions of identity and social justice. Guenny has earned a Master's in Fine Arts in Film, Television, and Photography from Mount Saint Mary's University. He is an active member of esteemed international film organizations such as Fespaco, the Pan African Film & Arts Festival, and the International Documentary Association. In 2019, Guenny founded the DjarFogo International Film Festival, a 501(c)(3) organization that offers workshops, classes, and film screening competitions for Cape Verdean filmmakers and students, including the Africa Film Lab/Filmmaking Mentorship program.

**Gwen Sliger; La Verne*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have been singing since I was four years old. I was active in the theater in high school. I continue to sing for various churches and other venues and have done several musical and spoken recordings. At LBMA, I served on the Docent Council, was the Council representative for the Museum, and taught for their KidsVisions program. In Dallas, I was a member of the Speakers Bureau at the Dallas Arboretum, giving various presentations, including art. I also taught at DMA for their Go VanGogh program at local schools. In Amherst, NH, I served on the Friends of the Library Board and was involved with the local curated Student Art Show. My involvement in both private and public schools with children is something that I have always been happy to participate in. As well as art programs, I have taught Language Arts. I regularly attend museum exhibitions in all locations that I visit and collect various art forms. I plan to become even more involved with art venues and types.

**Hadassah Young; Manhattan Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Hadassah Young® is a recognized talented performance artist with 20+ years of Civic Engagement expertise in strategy as advice and counsel. Hadassah has an extraordinary set of skills as an expert, credentialed Master Teacher in Classical Art for Civic®.

As a Master Teaching Artist, she has prepared talented artists in and out of the classroom. As a Credentialed Education Specialist focusing on Behavior she has trained in Performing Art, for Civic with Destijl Magnolia®.

As a Musician® locally she is an advocate for career longevity, and sustainability. As Arts Council and talented member of Musicians: Local, and Professional, having coordinated campaigns leading in that coordination through effective civil engagement and design stratagem. As a World Collegiate® Hadassah has performed at the highest levels of competition in Performance Arts through clean Sport and Competition. A Champion and World Athletics competitor in Track and Field through University. Hadassah is a highly sought-after negotiator in advise and counsel her extraordinary work has focused on cultural and performing art and career sustainability.

**Hannah Littlefield; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I've lived in the Oakland area now for 6 years and take pride in it's beauty and diversity. An artist myself, I'm always looking for new ways to express my love for nature and urban environments, and doing what I can to keep them clean and beautiful.

**Heather Farquhar; Cottonwood**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I have been working in the museum field for over 25 years. My experience early on was in the management of collections in both museums and historic sites. My role evolved into the management of historic sites, in addition to collections, which provided me with experience in facilities and property management, architectural conservation, fundraising, programming and community outreach. I gained experience working with various local and state agencies as well. I currently serve as the Executive Director at a local history organization in Shasta County, serve on the Shasta-Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, and am a board member for Exhibit Envoy.

**Heather Hogan; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I make art, teach others and specialize in outreach to community members. My recent public art projects have relied heavily on collaboration and public input to guide the art-making process. Recent projects include steel cut panels for Highway 99 with Caltrans and neighborhood members near the project site, the City of Sacramento activation of Del Rio rails-to-trails project, and the collaborative stage sets for the Capital Dance Project. As part of Sacramento's community mural project, I assisted members of the community painting murals around town.

I currently teach web design and modern making at Sacramento City College where I help students ideate, plan, and execute projects of all size and complexity using tools like WordPress, Adobe Illustrator, large format printers, laser cutters, electronics, and large format sublimation printers.

Through Sierra 2 Center I wrote a grant to create a native plant garden installed by community volunteers.

**Heather Llewellyn; Grass Valley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My partner Michael Llewellyn and I work collaboratively in designing and creating interpretive public art exhibits. We work with academic, governmental and non-profit organizations to engage the public in complicated issues facing communities. Our projects include FOREST FIRE, Picture This, Renegade Literati and Image Nation. All but Renegade Literati (a poetry performance and portraiture project) were supported by the California Arts Council and focused on engaging community in the areas of: the environmental challenges of catastrophic fire: at-risk youth: and PTSD in the veterans' community, respectively. Currently, Michael and I are developing the Future Forest Cultural Trail, a series of public art sculptures, situated around

the Tahoe Basin that share the 13,000 year history of the ecology of the Tahoe Basin, it's relationship with fire and the human role within that relationship.

### **Heidi Schwegler; Yucca Valley**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Heidi Schwegler works in the interstitial ruins of Beijing, Los Angeles, New York City and suburban America. She rescues haphazardly disused scraps from the bowels of the megalopolis: chicken bones, Big Gulps, broken signs, lost shoes, crumpled pylons, take out containers. Plastic, fiber, and bone: these materials decay but never decompose. A peerless craftsperson, she resynthesizes her sources into facsimiles with cast glass, gold, silver, wax, resulting in artwork that persists in a "living death." Recent exhibition venues include WBG London Projects (London), Asphodel (New York), Sheldon Museum (Lincoln, NE), and the Portland Art Museum (Portland, Oregon). Schwegler is a Ford Family Fellow, a MacDowell Colony Fellow, and a Yaddo Artist-in-Resident. Schwegler is the founder of the Yucca Valley Material Lab, a platform for making and thinking. She has been awarded grants from the California Arts Council, Foundation for Contemporary Art, RACC (OR) and Oregon Arts Commission, and has been a grant panelist for RACC (OR) and Oregon College of Art and Craft.

### **Helen Kim; Los Angeles**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Helen H Kim is a Korean American artist utilizing photography, text, interactive performance, and relational aesthetics to explore how identity is created and where belonging can be found. Central to her practice is its accessibility to those who find traditional art frameworks alienating. Bypassing common signifiers of the art experience, Helen creates encounters that rely on instinctual, not intellectual, resonance for insight into the complexities of dualities and power dynamics within sociocultural constructs.

Her works include 'Home Is Where the Heart Is' (2018), which received funding from the LA County Department of Mental Health, and 'Our Only Guide Is Our Homesickness', exhibited at the Skid Row History Museum and Archive in Downtown LA. She currently has collaborations with Dr Joyce Green of Loyola Marymount Art Therapy Research Institute on (re)Location: The Lao/Korean Acculturation Project and the non-profit Who Is Your Neighborhood on K-Town is Oaxacan Korean.

### **Helen Lessick; Los Angeles**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Helen Lessick is a Los Angeles visual artist and social justice activist working with public, non-profit, academic, artist and community sites and organizations across the nation. Her visual art and performance practices inform her policy and planning to interface art and experience, creativity and community, policy and procedures. Helen has consulted for the city of Inglewood, CA since 2012.

A published arts policy writer, Helen contributed the public art chapter in Doug Borwick's Building Community Not Audiences: The Future of Arts and essays to Barbara Goldstein's Public Art 101. Specializing in artist-forward projects, she is expert in research and planning artists' opportunities across the national and internationally.

From a blue collar Philadelphia family, Helen earned her BA at Reed College and MFA at University of California Irvine. She was awarded Pollock Krasner and Bonnie Bronson fellowships and Art Matters and American Academy of Arts and Letters grants.

**Holly Rasey; Northridge**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I am a fan of the arts and believe in the power of the arts to heal, bridge, express and inspire. I am a professional fundraiser, having written many grants for non-profits offering arts programs for people with disabilities and for young people to have opportunities to participate and experience the arts. I am a mom of a music teacher, so spent many years taking her to rehearsals, classes and performances. Her experiences with the arts as a child helped her find her passion...teaching young people the joy of music and song...and I am grateful for these years of involvement with arts organizations.

**Holly Unruh; Monterey**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Holly Unruh is the Executive Director of the Arts Research Institute at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). Prior to joining UCSC, Unruh served as the Associate Director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC) at CSU Monterey Bay, where she managed a multi-million dollar interdisciplinary grant portfolio focused diversity and student success, and served as Faculty Fellow for Undergraduate Research, Student Engagement, and Academic Initiatives through the CSU Office of the Chancellor. From 2006-2014 she was Associate Director of the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts, a statewide program dedicated to supporting and promoting arts practice and research across the University of California system, a position she held concurrently with her appointment as the Associate Director of the UC Santa Barbara Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (2004-2009). Dr. Unruh holds a Ph.D. in the History of Art and Architecture from UC Santa Barbara, and has taught Art History and Cultural Studies. She has previously served as a member of the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission (2004-2014; chair, 2005-2007).

**Hope Garcia; Fresno**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I created One Hope Community Choir in 2020 - a community Multicultural Choir with ( at its height ) 24 members. I am the lead singer of 2 active bands in Fresno "The Box " and the currently the creator, manager and lead singer of " The King Project ". I also independently wrote and record music and perform for various community events and political ceremonies.

**Hugh Behm-Steinberg; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Hugh Behm-Steinberg's books of poetry include Shy Green Fields (No Tell Books, 2007) and The Opposite of Work (JackLeg Press, 2012).

In 2015 his story "Taylor Swift" won the Barthelme Prize for short fiction. In 2020, Nomadic Press published his collection of microfiction, Animal Children.

A former Wallace Stegner Fellow in creative writing at Stanford University and the recipient of an NEA fellowship, from 2007-2017 he served as Faculty Editor of Eleven Eleven, where he published close to 1200 writers, artists and translations.

Behm–Steinberg also performs improvised experimental music utilizing vocal samples, digital turntables and effects pedals, working on text/sound art projects under the bandname Oa and the How Are You Feeling Project.

He teaches in the writing and literature program at California College of the Arts, where he has served on numerous thesis and fine art review panels.

**Hugo Garcia; San Jose**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Hugo earned his BA in Music from UC Davis and MM in Music Education from San José State University. He has performed and conducted with various groups including the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, the SJSU Latin Jazz Ensemble, and many others. While at SJSU, Hugo was the director of the Young Musicians' Project, where he focused on program evaluation, mission-alignment, and music program sustainability. In 2019, he was selected to be in the 11th cohort of the year-long Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute (MALI) training program through the School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San José. Hugo is an experienced music educator with a demonstrated history of working in school-based and nonprofit music education programs. Skilled in culturally responsive teaching pedagogy, music education, curriculum writing, music education advocacy, grant writing, and instrument education/performance. He has been the Program Director for the San Jose Jazz Progressions community music education program based in San José, CA for the last six years working towards the mission of arts equity and accessibility for all CA youth.

**Ignacio Alamda; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

As mexicans we are full of culture and tradition, specifically as morelenses we have our tradition of the brinco de chinelo it is a dance that our ancestros did for the spanish

**Inas Al-soqi; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My career started in 2006 while attending art school in Boston and although I've jumped around, my core has remained exhibitions. I've assisted with large art fairs in New York, ran an auction house in the middle east and now started a family in San Francisco. My time is divided between volunteer work around the city with Farming Hope and The Coalition on Homelessness and a high demand administrative job at Bonhams Auction House.

Additionally, I am an artist working mainly with hand-cut collages and woodcut prints exploring history as it relates to identity, oral history, and ironic interpretation of class and nobility.

**Ingrid Lundquist; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I arrived in Sacramento in 1968 to attend Sacramento State, earning bachelor's degrees in both Art and English, and a master's degree in Art.

I was a partner in a handmade clothing store and eventually turned my attention to events. I became a Certified Special Event Professional in 2000, working with corporations, non-profits, government, and private clients. I produced events for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, and for PBS Station KVIE. I carved a niche producing milestone events with an artistic flare.

I embraced photography in 2011 and have participated in more than 70 juried shows and a solo gallery show. For 4 years, I participated in Sacramento Open Studios, and Photography Month Sacramento for 2.

I taught event classes for UC Davis (2000-2010), and for CSUS (2014-2022). I teach writing and self-publishing classes for Sierra College (2016-current). I am the author of 5 textbooks and a photo storybook.

**Ingrid Rodas; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a painter, jewelry maker, clothes and shoe designer. I really enjoy being a legacy grant review panelist in 2021. I am now in permanent disability mobility and eager to contribute anywhere I can. I am going to volunteer for the 2023 LA Times Festival of Books at USC on April 22-23, 2023. Also, I am participating with my own painting at "This is Me" Seniors Art Exhibition in Hollywood, California on May 4, 2023. I have participated in various opportunities as a grant reviewer. I hope to be able to work along side with you again.

**Iris Xie; Davis**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Iris Xie (they/them/theirs) is a disabled, neurodivergent, queer trans nonbinary 2nd generation Chinese American multi-discipline writer, artist, and designer from the Bay Area, currently in Davis, CA. They graduated with an MFA in Design, with a double major in gender studies and English.

Iris' work focuses on their identity as a disabled and neurodivergent queer trans person of color scholar-activist-artist-designer, They designed a series of installations that reflect the sensory and playful aspects of their lived experience, and have just finished an participatory installation at UC Davis regarding alienation of LGBTQIA+ international graduate students at UC Davis. They align themselves with crip technoscience, which prioritizes disabled people as, "knowers and makers" to produce forms of access otherwise unavailable, who actively redesign the world to better fit the needs of disabled people and communities. Using their own experiences as a site of inquiry and design practice; they center a world that celebrates disabled queer trans people of color and their different sensory, cognitive, and physical needs, creating invigorating possibilities instead of alienation.

**Irma Bijou; Petaluma*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a Californian by birth and have lived both in Mexico and in the USA.

I have studies in Sociology and political sciences and have practiced art and creativity for more than four decades, and consider myself fortunate to have share experiences and knowledge with others, at schools and other environments.

**Jacalyn Eyvonne; Vallejo*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Jacalyn offers a unique blend of creative expression through poetry, writing, photography, and film. A graduate of the Academy of Art University/Motion Picture and Television, producing over 300 films, including the 2010 feature-length documentary “Arc Angels,” highlighting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities at The Arc Solano, which promotes the enrichment of their lives and protection of rights. At the core of every project lies her passion for inspiring youth, conveying messages through storytelling, and celebrating diversity. Former founder of “In The Company of Poets” international magazine, current founder/director of Monologues and Poetry International Film Fest, and the International KidsNFilm Festival. Her KidsNFilm Multimedia organization has served several hundred students in filmmaking, acting, directing, writing, memorization, voice projection, and confidence building. Published books include “I Am Not An Inconsequential Word-Poetry/Memoir. Venting To Verse—How To Turn Anger Into Poetry.” And the short-story collection “Strange Things Happen At Midnight.”

**Jac Alva; Brea*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Jacqueline Alvarino, commonly known as Jac Alva, is an Orange County based mixed media visual artist and art historian who holds a M.A. from Azusa Pacific University (2021). Although Jac initially began her art career as an abstract painter, her current body of artwork and academic interests explore the often-neglected role of food within art. At the present time, she is expanding her portfolio and research in this field while teaching K-12 and completing her Artist in Residence Program at The Muckenthaler Cultural Center (Fullerton).

Her evolution as an artist—from painting abstract designs in 2015 to collaging food-oriented trash artworks in 2023, reflects the various themes Jac has explored in her personal life, such as trauma and anxiety. Her diverse portfolio of artworks are products of her attempts to make sense of her place in the world as a woman, a first-generation Latina immigrant, and as an American consumer.

**Jackie Honore; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

An Award--Winning Administrator with a distinguished background of accomplishments in strategic planning, outreach, program development, partnership development, and advocacy. An alumnus of USC, Executive Master of Leadership, who serves as the Executive Vice President for Amazing Grace Conservatory focused on building successful innovative long-term partnerships that impact which include: Brotherhood Crusade, Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Architects for Communities, Hollywood

Community Housing Corporation, Providence, Schools across USC's campus, local Community Colleges, and LAUSD. A wife, and a mother of two creatives, one in front of the camera and the other behind the scenes, I know the power of the Arts to serve as a conduit to empower change in our youth and our communities.

**Jade Elyssa Cariaga; Fremont**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

As a principal consultant, Jade Elyssa Cariaga delivers arts strategy, equitable operations and actionable insights for nonprofit, public sector and commercial organizations as well as selected emerging leaders. With an asset-based approach to partnerships, they specialize in organizational resiliency and culturally-specific engagement to orient alignment toward transformative change.

With nearly a decade of experience of scaling impact in both municipal and prominent arts service organizations, they have been selected as an arts consultant for projects funded by California Office of the Small Business Advocate and Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. Their work has been included in national policy reports by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Americans for the Arts, and commended by Supervisor Kuehl of Los Angeles County's Third District. They have been associated with the National Assembly of States Arts Agencies, Western States Arts Federation, and Californians for the Arts.

**Jaime Reed; Santa Monica**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

Jaime has worked for arts and social justice organizations for 12 years with roles focused in development and operations. Prior to her current role at Turnaround Arts: California, Jaime worked at A Window Between Worlds, an organization dedicated to transforming trauma through art. She has also previously worked with the Santa Barbara International Film Festival and Just Communities Central Coast. Jaime received her BA from UC Davis in Sociology and Women's Studies and her MA in Nonprofit Management from Antioch University Los Angeles. She is a passionate advocate for the arts and culture in our communities and takes advantage of the many opportunities to engage with the arts scene here in Los Angeles.

**Jaime Zavala; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Jaime serves as artworxLA's Executive Director since Summer 2021. As a performer and artist, he is passionate about how the arts can help shape who a person becomes. Holding a Master's in Counseling in Student Affairs from UCLA, Jaime worked in higher education from doing outreach to underserved communities with a focus on first-generation college students to implementing student arts and culture programming focused on diversity, equity and inclusion.

**Joaquin Dominquez; Stockton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Past Board of Directors of California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, LULAC Civil Rights organization

**Jim Brown; Santa Cruz**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I've worked in the nonprofit arts and culture field for 14 of the last 20 years, as a program officer, grants program manager, deputy and executive director. While I have no formal education in the arts, I understand from personal experience the power of the arts to change lives. I am dedicated to this work because I want to ensure that others have the same life-changing opportunities that I have.

**Jim Douglas; Livermore**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Owner of an independent arts presenter that works all across the west coast

**Jim Kennon; Benicia**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have over 40 years of experience with hands on R&D and management. I have been a director of the nonprofit Benicia Makerspace for 8 years and have been involved with the fundraising and operation for our annual STEAM Discovery Festival and prior Maker Fairs.

**Jim Kocher; Madera**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

The Arts have been a part of my life since childhood. Growing up in Southern California, my parents filled our home with classical music, show tunes and contemporary singers. My mother played piano and sang, as did my father. They took me to symphony concerts, community theatre performances and encouraged me to get involved in the Arts at an early age. I am convinced that it was through their urging and encouragement that I joined the music program and marching band in high school. In college, while originally moving toward a major in Fine Arts, I discovered live theatre, which led me to become a theatre major. My background as a producer, director, actor and audience of the performing arts, plus my career in business, provides a unique background to provide review of potential arts grants. Thank you for your consideration.

**Jim Santi Owen; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Jim Santi Owen is an American percussionist, educator, producer, and performer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He served as the Music Director for the San Francisco World Music Festival from 2009 to 2014 and is on faculty at Dominican University, The California Jazz Conservatory, the California Institute of the Arts, and the Ali Akbar College of Music. Owen served as a panelist on the Zellerbach Family Fund's Community Arts Panel and served for six years as Chair of the Funding Advisory Committee for the Cultural Affairs Division of the City of Oakland. He was recently appointed by the Mayor of the City of Oakland to serve on the city's Cultural Affairs Commission. Owen is a featured composer/producer for Facebook's Sound Collection which has released over 150 of his tracks that have been used worldwide over 16 million times for reels, stories, and other user-generated on Facebook and Instagram.

**Jim Buglewicz; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have been involved in theatre education since my sophomore year in college teaching creative drama to underserved communities in Tucson Arizona. Since that time I received a post-baccalaureate teaching certification for K through 12th grade and have taught in elementary, high school, community college and university settings. I have also designed, taught and implemented recreation and after school programs, workshops and classes. In many ways because of the nature of the theatre I produce I am forced to maintain my currency. My contact with the community, my production of original plays, the integration of multi-platform elements, (text, internet, video, film) in my productions all demand that I cannot hide in an ivory tower. I must remain connected to the pulse of the campus, the community at large and my own academic discipline if my goal is to create vibrant, accessible theatrical experiences. A quotation from Antonin Artaud, a theatre theorist states, "No more museum pieces!" By extension theatre education must remain vibrant to the now, adapting to new forms, techniques and pedagogy.

**J. Ross; Auburn**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Ms. Ross founded Beats Lyrics Leaders, an organization that works to empower young people through exposure to cultural arts, music production, and entrepreneurship and works alongside the California Department of Education to build a Teaching Artist Initiative to get artists in the classrooms. She is currently an Artist in Residence with the Office of Arts and Culture in Sacramento working in the Oak Park Community Center, as well as Sacramento City Unified School District and Twin Rivers School District. J Ross has performed thorough out the globe giving keynote speeches, performing at Assemblies, teaching workshops, and producing Conferences for Youth and Teachers all throughout the globe. Ms. Ross is dedicated to cultivating a safe, inclusive, and engaging educational experience for all students.

**Janet Levy; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I enjoy reading, which includes reviewing project proposals, through this process I am sharing my knowledge and wisdom of the arts that I have acquired through the year as an artist, curator, teacher and gallery owner in an expansive arts position. I believe I can contribute in a positive and productive way by selecting an outstanding proposal and utilizing my expansive experiences in the arts.

**Janet Washington; Bakersfield**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

My artistic background has been instrumental in my work as an Education Specialist. I believe that the arts are an essential part of a well-rounded education, and I work tirelessly to ensure that all students have access to high-quality arts education programs. As a former President of Student Council as I have experience in making decisions that are beneficial to all.

In my free time I continue to pursue my own artistic passions as a jewelry designer, clay artist, gardener, and interior designer. My commitment to the arts and to education has made me a highly respected and influential figure in the arts education community.

**Janice Tanaka; Thousand Oaks**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

A producer, director and television executive with 40 years of experience in producing film, television, corporate media and educational videos for the Asian American community, Tanaka has a wide range of experience. She served as Manager, Diversity Development, at Fox where she worked on initiatives to employ writers, actors and directors of color. Prior to Fox, Tanaka executive produced over 100 episodes for television that presented positive images of Asian Americans for AZN Television.

Tanaka was contracted to produce and direct several documentaries for Nitto Films including her newest films “REBEL WITH A CAUSE: The Life of Aiko Herzig Yoshinaga,” and “Right of Passage” a film about Japanese American Redress. Her award winning film “When You’re Smiling: The Deadly Legacy of Internment,” connected a rash of suicides in the Japanese American community in the 70’s to the incarceration experience.

Tanaka has been a script evaluator for ABC’s New Talent Development Program for 15 years. She also produces videos for Advancing Justice-SoCal, Go For Broke National Education Center and USC. Currently she serves as a board member and grant writer for nonprofit organizations.

**Janie Mendosa; Arcata**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Janie Mendosa is a Humboldt County based artist and designer. She grew up in Arcata, California, where she attended the Arcata Arts Institute (AAI), a pre-professional school-within-a-school at her public high school. In high school, she was inspired by the disciplinary projected based education, and was elected as AAI Ambassador Club president. Janie found herself drawn to social justice and the arts as she became president of the Sexuality and Gender Acceptance Club, played in the ArMack Orchestra, and performed ballet and Latin dance. When she attended Cal Poly SLO's architecture program, she found herself instead drawn towards the social justice and arts in the form of the QTPOC club, Lindy Hop and Blues dancing clubs, along with Stand Up Comedy Club. Currently she will graduate College of the Redwoods with 2 AAs and will study Art Education at Cal Poly Humboldt in the Fall.

**Jay Stebley; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

A 6th generation Californian, native of Sacramento, trained as a musician both here and abroad. I was raised in the Sierras, lived in the Bay Area for 45 years, returned to Sacramento 15 years ago. I am intimate with most of California's regions and travel extensively in search of its essence. A musician/composer/poet with 50 years of performance and production experience. My music has been performed by San Francisco Symphony, Hungarian State Orchestra, the Jefferson Quartet and many others. I also specialize in the folk music of the Roma people and the Balkan nations, playing several folk instruments. Two books of my poetry

have been published and I lecture on music and arts extensively. I have served on the boards of many performance groups. I taught continuing high school in the Contra Costa School District.

**Jay Balachandran; Pleasanton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Jayanthi has learnt Bharathanatyam (South Indian Classical Dance) for many years under the tutelage of Chitra Visweswaran, one of India's finest exponents. She enjoys teaching students of varying ages and backgrounds and presents them in solo and group programs. It is her conviction that "Arts Transcends Barriers" and is a universal language which brings people together. She augments her arts endeavors with a multi-disciplinary and creative approach through "Speaking Through Dance" vignettes, writing, narrating/compering, voice overs, arts events planning/management, research, collaborating with artists and community outreach and development.

**Jaymie Braun; Foresthill**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

I have been active in the arts communities for decades and spent over 10 years living in Central America. I help produce a niche performing arts program in a rural community and am a full time employee of the Burningman Project (BMP). My work with BMP has exposed me to a wide variety of artist and art organizations. Before working for Burningman I worked for the Arts Council of Placer County. It would be an honor to sit on this granting committee.

**Jean Miao; Rancho Palos Verdes**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Jean works as an independent consultant advising nonprofit organizations and foundations in strategy and program design to achieve meaningful change and impact to their constituents. Some of her current, ongoing work includes Community Works Consulting, the Dunhuang Foundation, and the Smithsonian Center for Folklore and Cultural Heritage. Previously, as director of operations and programs for the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation, Jean oversaw its international grantmaking in visual and performing arts, as well as academic Buddhist studies. She also managed three arts education programs that the Foundation operated in Hong Kong and established and led the Foundation's first strategic planning process. Prior to that, Jean served as program officer for The California Endowment, program manager for the Getty Foundation, and program associate for the Ford Foundation's arts and culture program. She began her career at the Craft & Folk Art Museum and at Black Choreographers Moving Toward the 21st Century.

**Jean Navarro; Citrus Heights**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

After many years of writing proposals for my own organization in California I was fortunate to move to the rural island of Hawaii where I was recruited by the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board to write a Federal proposal. (which we received for \$500,000). Later I served as the VP for a large non-profit serving persons with disabilities in very rural areas with limited resources, and was the in-house grant writer for that agency from 2003-2019. From 2006 -2018 I taught Basic and Advanced Proposal Writing courses for the University of Hawaii at Hilo (non-

credit program) as well as Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Agricultural programs. I have trained hundreds of non-profits and LLCs how to form strong boards, prepare finances, fund raise, and submit fundable grant proposals to Local, State, and Federal funding sources. Many of these programs centered around the cultural arts, including dance, varied multicultural arts represented by Hawaii, and a variety of creative culinary programs. I believe non-profits are the backbone of our communities and I enjoy being part of the process in their success.

**Jeanette Horn; Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Have been a theatre artist and arts educator for decades. As an actor performed in NYC, San Diego, Los Angeles and on tour in South America and across the U.S. Am a current company member of The Actors' Gang and Teaching Artist in their Education & Prison Project departments. Began my work in arts education in 1987 as a teacher/researcher with NEA Research Center at NYU. Created an Arts-in-Education pilot program with metrics for assessment and replication. Recipient of multiple year grants from Metropolitan Life Foundation, NY Foundation for the Arts, NYSCA and CAC. Original member of Teaching Artist Roundtable in NYC. Former teaching artist for Theatre for New Audience, TDF, The Playwright's Project to name a few. Outreach Coordinator for Circle Rep. Director Of Education - MCC Theater, La Jolla Playhouse and The Actors' Gang. Adjunct Professor "Theatre Techniques in Classroom" at Long Island University.

7 years with International Theatre & Literacy Project in rural communities in Tanzania, Bali and India creating original theater pieces. Have been a dramaturg, actor, director and producer for various small resident theatre companies.

**Jeanne Modderman; Hercules**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Jeanne Modderman is an experienced creative leader and program manager who is passionate about the arts and making a meaningful impact. With over 15 years of professional experience, Jeanne has held leadership roles at Meta, where she led the experiential design discipline for Instagram, and National Geographic, where she honed her skills as a visual storyteller and community builder. Her diverse background includes work in government, non-profit, publishing, and tech and it is her belief in the impact of creativity that drives each step in her career. Jeanne is enthusiastic about collaborating with artists and engaging youth to bring their vision to life.

**Koan Jeff Baysa; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Overarching concept: the Artropocene: artists and artworks as effective agents of change through art activism, social and environmental responsibility (adapted from the term Anthropocene).

Curatorial projects 2023 - Exposure: Native Art and Political Ecology. Armory for the Arts, Pasadena CA, 2022 - Ecocide | Ecosave. FOCA LA, Los Angeles CA, 2022 - TerraForme. East Hawai'i Cultural Center, Hilo HI, 2019 - Honolulu Biennial. Kaka'ako, Honolulu HI, 2019 - iBiennale. Y Centre, Honolulu HI, 2019 - Joshua Treenial. Boxo Projects, Joshua Tree CA, 2018 -

Wild Blue Yonder. United Airlines Terminal, LAX, 2018 - Suspended Dysbeliefs. Moonhuts, Los Angeles CA, Art organisations, Art Omi International Colony, Program Board, Vera List Center for Art and Politics, Advisory Board, Professional organizations, WISP - Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, AICA - Association International Critics of Art, IKT - International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art. Advisory positions 2019 Curatorial Advisor. Congo Biennale, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2019 Curatorial Advisor. Fresh Winds Biennale, Reykjavik, Iceland.

**Jeffrey Dollinger; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

For three decades, I have served as an arts administration leader in the arts education, cultural, and creativity fields -- always in the support and service of artists and creators. For the last six years, I've been the Executive Director of the LA County High School for the Arts Foundation (LACHSA Foundation) where I lead fundraising, marketing, and outreach efforts on behalf of this celebrated and diverse multi-disciplinary arts high school. Past experience includes leadership roles at Menlo Park's Art in Action, LA's Autry Museum of the American West, the National Inventors Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I have a Masters degree in Arts Administration and a BA in Art History.

**Jeffrey Norman; Rancho Mirage**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs for the McCallum Theatre since January 2013, overseeing all written communications including social media, press and media relations, writing and management of content for the Theatre's program book, extensive public speaking; work closely with the Theatre's women's leadership council, represents the Theatre at various meetings, forums and mixers and serves on the City of Palm Desert Marketing Committee, Palm Springs Library Foundation Board and Partners for Life Committee for DAP Health.

Previously served as Vice President for Public Affairs for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey from 1992-2012. At NJPAC, he oversaw the Center's long- and short-range media strategies, as well as facilitating the Center's ongoing cultivation of New Jersey's divergent constituencies. His extensive outreach activities included public speaking, government liaison work, institutional public relations and other initiatives to attract new and returning audience. He also managed the Arts Center's volunteer division.

He occasionally appears as an actor on local stages and is the recipient of two Desert Theatre League Awards.

**Jenene Nagy; Riverside**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an artist, educator and arts administrator. I have received grants in support of my own practice from the Foundation of Contemporary Art, the Oregon Arts Commission, and Colorado Creative Initiative. I have served as a grant panelist for the National Endowment of the Arts and a board member of ArtPapers in Atlanta.

**Jenn Dees; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Jenn Dees is the programs director at PEN America Los Angeles. Dees previously served as production manager of ALOUD, a series of readings, conversations, and performances presented by The Library Foundation of Los Angeles. She has more than a decade of experience producing public events, managing interdisciplinary arts-based projects, and facilitating the work of creators in video, theater, dance, and site-specific performance at venues such as EXIT ART, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and SCAD Museum of Art. She has a Master's degree and background in arts education, having served in the Education Departments of The Music Center and the Park Avenue Armory, and as a freelance arts specialist has developed curriculum rooted in sequential art, filmmaking, and visual culture.

**Jennifer Bledsoe; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am a Los Angeles native with extensive training and experience in the world of theatre and acting. After my daughter was born, I began a career in education, starting with substitute teaching to becoming the Director of Development for a nationally regarded charter school.

**Jennifer Caballero; Pasadena*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have more than 20 years of employment experience in arts organizations and want to support the good works of the CAC in implementing best practices with DEAI guidelines for statewide improvement.

**Jennifer Carter; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I've been teaching college literary arts courses for over a decade, where I blend creative writing practices and literature with real-world, applicable concepts and topics. In an effort to enhance campus diversity and equity efforts, the majority of my classroom content has been situated within identity politics, diversity, and inclusion. My research has been focused on gender and ethnic studies, incorporating elements from these broader themes into more nuanced and relatable practices that can be openly - and safely - discussed in the classroom, and which manifest in my student's creative writing. I also incorporate anti-racist and anti-sexist pedagogy with unconscious bias lesson plans and use of ethnic literature. My qualifications are an MA in Liberal Arts and Sciences, with focuses in Ethnic and Women's Studies, Gender and LGBTQ+ Studies, and Popular Culture. These focuses set the foundation for my course development in creative/academic writing, literature, and research.

**Jen Copeland; Corning*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I grew up overseas, living in Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and India. As an adult, I lived in Japan. Traveling to other countries enriched and expanded my mind to appreciate multicultural forms of creative expression.

I earned my BA in Art from UC Santa Cruz in 1981. In 2022, I earned a Certificate of Completion for Online Shamanic Healing Training Program from the Foundation for Shamanic Studies. I'm currently enrolled in FSS's 17th West-Coast Three Year Program.

My projects blend traditional art mediums with shamanic practices.

Right now, I'm embroidering five ceremonial huipils to connect with my five power animals: Deer, Bald Eagle, Shape~Shifting Fox, Mouse and Osprey. While embroidering the huipils, I connect with each spirit animal, learn about them and their particular powers.

It's an extraordinary creative process.

For example, while working on Shape~Shifting Fox's huipil, I realized that he is connected to the intensely hot fire found on the Sun. I learned that one day the Sun will explode and destroy Earth. Receiving this knowledge caused me to adore our planet, feel immensely deep gratitude for everything on it.

### **Jennifer Edwards; San Francisco**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Founder of Better Consulting LLC, Jennifer Edwards is a multifaceted creative whose work is driven by two core questions: What impact do you wish to have? And what stands in your way? Better, is a full-service organizational development, brand strategy, and communications company that started in New York City/Philadelphia and has since relocated to San Francisco. Better works with clients from idea, through concept and planning, to implementation and launch. Guided by a deep love of listening and learning paired with an innate ability to hold space for complexity, Jennifer is passionate about developing human systems that center equity, uplift and honor all aspects of diversity, and place process-in-action at their core. She is an alumna of New York University (Tisch), The New School (Milano), the OpEd Project, and The Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership.

### **Jen Henning; Indio**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Jennifer Henning is a Special Projects Coordinator for the City of Palm Springs as part of the Community and Economic Development Department. She has served as Staff Liaison to the City's Public Arts Commission integrating art into the City's programming. For over 20 years she has been working with galleries, artists and museums. Previously, Jennifer was one of three American panelists invited and awarded a Fulbright Grant to participate in a conference sponsored by the U.S. State Department and Consulate General of Yekaterinburg, Russia, on the importance of art in communities. She is a Public Art Consultant and volunteers for local arts organizations in the Coachella Valley and Joshua Tree Region.

Ms. Henning obtained dual Masters Degrees from the University of Southern California in Urban Planning, focusing on Economic Development and Public Art Studies and holds a B.A. from U.C., Davis, in Art History and a minor in Organizational Studies.

**Jennifer Hurlbut; Running Springs*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have experience reviewing grants for the County of San Bernardino in mental health and children and family services.

I have a background in performing theatre arts and have managed an annual arts festival for six years.

I worked with foster youth from diverse backgrounds, in art therapy and performing arts.

I am a director on the Running Springs Area Chamber of Commerce and manage several community events annually, including art contests. I was appointed as a Commissioner on the Human Relations Commission for the City of Redlands, where we held educational events for Cesar Chavez Day and started a community service scholarship.

Additionally, I taught Cultural Diversity courses for UC Davis Center for Human Services and for the Performance, Education, and Resource Center at the County of San Bernardino.

**Jennifer Jonassen; Hawaiian Gardens*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

For the past seven years I have served as Artistic Director for Intrepid Dance Project in L.A. Last year I had the honor of serving as a CAC panelist and I enjoyed the work and learning about the various programs across the state. Additionally I have worked in the performing arts for almost four decades and in almost every capacity: performer, dancer, writer, administrative, dramaturgy, house management among many other positions. In 2022 I received a scholarship to the finale summer intensive at SIT. I also had the opportunity to perform at Redcat, L.A. Performance Practice and Electric Lodge also among many others.

**Jen Neville; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a photographer + media artist currently living and working in Los Angeles. I obtained my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, emphasizing in Web & Multimedia Environments. I also completed a course in Architectural Theory at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

I'm passionate about art as it relates to youth education, community, and cultural development. This is especially demonstrated through my museum and education experience: I have worked for the Museum of Danish America, the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, a small non-profit regional Art Conservation Center (where I gained great experience in nonprofit management), Artbook @ Hauser & Wirth, and the Architecture Department at UCLA. I have experience tutoring elementary students and am especially passionate about youth literacy.

**Jennifer Pickering; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Thank you for this opportunity share with you something about myself. I am a fulltime Literary and Visual artist. I retired from the Legislative Data Center that provided computer and internet support for the California State Legislature and Office of the Governor. My titles were Analyst II and Technology Specialist I. I also served as a board member of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association, and Sacramento Poetry Center Emeritus, Member of the women's collective, the Matrix Art Gallery, The Sacramento Feminist Writers' Guild. I continued to work on art and writing juggling the hats of artist, state worker and mother. I wrote the first job share proposal for our agency and it was approved. My art has been exhibited in Northern CA. and is featured on several public art projects including signal boxes. My poem, "I Am the Creek" is part of a sculpture, Open Circle in Sacramento which was the city's response to a hate crime at the B'nai Israel Synagogue. My writing is published across the country and virtually. I was a finalist in the New Women's Voices Contest Finishing Line Press. Fruit Box Castles: Poems From A Peach Farmers Daughter was published by Finishing Line Press in 2020.

**Jennifer Sander; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Former president of the Sacramento Philharmonic, and the founder of California Compositions, which commissioned new works of music to celebrate people and places of our state. The major pieces that arose were the Chinese American Symphony by Jon Jang, and Ansel Adams America by Dave and Chris Brubeck. As an acquisitions editor for a large publishing house I have evaluated thousands of book proposals for viability. As an author myself, I have written many successful proposals. These skills give me the ability to assess projects and ideas for potential success.

**Jennifer Bennett; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Jennifer Anne Bennett grew up in Lemon Grove, California and was a first-generation college student. She earned A.A.'s from Grossmont College in Cross-Cultural-Studies and Art, a B.A. from San Diego State University in Painting, and an MFA from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, in Painting.

Jennifer is a practicing painter and printmaker in San Diego who enjoys learning about, and from her students at Grossmont College where she is a Professor of Art. Jennifer teaches design, painting, and public art courses. She is currently the Chair of the Visual Arts and Humanities Department.

Jennifer also volunteers in her community and serves as the Chair of the Redwood Village Community Council and also serves on the board of the Eastern Area Communities Planning Group in San Diego, CA.

**Jennifer Holmes; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Growing up in the Bay Area with artistic parents, I had a great deal of exposure to all kinds of art. I ran an art gallery and performance space (Rhythmix Cultural Works), was the first production manager for The Bay Lights, and produced shows for the Seattle Art Fair and Marlborough Contemporary in NYC with Survival Research Labs. I stage managed the opening of Caruso's Dream for Brian Goggin and Dorka Keehn in 2015, and I joined the board of Precita Eyes Muralists in 2018.

**Jenny Kane; San Bernardino**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Jennifer Kane is an interdisciplinary artist, community co-creator, and educator from Los Angeles, CA, who currently resides in Joshua Tree and Bishop, CA. She serves as the Executive Director of Arts Connection, the Arts Council of San Bernardino County, where in her five-year tenure she has supported nonprofits to more than double funding received. Jennifer received her BA in Fine Arts from Mount St. Mary's University in 2005 and her MFA in Public Practice from Otis College of Art and Design in 2016; she is a graduate of Arts for LA's ACTIVATE Cultural Policy Fellowship program. Jennifer's writing has been featured in KCET Artbound and as part of the Mojave Project. She has worked on NEA-funded projects incorporating rural creative placemaking, National Park art programming and arts education. Mountain guiding for 12 years in the Sierra informs a deep ecological relationship within the arts and cultural work she weaves statewide.

**Jennifer Peterson; Lompoc**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am in my 26th year of teaching choral music and CTE theatre at the high school level. I am department chair for Visual and Performing Arts. I teach at a Title 1 school. I am a member of Cabrillo HS's Site Counsel and Legacy Committee. I help plan district VAPA professional development. I am part of the Lompoc USD's Art Council. I was chosen as the 2023 Santa Barbara Bowl Performing Arts Teacher of the Year.

**Jenny Abbe; Redding**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

From my earliest days at California College of Arts & Crafts while working at the Magic Theatre, to a career as a journalist covering education in Contra Costa County, as a contract writer for Apple, HP and other tech companies, and now as director of a historical photographic archive, I've often been engaged in the promotion of art, music, history and theatre. I've served on a symphony board, written grants for a local public arts charter school, edited journals for a historical society, curated museum exhibits, helped coordinate high school music productions as a "music Mom," helped found a local fund supporting non-profits, was a presenter on the subject of intergenerational storytelling at TedX Redding, have been a consistent supporter of our local science and art museum, as well as programs of the Shasta County Arts Council.

**Jenny Simon; Laguna Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am born and raised in Germany and always loved the arts! I am a US citizen and living in California since 24 years. I started painting when I was a child and started my art career when I was in my mid-20s. Over the last two decades, my work has been exhibited in museums and over 30 galleries from Portland to Key West and from San Diego to New York. I served as president of the Pasadena Society of artists for three years. I am running an art gallery in Laguna Beach where I sell other visual artist's work as well. My work has been featured also in magazines, and a couple of TV shows. I would love to help other artists succeed in this difficult environment.

**Jessica Ceballos Campbell; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Jessica Ceballos Campbell has spent over 23 years working at the convergence of art and personal narrative. She's advocated for equity and justice through tenants' rights organizing and serving on the Neighborhood Council (chair Arts Committee, Homelessness Liaison, and Film Liaison). Her intersectional work led to a WESTAF Leader of Color Fellowship, where she serves on the Advisory Committee, and an Arts for LA ACTIVATE Cultural Policy Fellowship. Additionally, she co-founded the Latina Writers Conference (2017) and recently joined the board of Women Who Submit, an organization supporting writers in the publishing process. Jessica's work has been recognized by the California State Assembly, State of Alaska, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, and L.A. Council Districts. Jessica lives in Los Angeles, where she directs a poetry non-profit and is working on a collection of poetry centered on a 1984 visit to Disneyland with her mother while living in foster care.

**Jes Deville; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I'm an Afro-Boricua artist, educator, and administrator working across mediums to explore relational literacy through dance-theatre and environmental design. My work critically examines systems of power while celebrating the unity, beauty and resilience of diasporic peoples. Drawing on familial stories of migration and my experiences as a Queer person of color, my work investigates living histories and performing arts as a liberatory practice for all.

I am a member of the American Circus Alliance, with previous works presented on stage and screen at the Apollo Theater, Fox Theater Oakland, for PBS and MTV among others; Also providing all-ages learning journeys at colleges, community centers, senior homes, and schools nationwide. I'm grateful to be uplifted as a regenerative artist within Design Science Studio's inaugural cohort, a co-curator for ODC's first Queer & BIPOC Space Residency, and as an annual visiting artist at University of California, Irvine. In 2021 I was named Updraft AIR by vertical-dance company Bandaloop and continue to weave creative collaborations throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

**Jessica Kucinkas; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My name is Jessica Kucinkas. I'm a seasoned Art Director, Graphic Designer, and Illustrator with over 15 years of experience in creative services for in-house Marketing Communication teams. I currently lead the brand and visual identity for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, one of the nation's leading pediatric hospitals.

I earned a Bachelor of Arts in New Media from Emerson College, and most recently, completed a Creative Leadership Extension Course at ArtCenter College of Design.

Beyond my professional work, I am committed to making a positive impact on my community through volunteering. I have lent my graphic design skills to LA Optimized, where I worked to support small businesses impacted by the pandemic, and Civic Power of Change, where I created election campaigns for progressive political candidates across the United States.

My mission is to spread positivity, lead with kindness, and encourage others to develop and nurture their creative talents.

**Jessica Roberts; Encinitas**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Originally from the UK, I lived in Newcastle, London, Berlin, and Vienna before settling down in San Diego. Here is a brief outline of my career before joining City of Encinitas Cultural Arts Division team includes: Freelance community musician, artist liaison and project coordinator at The Sage Gateshead music venue in the UK. Booking agent in London, looking after artists such as the great Jeff Beck and Bon Iver and more. Freelance tour manager, artist liaison, and festival organizer, worldwide with artists such as PJ Harvey and Mulatu Astatke. Helped create and elevate Desert Daze Festival (Lake Perris, CA) am part of San Diego events team Bad Vibes Good Friends.

I am an active musician, performing around San Diego- my last event was Keep A Breast charity gig, Dolly Parton tribute at the Belly Up in Solana Beach.

**Bliss Woods; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Jesse Bliss is an international playwright, director, producer, poet, actress and veteran arts educator with roots in woman's theatre out of New York City. She's been going into to prison since 16 years old and working with the incarcerated, using theatre and writing as a healing catalyst. Her work has been widely produced and published She is a Producer on 90.7 FM's THINK OUTSIDE THE CAGE, a radio program voicing truth about Mass Incarceration. She is Founder and Creative Director of The Roots and Wings Project.

**Jessie Stein; San Deigo**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I graduated with a B.A. in Music in 2006. In San Diego, I participate in the local arts community by playing in large and small ensembles. I have also supported the local arts community by partnering with The David's Harp Foundation and the San Diego Youth symphony to put on a

summer music camp for youth. I provide grant consultant services to a large, national foundation that provides grants to creative youth development programs.

**Jewel Buchanan-Boone; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Jewel Buchanan-Boone is a Renaissance Woman living and loving in Oakland, California. An alumna of San Francisco State University [B.A] and Syracuse University's Newhouse School [M.S], Jewel's got more hustles than a deck has cards, including (but not limited to) birthing babies, blessing mics, throwing magical events, and finding her joy. Mistress of Flow and Ceremony, Jewel can be found spellbinding audiences as a poet, songstress, emcee, and curatorial conversationalist. A multifaceted producer, Jewel has worked with the best, including URBAN X INDIGENOUS, Audiopharmacy, and The Black Woman Is God. Her writing has been published in Birth Work As Care Work, Kearny Street Workshop's Interdisciplinary Writers Lab 2021 Chapbook, and Liwanag Vol. 3. When she's not giving life to pages and stages, you can find Jewel dreaming of a better world and conjuring for the collective. Poetry in motion, Jewel loves all things art, food, dance, and music, & can often be found dancing near the waters of the Bay. For collaborations, workshop requests, or media requests contact her.

**Jill Wolfe; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Having served 30 years in education, first as a classroom teacher, then in district and county professional development arenas and later in Teacher Education at both public and private universities, I've had many opportunities to facilitate and advocate for the arts in school settings.

Additionally, while living in Seattle, I volunteered with an organization called Path with Art, that served any adult in Seattle with a case worker. Art classes in a variety of genres were taught by art practitioners and supported by Creative Mentors. That was my role. People from many walks of life and housing situations, including those historically underrepresented found community and connection, while developing confidence and competence in these art courses.

**Jillian Sandell; Joshua Tree**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an artist and educator living in Joshua Tree California. In 2018 I took early retirement, and before that, for two decades I taught interdisciplinary gender studies to BA/MA students and worked with many community arts organizations in the Bay Area. I was also on many committees for hiring faculty, graduate student applications, and scholarships. I believe this experience, along with my own emerging art practice (of seven years), makes me qualified to be a fair and responsive reviewer.

**Joan Ford; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Joan Ford is a musician and fundraiser with 20 years experience in the nonprofit, art and healthcare sectors working toward a more diverse, inclusive and just Los Angeles. She has raised funds through grants, major gifts and events; and conducted board retreats and strategic planning for nonprofit organizations throughout Los Angeles since 1999. Joan holds an MBA

from UCLA's Anderson School of Management and certificates from the Center for Creative Leadership, Grantsmanship Center and Indiana University School of Fundraising.

**Joan Rosenberg; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

As a leader with more than 19 years of uniting people through music, art and cultural experiences, I have spent much of her early career in marketing and communications with organizations such as Live Nation, AEG Presents, American Conservatory Theatre, Museum of the African Diaspora and now The UC Theatre in Berkeley. I have consistently driven strategic brand initiatives and multicultural marketing programs that improve audience and community engagement for hundreds of live performances, art exhibitions and new venues that celebrate and uplift historically marginalized communities. Joan's celebration of the Bay Area's diverse community is reflected in her ability to connect creators with doing social good through her vast network in the live music and nonprofit arts sectors. Joan is passionate about empowering people to live up to their highest potential by helping to create a pathway to the success of others. She is committed to social responsibility and building an inclusive culture that increases a sense of belonging, purpose, and trust.

**Jo-Ann Dean; Playa Del Rey**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Jo-Ann Dean is a Creative Producer and CEO SIGNmation L.L.C. and Broadway SIGNs! live and virtual cabaret productions in NYC/LA. She Produces inclusive ASL Interpreted events for stage, television and film and open captioned content with Deaf Artists promoting American Sign Language (ASL) and it's culture. Productions include NYFF creating panels for film festivals and open caption screenings. Dean is received 2023 National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant for Deaf Austin Theater to stage, produce and livestream The Laramie Project this fall.

**Joey Williamson; Ventura**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My name is Joey Williamson, and I am a grant manager for Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast (GSCCC). I graduated from Florida State University in 2012 with a Bachelor's in Studio Art, focusing on ceramics and illustration; I still love making art to this day. Since then, I have worked numerous roles; the longest period was working for the Division of Victim Services, where I held a variety of roles including Admin Asst, Victim Compensation Claims Analyst, and then Grants Specialist. Each role had me working directly with victims, physicians, law enforcement, advocates, mental health service providers, etc., to ensure that victims of violent crime were provided thorough aid.

My partner and I moved to California during the pandemic primarily due to job loss as a result of the pandemic. My partner secured a job as curator of the Channel Islands Maritime Museum, while I went back to school to pursue welding. Since becoming certified I worked as a welder for a time, but eventually got back into the grants world in August 2022, when I was hired as a Grant Manager for GSCCC. I have since also taken a second job writing grants for the Channel Islands Maritime Museum.

**John Alan Connerley; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I grew up in California and have always been a musician and lover of Art with a capital "A." I was fortunate to be able to combine those profound predilections with my career as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer because my assignments abroad as a Cultural Officer further opened my mind and heart to Culture in its myriad manifestations as I worked successfully and passionately with colleagues and allies in the U.S. and abroad to connect people of disparate backgrounds to the Arts and with artists. In creating and managing art and international educational programs, I was and am especially keen to engage and challenge audiences with preconceived ideas about other cultures and countries. I am particularly glad to have served for five years as a Senior Panelist for the global U.S. Department of State's Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.

**John Natsoulas; Davis**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

John Natsoulas spent his formative years in Davis, California, where his father taught psychology at the University of California. From an early age, John Natsoulas showed considerable interest in jazz, poetry, and art. In his early 20s, he organized his first major exhibition and musical benefit effort called Art for Amnesty, on behalf of Amnesty International. After those successes with the concerts and benefits, he became interested in interdisciplinary art spaces, and he opened the John Natsoulas Gallery in Davis. Over the years, he has extensively exhibited numerous Californian artists. The publishing arm of the gallery, John Natsoulas Press, has produced an unparalleled number of volumes about the region's premier painters and sculptors. Natsoulas is particularly proud of his continued efforts to strengthen the community through diverse conferences addressing ceramics, painting, Beat Art, poetry, and music. He is eager to continue to uplift artistic voices and legacies.

**John Seto; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

John Seto was born in China and speak 3 dialects and read Chinese. He received his M. Phil. degree from the University of London in art and archaeology of China. John served in the museum field as a curator and director for over 10 years, while holding adjunct professorships in Asian art history most of his life. He also held executive director positions in both the Chinese Cultural Center in SF, and at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center. John spent over 20 years as public arts administrators in Ohio and California. In the former, he served as a traditional arts coordinator, and as director of the Ohio Joint Program in the Arts and Humanities. The last 16 years John served as a program specialist with the CA Arts Council, from which he retired 6 years ago. He adjudicated extensively in peer review panels and administered many grants programs and projects. John has been involved in participatory dancing for over 30 years and served on the national board of the Country Dance and Song Society, a 100+ year old organization based in Massachusetts.

**John Enns; Monterey*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Before moving to Monterey CA in 2003 I was an active board member at the New Art Examiner, an arts publication in Washington DC and NYC, New York (1995-2001). In California I have served as President and Treasurer for Celadon Arts, a 501c(3) arts management organization that designs and produces exhibits in Northern California locations. Our most recent shows have been presented at the Sand City Independent (Transcendental Vision: Japanese Culture and Contemporary Art, 2012), the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts (Joseph Campbell: The Artists Way, 2013), the Monterey Museum of Art (The New Domestic: Finding Beauty in the Mundane, 2018), the San Joaquin Delta College and the Monterey Museum of Art (Shadows from the Past: Sansei Artists and the American Concentration Camps, 2021 and 2022).

**John Moser; Van Nuys*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

John Moser career has come full circle where he has returned to run a small community arts education non-profit in the North Hollywood region. He began his career in NY theatre as a director and ran a non-profit theatre. He then transitioned into film and tv as a producer and network executive. His greatest joy is creating social relevant content. Many of his films, documentaries, tv series would earn many awards and the chance to work with Ira Glass, Robert Wise, and many wonderful actors. Before starting his non-profit, Village Arts, he founded Participant Media's TV division where he worked with many non-profits to help develop their work into original content. Recently, he decided to create a community base non-profit to address the lack of arts in the LA schools and to create a place where the arts can be taught and will help children grow, learn and discover.

**Kai Wong; Long Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

My name is Jordan Kai Wong, (moniker "KAI)." I am currently working in the music industry as a songwriter/music producer/performer, but I began my creative journey as a pianist and oil painter. I trained in city colleges but honestly I turned away from institutional education in the arts because I felt that as a Black artist my work felt either pigeonholed, sensationalized or misrepresented.

Since then, I've worked with organizers, cultural archivists, creative strategists, art galleries, managed singers' careers, and dedicated 100% of my time to learning the craft and businesses of creativity with the goal of one day creating a space for those and myself who feel they can offer the world a unique perspective. Please, reach out and speak with me about this for references/details.

you may have read that my Organization Affiliation reads 'ANOINTED RECORDINGS.' I've started a music production practice as a way to channel these perspectives, but I won't stop there. Doing my part to assist those reaching for the same light comes at no loss to me.

**Jorden Goodspeed; Eureka*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am 40 years old, have lived in Eureka, CA since I turned 19 in 2002. I moved from Los Angeles to study art in a less distracting environment and found a sort of stability in the community. I was attracted to the art scene here early on and got involved in community projects related to performing arts (Synapsis), gallery exhibitions (Empire Squared), I started a printmaking collective (Giant Squid Print Lab 2012-14, 2014-16 as an art collective, then disbanded) mostly made up of ex lab-mates who left the area since, with the exception of very few. I wish to rekindle and support community centered around the preservation of our local community's rich array of knowhow and abilities related to artistic practice and how it can effect overall public health and wellbeing. I believe my community is starved for connection through public activities and we need as much education and direction as we can get to coordinate our efforts to achieve this. I would like to see young people with more appreciation for the skills of previous generations and more willingness of the previous generations to share knowledge and skills with the current and future generations.

**Alexeis Reyes; Napa*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Alexeis Reyes left Cuba as a political dissident. He is multi-disciplinary artist, whose investigations emphasize the role of research to inform his practice. He received a BA in Visual Arts from Columbia University, and a MFA from California Institute of the Arts program in Art and Integrated Media. He uses certain materials to explore the intersectionality of identity politics, gender, and Diasporic displacement. Through a visual grammar, he tries to examine how power structures affect corporeal expression, in order to negotiate a critical dialogue that questions ideologies subsumed under socio-political, cultural, economic, and historical discourses. He has participated in various group exhibitions including, "DebtFair, Occupy Museums," Whitney Biennial (2016). He is the recipient of various grants and awards, including the Félix-Gonzalez Torres travel grant with which he began a life-long project that scrutinizes how the Cuban regime legalized censorship while promoting cultural production.

**Jorge Mujica; Long Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Mujica is the Director of Creative Arts Coalition to Transform Urban Space (CACtUS) and has shown at M+B 22', Ace Hotel 22', and Bozo Mag 21' (Los Angeles). Centro Cultural de La Raza 21' (San Diego). Hi-Bye 20', Casa Del Ahuizote 20' (Mexico City). Horse and Pony 18', Copyright 19' (Berlin). And commissioned by the Museum of Latin American Art to create "Long Beach High Five," a public sculpture at Robert E. Gumbiner Park in Long Beach, CA, in 2019.

He earned an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University 12', MA in Visual and Critical Studies from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago 10', and a dual BA in Political Science and Art History from Cal State University Bakersfield 08'.

**Jose Montoya; Sacramento*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Jose Montoya, a multi-talented person from a remote community, has achieved many career successes. Jose loves art and hosts a podcast called "The New Americans." The podcast celebrates diverse artists' distinctive contributions to art.

Jose, a McNair Scholar and MEChA member, studied political philosophy at Eastern Washington University despite growing up poor.

Jose worked in retail banking in Sacramento after graduating. Jose led financial literacy programs in retail banking and saw working-poor communities descend into poverty owing to unorthodox payday loan servicing and substance misuse.

Jose left retail banking after 15 years and built a Wealth Management pipeline to join the Sierra Club. He is Sierra Club Executive/Treasurer and Young Adult Coordinator for the California Health Collaborative's Gold Country Rural Initiative. Jose is passionate about tobacco control, vaping's environmental impact, and big tobacco's aggressive marketing to young adults by establishing new nicotine/flavor delivery gadget markets.

Jose's varied interests and experiences have made him a well-rounded person who contributes to society.

**Jose Trejo Maya; Baldwin Park*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

He is a remnant of the Nahuatlachah oral tradition a tonalpouhque mexicana, a commoner from the lowlands from a time and place that no longer exists. Born in Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico, where he spent his childhood in the small rural pueblo of Tarimoró and wherefrom he immigrated in 1988. His inspirations include Netzahualcoyotl, Humberto Ak'abal, Ray A. Young Bear, James Welch and Juan Rulfo. Published in various journals/sites in the UK, US, Spain, India, Australia, Argentina, Germany and Venezuela. Pushcart Prize nominee in 2015; awarded Tercer Premio from El Centro Canario Estudios Caribeños – El Atlántico – en el Certamen Internacional de Poesía "La calle que tú me das" 2016; New Rivers Press Many Voices Project Finalist 2018, 2020 Jack Straw Writers Fellow. Mozaik: Ecosystems X 2022 Future Art Awards Group Exhibition Special Mention. Exhibitions in US, Spain, Italy, South Africa, Australia, Korea. Public art sculpture display in Kirkland, WA. While in ceremony with Chololo medicine men in the Tule River Reservation he dreamt this written prophecy...

**Jose Antonio Aguirre; Pasadena*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

In 1982 earned a BFA School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA California Institute of the Arts in 1990, resides and works in Pasadena, California.

Aguirre has mounted over 15 solo exhibitions, over 125 collective exhibitions nationally and internationally; produced over 40 projects of public art in Southern California, Colorado, Illinois, Texas and Mexico. His artworks are in permanent collections in Germany, Mexico, Scotland and the United States. For over 30 years, he has established a reputation as a cultural worker and a visual arts educator; received national and international awards, including the Fulbright-García

Robles by the United States State Department and the Cultural Exchange International grant from the City of Los Angeles.

In 2013, Mr. Aguirre was appointed Executive Director of the Mexican Cultural Institute of Los Angeles, in 2020 he joined William James Association as board member and continues to work actively as an artist, lecturer and educator.

### **J Ordaz; San Diego**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

J Ordaz (they/them) is a queer Mexican graphic designer and artist. They have experience working within the San Diego arts community as an artist, photographer, and creative consultant at the AjA Project (a local arts education non-profit that targets marginalized youth). They also have community engagement experience with intentional low-income, marginalized communities in San Diego through their urban planning work with Pueblo Planning. Most recently they were part of the San Diego MTS Social Equity Listening Tour, a project that aimed to understand the experiences of transit riders and to take steps in addressing issues of inequity in transit.

### **Joseph Abbati; San Francisco**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been curating for the office of Senator Scott Wiener in the State of California Building since 2017. There I have brought hundreds of artists and patrons for the arts together to look at a diversity of themes looking at LGBTQ+ Pride, Asian Diaspora, LatinX artists, Trans Awareness, Housing, Senior Artists, and Global Environmental Action. I am also an artist and have recently had a solo gallery exhibit looking at the queer community in a series of paintings call "Shape Shifters." I am also involved with local arts groups and participate in 5 to 6 groups exhibits a year.

### **Josh Windmiller; Santa Rosa**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have been promoting events and raising money for the arts since 2007. I focus on small scale festivals, performances, and recording projects in the North Bay and have really enjoyed building the community here with my fellow artists. I started a free annual street festival in 2015 and helped found a nonprofit listening room here in 2020. I love getting artists more support and spreading the word.

### **Lian Ladia; San Francisco**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Lian Ladia is the Curator for Exhibitions and Programs of 500 Capp Street where she co-created the organization's archive team, youth education program and an artist residency program. At 500 Capp Street, the former home of conceptual artist David Ireland, Ladia developed a curatorial thrust that is artist-driven, collaborative, and process-oriented, similar to David Ireland's vocabulary of process and making. Ladia attended both the curatorial programs of De Appel in Amsterdam (2015) and CCS Bard in New York (2017). Unique to Ladia's curatorial resume is her involvement with community organizing in San Francisco and her experience in international curatorial projects in Europe and Southeast Asia. Her recent involvement in

projects include solo projects with Libby Black, Sherwin Rio, Ann Hamilton (2022-2023), Carlos Villa at the Asian Art Museum (2022), Singapore Biennale (2019), and BAMPFA (2018). She is a board member at Clarion Alley Mural Projects, People Power Media and Canyon Cinema.

### **Joy Wolf; Newport Beach**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Ms. Wolf worked as a staff photographer for several American newspapers before deciding to freelance. Her images have graced the pages of national and international magazines including TIME, Newsweek, The New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post Magazine, and Paris Match. She is the recipient of numerous honors including two Pulitzer Prize nominations, the Kodak Epcot Award, and accolades from the National Press Photographer's Association Pictures of the Year competitions.

Ms. Wolf's work has been shown in museums and galleries in the U.S., Europe, and Asia and is in the permanent collections at the Center for Creative Photography, The Denver Art Museum, and The Arken Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen. Ms. Wolf's photographs have also been featured in six books including the popular A Day in the Alice of America.

She studied at The Art Institute of Chicago, received her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and English from the University of Arizona and continues to study under the Peter Bonner at The Art Students League of New York.

### **Joyce Clarke; Riverside**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

In 2002, Joyce Clarke began grant writing, specializing in the arts and education. In addition to her BA in Communications and Literary Arts from Emerson College, she holds a Certificate in Teacher Development, CA State Bd of Education Visual & Performing Arts Content Standards, and a Certificate in Program Evaluation (2021).

Clarke has reviewed for: United Way LA; CA Dept of Education, Sacramento; Institute for Youth Development Compassion Capital Fund; CA Arts Council (3/2017); AcademyGO Riverside (2021); Scholastic Teen Art & Writing Awards (2021); and NAACP/Youth ACT-SO competition (2023).

Through the years she has taught poetry writing workshops at elementary schools, Continuation High Schools and Los Angeles and San Bernardino Libraries.

To support the arts community, Clarke holds membership in a few museums; and is a member of Riverside Cultural Directors Consortium for arts leaders. She's a dedicated Board member of a museum being developed by Black Riversiders.

### **Juan Cardona Ospina; Emeryville**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a Colombian-born composer with a diverse educational and professional background in music. I completed my undergraduate studies at the Universidad de Caldas in Colombia, and I further expanded my studies by pursuing an internship in composition in Argentina.

After completing my education, I worked for two years in a high school in Colombia before deciding to pursue a master's degree in composition at the Universidad EAFIT. Through an assistantship, I then went on to earn a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Memphis in the United States.

Throughout my education and career, I have been an active composer and educator with a wide range of interests and accomplishments. My music has been performed in different countries, and I am dedicated to creating new works and engaging with the international music community.

### **JC Gonzalez; Salinas**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

JC Gonzalez is a visual interdisciplinary and community-based artist. His body of work includes acrylic, oils, watercolor painting, drawing, photography, murals, installations, environmental art and human rights as inspiration. Gonzalez grew up in Salinas, California where he develops, teaches, mentors, and shares with youth the power of arts for creative expression, leadership and social transformation.

Since 2012. Gonzalez is the Artistic Director and Creative Founder of The Urban Arts Collaborative (UAC), a multi-disciplinary, socially-conscious arts organization that weaves interconnected issues of critical importance for the community.

Gonzalez has a Master in Fine Arts in Creative Inquiry Interdisciplinary in 2014 from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, CA. He attended San Diego State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences Art with an emphasis in Studio Arts in 2008. JC received the Champion of the Arts "Luminary Award" from the Arts Council for Monterey County. Active Public Arts Commissioner of the City of Salinas since 2018.

### **Juanita McWilliams; Palmdale**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Juanita McWilliams has been working as a Fine Artist and Visual Art Instructor for 15 plus years. She has sold her art work in Los Angeles, CA, Anelope Valley galleries. Palmdale park and recreations, centers in Palmdale, CA. Palmdale Public Library's and other venues. Growing up in Chicago, IL. She created on canvas, she also drew in charcoal and soft pastel.

Juanita, "Believes in, "Each one Teach one". In doing so you will help make the world a better place and your life will become enriched with joy.

This concept she teaches alone with how to see as an artist. Allow her students themselves feeling their creative abilities. Juanita's Jett ii Art is moving forward and outwards around the globe.

### **JP Price; Huntington Beach**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a film maker, bassoonist, and actor. I have always enjoyed the arts.

**Judy Berman Silbert; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

After a satisfying career in public health, Judy focused on arts education. She has worked with theatre groups, and dance and art festivals. In 2007, responding to devastating budget cuts for arts education in San Diego, Judy co-founded ArtReach, a visual arts education program, and served as Executive Director until 2017. ArtReach connects students at schools/sites with no resources for arts education to art-making and artists. Under her stewardship, ArtReach connected over 30,000 youth to such opportunities. Students create original work, learn/build art skills, and gain creative confidence. Now, Judy works as a consultant. She helped bring the VAPA Foundation into being. She has written and received grant funding for several arts non-profits growing to meet community needs. And, she continues to serve on the ArtReach board and the advisory boards of other organizations. Judy grew up drawing and painting; she knows firsthand the benefits of art-making.

**Judy Roth; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a retired Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor where I worked with people with a variety of disabilities for over 40 years. I loved my job and retired when I moved from Cincinnati to Los Angeles. I also have worked in various capacities at SummerFair in Cincinnati, OH for approximately 7 summers. I enjoyed working with the various artists and registered artists, etc. I was in charge of the hospitality area for the artists for several years.

**Yulia Maluta; Santa Barbara*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Yulia is at a Creative Director and her Transform Through Arts Theater. She has an extensive dance background. In addition to her career as a Ballroom, Latin and Argentine Tango dancer and dance instructor, she has studied Pilates, Contact Improv, Yoga and Ballet. Yulia has competed professionally in International Latin and Ballroom dance, winning numerous competitions. Yulia is associated with top industry dancers, having performed on Cruising with the Stars with Karina Smirnoff from Dancing with the Stars, and Malashock Thinks You Can Dance production with Mary Murthy. Her passion is Argentine Tango and she has hosted numerous Milongas, Ballroom dance parties and has taught and performed at many corporate events. Yulia's goal is to help people discover a deeper awareness of the body, connect with their core and discover creative expression through dance.

**Julie Williams; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Julie Williams is a multidisciplinary artist with interests in sculpture, mosaic, public art, drawing, art education and collaborating with under-resourced communities. Her artwork often uses recycled materials to reinvent the familiar into new and inviting forms. As a community teaching artist she seeks to build skills as well as community and connection. Her work has been exhibited in group shows in the Southern California area and she has received two public art commissions for the Arts Council for Long Beach. She has taught with several non-profit arts organizations and in schools including, the Eye On Design Program, Optimist Youth Homes, ArtworxLA, and the social enterprise Piece By Piece.

**Julia Mata; Long Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been working in the professional arts since I was 19. I have co-founded and run two arts collectives over the course of ten years. The first organized curatorial projects, shows, parties, radio shows, and talks focusing on queer artists of color on the east coast. We presented works in places such as MOMA PS1 in Queens, The ICA Boston, Cuchifritos Gallery, and The Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural and Educational Center. The second was a collectively owned indie publishing group run by myself and two other women of color comic book artists. We toured the US and published our own comics projects which led to being offered a book deal with Drawn & Quarterly, who I am currently working on a novel for. As an arts admin, I have served as the Gallery Director of the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos Community College, through the Bronx Council on the Arts, and I worked in Communications for The Laundromat Project, a non-profit dedicated to providing professional development for low income artists of color.

**Juliann Hemphill; Santa Maria**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am currently the volunteer Artistic Director for a local community choir. In the past I have worked as a grant writer for a charter school, and for a couple of universities in Texas for large Department of Education grants. These grants were for programs serving underprivileged youth. I have administered grant programs for a couple of nonprofit organizations, reading and scoring hundreds of grants. One of those nonprofits was a children's arts organization. I currently serve on the board of three nonprofit organizations, two of which are music organizations. I think I have the experience necessary to work with you!

**Julie Barton; San Jose**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

My 20-year international career in nonprofit management includes positions at the Philharmonia Orchestra in London; the Harry Potter Alliance; and Tandem, Partners in Early Learning, where I was the Development Director for six years. In 2019 I left to create her own consultancy helping nonprofits be more effective (whether that is raising more funds, serving more people, or be more effective leaders) and build their fundraising portfolio. I currently work with Backyard Kids Theater, Jewish Vocational Services, and the Oakland Public Education Fund to help them with their institutional fundraising/grant writing.

With a Ph.D. in Literature and experience as a 2015 New Leaders Council Fellow, a 2016 Leadership San Francisco Fellow, and as a 2019 Social Entrepreneurship Fellow with StartingBloc (and a 2020 StartingBloc Mentor), I'm a lifelong learner. Past Board memberships include NLC-San Francisco, National Novel Writing Month, the International Board on Books for Young People, About-Face, and the Children's Media Association; I currently serve on the National Programs Committee of New Leaders Council.

**Julie Bussell; Orange*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

As the Director of Marketing and Patron Services for the College of the Arts, my role at Cal State Fullerton has included the supervision of 4 full-time employees, as well as the oversight of all marketing materials (promotional, special event and recruitment). Additionally, I am the webmaster for the School of Music, Department of Theatre and Dance, the Department of Visual Arts, and the Dean's Office's websites. In addition to fiscal oversight, my responsibilities also include administering the Box Office for Claves Performing Arts Center, which welcomes over 42,000 patrons annually. Our Development office has utilized my expertise in identifying major donors for naming opportunities, as well as writing and securing grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Previously, I was the Executive Director of Pacific Chorale and subsequently, an independent contractor working with Segerstrom Center for the Arts and Pacific Symphony.

**Julie James; Santa Cruz*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am the founding artistic director of my own nonprofit theatre company in Santa Cruz that is going into its 20th year and currently has a \$1.2M budget. I am also an actor who has been a member of Actors' Equity for over 25 years. I am a grant writer who has written and managed grants for nonprofit theatres, as well as a nonprofit health center in Watsonville and low income housing agencies in the Bay Area and Central California.

**Julie Resh; North Hollywood*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I run a community music school non-profit in Santa Monica, have served on the boards of several small music-related non-profits, and helped run a popular classical music and art presenting non-profit called Classical Underground for ten years.

**Julie Townsend; Redlands*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I have taught the literary, performing, and visual arts to college students for 25 years. First at UCLA, then at USC, and now at the University of Redlands, I have introduced students to the crucial role of the arts in our lives and nurtured young artists in their creative endeavors. Also, as a mother of school-aged children, I put immense value in opportunities to share the arts with them and support their own forays into artistic practice. As a life-long Californian, I have benefited from the work of artists that was only made possible through funding from the California Arts Council.

**Julie Rico Rico; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Julie Rico, originally from Detroit, Michigan, where she worked on the assembly line and then at the World Headquarters of General Motors in Public Relations, came to Los Angeles with her BA in Journalism to show weird artists' work. She now works as a Chinatown community organizer, a writer, a baker, and a producer for non-profit and for-profit art events. Ms. Rico was once an acclaimed art gallery owner in Los Angeles and Santa Monica. Julie has sat on the boards of the

Bilingual Foundation of the Arts and the Laguna Art Museum. Julie conceptualized and managed the Mean Art Tent of the 1995 US Lollapalooza Tour. A curated traveling exhibition of “Lowbrow” and graffiti art to 30 cities. Head of the production for logos and signage using graf art.

**Jullianne Ballou; Davis**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Jullianne Ballou is associate director of strategic initiatives at UC Davis Institute of the Environment. In her role, she develops and leads programs, seminar events, and external partnerships for the Institute, including a public art initiative that seeks to elevate climate issues through murals, design projects, and art installations. Before this, she curated the food and wine collections at UC Davis Library and built the first archival collection of wine writing. Before that, she designed and built digital collections at the Harry Ransom Center, a museum, archive, and rare book library based on the campus of The University of Texas – Austin. She has been a story editor at the Oxford American magazine and a book editor at The University of Texas Press, and has had the privilege of being on the board of the Ellen Meloy Fund for Desert Writers for more than a decade.

**Junara Greco; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Active artist in the Bay Area. Member of ArtSpan San Francisco. Worked in non-profit Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Volunteer to art events such as ArtSpan events.

**Justine Armen; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Justine is a writer and documentary producer based in Oakland, CA. Justine has been working in the documentary field for over a decade. In 2013, she became an integral part of Telling Pictures, a media production company founded by Oscar, Emmy, and Peabody Award-winning filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. She was Assistant to the Directors on *And the Oscar Goes To...* (TCM/AMPAS, 2014) and *The Hell-Raiser* (Amazon/New Yorker, 2016), and Assistant to the Producers on *Killing the Colorado* (Discovery Communications, 2016). Justine was Assistant to the Directors on the Academy Award nominated short documentary *End Game* (2019, Netflix). In addition to Epstein and Friedman, Justine has been privileged to work with numerous award-winning directors and producers including Ellen Bruno, Dawn Logsdon, Rebekah Fergusson and NC Heikin on her latest feature *Life & Life*. Justine is passionate about social equity, criminal legal reform, prison abolishment, and supporting women of color in the arts. She has previously served on selection committees for the International Documentary Association’s Documentary Awards. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Love for our Elders.

**Kalliope Poulianos; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Kalliope Poulianos is an emerging queer writer based in Los Angeles, CA. She earned her MFA from California Institute of the Arts and her BA from Skidmore College, where she was the recipient of the Academy of American Poets College Prize. Her work have appeared in *Faultline*,

UC Berkeley Comparative Literature Journal, and Kairos among others. She writes poetry, personal essays and is currently working on a lyrical memoir set in Greece that deals with identity, myth, and loss in a post modern landscape.

**Kamelah Thompson; Long Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

My name is Kamelah Thompson, a 38 year old woman and proud mother. I began mentoring at-risk youth in Los Angeles and Long Beach in 2013. I created a space for youth to have an outlet from trauma in finding their voice. In mentoring, I have a "front row" seat in hearing how our youth feel unsupported, silenced and unheard. I have dedicated my life to being that outlet! I have worked in the mental health field for over 18 years in hospital settings, juvenile detention, gang prevention, crisis residential facilities, schools and in under-served communities. Over the years, each setting has taught me how to view life through different lenses. From my experiences, it was clear that art was a natural therapy for youth however, I noticed funding for arts programs were not as available as needed. I created an arts program that supports youth development in music, film, production, writing and art. I noticed because art was a natural interest, there was no "force" to learn. I stand as a youth advocate to provide the youth a safe space to be authentic without judgment but with guidance. It takes a village and we must be that for our children!

**Kara Davis; Ventura**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Senior Architect with RRM Design Group (formerly Mainstreet Architects and Planners) since 1997; projects ranging from affordable rental housing design, community serving projects including artists' studios and galleries, commercial/governmental improvements. City of Ventura Public Art Commissioner 2007-2011; review of public art submittals and budgets. City of Ventura Planning Commissioner 2019-2022; review of land development issues and capital improvement programs. Part-time Architecture Instructor at Ventura Community College District, 2004-2012, developed and taught a multi-level architectural practice class. Educational Advisor, Oxnard High School Green Technology Academy, 2009-2011; helped develop curriculum for the Tech Academy related to sustainable strategies for building industry related fields. Ceramic artist in a private studio at Bell Arts Factory/Ventura, 2009-2015. Volunteer of children's drawing class at transitional housing dormitory. Volunteer host of children classes in ceramics and assemblage/collage art.

**Karen Causi; Stockton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I studied with an artist Jean Packard for 7 years, with additional college classes. I then studied contemporary art in Pont Aven France and was able to spend 2 years abroad. I was able to travel to the numerous museums, and did additional curator studies with curators at these museums. After returning to the US, I was offered an internship to work with an artist at the Montenegro University, Arts academy, that lasted 3 months. During 2020 I was awarded a residency to work on my second book, at the Montenegro University. Covid stopped any traveling, however I will be able to finally complete this residency this fall. The children's books are a series that deals with endangered species and conservation.

**Karen Gross; Alameda*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

In 1976, I graduated from college with a BS (cum laude) in speech pathology/audiology. It was not my first choice - I had thought to become an actress. Pragmatism battled romanticism and won. But it only won the battle. Romance fought back, and I married and raised five children. Ah, but did love last... for 24 years, it did (more or less). Then I left it all to follow a dream of California. I became a special education teacher and learned to...

Dance! It is my joy. I also have played the violin off and on since my first lesson at age 8. I enjoy drawing, and have acted in a couple plays with the San Leandro Players

**Kari Thompson; Newman*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a member of the Board of Directors for the West Side Theatre Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves to promote the arts and art education on the west side of Stanislaus County as well as maintain and renovate the historic West Side Theatre in Newman, Ca. As a previous artisan gallery owner, I continue to work with local artists to exhibit and market their original works of art. I facilitated the installation of an art gallery in the West Side Theatre where local artists can exhibit their original works of art and use of the street-side gallery windows for local youth art exhibits. I seek, book and promote local cultural performing artists as chair of the Newman Fall Festival entertainment committee, another local non-profit that organizes an annual community festival held on Labor Day weekend.

**Karla Aguiniga; Long Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Karla Aguiñiga is the Art Gallery Manager at Long Beach City College. She has previously held positions at the Hammer Museum, Chicago Architecture Biennial, Material Art Fair (Mexico City), and the Chicago Artists Coalition. As a binational artists, curator and educator her work is driven by a desire to create pathways of success and joy for artists of color of all ages. Her curatorial work includes *Cuidate Mucho* (2022) at LBCC, *Fantasies and Fallacies* (2017) and *Dual Vision* (2018) at the Mexican Center for Culture and Cinematic Arts (CCCM) in Los Angeles, featuring works by 35 LA-based Mexican and Chicana artists under 35. She is a member of the binational art collective AMBOS (Art Made Between Opposite Sides) where she has coordinated for over three years a trauma informed ceramics program at two migrant shelters in Tijuana, Mexico that primarily serve migrant Central American trans women.

**Karla Flores; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I am a Nicaragüense-American dancer, community leader, teaching artist, and DJ based in Oakland, California. In 2019, I co-founded the Afro fusion dance festival AfroRooted, culminating in highly popular dance competitions, leading to a write-up in KQED. Internationally, I have traveled as a teaching artist for All The Way Live Foundation's (ATWL) residencies in Nicaragua and Taiwan, as well as a Hip Hop cultural diplomat for the State Department program Next Level.

I integrate themes of storytelling and resiliency incorporating my femininity and Latinx identity where I teach workshops, produce community battles, and host panel discussions for my local and international networks. As I travel around the world to places including Latin America and Africa, I build cross cultural connections within Black street styles such as waacking for students to learn the history and connect to their own personal narratives.

Currently, I am a resident DJ through the Bay Area Dance Event Collective and I am also a core member of the waacking collective BaeRooted.

**Karo Ska; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Karo Ska (she/they) is a South Asian and Eastern European gender-fluid poet living on unceded Tongva land. Their writing focuses on identity, mental health, survivorship, neurodivergence, and the intersections of trauma and politics. Their first full-length collection, "loving my salt-drenched bones" was released in February 2022 through World Stage Press. They are the Events and Marketing Coordinator for the Sims Library of Poetry and an Instructor for Community Literature Initiative's Poetry Publishing Class. They have volunteered with the Los Angeles Poet Society, hosting their open mic, SoapBox. They have also helped curate two anthologies: "Refresh: Dreaming the Future" and "1619 Speaks." They are a co-editor of the zine, "Beneath the Soil: A Collection of Works by Queer Survivors of Sexual Abuse."

**Karolina Karlic; Santa Cruz**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Through a range of photographic media Karlic creates work that addresses the intersection of photography and documentary practices, with a focus on systems of labor and industry, globalization, and their impact on the social and environmental landscapes. Karlic has been the recipient of numerous fellowships, residencies, and awards, including the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, the Cultural Exchange International Fellowship of the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Fellowship, the Hellman Fellowship, the Sacatar Foundation Residency Program, and Light Work's Artist-in-Residence Program, amongst others. Karlic is founder of Unseen California, a research initiative that serves as a hub for arts+science+humanities research that aims to build upon and extend faculty led arts research, education and student work in outdoor California classroom laboratories across the UC Natural Reserve System.

M.F.A., Photography and Integrated Media, California Institute of the Arts, B.F.A., Photography, Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

**Kate Gale; Granada Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

PhD, 30 years university teaching, 30 years as Managing Editor, 7 books published, 6 librettos

**Katharine Jacobs; Pine Grove**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Growing up in rural Calaveras county I longed for diversity in my community and art practice. I began studying art at California College of the Arts in Oakland before transferring to Oregon

College of Arts and Crafts in Portland Oregon. My experience as a fine art large format photographer has allowed me to travel to all 50 states and awarded me the RACC 2015 Artist Project Grant. After nearly a decade as an Arts Educator at multiple non profits and colleges in Oregon I returned to California to complete my MFA at San Jose State University. There I majored in spatial arts and gained experience in metal and ceramic sculpture and installation. I have worked as a project manager for Poetic Postcards, San Jose Storymaps, Abierto grant, and Liftoff. These projects have required unique communication to a diverse group of community members and artists working within the guidelines and requirements of different grant funding.

**Katherine McIlquham; Signal Hill**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

To have a healthy work-life balance, giving back to those less fortunate than myself.

**Katie Murawka; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Katie Murawka has worked at the intersections of arts, education, nonprofits, and philanthropy for over a decade. Katie is a key member of an Operating Team that shares leadership responsibilities to steward the collaboration and collective impact work of the Clare Rose Foundation, San Diego Creative Youth Development Network, and Center for Creative Youth Development. Katie also works directly with the National CYD Funders Forum to support philanthropic innovation and the advancement of trust-based and relationship-centered approaches to grantmaking. Katie graduated summa cum laude from UCSD in 2009 with a BA in Dance. Katie has completed continuing education coursework at the 92nd Street Y and UCSD Extension. She served on the Steering Committee of Rising Arts Leaders of San Diego from 2019-2021, holding the roles of Membership Co-Chair and Vice Chair.

**Katherine Powers; Duarte**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Katherine Powers, newly appointed Executive Director of Pacific Opera Project, most recently served as the founding Director of Vocal Arts at California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley, a non-profit charter school for the arts dedicated to providing a creative, challenging and nurturing environment to a diverse student body passionate about the arts. In her capacity as Vocal Arts Director, Katherine was responsible for overseeing all conservatory operations, including strategic planning, curriculum design, oversight of faculty and staff, event production, and fiscal management. In her six years as director, she forged a number of community partnerships with premier musical organizations in Los Angeles.

In addition to her arts leadership, Katherine was a seven-year member of the Voice Faculty at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and has also taught voice at Occidental College, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, California State University Los Angeles, and for the YoungArts Foundation.

**Kathy Fishkin; Long Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a CPA who has worked with nonprofits agencies for over 30 years as a cpa and as a board member. I have served with the Arts Council of Long Beach and graduate of Leadership Long Beach where we have a priority of serving all segments of our community.

**Kathleen Sheridan; Hollister**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I was the E.D. of the SBC Arts Commission for 7 years and served as a CAC grants panelist and as co-chair of the California Assembly of Local Art Agencies. Under my direction the Commission was hailed as a model rural arts agency offering a diverse array of programs, including Artists in the Schools and Open Studio. I then became E.D. of the Hollister Downtown Association, a Mainstreet program for downtown revitalization. Working with the State Mainstreet Program, I conducted board training and workplan retreats for cities and nonprofits, was an instructor at the Mainstreet Training Conference in Asilomar and a speaker at the League of California Cities Conference in San Francisco. I have been working as an artist and nonprofit consultant since 1997. Currently I serve on the Community Foundation board, volunteer with the SBC Arts Council and am completing my third children's book.

**Kathleen Thompson; Sebastopol**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Undergraduate and Graduate degree in Art, UCSB and SFAI respectively. Teacher at Berkeley Continuing Education, Montessori, professional exhibiting artist.

**Qathryn Brehm; Crestline**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been the executive director of the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk since 2012. A non-profit operating as an event to create place-making opportunities for artists to exhibit and share their work. Over the years we have created many career building skill programs.

I also serve on the board as secretary and past president of the International Association of Arts USA (IAAUSA, an NGO under the UNESCO. I was a founding member in 2017 and worked to bring the organization into the IAA/AIAP joining 60 other countries worldwide.

As an artist my most recent exhibit was in the Fine Arts Building in Los Angeles. Titled 'Story Tyme' the exhibit featured many of my recent work as well as some older pieces. I have been an artist all my life and worked professionally as a decorative and mural painter to the interior design trade for many years.

Semi-retired I continue my work with the Downtown Art Walk working with social media I also work with the Heaps Peak Arboretum in the San Bernardino National Forest as an archivist.

**Kat Crabbe; Temecula*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have founded four artist/writer groups in Temecula and currently manage a group on Facebook. I have self published five oracle decks offering healing guidance.

As a thirty year practicing creative I have participated in many ventures such as: gallery, museum and boutique art exhibits and art fairs. My work has been published in multiple magazines, zines and books. I have taught classes and led circles both online and in person incorporating my oracle decks, writing, song, healing guidance, body movement and art.

My speaking engagements have included podcast interviews, poetry readings and oracle/astrology readings. My artwork has been licensed on various products and I've worked with reps worldwide. I was a founding member of the Riverside Art Museum Printmakers Network and a member of Dorland Artist Colony (Temecula) and the Temecula Art League. I have a BA degree in Art History (Queen's University) and a Diploma in Graphic Design.

**Kathryn Sanwick; Sunnyvale*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have a BA from Whittier College in Music and an MA from San Jose State University in Music Systems. I previously worked for the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) in Mountain View for nine years, first as a private lesson coordinator and later as the registrar. I joined the Peninsula Women's Chorus as a singer in 2007 and became the general manager in 2021.

**Kathryn Schulmeister; Pasadena*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Hawai'i-born bassist Kathryn Schulmeister enjoys a creative musical practice ranging from classical to experimental. Currently based in Los Angeles, Kathryn is a member of several adventurous contemporary music ensembles including the renowned Australian ELISION Ensemble, Fonema Consort (NYC), and the Echoi Ensemble (LA). She also frequently performs as a guest with various international ensembles and has current engagements with the Delirium Musicum Chamber Orchestra, Experimentalstudio Freiburg, and the Iranshahr Orchestra. Kathryn has been featured as a soloist at venues and festivals around the world including the Los Angeles GRAMMY Museum, ECLAT Festival Neue Musik Stuttgart, San Diego Museum of Making Music, soundSCAPE Festival Italy, and the Vértice Festival Mexico City. Kathryn actively mentors and educates young musicians as a private teacher, double bass coach with the Pasadena Youth Symphony, and substitute teaching artist with the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles at Heart of Los Angeles. Kathryn works as an Administrative Associate with Create CA, a nonprofit dedicated to advocating for equitable access to high quality arts education for all K-12 students in California.

**Kat High; Topanga*****Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

I served as a peer reviewer for the 2022 year, and am program coordinator for Neshkinukat, a Native arts collective, and the founder, producer for Giveaway Songs Productions.

**Katy Wright; Fountain Valley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

As a free-range child of somewhat neglectful parents, often my written and visual arts were the only communications accepted by the "established" world. A witty and wordy underachiever for most of my life, I found myself writing a weekly column for a local newspaper (remember those?) entitled "From My Taxi." Looking back, it was a way to share the human condition from behind a windshield of disenfranchised drivers from every walk of life.

My writing currently appears in online journals (The Writing Disorder and Persimmon Tree), and my visual art is featured on utility boxes and on last year's Wyland Foundation "Streams of Hope" statuette program for Earth Day 2022.

**Kay Anderson; Lafayette*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I worked with special needs students in public schools, held leadership positions in K-12 charter schools in Oakland, planned and implemented programs with Assistant Superintendents in the SFUSD with the AIM program, and held leadership roles in several international post-secondary institutions. The common thread in all my positions is my drive to create equitable opportunities for historically marginalized students and communities. After several years in the ESL/ELD field, I worked at an elementary school in East Oakland with a Latinx Title I community. I also taught English to refugees through a program at Mills College. I became a Founding Principal at Oakland School for the Arts, where I dedicated my efforts to creating a middle and high school where under-resourced students perfected their art form. As Director of the SF Symphony's Adventures in Music program I helped bring music education free to every student every public elementary school in SF.

**Kay Tracy; Fairfield*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

In college, I majored in music with a minor in theatre. I chose to go to law school rather than pursue a fine arts' career. My work as a disability lawyer brings me in contact with people who are disabled and depressed. I have chosen to work with Trinity and Del Norte Counties (as well as San Francisco, Sacramento and Oakland). The disparity between opportunities available is glaring. I graduated from law school in 1985. I live in Vallejo. My office is in Fairfield. I started to participate in music with the Golden Gate Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in 2020. I take composition lessons from a well known & highly respected musician. I have participated in Music Therapy and have seen the difference it can make in people's lives.

**Kayla Dones; Fresno*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Highlighting the voices of community Activists throughout the central valley for the past ten years. Helping at risk youth by developing independent living skills curriculum to help prep them for adulthood. Active member in the Artist community for over ten years. Engaging the community through art installations, poetry, journalism and more.

**Kaylyn George; Lake Elsinore*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Kaylyn George is the founder and executive director of Hey Shorty, a Riverside-based nonprofit media and mentoring organization focused on introducing and educating young girls and gender-expansive youths aged 12-18 on the foundations of film production while providing academic tutoring, college counseling, and career planning. Hey Shorty provides teen girls and gender-expansive you with easily accessible resources and tools to create their short films in a safe space with their families and peers while making an impact in their community by using their voice to share what is important to them. Kaylyn George is also a self-taught filmmaker using her knowledge to provide youth with a multitude of skills and resources to easily access art in their community.

**Keith Nickolaus; Berkeley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I have always been interested in music, literature, and drama. I earned a BA in literature from UC Santa Cruz and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley which has afforded me broad exposure to many centuries of western culture, art, literature, philosophy, and history. I also worked for 16 years as a certificated California public school educator (single-subject teaching credential and CA administrative services credential), as a high school teacher (8 years) and as a middle school administrator (8 years). For caretaker reasons I retired early from K12 education and spent a couple years learning skills for digital content writing and for grant writing. Today I work as a freelance grant writer and work part-time and intermittently on emergency teaching contracts for BUSD, or as a substitute teacher or substitute principal. I also recently joined the Board of the Berkeley HS Development Group and participate in monthly panel reviews of grant applications for high school programming. I am also a member of the Grant Professionals Association and abide by high ethical standards as a professional grant writer. GPA encourages service on review panels.

**Keith Riedell; Sacramento*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Keith Riedell is the Managing Director at Capital Stage Company in Sacramento. He brings to Capital Stage his varied experiences in the theatre, management, team building, counseling, training and corporate improvement. He is always thrilled to find opportunities to combine his talents for helping organizations grow with his lifelong passion for the theatre. While overseeing the Capital Stage's finances Keith was able to establish significant operating reserves for the first time in the history of the theatre. In his role as Managing Director he is leading the effort to implement an 5 year strategic plan to grow Capital Stage as a nationally recognized theatre company and thought leader.

**Kelly Adams; Pomona*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

After completing my undergraduate degree I was unsure where to go next and I eventually came across an opportunity to work in a library. At the community college level I am able to have more one on one experience with students, staff and faculty of diverse backgrounds. I

come from 10 years of retail experience and visual arts runs in my family. I go to every gallery I come across, I create art myself, I strive to include art in all lessons or outreach I host.

**Kelly Hargraves; Bakersfield**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Kelly Hargraves is the current Executive/Artistic Director of Dance Camera West, after co-founding the festival in 2001. Kelly has a Masters in Dance Film from NYU (with a concentration in Dance and Film History), a BFA in Contemporary Dance from Concordia University and a BA in Communication Studies (with a Minor in Theater History) from the University of Windsor, Canada.

She danced in Montréal and New York and was a member of PoMo CoMo artist and scientist collective. Kelly has directed several dance films that are shown internationally and travelled as a guest lecturer, panel speaker and jury member throughout the world.

Hargraves has been a board member of the Silver Lake and a founder of the Downtown Los Angeles film festivals. Having worked for many U.S. indie film distributors such as First Run Features, Film Movement, Icarus Film, Kelly has represented a diversity of artists. She has also been a dance reviewer for Dance Insider, Ballet–Tanz International, Dance on Camera News, Danceonline.com, Campus Circle Magazine, Cover Magazine, and Dance Connection Magazine.

**Kelly Richardson; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I am a graduate of UC Berkeley (BA) and NYU (MFA), and also Berkeley High School! I have lived in California the majority of my life—Berkeley, San Francisco, and Santa Monica. Though I have also lived in Brazil for a few years while first performing trapeze in a Brazilian circus, and later directing and producing my Fulbright-funded documentary film, [withoutanetfilm.com](http://withoutanetfilm.com). I worked with California-based editors, musicians, sounds mixers, and other artists in post-production of the film and was awarded a San Francisco FilmHouse Residency, a Pacific Pioneer grant, two Berkeley Film Fund grants, a Fleishhacker Foundation grant, and other support, we mixed the film at Skywalker ranch, and the film screened in the Mill Valley Film Festival, SF DocFest, Santa Monica Film Festival, at UC Berkeley, SF State, Stanford, UCLA, and also in NYC, London, Paris, Buenos Aires, many other festivals and universities around the world.

**Kennifer Morris; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I have been a dancer/Choreographer/Mentor/Fundraiser in the field of Dance for the past 30+ years. My dance company Ken Morris Project has trained, mentored and provided performing opportunities to People of Color since its inception.

**Kent Brisby; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Worked more than 40 years creating theater, mostly original work, with more than a dozen producing organizations (more specifics below). Acting was the gateway, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK at 8, adding writing and directing in college. Moving to San Diego worked as a theater critic (3 newspapers, remember those?) to get oriented to the area and artists, then

hired to convert and co-produce the 49-seat Marquis Gallery Theater in 1980. Artistic Director for six or seven companies since then, including National Theater for Children in later 1980's which toured California and Midwest to more than one million school kids. Co-founded Asian Story Theater (AST) in 1990, leading 40 projects with that company since. Current projects illustrating current focus: writing with Moisés Vasquez the new musical REVOLUCIÓN (Mexican Revolution of 1910's) for TMM, writing with Yapese poet Lynnsey Sigrah a STONE MONEY musical about colonialism through the Pacific Islands during the 19th century for AST, and writing THE COFFEE PLAYS premiering May 2023 for SDBET and AST.

**Kevin Belcastro; Rocklin**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am semi-retired and a student at Sierra College where I have completed three Applied Art and Design Associate of Science Degrees: Digital Media, Illustration, and Film and Video Production.

While attending school I serve as a College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) Tutor Level 1. I tutor nearly all the courses in Applied Art and Design.

I also work as a teaching assistant at the YES Charter Academy where I support K-12 students with their art and design projects.

My personal projects include "Friendship Garden", which was selected to show at the 2022 Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City, and films submitted to the 2022 and 2023 Flash Film Festivals at Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture.

**Kevin Silva; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I'm born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. I've done youth work for the past 8 years. A lot of it is based with working with recently arrived migrant youth on teaching them Music, creating immigrant youth justice programs, pottery, and cultural preservation through an indigenous lens.

I have coordinated events alongside youth. Events such as Dia de Los Muertos, Coming out of the Shadows, MesoAmerican pottery painting and making, Mayan language preservation, and College Access support. Alongside with other school staff and students I helped build a Dream Resource Center at Miguel Contreras Learning Center that has helped youth with resources and art activities. I also supported youth in the community radio station where I cohost a show. I supported them in how to do sound engineering and host a radio show.

**Kevin Johnson-Sather; Inglewood**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Kevin Johnson-Sather is an arts administration professional and theater artist. Currently, Kevin serves as the Audience Services Manager at East West Players leading equitable ticketing initiatives and stewarding the operational growth of this historic organization. Kevin holds a dual MBA/MFA in Theatre Management from California State University Long Beach and has worked in management positions at Center Theatre Group, the Echo Theatre Company, and Timber Lake Playhouse.

**Khush Dastur; Sacramento*****Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Khush was trained in Bharatanatyam under the guidance of Gurus Medha Yodh and Viji Prakash. As a company dancer in Shakti Dance Company, Khush had the opportunity to learn from Bharatanatyam Masters Bragha Bessell and CV Chandrashekhar. While participating in the UCD Apsaras, Khush fell into teaching Bharatanatyam in Davis. This led to opening Momentum Dance and Fitness (currently operating under Marlaina Spivey as “Mirror Image”). Currently, Khush teaches movement from Thrive Movement Arts and is developing a curriculum for fusion-focused dancers.

**Kidogo Kennedy; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Dr. Kidogo A. Kennedy is the Director, Early Entrance Program (DEEP) at California State University, Los Angeles. Kidogo (Key-doe-go) is a native Angelino and alumna of CSULA earning both a baccalaureate and masters in communication before completing her doctorate in educational leadership at the University of Southern California. As alumna of the university she is devoted to this campus community and is beneficiary of belonging. While a student, she was also a single mother raising a gifted artist, who is now a flourishing sculptor and painter. She has been an advocate for the integration of arts (visual) and academics (literary) for over 20 years. As founder/CEO of The Kennedy Approach, she utilizes her expertise to support young artists strengthen academic motivation; she assists corporate/educational professionals deepen their awareness of matters related to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA).

**Kiera Anderson; Sacramento*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Kiera Anderson is an actor, choreographer, director, teaching artist and arts education advocate. Kiera graduated from New York University in 2002 with a BFA in Theatre, where she also taught yoga for actors at Tisch School of the Arts/CAP21. Kiera spent 10 years as a professional actor, working off-Broadway, in New York, and regional theatres across the country (member, Actors Equity Association). She has always been passionate about access to arts education, and has taught workshops and classes for young people since 2002. As Director of Community Outreach and Operations for the DEA Educational Foundation, Kiera was honored to help thousands of students receive access to dance education and other youth classes through the DEAEF Youth Programs. Kiera holds a M.Ed. in Drama in Education through University of Dublin, Trinity College and is currently pursuing an Ed.D in Educational Leadership and Innovation at New York University.

**Kiernan Graves; Santa Paula*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Kiernan Graves is an art conservator in private practice who graduated from the Courtauld Institute of Art with a Masters in the Conservation of Wall Painting. Her specializations are modern frescos and exterior community based murals. She spent the first part of her career working on UNESCO World Heritage sites in Asia and Europe. In the US, her professional collaborations have included MoMA, SFMOMA, the Getty Conservation Institute and Los

Angeles County Civic Arts. Currently, she is dividing her time between the rooftops of SF and streets of LA working on three public artworks and is the owner of Site & Studio Conservation.

**Kihan Park; Buena Park**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Flight instructor at California Baptist University. FAA Airline Transport Pilot with EMB-145 type rating, Certified Flight Instructor; Instrument & Multi Airplane, Bachelor of Economics, and International Trade. Served Korean Army for 10 years as an officer.

Working for Daroo Korean Performing Arts and Culture (Non-profit organization) for 9 years as COO and CFO.

**Kym Cochran; Santa Barbara**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I've been a practicing artist creating exhibits for 20+ years. Specializing in theme parks, zoos, aquariums and immersive installations, my repertoire consists of projection and light art; designing, sculpting and painting natural environments such as waterfalls, trees, rocks, and other props. Notable projects such as CarsLand, Star Wars (CA) and Harry Potter (FL). I was a recruited lead paint specialist for a theme park in Pereira, Colombia. I've served on grant panels for City of Santa Barbara, Center for Creative Innovation, Development Panelist for CA Creative Corps Central Coast Region; Artist RFQ development subcommittee for City Plaza; Selected muralist for Santa Maria City Hall Mural; and am civically engaged.

Being an adopted asian in a predominately white and black neighborhood introduced me to the experience of racism. Having joined a performance group at an early age allowed me the education of traveling throughout the US and Western Europe staying with host families and actually immersed in other cultures not to mention performance experience.

My nonprofit and volunteer experience is an added benefit and leveling UP the playing field is my guiding star.

**Ifamodupe Edington; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Most recently, I have been a teaching artist on the roster with the City of Sacramento. I was on the first Sacramento Slam Team to compete nationally and two of the subsequent teams. A founding member of the Mahogany Poetry Series and Supercaliflowlinguistics, both performance poetry collectives working in Sacramento and throughout the state. I represented Images Theatre Company in the community of practice for Arts organizations through the Sacramento County Office of Education. And I have been performing as a singer/songwriter, composer, actress, and poet for over 20 years, primarily in California.

**Khimberly Marshall; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Khimberly Marshall has 18 years combined experience in both Theater and Film production having written, directed and produced national commercials spots, short films and regional theater productions. She has won numerous awards for art and literature. Khimberly has also worked for major clients such as the California Music Theater, Sacramento Ballet, Sacramento

Area Theater Alliance, Theater El Dorado Board, Celebration Arts, El Teatro Espejo, and the Creative Arts League of Sacramento. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Management with a second Bachelor's degree in Film from The Art Institute of California. Previously engaged at the Crocker Art Museum as an Art Corp Fellow, she was embedded in the Block by Block Initiative, creating social practice art in underrepresented communities.

She is the Artistic Director of The MacBeth Project designed to provide Shakespearean experiences to communities of color. Khimberly finds her most rewarding work in providing support to people and organizations that foster community.

**Kirsten Wiest; Skyforest**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Dr. Kirsten Ashley Wiest is a classically-trained coloratura soprano dedicated to advancement in the arts. She teaches music at institutions primarily serving first-generation, diverse, and low income students. As a performer and concert planner, she advocates for living composers. Dr. Wiest holds a DMA in Contemporary Music Performance from UC San Diego, and serves as a board member for the Southern California Philharmonic.

**Kirti Bassendine; Paicines**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Kirti Fatania-Bassendine is a fine art photographer with a BA Honors in Fine Art Photography from England. Her work weaves together still photography and videography to tell cultural and Social Justice stories. she has always been intrigued by human relationships, how they interweave with different social and cultural contexts – especially one's sense of identity and belonging within one's culture.

She was a featured artist 'Beacon of Light' Ceremony' for creative contributions by Santa Clara Immigration's Relations Department. Kirti was also the selected visual artist invited to at the State Capital in Sacramento 'California for Arts Advocacy Day' for its positive impact of Homeless Voices on social issues and the arts in April 2019. her current works "Contemporary Indigenous Voices of the South Coast Range" Photographing and Documenting 10 Ohlone tribes, exhibitions at De Young Museum in SF from October 2023 to Jan 2024 and Santa Cruz Museum in August 2023.

**Kitsaun King; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am the daughter of a musician and have been around the arts from the day I was born. I spent 25+ years working in the music industry in artist management, merchandise, public relations, and art direction. After retiring from my career in music/entertainment I started volunteering with the museum and that volunteering has turned into a 13 year second career as a museum professional. During my time working at the museum I have worked almost entirely in the development department where I have worn many hats, membership manager, grant writer, events coordinator and now Development Manager. During my time here I have learned the importance of funding for non-profit arts organizations, have written grants that were funded and grants that were not. I have learned much about the grant process and would love to add my perspective to CAC.

**KT Leuterio; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

KT joined P.S. ARTS in August 2016 as the Program Coordinator for Extended Learning, providing administrative and logistical support for the Inside Out Community Arts Program. Currently, she is a Program Manager for the Classroom Studio program, working with Lynwood USD, LAUSD, and Reef-Sunset USD. Prior to P.S. ARTS, she managed the Student Matinee Program at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, and worked with several schools in LA County to provide K-12 theatre education and after-school programming. KT aims to provide equitable avenues for creativity and expression and enjoys working and collaborating with artists of all disciplines and ages.

KT holds a B.A. in Film Studies and Media Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and was recently accepted into the Master of Public Administration Program at Cal-State Northridge. She is a first-generation Filipino-American and was born and raised in Los Angeles County.

**Kristen Madsen; Santa Rosa*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Kristen Madsen is a veteran of the music and arts industries, currently serving as Director of Creative Sonoma, a county agency advancing the creative community of Sonoma County (and the SLP to the CAC). Previously, she was Senior Vice President of the GRAMMY Foundation and MusiCares, both of which were named to the “50 Best Nonprofits to Work For” by the Nonprofit Times during her tenure. She began her career in the arts management field at the Repertory Dance Theatre, and later the Utah Arts Council. Madsen has served on the Board of Directors of national nonprofits including the Smithsonian Institution’s National Recording Preservation Board, The Actors Fund, and Grantmakers in the Arts.

**Kristen Gundlach; San Francisco*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an RN working in underserved, non-white communities. I’ve been an Art teacher at Chris Babcock Art school, worked with Artivate! and am an IDO mentor, bringing artistic practice and process into under-represented spaces. I also teach students who identify as Dyslexic through a highly artistic and kinetic teaching method called “Slingerland.”

**Kris Rosa; Davis*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I grew up in Watsonville, CA. Raised by a single mom with two kids. I’ve been making art my whole life self taught until 2010 when I went to college of the Redwoods in Eureka, CA. I could only stay for a year because I had no money and could no longer afford rent nor find a job up there. I still make art to this day. I’ve been in international shows such as “the Murray affair” in San Francisco and solo shows through the US. I now paint for Wide Open Walls doing murals in the community of Tahoe Park at schools.

**Kiva Hewett; Long Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Kiva Siani (the artist formally known as Sheila Starr) secured her place as an icon in the L.A. Burlesque scene by winning the title as the first Miss Hollywood Burlesque in 2013.

Her dancing roots go back to the quintessential ballet and jazz of her childhood, but as an adult, she dove head first into ethnic dances like Polynesian, Samba, East African. She paid her rent, fed her child, and put herself thru school as a striptease artist. At 18, she auditioned at the local nudie bar, was hired on the spot and the rest is history. At 44, she has been a striptease artist for over 25 years. She's worked all over the world featuring in nightclubs, theaters, and universities.

She is known for her slow-burn, grace, intense hip movements, and the raw, vulnerable sensuality she oozes all over the stage, leaving audiences drooling.

**Laird Archer; San Francisco*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have lived in San Francisco for the past 30 years, during which time I have been involved in music and event production as a DJ, organizer, promoter, and creative director. Since the moment of my arrival in 1990, I have worked special events ranging from underground parties to Burning Man's "Decompression" and "Precompression (their street fairs in San Francisco), the Black and White Ball to Coachella.

**Lamar Anderson; Pasadena*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

LaMar Anderson, a creative-entrepreneur who functions in several mediums of creative expression such as photography, film-making, teaching artist, imaging consultant & publisher for Axum Creative. LaMar founded Axum Creative as a means to harness the power of visual arts to advocate for positive reflection of African people and culture. His projects reflect positivity in humanity and continue to highlight and celebrate beauty within people and places around the world.

**Larissa Nickel; Lancaster*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Larissa Nickel brings experience in arts and cultural research, public administration, strategic planning, advocacy, and community outreach and engagement as a professional museum administrator, educator, designer, and artist. She holds degrees in the humanities and studio art, and currently provides knowledge sharing and mentoring to students as a college educator. An exhibiting artist and freelance designer, she has founded grant funded cultural arts initiatives, and published essays, catalogues, new media, and scholarly articles in peer reviewed journals. Nickel has directed contemporary and historical exhibitions, programs, and operations for museums and college art galleries, and explored new forms of museums and experiences through community participation including mobile interactions at the Smithsonian Institution.

**Larry Laboe; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Larry Laboe is Co-Founder and Executive Director of NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA), an organization championing filmmakers and storytellers worldwide. Larry is a member of the Producers Guild of America, Arts for LA and SAG-AFTRA and has been a Faculty Member at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) and L Art University. He is a Board Member of the BRIC Foundation and Film Festival Alliance (FFA) and is a Committee Member of SAGindie. Larry has produced content directed by talent such as Joseph Gordon Levitt, for some of the world's leading brands, networks and studios, including Disney, NBC, VEVO, Dailymotion, MTV, DEFY Media, Comedy Central, Verizon, Amazon, Complex Media, Mountain Dew, Samsung, Coca-Cola, Verizon and Smuckers. These productions have been official selections at top festivals including South by Southwest (SXSW) and have won major awards including a BANFF World Media Festival Rockie Award.

**L Holley; San Pablo*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I've spent over 15 years perfecting my skill at design, especially hand-pulled prints. Designer and publisher native to the Bay. Apprenticed and studied MEng for years then mid-level switched gears. BA in VisComm from the University of San Diego, where trained in multiple structures of art. I take additional joy in curating narratives in publishing form. Use of black is quite intentional in my artwork. I like that the color represents layers of positive references (+neg). I lean into both. Industrial themes anchor my technique.

**Laura Fisher; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I earned a BFA in Painting & Drawing from The Stamps School of Art & Design at University of Michigan. I create abstract landscapes in oil paint, taking advantage of the medium's qualities to create subtle color palettes and exploring how the geometries of urban and rural landscapes fit together harmoniously. I have had several solo shows in Los Angeles and have shown works in group shows in Los Angeles, New Mexico, Chicago, and Portland. As a working and self-employed artist for more than 20 years, I have experience with the business side of an artistic practice, including accounting, planning, and marketing. I have also belonged to artist collectives, and have an understanding of both the challenges and the joys of working together with a group of creative-minded individuals.

**Laura Williams; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

After ten years teaching music and theatre in San Diego Unified to grades K-12, Laura Williams moved to the VAPA Department as the Choral and General Music Resource Teacher. There she designs curriculum, provides professional learning, supports and coaches teachers, organizes events, and collaborates regularly with a variety of local arts and music organizations. In 2019, she also joined the faculty of San Diego State University, teaching the methods courses for music education credential students. Ms. Williams served on the board of the Southern Border Section of California Music Educators Association (CMEA) for nearly a decade and has also held board positions and consulted to other arts and non-arts organizations and foundations. In

2021, she was an instructional materials reviewer for the California Department of Education's arts education materials adoption. In her spare time, Ms. Williams continues to be an active pianist/accompanist in the community.

**Laureen O'Hara Abeyta; South Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Laureen is a development and marketing professional who has focused on capacity building for non-profits for over 15 years due to the great passion she has for proactive community engagement. Her experience ranges from organizations that focus on health, social services, and the arts: most notably, SFMOMA, SF Arts Commission Gallery, Special Olympics, YWCA Greater Los Angeles, Peace Over Violence, and Wellnest. Her methodology remains consistent; to sustain the successful programming and operations of nonprofits, one must create meaningful impact for all by continuously advocating and communicating: build bridges, create understanding, and develop strategic relationships.

Laureen received BA's in both Politics & Society and Art History from UC Irvine and a MA from Golden Gate University in Non-profit Arts Management. She has received certification from the Smithsonian Institution, Center for Latino Initiatives: Interpreting Latino Cultures/Research and Museums, and the CA Lawyers for the Arts Mediation & Arts Resolution. Laureen recently completed certificates for: Bystander Intervention Conflict De-Escalation, Planned Giving, and Leadership for an Increasingly Diverse World.

**Lauren Deutsch; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Past grants panelist for Los Angeles City/County arts/cultural agencies; current grants consultant to statewide (arts/environment/LGBTQ+/agriculture) NPOs; past recipient CAC and CA Humanities Council grants; past publicity director 1990 LA Festival; current LACMA gallery educator docent; past VP PBS SoCal/KCET Community Advisory Board; periodic County Election Worker; past board member and senior staff several community foundations in CA; licensed instructor of Japanese Tea Ceremony.

**Lauren Frankel; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Lauren Frankel is Research Lead and Special Projects Manager at AMS. She has a deep commitment to using data and analytics to better understand and support arts ecosystems and a passion for new music. Prior to joining AMS, she was Senior Manager of Evaluation and Impact at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, designing and implementing data collection methods, metrics, and research strategies across departments to aid in program development and evaluation. Before that, she worked in development for the Kronos Quartet/Kronos Performing Arts Association.

Lauren holds a BMus from Rice University and a PhD in music history from Yale University, where she completed a dissertation on institutional support for contemporary composition in Finland. She is currently based in San Francisco and her instruments include piano, voice, and chromatic button accordion.

**Lauren Martin-Zumaeta; Sylmar**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am a theater and film professional with a performance background, whose production and development experience have contributed to the success and growth of businesses ranging from start-up commercial production companies and studio films to arts nonprofits. After successfully pivoting toward a financial role, I have enriched my understanding of entertainment business and its importance to the viability of artistic innovation.

I am passionate about art and entertainment as a social prescription for well-being and creative expression, and I am interested in bridging the gap between commercial media and arts nonprofits in order to promote artful, inspiring stories that reflect the human experience and challenge the status quo.

**Lauren Godla; Gasquet**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Lauren Godla is a dance artist, director and educator based out of Gasquet, CA. She graduated with a BA in Exercise Biology and a Minor in Dance from UC Davis in 2012 and spent the better part of the following decade living and working in the Bay Area. She co-directed and performed for FloorPlay Dance Comedy, choreographed for Theater Bay Area award winning productions, and toured and performed nationally with BANDALOOOP during her time in the Bay. Currently she is directing an Art Adventure Organization called DiRT & GLITTER, which is a DreamMaker Project of the Ink People for the Arts and is teaching Dance and Yoga with the Tolowa Tribe. Her work aims to inspire connections, honor the body as part of our living planet, and explore our inner and outer wilderness. Learn more about her and her work on instagram

**Laurette Garner; Costa Mesa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Laurette Garner currently works as the Arts Specialist for the City of Costa Mesa and had previously worked for the City of Carlsbad as an Arts Education Manager. She has worked as a Grant Administrator for the Community Arts Partnership at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia and before that as the Arts Education Program Manager at Lane Arts Council in Eugene, Oregon. She earned a MA in Arts Management and a certificate in New Media and Culture from the University of Oregon, a BA in Art History/Museum Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a BA in English Literature from San Francisco State University. Laurette grew up with art in her life; taking ballet classes and enjoying the visual arts and ceramics in school. She is especially passionate about art in schools and believes that all students should grow up with art in their lives like she did.

**Laurie Livingston; Sonora**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Growing up in Los Angeles stimulated my imagination and fed my early interest in the arts. My mother, an educator, recognized this interest and encouraged me to become an artist.

After College, I returned to Los Angeles, and worked many tech jobs in the film and design industries. I also worked at numerous museums as a preparator. My most rewarding stint was

at the Southwest Indian Museum in Pasadena, where I was immersed in their extensive indigenous collections.

I received my undergraduate degree in printmaking and painting from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I finished my masters in animation at Mississippi State University, and then received my B.S. in Architecture, focusing on 3D rendering.

I moved to the foothills from Southern California in 2011. After serving on TCA's board, I was hired as an independent contractor serving as a designer for TCA's website, marketing collateral, social media and newsletter. I was also involved in developing and curating many well attended gallery shows while at TCA before and after becoming Executive Director in early 2020. I hope to be a part of revitalizing my rural community through the arts.

**Lawrence Silveira; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Lawrence Silveira is a mid-career development professional with approximately six years' experience in nonprofit fundraising. Currently serving as the Development Manager at the Los Angeles-based Writers Guild Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that preserves and promotes the history and craft of writing for the screen, Lawrence oversees fundraising efforts like WGF's annual appeal and grant-writing and assists with other organization-wide efforts like reviewing applications for WGF community programs. Lawrence has applied for and received multiple grants, including funding from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture that supports WGF's archive internships and operational costs. Having earned a B.A. in Creative Writing from Columbia College Chicago, Lawrence has a demonstrated history in writing, film and television, and the arts community.

**Laysha Ostrow; Morro Bay**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I am a writer and entrepreneur working to reclaim lived experience narratives. I live on the Central Coast of California where I write fiction, creative nonfiction, and research articles. My creative writing has been published in STORGY and Idle Ink. I have over thirty published academic articles and book chapters, and my work has been covered by the LA Times, NY Times, Huffington Post, CNN, Psychology Today.

In 2021, I was selected as a mentee for the Association of Writers & Writing Programs' Writer-to-Writer program and I am a certified small business mentor through the SCORE program. I hold a PhD from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's degree from Brandeis University, and have served on federal and foundation grant review panels.

**Leah Hubbard; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Leah Hubbard works as an urban planner and policy expert at Estolano Advisors, a consulting firm based in Los Angeles. Leah often works at the intersection of community development and environmental justice - considering equitable and sustainable cultural placemaking and placekeeping. She also specializes in workforce development and quality jobs programs and initiatives, and has previously worked in the non-profit, public, and philanthropic fields. Leah is

also a long-time Mentor and Teaching Artist with Las Fotos Project, a nonprofit that inspires teenage girls and gender-expansive youth through photography, mentorship, and self-expression. She teaches the Digital Promotoras class focused on documentary photography and community storytelling. Leah received her B.A. in Vocal Performance and Sociology from Loyola Marymount University, and her Master's of Public Administration from the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. She is a 2022 American Council on Germany McCloy Fellow.

### **Yael Levy; El Cerrito**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Leah Yael Levy is my full name, I prefer that you call me Yael. I am a mixed media artist, storyteller, printmaker and art teacher based in Berkeley, CA. I draw, paint, collage and write. I often self publish my work, and sometimes print and bind it by hand. I love playing with forms and format and mixing digital and tactile techniques.

Born and raised in Israel, I first moved to New York City in 2002 to attend the Art Students League of New York, later I completed a BFA of Illustration from Parsons (2011). After four years with The Unemployed Philosophers Guild, I moved to California to pursue an MFA in Comics at California College of the Arts (2017). In recent years I've been a Teaching Artist with Kala Art Institute, Richmond Art Center and JCC of the East Bay, Junior Center for Arts and Science, California College of the Arts and recently SFUSD. My work has been published by The Nib (2018), Birdy Magazine (2019), Forward Comix (2017 & 2020) and The Baylies (2021).

### **Lenore Naxon; San Francisco**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I moved to SF to work at the SF Opera in 1977 and since that time have worked in both large and small arts organizations as a presenter, producer, fund developer, marketer and systems designer. Currently a coach/consultant at Intersection for the Arts, I am a problem solver serving small arts organizations and independent artists (performing, visual and literary), giving them the tools to succeed.

### **Leopold Soares; West Hollywood**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Singer, composer, dancer, actor and voice actor, Leopold Nunan, also known as Leo From Rio. He released his first single in his career at the age of 19 in Rio, with the release of "I've Got it", by Utter Records, by Andre Gismonti .

Other musical releases were "Ballin' in Beverly Hills" a treatise on ostentation with the New York based drag queen Pietra Parker. "Banzé", with the Australian record label "Wile Out" and Xingu leader Anuiá Amary, "Feeling like myself again", with a clip recorded in Rio with the participation of Leo's Drag Mother, the icon Lorna Washington. The fun video "Multiple Personality" where he changed his looks 47 times in the video. Then there is "Got to be strong", and the funk "Bate Bum Bum", with a video recorded in Los Angeles.

As a young teen while still in Brazil, he started a career in modern ballet, starred in plays awarded with the prestigious Sharp and Coca Cola Theater Prize. Leopold has sung with Lady Miss Kier of Deee Lite, Chaka Khan and Sheila E at the iconic Long Beach Gay Pride.

**Leticia Soto Flores; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

I hold a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from UCLA (2015) and was the founding director of a mariachi music school in Mexico City. At ACTA, I work towards helping to sustain the traditions and living cultures across California.

**Lew Osteen; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Multiple-award winning screenwriter. Award winning writer and poet. Published and produced playwright.

**Leyla Akgedik; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been personally involved with drawing, painting, and crafting ever since I could hold scissors and a pencil. In high school, I took courses such as Introduction to Digital Arts and AP 2D Studio Art to improve my visual arts skills. I have worked as an intern at Nevada Help Desk under the sponsorship of Zappos as a website designer, where I received certifications in HTML and CSS and built over a dozen websites for our clients. I now study at USC as a fine arts in art major, but was previously in the architecture program. In the meantime, I have been part of the Silversage Foundation and the Anatolian Cultural Centers in California as a youth volunteer. Within these organizations, I have promoted artistic events, with the most exciting one being the Ramadan for Me festival, where children from K-12 prepare projects within the categories of video and film, 2D, 3D, stage performance, and social responsibility to reflect on what Ramadan means for them.

**Lihong Zhang; Cupertino**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am the Executive Director of Chinese Performing Arts of America (CPAA), a non profit organization established in 1991. Our mission is to promote the arts and culture of Chinese and other communities of color through performing arts presentations, arts learning, and community-building services at our CPAA Arts Center and various venues throughout the Bay Area.

Prior to that, I had a career in software management, with leadership roles at Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Symantec. Lihong also had leadership roles at various local Parent Teacher Associations (PTA). Lihong has a BS and MS in computer science. She loves traveling, cooking and dancing.

**Lillian Barnes; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have worked in many capacities in diverse non profits, mostly as a fundraiser, events manager, grant writer, accountant, graphic designer, consultant. I have been a director, and a go-fer

staffer when the help is needed. I have worked with art education agencies, art and history museums, environmental and conservation non profits, and health and human services agencies. I have a certificate in non profit management from the Lily School of Philanthropy. I have worked as a forensic accountant for non profits who have experienced financial "trouble" and trying to figure it out. I set up the grants writing capacity for Spanish Village Art Center and other non profits in art education. I currently sit on two environment conservation/preservation boards: Audubon Conservation Committee and Los Penasquitos Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee, where with both I am engaged and active in many capacities. I am semi retired and usually help out when an art agency or art museum or environmental non profit calls and asks for help with one thing or another. Too many things to mention here.

**Linda Abbott Trapp; Arroyo Grande**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

A retired educator, counselor, and trainer, I am currently active in the visual arts and writing. I hold a PhD in Education (International counseling specialization), and have worked at several universities as both faculty and dean and as a management consultant. Independently, I have written seven books and been included in more than 40 art shows, most in California.

**Linda Diec; Santa Monica**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Linda Diec is a professional arts administrator and practicing interdisciplinary artist. She has experience managing several arts studio communities and has served on several non-profit art boards in Ohio. Her extensive experience in museums include the Wexner Center for the Arts, The Works, MOCA - LA and currently, the Getty Research Institute. She is a professionally trained crafts person focusing in glass blowing as well as offhand fabrication techniques. As a first-generation American, born to refugees, she is interested in the confluence of traditional, digital, spatial and cultural differences. Linda currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

**Linda Horner; Valley Village**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Linda Horner worked in the Entertainment Industry for fifteen years as a film producer and studio executive.

The past three decades, she has worked in the nonprofit sector, including with Streetlights Production Training Program that trains and finds employment in the entertainment industry for young men and women of color. During her ten years with Streetlights, she worked as an Instructor, Job Developer and Outreach Coordinator, also holding various administrative positions and finishing her tenure as Senior Program and Development Director.

Following that, she served as the Executive Director of L.A.C.E.R. Afterschool Programs, overseeing the strategic vision, fund development and day-to-day operations of the agency, including oversight of the award-winning visual and performing Arts program.

Since leaving LACER, Linda has worked as a program, development and/or administrative consultant for numerous Arts and Education organizations, including the Hollywood Arts Council, City Hearts: Kids Say Yes to the Arts, and Rosies Foundation.

**Linda Lee; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Qualifications: B.F.A., M.S., a lifelong commitment to benefit our global community, and an intense 17-year focus on performing arts administration.

**Linda Steele; El Cerrito**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Linda Steele II is an improvisational dance artist/educator, choreographer, and dance/language researcher, formally trained at Marin Ballet and Marin School of the Arts before receiving her BFA from Dominican University of CA, where she also studied Art History. As a performing artist, she has performed original works by Alonzo King, Drew Jacoby, Sidra Bell, Katie Faulkner, and Dazaun Soleyn, in addition to performing with tinypistol, Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble, Urban Jazz Dance Company, Capacitor, Mud Water Theater, among others.

Linda has presented her work at nationally and abroad at Champs Meliséy in Burgundy, France. She has studied/choreographed dance films with MADE in France, Inside Out Contemporary Ballet, and Oakland Ballet, and performed internationally with UJDC, Anandha Ray, and Corina Kinnear. Linda's research work focuses on honoring how we use our moving, dancing bodies to communicate. She is honored to have collaborated with amazing artists. Her journey continues.

**Lindsey Kunisaki; Alhambra**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Lindsey Tomiko Kunisaki (she/her) is a Los Angeles County-based researcher, evaluator, and cultural organizer with 12 years of experience in arts education and nonprofit management. Her work prioritizes cultural sustainability, educational equity, and lifelong creativity development. Since 2010, she has been producing and collaborating with arts and academic programs in schools, communities and other local and international entities (including UNESCO, national non-profits, museums, and local governments, among others). Most recently, she co-founded the Nikkei Music Reclamation Project—a multigenerational culturally sustaining mentorship program—with support from Sustainable Little Tokyo and the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center. She currently works as the Research & Evaluation Specialist with the UCLA Visual and Performing Arts Education (VAPAE) program and is a PhD student at Claremont Graduate University, where she specializes in quantitative and qualitative research methods. Previously, she earned her master's degree at Harvard University and bachelor's degree at UCLA.

**Lior Ayalon; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Lior Ray Ayalon (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Berkeley, CA. In 2016, they graduated with honors from UC Santa Cruz with a B.A. in film and digital media. From 2015 to 2016, they served as treasurer for the Porter Student Senate and oversaw the review process for the Creative & Innovative (C&I) Project Grants. In 2020, they became a

founding member of the transgender art collective, The Spooky Haus. Beginning in 2022, they conceived and organized an annual gathering for queer artists titled Art Jam. In 2023, in order to expand their community building and outreach efforts, The Spooky Haus became a fiscally sponsored project of Rock Paper Scissors Collective. Their artwork is tactile, whimsical, and vibrant. In addition to their artistic practice, they are a childcare provider, a member of a co-operative home, a cat parent, and a Taurus.

**Eliza Eberhardt; Stockton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

My name is Eliza Diana and I am a Stockton resident both born and raised. I have worked for non-profits for the last 7 years and specifically within the art world for the last 3-4 years. I have become a leader and lighthouse in my community by connecting people to resources and building sustainable community relationships that survive pandemics, economic droughts, and shifts in local power structures. I organized the after school program and created a zine distribution system at Tuleburg Press as well as collaborated on multiple mutual aid benefits and community forum projects with Hatch Workshop. I believe in equitable resources for everyone and think I could serve as a wonderful candidate for this panel.

**Lisa Stromsoe; Templeton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My husband is a "national treasure", a master in silversmithing - google the last name. However, my strength is within the community of artisans from all cultures and generations - American handcrafts. Textiles, wood ...every medium.

**Liyu Xue; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Liyu, an LA-based artist, seamlessly blends art, culture, and technology. As the founder of STAAY, he creates unique spaces using ritualistic expressions and sensory encounters, collaborating with clients like Square, QuickBooks, and Breakthrough Energy.

Contributing to waterfront development, Liyu's projects include Barge City Brooklyn Gowanus Canal, Milan Navigli Canal Reopen, and Budva Waterfront Development, activating public spaces with art and play for vibrant communities.

In the mixed reality art realm, Liyu led public art projects like Old Town Newhall Cloud Art and 21.X River Miles in LA Arts District, reconnecting local communities to urban environments and nature through poetic storytelling.

As an advocate for inclusivity, Liyu supports and creates LGBTQ+ and Asian-focused art and performance, highlighting diverse voices and experiences. Liyu's extensive artistic and cultural expertise drives innovation and transcends boundaries.

**Liza Krassner; Irvine**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am an administrator of Public Health at UC Irvine. When I am not serving at the university, I volunteer with arts organizations and the Regional Center of OC with supports the over 25K individuals and families living with intellectual disabilities. Current and Ongoing projects: 1)

Advisory member, volunteer and donor with KJAZZ 88.1FM. Most recent project involved co-sponsoring a mini concert project in South LA; 2) Past board member of the Irvine Barclay Theatre and currently co-sponsoring their annual sensory friendly (abridged) Nutcracker in partnership with the Festival Ballet and Philharmonic Society Volunteers; 3) Previously worked with and co-produced special needs student short film projects (workforce development project with Inclusion Film) that they may have exposure with the entertainment industry.

**Lori Lipsman; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Since earning an MFA degree from CCAC in 1983, I have financially supported my art with different jobs, including co-owner of a construction company, interior designer, and visual merchandiser. These fed and informed my curiosity and education in architecture, design, and art. Architecture, design, art, artist, family, friends, and spending time outside are what influences me.

The climate crisis and art as commerce have been the catalyst for the free art Project, and since 2012 I have been giving works away for free. This practice opens space for new ideas, influences, and inspirations while making art accessible for many.

**Lori Nozick; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Lori Nozick was born in the northeast US, and lived in New York for 25 years. She lived in Miami Beach and had a studio in the Fountainhead Program for eleven years: she has recently relocated to Los Angeles, CA.

Ms. Nozick holds a BFA from Philadelphia College of Art, and an MFA from Pratt Institute. The artist has exhibited her work in galleries and museums, done site-specific installations, been awarded public art commissions, and has received international, national, state, and foundation grants and fellowships for her work, including the Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant, NYFA Rauchenberg Artist Grant, USAArtists, and others.

Recently completed is a premier public art commission at the new Monroe County Courthouse in Islamorada FL. The artist was commissioned by the Monroe County Cultural Commission and KeysArts Arts In Public Places Program. The 4 patinated steel panels are wall hung and 85" x 45".

The artist was invited to the residency, "Proyecto En Sitio 2nd Edition", November 2018 at La Coyotera Taller Estudio, Umequaro, Michoacan State, Mexico, creating "Masts and Anchors", a site-specific sculpture/earthworks with all local natural materials.

**Lorraine Weglarz; Santa Rosa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I've been an exhibiting artist for the 35+ yrs. In my years living in Marin County I worked as a Gallery Assistant at the Falkirk cultural center in selecting artists for exhibition and putting up exhibits. Since that time I've exhibited as a photographer, painter & now identify myself primarily as an Installation artist. I've received 3 separate Pollock Krasner Grants for my work. I would see my varied experience in media as an asset to your selection process of grantees.

**Louise Pryor; Rough And Ready*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been working with acrylic paints for over 20 years, painting portraits, still life and murals. I have also taught art classes to students in grades 2-8, as well as teaching painting classes to adults. I have worked at a small, private school for the last 15 years, beginning as the secretary, and being regularly promoted, until 2022, when I became the Vice Principal. I was the webmaster for the Pioneer Arts Club, in Nevada County, for 10 years, until they disbanded. I have shown my work in local businesses, and sold my art both locally and internationally.

**Louise Reichlin; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Director-Choreographer-Administrator, began professional career in NY performing in concerts & on Broadway, performing and choreographing throughout USA with her work also seen in 6 countries. Since 1972 has worked extensively from her LA base, founding LOS ANGELES CHOREOGRAPHERS & DANCERS, the non-profit base of Louise Reichlin & Dancers, in 1979, taught "Movement Training For Musicians/Actors" 30 years /USC, comfortable with all genres. Many of her concert works include multimedia. Works include The Tennis Dances, Urban and Tribal Dances, The Patchwork Girl of Oz, Dream Scapes and Tap Dance Widows Club, a 50' video & live multimedia work from "The Baggage Project, Invasion, Reboot! Reboot! and the site specific AI's House, just some of her 100 works. She & her company have received many superb reviews and multiple grants from LA County Arts Dept Art & Culture and DCA/LA, an ARC grant from the CCI and the Creative Capacity Fund. Was an NPN artist, Won Bruce Geller Memorial WORD prize for A Jewish Child's Story, a REACH Demonstration Grant through CHC/CDC.

**Lucas Sullivan; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have been part of the arts for the majority of my life. Started performing music when I was 8 years of age, dance at the age of 10, martial arts at the age of 12 and dabbled in acting in my 20's. I've learned a great deal from all of these performing arts and has allowed me to explore culture, meet an array of people and has made me a more well rounded human being. Once an artist, always an artist.

**Lucy Puls; Berkeley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Puls works with images and objects to explore our uniquely human relationship to material possessions. Puls is interested in how the things acquired and discarded define us as individuals.

Puls received an M.F.A. from RISD and BS in Art from UW-Madison. Puls completed residencies at Joan Mitchell Foundation, Yaddo, MacDowell, Pilchuck, and Kala Art Institute.

Puls has had solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. She is represented by Nicelle Beauchene Gallery in New York. Her work is in the collections of SFMOMA, Oakland Museum, BAMPFA, Achenbach Foundation, Crocker Museum, Shrem Museum, di Rosa CCA, Progressive Collection, and Jewish Museum in New York. Puls is a Professor Emeritus of Art at UC-Davis.

**Luis Pichardo; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Luis Antonio Pichardo is a Poet/Artist, and Founder/Executive Director of DSTL Arts, a nonprofit arts mentorship organization that inspires, teaches, and hires emerging artists from underserved communities, primarily serving the communities of South LA and East LA.

Luis strives to engage communities not just through free arts programming that focuses on developing storytelling skills and mentorships, but also through his own visual art and poetry. As a working artist, Luis attempts to express, artistically, the human experience and range of emotions we all share.

As the eldest son of a Mexican immigrant father and self-identified Chicana mother, Luis is informed heavily by his upbringing traveling between Southern California and México; speaking, reading, and writing in both English and Spanish, crafting art and poetry that explores the intersectionality of being Latinx, working-class, and from various communities where urban, suburban, and rural experiences commingle to form his Pan-American identity.

**Luis Ojeda; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I was born and raised in the City of Calexico, Imperial Valley County. My upbringing as the son of first-generation immigrant parents in a small community border town adjacent to Mexicali, Mexico brought about a lot of lived cultural experiences. These experiences, combined with my passion for arts and culture, community revitalization and economic growth, have driven my successful career of over 20 plus years in public service for the City of San Diego. During the course of my career, I designed and implemented the Economic Development and Tourism Support Grant (EDTS) Program to promote the City as a visitor destination and advance the City's economy through business attraction. I managed, negotiated and executed over 180 contracts with a combined value exceeding \$7 million with qualifying non-profit agencies. I provided workshops and ongoing technical assistance regarding the grant process to potential grantees. Successfully oversaw the overall annual application, review panel and appeal hearing process with unanimous approval by City Council for funding recommendations each fiscal year.

**Jinx Law; San Clemente*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

10+ years of notable experience working as an Artist Agent, Arts Curator, and Arts Director in underrepresented communities, providing professional management and educational workshops for Artists of all mediums, created interactive, educational art experiences with a focus on access to grant-based funding from state, local and private organizations, cultivated cornerstone, art-related programs for the cities of Long Beach, Huntington Beach, Laguna Foundation for the Arts (Autism focused), (mental health focused), and many others along with the partnering of Arts Councils, Downtown Business Associations, venues, galleries, medical/business offices, restaurants and more along the California coast, organized weekly and seasonal event outlines, including show promotions, sales forecasting, venue design, and location for 20 to 80K people, working within city laws and governing agencies upholding health

and safety regulations; such as cultivating seamless working relationships between businesses, Non-Profits, Artists, City Councils, and Civil Service.

**Lyla Paakkanen; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

From a poor, large family, my parents were not able to send us to college. My high school art instructor set up a meeting at Otis Parsons College. They offered me a full scholarship and a work-study program. My parents did not understand the significance of this offer, so I went to a nearby Jr College.

I did earn my A.A., B.A. and M.A., degrees while working and as a single mother.

One of my jobs was an exhibit manager at the Los Angeles Children's Museum. I scheduled Japan-American artists, performers and demonstrations for visiting families to experience the cultural traditions. Visitors created art through exploration and open-ended experiences.

Working at the museum influenced my teaching. I asked students to observe, used constructive suggestions, and had the class join in critique of each other's work.

While teaching in Colorado, I worked with the local Indian museum to exhibit some more contemporary art as well as the traditional, Western, and Indian art and artifacts.

**Lynlee Lyckberg; Nevada City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a California based artist/educator who maintains a studio in the Nevada City foothills of Northern California. I earned my B.A. in Studio Art/Art History from CSU East Bay, and my M.F.A. in Painting (Consciousness Studies) from JFK University, where I traveled to China to study Traditional Chinese Arts and Healing. In 2016 I completed my Doctorate in Mythological Studies/Depth Psychology, and I am currently completing a PsyD. My teaching philosophy is that a creative practice is one of the best ways to enhance problem solving skills, and often connects one to deeper ways of knowing and being in the world. Core elements of my teaching practice include the use of dreamwork, myth, and the symbolic image. I previously served on a grant panel for youth grants and have taught transformative art classes for many years.

**Maddie Gaw; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am a writer and dramaturg based in the Bay Area who publishes a monthly cultural criticism newsletter and works with local playwrights on script development. I use writing as a tool to help develop and engage with other people's art and to provide cultural commentary. For seven years I worked in arts nonprofits, freelance and full time, and have worked with organizations like 3Girls Theatre Company, 6newplays, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Crowded Fire Theater, Custom Made Theatre Company, foolsFURY Theatre Company, Golden Thread Productions, HowlRound, LMDA, Marin Theatre Company, Playwrights Foundation, SF Olympians, and Z Space. I wore many hats, and worked variously as a literary manager, dramaturg, producer, grant writer, and in fundraising and communications. My writing has been published by HowlRound, the Berkeley Rep Magazine, Samuel French's Breaking Character Magazine, and The Toast.

**Madeline DeNofio; Suisun City*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

My background starts with a BM in Clarinet Performance, followed by a MA in Arts Administration with an emphasis on non-profits. I wrote my thesis on how gentrification impacts small cultural institutions, specifically those representing artists of color, and the importance of community funding to protect them. I have worked in development throughout the arts sector, including for On Site Opera in NYC, volunteering as a Board Consultant for the Atlanta Metropolitan Band, and with the Saratoga Performing Arts Center as an intern. In my undergrad I minored in English, and am part of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honors society which I still participate in. In my current organization (SFPH) I am in charge of the grant program, including researching, writing, and editing all grants. I have grown the program significantly, but want to be more involved in the community as a whole as I moved to the Bay area just over a year ago!

**Maile Ornellas; Truckee*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I was trained in documentary film at UC Berkeley. My MJ (Journalism) thesis film won the Student Academy Award & was selected for the Permanent Collection, Library of Congress. My interest in diversity is reflected as an Emmy nominated Producer

All Together Now, a KPIX Tv prime time program on women's & minority issues hosted by Belva Davis and in my teaching. I was an American Cultures Fellow at Cal who developed a lower division American Cultures in Film course I taught at Solano Community College & an upper division "Race & Ethnicity in Contemporary American Film" course I taught at Cal and also in adapted version to Vietnamese students at Hue University when I served as a Fulbright Scholar. I have served as a judge for the American Film Festival & Student Academy Awards. I also produced videos for Creativity:A Human Resource Exhibit that opened at the CA Academy of Science & toured science museums in USA, Canada & Western Europe.

**Mamta Trivedi; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

As an Emmy-nominated South Asian-Australian Showrunner & emerging Director, Mamta's work spotlights and amplifies under-represented voices across all continents. An adventurous upbringing across four continents informs Mamta third-culture-kid skills, making her uniquely suited to access and embed within cloistered cultures, evolving movements, and communities as a filmmaker. Mamta is a visual thinker who thrives as a creative leader with a proven ability to translate complex ideas across all mediums and formats. As a maker of narrative and premium documentary work, she is passionate about creating bold and fearless projects spanning genre, form, and representation - in front of and behind the camera. Bridging 15 years of global production experience across six continents, Mamta seeks projects that create awareness and resonate with a broad audience by illuminating, inspiring, and entertaining. Her work can be seen on Netflix, Amazon, NBC, IFC, CNN, SPOTIFY, ESPN, YouTube, Discovery & National Geographic.

**Mangwi Atia; Mission Hills*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Mangwi Atia is a proactive, innovative leader with experience directing organizations and cross-functional executives and teams toward company success. She transforms vision into action and results. Her business acumen to achieve strategy and vision alignment and promote diversity and inclusion attributes to her interdisciplinary background and experience.

Atia has organized arts and cultural-related activities and events for Empowerment Congress, a nonprofit that empowers and engages Los Angeles community members. She also spearheaded Pan African Film Festival's first virtual reality event and executed Sundance Film Festival special events.

Atia has played an active role in advising organizations with a mission focused on sustainable economic and employment growth: City of Los Angeles, National Black MBA Association – Los Angeles Chapter Board, and Empowerment Congress.

Atia received her Bachelor's degree in Global Economics from the University of California—Santa Cruz and her Master's degree in Research, Statistics and Evaluation from the University of Virginia.

**Maren Galarpe; Spring Valley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Maren Oom Galarpe is a Registered Somatic Movement Educator/Therapist with ISMETA and a multidisciplinary performing and visual artist. She is a Tamalpa Institute graduate and member of the Leadership Team. She holds a Master's in Dance Education from the University of Hawaii and a BFA in Theatre Studies from Emerson College. Her professional career spans over 25 years in arts education and leadership with an emphasis on the creative process and co-creation of new programming and design in PreK-12 schools, museums, and non-profit organizations. Maren served in roles on state/national arts organization boards, offering multi-arts experience and support to urban and rural communities in Hawaii and California. From theatre technician to decades in the classroom, from arts ed for social justice to arts administration, Maren is passionate about cultivating a lifelong love of learning through the arts to live more sustainably within ourselves, our communities and the planet.

**Mari Tamburo; San Rafael*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I spent my childhood in HUD housing; art, music and creative play performance provided sanctuary and emotional expression during a challenging upbringing. I have lived in California for 35+ years and during that time, have engaged in music performance as an artist as well as volunteered many hours to assist artists of all disciplines in raising awareness about their offerings via social media, as well as produced events to expose them to new audiences. Additionally, I have engaged in using my writing and marketing skills in pursuit of social and environmental justice, on an extremely limited budget. I empathize with fiscally challenged artists and organizations.

**Maria Lamadrid; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Maria Lamadrid's practice, informally named SuperCommunity, is a design and technology studio profoundly invested in media design for meaningful civic change through community engagement, co-creation, and methods associated with Design Thinking. María del Carmen Lamadrid is a media designer and tinkerer from Puerto Rico currently based in Los Angeles. She is interested in fostering collaborative methods for civic design practices shaped by post-colonial theory. She completed her MFA in Media Design from Art Center College of Design's Media Design Practice/Field, in partnership with UNICEF Uganda Tech4Dev and the award-winning Designmatters. Maria authored the Social Design Toolkit, a book about the darker side of neoliberal practices that foster structural inequality in Social Design. Her work has been recognized and featured in the 2009 National Art Sample of Puerto Rico, the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning at the University of Sydney, Citizen Science Conference 2015, University of Brighton and Carnegie Mellon University's School of Design.

**Maria Ahverdyan; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have over 20 years of museum and non-profit experience ranging from Curatorial Assistant to Museum Educator to Grant Writer. I am currently assisting with a Community Engagement program where a dozen families, of diverse backgrounds, are invited to engage with our museum collection and provide feedback. I have found this experience to be enriching and would like to use the knowledge gained from this experience to support other projects that may provide more engaging and enriching experiences for those interacting with the arts.

**Maria Bjorkdahl; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I'm a Moroccan Swedish visual artist living and working in Los Angeles. For the last 20 years I have pursued an art practice on the side of my full-time day job including taking evening classes in studio art, art theory and art history classes at Santa Monica College, El Camino College and Cal State Dominguez Hills University.

Through the Los Angeles Art Association, I have participated in several art critique groups. Each critique cycle culminates in a group show, where participants are involved in finding venues, coming up with exhibition themes, marketing efforts and hanging art work.

I've also organized two self-directed residencies in Sweden, as well as attended international art residences in Germany, at the Berlin Art Institute, and in Sweden at the "Tomma Rum" (Empty Rooms) residency. In addition I've been involved in set painting, including leading and training volunteers at Sacred Fools Theater Company.

**Marita De La Torre; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I am a storyteller using the mediums of film and theater to produce culturally relevant stories. Co-wrote, acted in and produced the award winning "LODO" and currently in development of my animation short, "The Code of the Heart, Taught by the Moon".

**MJ Lindo-Lawyer; Santa Rosa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My name is MJ Lindo-Lawyer, I am a bay area fine artist and muralist. My husband and I started a nonprofit in 2021 to bring murals to Roseland, Santa Rosa. We focus on building up artists careers and budding artist community. We want to celebrate the growth of artists and since we live the same lifestyle and we know first hand how hard it is to make a sustainable living from your artform.

**Maria Galloway; Woodland Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I've been teaching and developing Art programs in Southern California since 2004.

My studies include: Studio Art & Child Development- San Diego State University, Figurative Art- Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art, Ceramics at Cal State University- Northridge, Social Emotional Arts & Healing Certification- UCLA.

In 2011, alongside a fellow art teacher, I co-founded Viridian Art Academy in Tarzana, Ca. We specialize in teaching Art Education to kids, teens & adults. Plus we do all the fun stuff too: Art Camps, Wine & Painting, Sculpting & the best Art Parties in Los Angeles! We opened our second location in 2018, Viridian Art in Agoura Hills Ca.!

VIRIDIAN ART teaches after school art enrichment programs on campus at local schools.

We provide the in-school art curriculum at Lanai Road TK-5th and at Hesby Oaks Charter K-8th grades. In March 2020 launched VIRIDIAN ART ONLINE art classes, digital downloads, and on-demand art lessons.

I mostly teach in-studio and run the behind the scenes operation of it all. I still teach middle school art at Hesby Oaks and jump into a few of the on-campus after school art enrichment classes where ever I'm needed.

**Mariam Tabatabaee; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Mariam Tabatabaee (she/they) is the Associate Educator at the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, where she collaborates with museum and community colleagues to develop innovative programs that engage a range of adults with visual storytelling. An advocate for accessibility and disability rights, Mariam has developed tours for visitors who are blind or have partial vision at museums such as the Guggenheim, Craft Contemporary, and The Natural History Museum of Utah. She holds a deep interest in adult learning in informal spaces and decolonized knowledge creation/sharing. She has a strong commitment to advocacy and community organizing, serving as an Arts for LA ACTIVATE! Delegate. Recently, she served on the Content Advisory Committee for the 2023 AAM Annual Meeting, reviewing and selecting proposals for the "Power" track. Mariam holds a BS in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution from UCLA and has published research in PLOS One and Marine Ecology Progress Series.

**Marianne McGrath; Ventura*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Born into the fifth generation of a farming family in Oxnard, CA, Marianne received a BA in studio art at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and an MFA in studio art from the University of Texas at Austin. She served as an Associate Professor of Art and Head of Ceramics and Sculpture Departments at Temple College from 2008-2014. During that time, she served on the founding Executive Board of Directors for the Texas Sculpture Group, and as curator and coordinator for the National Council on Ceramics Art's (NCECA's) international Projects Space Exhibition. In 2017, she joined California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) and resumed her role with NCECA's Projects Space Exhibition. She is currently an Associate Professor of Art and Chair of the Art Department at CSUCI. Exhibiting and curating throughout the US, Canada, and Europe, Marianne maintains a studio and lives with her husband and daughter in Ventura, CA.

**Marie Bobin; Yucca Valley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Marie Bobin is an arts management consultant with 20 years of non-profit experience. Prior to her work as a consultant, Marie was the Regional Program Director for the Arts Council of San Bernardino County from 2019 to 2022, during which time she developed and implemented an arts-driven community engagement outreach strategy in support of the 2020 Census and produced the National Endowment for the Arts "Big Read" program for 4 consecutive years. Before moving to the Joshua Tree area, she was the Creative Producer for the Skirball Cultural Center where she developed film, theatre and lecture series focused on fostering human connections and building a more just society.

Marie holds a Masters Degree in International Arts Management from HEC Montreal as well as a BA in Theatre Studies from Emerson College. She serves on the board of the Joshua Tree Foundation for Arts & Ecology.

**Marie Kellier; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Marie Kellier is an award winning artist, writer and consultant. An Academy Nicholl Screenwriting Fellow, she holds a BA in theater arts and an MFA in film and television production from UCLA. Marie designs and fabricates Caribbean carnival costumes and produces large and small festivals and installations in public spaces. She has been Interim Director of Outreach for California African American Museum and Operations Manager for Danetracks, Inc. As Executive Director of International Eye LA, she has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for education, arts and cultural projects from California Arts Council (CAC), Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA), City of West Hollywood (WeHo Arts) and LA County Department of Arts and Culture. She is a pre-qualified producer for the City of Los Angeles. Marie's pioneering work established the foundation for Caribbean carnival arts in Southern California.

**Marina Perez; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Marina Perez is an interdisciplinary scholar, community educator and cultural worker of Nahua and Wixarika descent. She was born and raised in an unincorporated community in Los Angeles, which led her to work with local arts organizations specializing in community and cultural art-making practices. She co-founded Indigenous Honeys, a zine collective dedicated to highlighting the histories, experiences, and memories of Indigenous peoples. Her creative practices include zine-making, beadwork, embroidery, and digital storytelling. She holds a bachelor's in Child Development from CSUN (2017), a master's in American Indian Studies from UCLA (2022) and is now a Ph.D. student in Art History at the University of New Mexico (UNM). Her scholarship addresses the ways community and cultural art-making practices produce embodied knowledge systems and place-based epistemologies. She builds upon oral history, archival, and Indigenous feminist frameworks to examine the intergenerational cultural exchanges that occur within "urbanized" community art spaces.

**Mario Davila; Reseda Ranch*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

In 2003 I was recruited by LA's BEST to co-create and direct their arts education department. During my tenure, the department provided year-round performing and visual arts programming for 200 LAUSD Tittle one schools. I currently provide consulting to a number of developing organizations and serve as a guest instructor for the CSULA Community Teaching Artist certificate program. Along with my professional work, I have created multi-year volunteer community-based public art projects, such as LAartlab, which have afforded me the opportunity to partner with additional arts organizations and museums to create unique opportunities for creative partnerships and community engagement.

**Maritxell Carrero; Topanga*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Maritxell Carrero is a film, television, and theater actress and producer with international acclaim. Known for her versatility and perfectly bilingual (English and Spanish), she is the producer of the musical docu-drama "Calle de la Resistencia," in which she also stars. She portrayed Anabella de Leon in L.A. Theater Works' National Tour of "Seven" (2020), and was the lead in "Esperanza" (2018), a film produced by Jana Memel. She was the lead actress in Peter Sellars' opera "The Indian Queen," recipient of five 2015 Golden Mask Awards, which she notably performed at the English National Opera, Teatro Real in Madrid, and Moscow's Bolshoi Theater.

While completing a BFA at Florida International University, she was cast in several telenovelas, including "Dame Chocolate" and Televisa's Bajo las Rendas del Amor. Maritxell Carrero holds an MFA from UC San Diego and is the writer/producer of "A Revolutionary Mystic," a biographical one-woman show retracing the life of famed Puerto Rican activist Lolita Lebrón. She was part of the multicultural production of "All My Sons" at Hollywood's Matrix Theater, winner of the 2012 NAACP Image Award for Best Ensemble.

**Mark Hernandez; Palm Springs*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Mark Hernandez was active as a singer/actor and teaching artist for many years, primarily in western classical music (with particular interests in new music and Latin American repertoire); his credits included nearly 100 roles, mostly with San Francisco Bay Area companies. As an arts administrator, he expanded his artistic horizons through tenures with the Alliance for California Traditional Arts and Stanford Jazz Workshop. As a philanthropy advisor, he reviewed nearly 200 performances on behalf of the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation. He has three writing credits, including a full-length opera libretto on the life of Mary Ellen Pleasant, the Mother of Civil Rights in California.

**Mark Herrier; Lompoc*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

8 years president BOD Lompoc Theatre Project, 2 years ED Lompoc Theatre Project, 50 year career as an actor, Director, writer in Regional Theater, Broadway, Off-Broadway, Television, Feature Films.

**Mark Kalow; Santa Cruz*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a strategic and financial consultant for start-up companies and non-profit music organizations. Beginning with my own start-up in digital photography 30 years ago, I have served on 60 Boards of Directors in technology, renewable energy and music. The California non-profits include the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz and the Mahler Foundation. From 2006-16 I served as vice-chair of the Tannery Arts Center in Santa Cruz and helped manage the funding of the new Performing Arts Center. This was built together with below market cost housing and working studios for artists. At Cabrillo and Mahler, I have been involved with commissioning and funding new works from underrepresented communities. I hold a S.B. degree from MIT and an MBA from University of Chicago.

**Marsha Hopkins; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I hold an MFA in Creative Writing and BFA in Fine Arts. I am a published writer and painter proficient in metal casting, jewelry design, and ceramics. After teaching two classes in Continuing Education in 2000 and 2001, I began teaching in the LAS Department at Otis College in 2002. Currently, my position is Adjunct Assistant Professor. Over the years, I have taught various classes, from core classes to electives in LAS. Recently, I had the honor to interview: Black Panthers Michael D. McCarty and Emory Douglas, as well as award-winning graphic designers Doug Minkler and Art Sims, in line with the Civil Rights class. The AlumnX Lecture series hosted a panel discussion on the Black Entrepreneurs of the Jim Crow Era. The panelists were members of the History Council at the California African American Museum, and it was my pleasure to be the organizer and the moderator.

**Patty Rangel; Chula Vista*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Patty was a 2022 GEN (Global Ecovillage Network) NGO representative to the United Nations Environment Program (General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya), is a graduate of California Institute of the Arts (MFA in Theater Producing) and SingularityU at NASA (Exponential Technology). As an alumni of the United Nations Summer Intensive Program (UN Headquarters in New York City), she embarked on an international journey that led to her Ecovillage Design Education certification and membership in EcoVillages in France, Italy, India, Namibia, Mexico, and the USA. Patty is passionate about ARTivism and empowering Indigenous Nations. She has exhibited her murals and laser holograms at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, the Burning Man festival, TEDx Transhumanism, San Diego Space 4 Art, ARTS San Diego (A Reason to Survive), and the Crossworlds Gallery in the Second Life virtual world.

**Martin Betz; Redondo Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Worked in arts administration as a director for over twenty five years.

**Scott Evans; Fountain Valley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a freelance grant writer and also have been a staff grant writer and Director of Development for nonprofit organizations. 16 years experience. Experience has included writing grants for symphonies, music education and music appreciation organizations.

**Martin Townsend; Fresno*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Born in Memphis TN in 1992, Martin Townsend has been a California resident since 2005. Based in Fresno, Townsend has focused his efforts in developing his skills of visual representation through painting and drawing. He received his Bachelors of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing from CSU Chico, Associate's of Arts degree from Fresno City College, and an award winning alum of the California Summer Arts Program. Townsend is currently working as a local union organizer while building presence in the Fresno art community.

**Marti Cilley; El Cerrito*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I find painting to be a needed respite, when I enter the art studio and pick up my paintbrush, I reconnect with an inner calm. The studio is my escape, painting my refuge. It is this sense of restoration that I wish to impart through my work. I want my paintings to become a shelter from the stimuli of modern life, a place of simplicity.

I often paint using tones of white, gray, and black inspired by the landscapes of the Bay Area, the poetic qualities of fog, the quiet of the water, the tranquility of trees, horizons, and organic forms.

I'm involved with community Arts organizations such as El Cerrito Art Association and Richmond Art Center and looking to start art education programs for kids and painting workshops for the elderly.

**Mary Beth Barber; Carmichael*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Mary Beth joined the California Arts Council in 2005 as the communications director and later the special projects coordinator (key establishing the Arts in Corrections pilot in 2014) and worked there for over a decade. She started her creative career in the 1990s in theater and commercial film and event production in Sacramento, San Francisco, and New York, and 2004 co-wrote an advanced acting book with renowned instructor Terry Schreiber (foreword by Edward Norton). Mary Beth is a founding member of the Capital Film Arts Alliance, an advisor to the Prison Arts Collective (based out of SDSU), a board member to the Strindberg Laboratory, and was an advisory for the Visual and Performing Arts Framework committee for the California Department of Education (2019). She currently works for the California State Library on the K-12 Online Resources program that provides online school-library resources for all public school students.

**Taloo Carrillo; La Verne*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Taloo is a performance artist, writer, actor, producer, who currently works as Director of Development for TeAda Productions. Having created works for public performance on stages such as, LATC, JACCC, Margot Albert Theatre, and the legendary Troy Cafe Los Angeles, Taloo finds she is as invigorated by the bustle behind the scenes as much as being on the stage. In addition, at her core, she is a fan of art with a conscience and a sense of justice. For this reason, she is excited to be in a position where all of her favorite elements are combined in one purposeful organization.

**Alison McMahan; Hermosa Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Have taught art and ESL at all levels, k thru adult. Lived & worked in Taiwan for 10 years, teaching & exhibiting after MA in Art CSULB. Taught at U of Redlands after return to US.

**Mary O'Brien; Fairfax*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am an artist, writer, and co-founder of the Studio of Watershed Sculpture, that works with small and large communities to create environmental art installations focused on restorative outcomes. Taking on current and local ecological challenges we create remedial land art. These projects help communities reclaim access to their public domain lands. Working across the US, sponsors include The Nature Conservancy, City of Palo Alto, Pasadena Public Works Department, Santa Clara Valley Water District, the Port of Venice Louisiana, and the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

My writing evolves out of my engagement with individuals and their struggles to live on damaged lands or in threatened communities, as well as research that delves into ecological loss and community resilience. My essays and poems have been published in Field to Palette, Stanford University's MAHB Journal; The Solutions Journal; Women's Eco Artist Dialogue, Nature of Cities Journal, and New Farmers Almanac.

**Mary Lynn Perry; Sacramento*****Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

I was the Volunteer Engagement Specialist for the City of Sacramento for 17 years and earlier was Program Coordinator for the Sacramento Metro Arts Commission. I was the Executive Director of Business Volunteers for the Arts in Sacramento. In addition, I taught art history for CSU, Sacramento and Sierra College. I worked for the Smithsonian as the volunteer coordinator for the National Museum of African Art, and as an Education Specialist. I have a B.A. from the University of Maryland and an M.A. in art history from George Washington University. I am Chair of the Board for Directors of Volunteers in Agencies, Sacramento, and President of the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government. I am also the HR/Governance Chair on the Board of Lutheran Social Services. I have performed hula for 11 years with Ohana Dance Group/Ka Hula O Kaponookalani and sing with All Voices Choral Project.

**Mary Price; Santa Barbara*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a California native. I have always been a practicing visual artist and writer. I earned my BA at UCLA in Creative Writing, a special program of the English Department. During college I worked in the marketing department of UCLA Extension, as a proofreader and graphic design assistant. After college I spent five years living in Great Britain and working in marketing management and freelancing as a copywriter. I married and returned to California, and lived for ten years in the Antelope Valley. I established two second-hand bookstores, one in Lancaster and one in Valencia. I retired from retail to raise my daughter (now 24 years old). We moved to Santa Barbara over twenty years ago and since then, I have been active in the Santa Barbara arts community. For many years I worked at Art From Scrap, now a program of Explore Ecology, where I served as Art Director, tabling events for children, designing and scheduling workshops and recruiting educators.

**Marya Osucha; Placerville*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Raised and currently residing in rural California, I have an innate understanding rural experiences and cultures. However, my identity is also deeply informed by my father's experiences growing up in WWII Poland and fleeing as an adult to the US as a Cold War-era political refugee. I hold an MA from UC Davis in Art History and a BA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, where my work focused on vernacular art/visual culture, political movements, and social equity. Professionally, my work has centered on expanding access to the arts in rural California, supporting the growth of a rural creative economy, visual literacy, creative placemaking/placekeeping, and art-centered community building. I've had the privilege to partner with Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians as well as inter-tribal organizations. I continue to build on this work, forging partnerships with local schools, ESL organizations, LGBTQIA+ orgs, and the El Dorado Harm Reduction Coalition.

**Maryam Hosseinzadeh; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Maryam Hosseinzadeh is an arts programmer/ producer/ digital communications creator/ arts administrator / cultural planner who was born in and remains based in Los Angeles. She is

interested in the layered sites, memories, places and histories of people in the every day, the micro to macro, the links connecting locations, the built environment, and spaces in-between with a dedication to opening space for sharing of narratives of historically marginalized communities. In addition to her own projects, she also has worked in staff roles and consulting capacities with artists and Los Angeles-based civic and non-profit organizations to create, facilitate and manage community-centered programming both inside and outside of traditional arts settings ranging from front yards to affordable housing complexes. She holds a BA in American Studies from Pitzer College and completed graduate coursework at USC in Historic Preservation on the political, social, and cultural histories of the region.

**Matt Bogdanow; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Matt Bogdanow is the Director of Education and co-founder of Everyday Arts, a Los Angeles-based non-profit that supports neurodiverse students in achieving their goals through inclusive arts integration. He is a Berklee College of Music graduate, summa cum laude, as well as a graduate of the Community-Word Project Teaching Artist Training and Internship Program. Mr. Bogdanow has delivered guest lectures on the intersecting fields of special education and the arts at University of California, Loyola Marymount University, and Otis College of Art and Design, and is the author of "The Backbone of Drumming; A Systematic Approach to Learning the Drumset." As a world-renowned musician and educator, he ensures that Everyday Arts workshops have space for both noise and (sometimes excruciatingly long) silence.

**Matt D'Arrigo; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Matt D'Arrigo has dedicated the past 20 years of his life to being a champion and advocate for the arts and young people. He is the Director of Creative Youth Development at the Clare Rose Foundation and the Co-Founder of The Clare Rose Center for Creative Youth Development (CYD) in San Diego, CA.

Prior to joining Clare Rose Foundation, D'Arrigo was the Founder and CEO of A Reason To Survive (ARTS), a nationally recognized CYD organization based in National City, CA.

D'Arrigo is co-founder of the National CYD Funders Forum and Arts Amplifying Youth (AAY!). He sits on the boards of the National Guild for Community Arts Education, Catalyst of San Diego and Imperial Counties, and is Vice-Chair of the San Diego Regional Arts & Culture Coalition. He also sits on the National Partnership for Creative Youth Development and the Arts Ed Impact Group for Grant Makers for Education.

**Matthew Tedford; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an art historian, educator, and arts writer with 13+ years of professional experience in the field. I work in both academic and general interest spheres, writing for publications like KQED (the Bay Area's NPR/PBS affiliate), Bay Nature magazine, Hyperallergic, Art Practical, Aesthetica, and Artsy, in addition to scholarly journals. For 6 years, I was the grant writer and manager for foundation and government grants at California College of the Arts' (CCA). I am thus very familiar with the administrative side of the granting process. I am a PhD candidate in the

History of Art and Visual Culture department at UC Santa Cruz, where I also teach. I have an MA in Visual and Critical Studies from CCA

**Mo Hurley; Sebastopol**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I've taught artist-in-schools residencies in rural & urban schools in California since 1979. I've had 7 individual CACAIR grants in Sonoma & Napa counties; & a grant from the Montana Arts Council. I've administered/taught in CAC multi-artist residencies including Poetry Flash (current), received a PBS/KQED AIR grant, & two Oakland Cultural Arts Council grants. I've led arts workshops in the Western US & Florida, as well as the Bahamas, Netherlands & the former USSR. I've mentored/ trained artists, writers and teachers through several arts organizations including California Poets in the Schools, Young Audiences, Artists in Schools of Sonoma County, and Rural Arts Services.

I'm widely published and I've won prizes, fellowships and awards for my writing, art, photography—and teaching residencies—including a Golden Bell award. I've worked for alternative newspapers, writing news & arts feature stories & photojournalism. From 1980 to 1997, I produced literary events in Sonoma County, including Russian River Writers' Guild, Sonoma State University, Cotati Cabaret, Johnny Otis Club, and other venues. I was staff photographer and workshop leader for the Napa Valley Poetry conferences.

**Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş; Mill Valley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş is a poet, dance artist, and US-UK Fulbright Finalist with a B.F.A. in Dance (Magna Cum Laude) and Minor in English from NYU Tisch School of the Arts and an M.A. in Dance Philosophy (Distinction) from University of Roehampton, London. She currently serves as a teacher with California Poets in the Schools, assistant publisher for FastForward Magazine, director of Roco Dance's youth modern company, and youth poet liaison for Marin Poetry Center's ambassador program. She has served as a performing arts review panelist for the Bay Area Creative Foundation's Youth Awards, a judge and coach for Poetry Out Loud, and a reviewer for Marin Poetry Center's High School Poetry Contest. She has been commissioned as a choreographer for World Stage Design, Future Dance Festival, West Wave Dance Festival, Emergence Dance Festival, and ESTIA Day Fest, and has held artistic residencies at Djerassi, Stapleton, and Safehouse Arts.

**May de Castro; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a graphic designer with over 20 years of experience working for non-profits and higher education.

**May Leong; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am the former executive director of the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, and formerly served as the Senior Institutional Partnerships at the East Bay Community Foundation in Oakland, CA. I am currently working as an independent coach and consultant. This is my way to

give back to the community in a supportive way to arts organizations that do good work in California state that need funding.

**Maya Futrell; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Maya Futrell is an independent curator and consultant based in Los Angeles. She is the founder of Maya Contemporary, a nomadic fine art gallery that operates at the intersection of art, technology, and contemporary culture. Through collaborations with artists, collectors, and cultural institutions, Maya Contemporary, is dedicated to the advocacy of opportunities for artists through amplified connection and convening.

As a cultural facilitator, Futrell has had a diverse career in the creative sector. She ventured into music publishing with EMI Music Publishing, Paramount Pictures' Famous Music Publishing, and Sony Music Publishing. Futrell then transitioned into fashion sportswear at Nike, where she led its in-house events and managed corporate partnerships. From there, Futrell has established herself as an independent curator and fundraiser, instrumental to art auctions benefiting social justice organizations, which were powered by. Futrell currently continues her commitment to uplifting artists and to the facilitation of cultural exchange.

**Maya Malan-Gonzalez; Glendale**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Maya Malan-Gonzalez is an actor, playwright and teatrista.

She is a lifelong member of Milagro in Portland and an ensemble member with Studio Luna in Los Angeles. She has performed with Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Cara Mia Theatre, San Jose Stage Company, San Diego Rep, El Teatro Campesino and Teatro Vision among others.

Her written theatrical productions include "Blast Off" and "Huelga" commissioned by Teatro Milagro; "A Xmas Cuento Remix", which had a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere with Milagro, 16th Street Theater and The Cleveland Public Theatre; and "A Christmas Treat" commissioned by Cleveland Public Theatre.

Maya received her B.F.A in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University and she is a graduate of the NALAC Leadership Institute.

**Maya Sadler; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am an artist and educator with 10 years of K-12 classroom experience. My focus and passion is arts education for Black youth. I believe in trauma-informed arts programming as a tool for intergenerational healing and transformative justice. I have been the Education Program Manager at the Museum of the African Diaspora since Feb 2022. I started my career in arts education with MoAD as a Teaching Artist from 2019-2020. During the pandemic, I was a Teaching Artist and Early Literacy Interventionist in Baltimore, MD from 2020-2022.

**MeLisa James; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Me’Lisa James is a Northern California Black business leader. She is an alumna of the UC Davis and the UC Davis Graduate School of Education where she studied History, Black studies, Music and Secondary Social Science education. Her master’s research focused on using contemporary world music to teach cultural geography. Me’Lisa has experience as an educator in high schools, museums, and youth programs. Today she owns MJ Designs Consulting which provides grant writing strategy to Cultural Heritage leaders, and is the Founder & CEO of CULTURPHORIUM, Inc. a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that promotes multicultural history and social science.

**Megan Debin; Fullerton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Dr. Megan Lorraine Debin earned a PhD in Art History, with a major in Latin American art and a minor in Pre-Columbian art, from the University of California, Los Angeles. She also earned an MA in Latin American Studies, with an emphasis in art history and public health, and a BA in Art History, with a minor in Italian, also from UCLA. Currently, she is a tenured art historian at Fullerton College, where she teaches Mexican art history, Western and non-Western survey courses, and museum and gallery studies. While her pedagogical interests center on collaboration, technology, innovation and the anti-racist classroom, her major research interests include contemporary performance and land art, global indigenous arts, social justice, and feminist, activist, and street art. Her current research focuses on violence, trauma, healing, cleansing, and the body in Mexican art. She is working on the book based on her dissertation “Body Traces: Contemporary Art against Violence in Mexico (1968-2012)”. To date, her research has benefitted from the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and UC Mexus.

**Megan Koester; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Megan Koester is a writer, comedian and Daughter of the Golden West; LA Weekly (before it was taken over by right wingers, mind you) listed her as a "comic to watch," saying her "sets are as dark, self-effacing and in-the-moment as they come." She co-authored the The Indignities of Being a Woman with Merrill Markoe, has appeared on basic cable multiple times, and her Adult Swim special, The Last Open Mic at the End of the World, is currently streaming on HBO Max (ain't the consolidation of media grand?).

**Meg Salas; New Cuyama**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I’m currently the 22-23 policy council representative for Cuyama Headstart (SANTA BARBARA COUNTY). I co-owned and operated an art gallery in San Diego from 2008-2018. During my time as an art gallery director I served 2 years as the secretary of the San Marcos Arts Council (2010-2012).

**Megan Whilden; Monterey*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I'm a fifth generation California resident with 20+ years of professional experience in creative placemaking, equity in the arts, creative aging, community arts education and more. I've served as a grant reviewer for the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Mass Humanities, as well as my local cultural council in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where I lived for the past 20 years until returning to California last year. I was appointed by then Governor Deval Patrick to the Massachusetts Creative Economy Council and was a MASSInc Creative Placemaking Fellow.

I served as the first Director of Cultural Development for almost ten years in Pittsfield, a small struggling New England city, where I worked with arts organizations and community groups large and small. I co-founded local festivals celebrating Black, Hispanic, Muslim, and LGBTQI arts and culture, organized arts exhibits, I have also worked for a nonprofit book publisher and a community arts school.

**Meghan Byers; Chico*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a higher education research administrator with 4 years of pre-award and contracts experience. I also have a strong background in museum and non-profit management.

**Mojo O'Keefe; Jackson*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

mojo o'keefe (they/them) is Executive Director/CEO of Amador County Arts Council (ACAC) and is an interdisciplinary artist devoted to advancing freedom of expression in rural spaces. BA in Biology, Oberlin College. Graduate in Performance from Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. O'Keefe began working in the arts at age 11; their first wedding singer gig. By 19, they began as a freelance teaching artist for community organizations and schools in California & Ohio. "reiki master" since 2006; collaborating with all types of beings and bodies to integrate the arts into authentic living. 2012 to 2021: Musical Theatre Director & Dance Teacher/Choreographer, Amador High in rural Sutter Creek. 2013: hired musician for ACAC. 2015: artist in River Reflections, a partnership of CAC, ACAC, and East Bay Mud; included traveling exhibit where O'Keefe performed original songs about the Mokelumne river at the reception in Oakland. 2016: ACAC music coordinator. 2017: ACAC program coordinator. June 2018: promoted to ED/CEO of ACAC. They continue their artistic practice at their home studio in Sutter Creek, gardening with fae folk, and sharing love with amazing partner, Dr. Betzaida Arroyo.

**Meghan Humlie; Kensington*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am retired. I do dabble in watercolors, poetry and other creative possibilities. I also facilitate an on-line group that supports creativity as personal expression. While many of the group members reside in California and the United States, a good number live in various places throughout the world. My creativity is often encouraging group members to like and comment on each other's offerings - and the offerings keep coming. As I can, I also support local artist events in California.

**Meike Bertrand-Paniza; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Meike Bertrand-Paniza is an award-winning photographic artist and teacher based in Los Angeles whose works have been exhibited nationally, as well as in Japan and Italy. Meike has an MFA in Photography, a BA in Visual Communication and three Career Technical Education teaching credentials. She currently teaches High School CTE Video Production and Game Design courses for Los Angeles Unified School District.

Meike's artist profile includes: First Place Award, Punctum Photographic Center North-West Annual Photography Exhibition (2015) and Honorable Mention Rarefied Light, Alaska Photographic Center. All-Alaska Biennial Exhibition, Anchorage Museum at the Rasmussen Center, Alaska (2016 & 2019), Mt. Rokko International Photography Festival, Kobe, Japan (2017), Photolucida's Top 200 (2019) and Center Review Santa Fe 100 (2016). Photographs featured in Alaska Women Speak Magazine (cover, 2019), Lenscratch (review, 2017), The Australian Museum of Contemporary Photography (review, 2018), Der Greif and Photolucida (photo-publications, 2015). Gallery representation: Singulart (France), SCAD Art Sales (GA, U.S.).

**Melinda Wax; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

BA Fine Arts/UCSC, AAS in Textile Surface Design/FIT/NYC, Masters in Art/Design Education/Pratt Institute. Employment at The Art Institute of Boston/Administration, Pratt Institute/visiting lecturer & DICE-afterschool program for high school students in graphic design/fashion/product design, Parsons School of Design/Professor of Design/Director of Continuing/Professional Studies. Years of working with artists, designers, scholars, and administrators on a broad spectrum of endeavors from course development, review of coursework, review of individuals work for exhibition & employment. Mentor to faculty and students in work/process/evaluation/smart critique. Development of rubrics as well as throw out the rubric and observe, respond with understanding, compassion and insight. Be kind, be clear, be honest.

**Melissa Chatfield; Santa Barbara*****Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Currently I manage institutional giving for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and am an occasional lecturer in archaeology at UCSB. I was a founding director of two nonprofits, the Cuzco Archaeology Institute and Vinovium, where I managed business affairs and delivered educational programs at archaeological excavations in Peru and England. In Santa Barbara, I was the education director at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, where I worked with community members to host public events to educate visitors on the Chumash, Hispanic, Asian, and Anglo heritage of the neighborhood. In my spare time, I perform historical dances from Spanish Colonial and Mexican era California with the group, Baile de California.

**Lissa Gibbs; Napa*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am an educator and non-profit administrator who has worked with educational institutions, artists, foundations, film organizations, urban design firms, festivals, museums, and grassroots

community coalitions across the globe for over 30 years. These include: Festival Napa Valley, unified school districts in Napa and Solano Counties, The Oxbow School, College of Marin, Napa Valley College, Sacatar Foundation, the Educational Enrichment Foundation, Tucson Unified School District, MOCA-Tucson, Los Angeles Unified School District/LACES, St. Mary's College, Sundance Film Festival, SXSW Film Fest, Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), Film Arts Foundation, ROMA Design, NAMAC, and the Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (IUAV). I've also worked as a freelance journalist covering arts, film, and culture and have produced broadcast non-fiction programming for ABC, CBS, and PBS. Additionally, I have created and produced large scale, community based collaborative public art projects with the Exploratorium, the SF Arts Commission, & the SF Cinematheque. I hold an M.A. in Design/Visual & Urban Studies and a B.A. in Film Studies/English, both from UC Berkeley.

**Melissa Russo; Rancho Mirage**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Melissa Russo has been a leader in the nonprofit field for nearly 40 years, excelling in executive management, finance, program development, and fundraising. Russo retired as Director of the San Bernardino County Museum in 2022, and currently volunteers for two arts organizations in her community. She also continues a five year term on the Accreditation Commission of the American Alliance of Museums, a 9 member body that maintains standards of excellence in the museum field.

Her current job is Chief Financial & Administrative Officer of US & Canadian Academy of Pathology a century-old medical education nonprofit incepted as a medical museum association. Russo was previously the Director of Institutional Advancement at Chabot Space & Center and Executive Director of the Western Museums Association, and Corporate Treasury Officer at National Westminster Bank. She has also served as adjunct faculty for the Museum Studies Department at JFK University.

Russo holds an M.A. in art history, University of Illinois and a B.A. in economics, UCLA.

Ms. Russo lives in Rancho Mirage and is an emerging artist photographer bringing clarity to a craft she has honed since she was a child.

**Melissa Bailey; Vista**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I have experience at the Local Level as a part of the, Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Committee I review grants and score them for the City of Vista. I have also been awarded local, state, and federal grants (Ex. SAMSHA, Department of Education etc). Lastly, I also have financial and data experience make me well-rounded.

**Melissa Rohlf; San Bruno**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

After a career in PR and Marketing, I pivoted to fundraising. Since settling in the Bay Area 8 years ago, I decided to volunteer on arts causes in my own community. Presently, I serve as one of the City of San Bruno's Culture & Arts Commissioners. In this role, I help the city council decide which arts projects to support in our community. I am passionate about equity in

education and the arts. I'm an environmentalist. Other leadership roles include PRSA Board of Directors for the Silicon Valley Chapter 2018-2019 and Puget Sound Chapter 2010 - 2017.

**Melissa Gutierrez; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

After 15 years in an array of corporate and nonprofit communications/marketing roles (including architecture, literacy programs, community centers, urban forestry, ed tech, charter schools, public schools, healthcare settings, and more) in California, I am currently completing my art therapy internship at UC Davis hospital in Sacramento, CA while living in San Francisco and working in private practice as a mental health counselor. Across all these experiences, the one thing that holds true for me is my heartbeat for the arts and the life-giving experiences they bring to people and communities. As a native Californian I am excited and passionate about seeing the work of CAC and the many many energized creative folx come to life and sustain the human spirit even as political, social, and climate strife and stress threaten to overwhelm. I hold an MFA in Creative Writing and an MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and I am looking forward to integrating my experiences and knowledge towards this end however I can as I move forward in my career and community service activities.

**Melody Hernandez; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Growing up, I had two passions: writing and social justice.

First these passions led to a career in education. With a degree in American Indian Studies, I began teaching on reservations in northern Minnesota incorporating Ojibwe language and culture into the classroom. Examples included teaching the traditional arts of birch bark biting and beading and powwow dancing as part of the curriculum.

After moving to San Francisco I continued to teach a diverse range of students at various area public schools. Throughout this, I was unsettled by the gross inequities that exist throughout the city, country and world. I transitioned to a career in grantwork to help organizations directly address these systemic inequities with many arts-focused nonprofit clients.

In addition, I am a practicing artist dabbling in photography, mixed media, watercolors, and gouache. I am a "theater mom" and have helped with set design, props, and costumes.

**Melody Hitt; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

After years of struggling financially, I have always turned into writing grants and scholarships through school to survive. All these years later, it is my career.

**Melvin Johnson; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I have over 40 year's experience working in the field of theater that including writing, directing, acting and working with veterans and other high risk communities.

**Mercedes Cooper; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

For 10+ years I've worked with ARRAY, a narrative change collective dedicated to amplifying films by Black people, people of color and women of all kinds. I oversee public programs such as the 6-weekend film series ARRAY 360, community movie pop-up ARRAY Drive-In, ARRAY's Filmmaker Tweet-A-Thon, Liberated Territory: An ARRAY Masterclass as well as past brand partnership events with Reebok, LA Philharmonic and The Broad. Since 2020 I've shepherded ARRAY's LEAP, the Law Enforcement Accountability Project. LEAP has commissioned projects from 9 dynamic visionaries working in the mediums of photography, poetry, music, culinary art, dance, mixed media, film and audio art to elevate activist storytelling around police brutality. During my tenure with ARRAY, I have collaborated on developing the organization's overall branding initiatives and aided promotion of 20 independent film campaigns. I'm an advocate of creating safe spaces for audiences to discover, discuss and engage with films often not accessible.

**Mercy Floresillas; Moreno Valley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am a Mexican immigrant, trilingual by necessity -I'm fluent in ASL for my son who is Deaf, a prison social worker, former theater professor, a playwright, and a performer. I hold a Masters in Social Work and a Masters in Fine Arts. I'm a fierce supporter of community theaters and I am fierce advocate for opportunities in which mental health can be addressed in a safe manner. I would love the opportunity to support organizations that can support underrepresented individuals who would otherwise not have meaningful opportunities to explore their social connections.

**Meredith Joelle Charlson; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I am a choreographer and teaching artist based in San Francisco. Favorite choreography credits include "Shoshana in December" at Custom Made Theater Co. and FaultLine Theater, "Bright Star" at Palo Alto Players, "Into the Woods" at the American Conservatory Theater's Young Conservatory, "Tinderella: the modern musical" at Custom Made Theater Co. and FaultLine Theater, and the world premiere of "A Walk on the Moon" at the American Conservatory Theater main stage (Assistant Choreographer). I teach the "Middle School Musical Theater: Advanced Performance" course for A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory, am a private coach for Studio A.C.T., and direct YouthStage productions for Berkeley Playhouse. I was a trainee for Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company in Northern Israel, and am an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).

**Meyo (mee-yo) Marrufo; Nice**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Meyo Marrufo is Eastern Pomo from the Clear Lake basin. While her tribe is from Robinson Rancheria, she has lived and learned from other California tribes, including Yurok, Hupa, Maidu, and Miwok territories. Marrufo has learned from many gifted artists over the years, focusing on cultural arts, regalia making, and traditional foods and cooking techniques. She teaches classes in Northern California in these methods, focused on continuing this knowledge and renewing it

for future generations. Her digital artwork shows examples of basket patterns, traditional dancing, and Pomo life, and is shown throughout California. Meyo also works in a conscious and direct way towards curating artwork and representing tribes throughout Indian country. She is currently curating the show: We Are Still Here: Pomo Artists and Our Cultural Landscape at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art.

**Michael Carr; Chico**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I chose to become a photographer while pursuing a double major in English and Journalism at the University of Alabama. My first related job was with a small town newspaper where I covered every level of community life, from the joyful to the tragic. My second job was with a top commercial photo studio in Atlanta where I became an expert photographic printer. After that I became a freelance photographer, eventually moving to the San Francisco Bay area in 1983. For twenty years, most of my work was with computer publications in the Silicone Valley area, after which I moved to Chico, California and retired from commercial and journalistic photography to pursue the discipline as a pure art form, developing a distinctive style. My work has shown at the Museum of Northern California Art.

**Michael Dawson; Lafayette**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Amateur photographer. Won 1st place in Berkeley Lawrence Labs photo walk. Photography shown in galleries located in Berkeley, Alameda, South Korea, Pennsylvania, etc. 10 years experience.

**Michael Garcia; Whittier**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Michael is an arts administrator and director that works along the intersection of community- and civic-engaged arts. He works on the Cornerstone artistic staff as Associate Producer, and is a member of the ensemble. Outside of Cornerstone he works with theater artists Mark-n-Sparks on a 10-year art-based civic engagement project that leverages imagination to co-create beautiful solutions to complex social justice and policy issues. In his work he's traveled internationally, visiting elementary schools in El Salvador as the Tour Manager for the Activist Dance Theatre company CONTRA-TIEMPO; and as a stage manager for an ice opera festival at The Royal Opera House in Oman. Another highlight was touring as stage manager for Marc Bamuthi Joseph's /peh-LO-tah/ at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Kennedy Center. He went to school at the University of California, Irvine, but started at his local community college, Rio Hondo. He lives in Whittier, CA.

**Michael Millar; Valencia**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Dr. Michael Millar is Lecturer Emeritus in Music Industry Studies at Cal Poly Pomona and was Director of the University's Center for Community Engagement from 2013-18. He is an Arts Commissioner for the City of Santa Clarita. He earned the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts, with concentrations in Performance and Arts Administration, from Claremont Graduate University,

where he studied management with Peter F. Drucker. He has served on arts grant review panels for the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, and the College Music Society.

Dr. Millar's nonprofit management positions have included that of Executive Director of the Arts Council of Kern (2011-13) and Development Director of Southwest Chamber Music (2005-07). He has presented numerous workshops in entrepreneurship, community engagement, and professional development at universities and conferences. He is an ICF-certified coach serving diverse professional constituencies.

**Mike Radice; Irvine**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I've worked as a nonprofit development director and CE) for arts organizations for over 30 years and am likewise a musical artist. I've served museums, art schools, and music and theater organizations. Currently, I'm the CEO of HOPE Center for the Arts in Irvine. HOPE provides arts education for adults with intellectual disabilities, an underserved population. I have a graduate degree in nonprofit administration and have raised millions of dollars through grants as well as other sources. Grant and program evaluation are areas in which I have expertise.

**Michael Sheehan; Glendale**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am an impatient person... I vetted theatre companies yeas ago and worked with Ray Tatar. I know you are not interested in me and am hoping to just finish this

**Michael Angelo Camacho; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

With a keen eye for aligning organizational strategies with constituent needs, I specialize in implementing processes that foster public trust, . I also have experience in deploying approaches specifically for start-up nonprofits such as the Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego, Children of the Immaculate Heart, and Catholic Young Adult Sports.

With top-tier relationships across a broad range of sectors in San Diego, I have been involved in evidence-based program design, strategic planning, financial analysis, resource development, and civic engagement. My portfolio of past client organizations include: Dreams for Change, the YMCA, and Kids Included Together.

I earned an M.A. in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences. I now lead the Visual and Performing Arts Foundation for San Diego Unified School District. I am proud of what the organization has accomplished in its five years of existence and the district's commitment to addressing socioeconomic issues by making art education available to every student in every school a priority.

**Michaelyn Logue; Grass Valley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

My education includes Associates Degrees in both Music and Early Childhood Education (with specialization in Anti-Bias curriculum and Peace Education) from Cabrillo College in Aptos, where I was also employed as a teacher. A BA from SFSU in Creative Writing with a focus on

poetry and a minor focus on world religions. I am currently employed by the Nevada County Arts Council and the Grass Valley - Nevada City Cultural District where I have gained experience in the field of arts administration and cultural planning. I have been a member of various community groups; the Santa Cruz Chorale, the Cabrillo Traveling Choir, Community Writing in Nevada City, and the Literary Committee for the Sierra Poetry Festival, to name a few. I have an extensive background in volunteering including an "Arts in the Parks" program in York, Pennsylvania, Habitat for Humanity, the Food Bank, and currently the Nevada City Farmers Market.

**Michele Hillen-Noufer; Rancho Cordova**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Michele Hillen-Noufer, M.Ed., is the Executive Director for NorCal School of the Arts. She is a member of the Actors' Equity Association and SAG/AFTRA. Michele worked as a professional actor for over 25 years doing theatre, film, and television across the country and internationally. She has directed, taught, and choreographed professional theatre and theatre for young people. Michele has a passion for providing theatre arts education to schools, including arts integration opportunities for students with learning differences. Michele is an arts integration specialist, curriculum developer and grant writer and has been a member of the Sacramento State University's Academic Talent Search faculty since 2012. Michele is a founding board member for SARA, the Sacramento Alliance for Regional Arts, whose mission is to advocate for the regional arts sector of the Sacramento area. Michele is currently a lecturer for the Theatre & Dance Department at Sac State.

**Michelle Boire; Redwood City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Michelle Boire is a Bay Area curriculum developer, artist, and educator! She is passionate about using social justice as a means of inspiration in art education. For ten years, she taught art in middle and high school independent schools. Recently Michelle transitioned from mentoring students at a Title 1 public high school, to managing the instructional team at a Bay Area vocational school. In addition, she is the lead curator of the Redwood City Zine Library.

**Michelle Brouwer; Lake Forest**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Michelle Maasz Brouwer: arts administrator, dance specialist.

Michelle brings a Midwestern work ethic to the Golden Coast in her work with producers, community groups, and university departments renting Irvine Barclay Theatre, teaching dance, and connecting within the local arts and culture scene. Having trained in classical ballet, Michelle studied Dance and Art History at UC Irvine (BA – cum laude). For her thesis, she produced a multicultural showcase representing traditional dance forms from Hawaii, India, Japan, Thailand, Philippines, and Vietnam, with performances on campus and at Samueli Theater (SCFTA). In her professional career, she worked closely with the Iranian community at the UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies, and coordinated a plaza festival with Consulado de Mexico Santa Ana. Michelle has served on the steering committees for Emerging Arts Leaders

OC and the Irvine Global Village Festival. As a dancer, Michelle performed in local projects as well as throughout Wiesbaden, Germany.

**Michelle Lopez; Rosemead**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Michelle L. Lopez is an educator, artist, curator, grant writer, community organizer, and mom. Michelle served as the former Finance Director for the activist (Artist and Activist) organization Mujeres de Maiz, she also serves on the artist advisory committee for the Boyle Heights arts organization Self Help Graphics & Art. Her most recent work includes co-curating the exhibition, Entre Tinta y Lucha: 45 Years of Self Help Graphics & Art which is taking place in Fall 2018 in the Cal State LA Fine Arts Gallery.

**Shelley Mathews; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I served as a grant writing/manager for many regional non-profits for twenty years prior to retiring 3 years ago. I continue to follow and participate as a supporter of arts in the Sacramento community, particularly those focused on music, and arts education in local schools.

**Michelle Roshanzamir; Beverly Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I'm currently running my own consultancy, MVR Creative, which helps creatives, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit leaders bridge the gap between their vision and the business side of things - focusing on helping them develop the systems and operations in their business to increase revenue. I'm also the ED of Donna Sternberg & Dancers. I received my BFA from CalArts and MBA with a minor in Arts Management from CSULB.

**Micha Scott; Aptos**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Micha Scott has performed on stages around the world as a 13-year senior member with the renowned Garth Fagan Dance. While in the company she performed leading roles in many of Mr. Fagan's works, including 'From Before', 'Collage For Romie', 'Transition/Translation' and the seminal collaboration with trumpeter / composer Wynton Marsalis, 'Griot New York'.

Ms. Scott is deeply involved in the dance community in Santa Cruz, CA, particularly as an advocate for the Black youth dance community. As Executive and Artistic Director at Tannery World Dance & Cultural Center (TWDC) since 2011, she highlights the artistic traditions passed on to her by Garth Fagan, including not only the technical and performance aspects of dance, but also incorporating traditions from the Black American experience through music, discussions around race, advocacy and the arts. She serves on the Advisory Board of the SCC Black Health Matters Initiative and on the Arts Council Santa Cruz grants panel.

**Michelle Miller; Porterville**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I bring over 11 years of higher education and 20 years of nonprofit management. I serve as a dean of instruction for fine and applied arts for Porterville College a rural serving institution. I

hold a doctor's in education, masters in instructional design, a MBA, and a bachelor's degree. I have served on a theater board of directors and wrote grants for the organization for three years. I volunteer to write grants for museums and programs as a way to give back. I bring skills in project management, writing budgets, grant development, and data analysis.

**Midori Herring; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

an LGBTQ+ arts organization offering queer-centered arts programming as well as grassroots arts consulting services in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Miguel Castillo; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have been producing cultural and music events since 1998 and produce the Fiesta En La Calle events which include the Annual Cinco De Mayo Festival, Sept. 16 Festival, The Sacramento Vegan Food Festival, The Mariachi Festival de Sacramento and I did a summer long concert series from 2011 thru 2016. Many of the events I have produced have been free admission to the community. I have worked alongside with Live Nation as a talent buyer and bringing many of the Latin Rock/Pop artists to Sacramento. I have also volunteered with various organizations in producing fundraiser events and served 3 years as the President of the Brazilian Cultural Center. I participate and volunteer with other events such as the Sacramento Taco Festival, the Crawfish and Catfish Festival, Mardi Gras / Carnival Festival and such. I served as a board member of the Hispanic Culture Day Committee for the California State Fair when it existed and served as a community representative for the Sacramento Police Department when it existed.

**Milena McCartney; Hermosa Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Ms. Milena McCartney is a passionate and mission driven professional with more than 10 years of experience in non-for-profit organization management, grant writing, and fundraising. She holds a Master's degree in Public Service with a focus on Health Care Organization Management from DePaul University, Chicago, IL as well as Master's degrees in Journalism from Sofia University and the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. Ms. McCartney successfully worked with a number of non-for-profits in Illinois and California in various roles from board member, treasurer, to operations manager. Her experience spans arts, education, community projects and health care, and scientific research, where she managed and secured more \$75M in funding from State, Federal and philanthropic agencies.

**Miles Markstein; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

Miles Markstein is the Development Director of ARTogether, a nonprofit organization that provides free arts and community programs to refugees, immigrants, and BIPOC community members. Founded in 2017, ARTogether designs creative programs to ensure refugees flourish in their new homes, organizing art workshops and inclusive social gatherings, supporting refugee and immigrant artists, organizing art exhibitions, producing artist-led art projects, and providing youth arts programs and education.

For over half a decade, Miles Markstein has led a career in the non-profit sector, helping to shape and develop arts programming for newcomers and underrepresented communities. Born in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, Markstein earned a BA in Religious Studies from UC Santa Barbara, with a minor in Music. Joining ARTogether in its first year, his work has included grant writing, fundraising, financial management, art program leadership and development, art project management, and art project development support in collaboration with aspiring newcomer artists.

**Miles Mathews; Scotts Valley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Hey my name is Miles. I live and work in Santa Cruz (Scotts Valley). I have an active art practice that includes mosaic, painting, and mural arts. I have a degree from University of Cal Berkeley in Art Practice. I have a studio here where I make art and expand my skills. Currently I am working on my marketing and YouTube presence as an artist, and am very interested in the creator economy. I would like to learn more about the grant writing process and one day be able to be awarded some grants of my own. Thank you, Miles

**Minoo Amini; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I hold a bachelor's degree in urban sociology from the National University of Iran, a Master's in urban planning from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and a Ph.D. IN community development from Michigan state university. I taught at several universities for fifteen years but transitioned into the art world to follow my true dream. In 2015, I attended Sacramento City College to study studio art and continued my education program in fine arts at Les Beaux-Arts in Paris. I've been showing my artworks through Sac Open Studios and other group and solo exhibitions that help emerging artists. My work is contemporary in style, utilizing figurative and expressionist techniques. I was among the winners of the 2022 Crocker – Kingsley. My other accomplishment includes a show in the Sacramento Crocker Art Museum, Blue Line Arts, Gregory Kondos Gallery, and the American River College Art Gallery.

**Mireya Hepner; Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Mireya (Murry) Hepner was born in Mexico City and moved to the U.S. when she was four years old. She believes deeply in creating theatre that encourages empathy and that opens young minds to new possibilities. Pre-pandemic, she served as Artistic Producer of Rancho Cucamonga's MainStreet Theatre Company for 14.5 years, producing innovative shows specifically for children and family audiences. Prior to that, she spent over 20 years working on Broadway, Off Broadway, in Regional Theatre, and on the road, working on diverse projects in various artistic, production and management capacities. She serves on the board of TYA/USA, the national service organization for Theatre for Young Audiences. As an adjunct lecturer, she teaches non-profit theatre management to USC stage management students.

**Miriam Greenberg; Berkeley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Miriam Bird Greenberg (she/they) is a poet and occasional essayist with a fieldwork-derived practice. The author of "In the Volcano's Mouth," winner of the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize, her poetry has appeared in *Granta*, *Poetry*, and the *Kenyon Review*. She's written about the contemporary nomads, hitchhikers, and hobos living on America's margins, and the economic migrants and asylum seekers of Hong Kong's Chungking Mansions. A high school dropout and former hitchhiker herself, she's been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the Fine Arts Work Center, and Stanford University, where she was a Wallace Stegner Fellow. Her limited-edition letterpress artist book "The Other World," designed in collaboration with master printer Keith Graham, was published by the Center for Book Arts; she's also the author of "All night in the new country" and "Pact-Blood, Fever Grass." She teaches writing across genres at UC Berkeley.

**Misty Monroe; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I have a BA in Theatre from SDSU. I am a SAG actress as well as a credentialed teacher. I worked for LAUSD as a traveling elementary theatre teacher for 5 years. That experience allowed me to serve in almost every elementary school in the Watts and South Central areas. I have served as a teaching artist for the Center Theatre Group's education department. Where I co-directed student created theatre productions for an afterschool program. I am a member of West Angeles Church of God in Christ, which is one of the largest predominately Black churches in Los Angeles. I am a former member of their theatre department and I plan on returning as soon as full functionality is restored. I have also served as a co-director for 'Total Praise Ministries' Summer theatre program in Long Beach.

As a professional actress I have worked in television, film, commercials, and voice over. I have worked in the theatre arts for over 15 years serving as an actress, educator, and director.

**Mohammad Ahmed; Riverside*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I am currently enrolled in the Los Angeles Film School for my Bachelor of Science in Digital Filmmaking. I am also engaged in the LAFS discord server which we share each other's work and give input.

**Molly Buzick Pontin; Newport Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

MOLLY BUZICK PONTIN has spent more than 25 years championing musical access, reaching countless lifelong learners through her work. She applies her passion for arts education, wide-ranging administrative experience, and considerable music skills to fostering the belief that everyone can sing. Accomplishments include the development Pacific Chorale Academy, a groundbreaking after-school program for low-income elementary school students that uses singing as a tool to build life skills, and Pacific Symphony's highly regarded "OC Can You Play?" initiative for adult amateur musicians.

Molly has held artistic and administrative roles with the Colorado Children's Chorale, Santa Barbara Youth Symphony, Denver Young Artists Orchestra, Santa Barbara Symphony, and Pacific Symphony. She is a past board member of the California Choral Directors Association, and currently advocates nationally as a board member of Chorus America as the Chair of the ADEI committee. She holds a DMA in Orchestral Conducting from UC Santa Barbara.

**Molly Terbovich-Ridenhour; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Molly Terbovich-Ridenhour has more than 15 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, organizational development and a lifelong background as a dance practitioner, educator and performer. Previous to her role with Kinetic Light, she led the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet as the President & CEO for over 10 years. During this time, she revitalized the overall business infrastructure, established marketing and development departments, and led the organization through the challenges of a global pandemic resulting in the resilience of strong financials and substantial programming growth. She is a graduate and member of the Fieldstone Nonprofit Leaders Learning Group and the Community Arts Education Leadership Institute (CAELI). Molly has served on the boards of Dance/USA, transcDANCE Youth Arts Project, Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and currently serves on the Executive Board of Women's March San Diego. She holds an MFA in Dance from Arizona State University and resides in San Diego, California.

**Monica Nouwens; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Monica Nouwens is a fellow of the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam and attended CalArts.

Nouwens has photographed Los Angeles and Angelinos for more than twenty-five years. Nouwens is noted for intimate and provocative portraits amidst continuously synthetic landscapes of decadence and decay.

Nouwens has exhibited widely, including one-person shows at Photography Museum Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Ron Mandos Gallery as well as underground spaces such as Pehrspace in Los Angeles. She participated in group shows at World Aids Day in Trafalgar Square, Netherlands Photography Museum Rotterdam and Annenberg Space for Photography Los Angeles

Nouwens work is included in the collection of Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. In addition to her independent projects, her work is published in print media. She worked for clients such as Salvatore Ferragamo, Levi's and Prada.

Nouwens taught at University of California, Irvine, Southern California Institute of Architecture, California Institute of the Arts, Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico and Canadian Center for Architecture (CCA) in Montreal. She will be teaching at Venice Arts this summer.

**Monika Ramnath; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Monika Ramnath has over fifteen years of experience working in both visual and performing arts, and has been involved in dance and theatre for most of her life as a performer and arts administrator. She currently serves as Assistant Director of Development at the Fowler Museum

at UCLA, and previously worked at Los Angeles-area arts organizations including the Ford Theatres, East West Players, Leela Institute, and California Art Club. In each of these positions, she has been motivated by a belief in the power of arts and culture to nurture strong, diverse, and equitable communities and bring about social change.

**Montana G; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Founder of Fill The City public art consultancy, 'Public Art for Change' lead @ ULI, artist manager, & native Angeleno.

**Mouna Benbouazza; Beverly Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am an Arts Associate at the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, working in the Grants Administration Division. As part of my role, I've reviewed an average of 5 Public Space Activation Fund (PAF) proposals per month to determine their eligibility and competitiveness to be presented to the Cultural Affairs Commission (the PAF is a monthly opportunity to propose temporary outdoor creative engagement projects). Additionally, I've assisted with the organization and coordination of 6 grant panel review meetings during this year's process where panelists discussed various proposals.

A key aspect of my work is to liaise with and assist the Department's grantees comprising individual artists, emerging, small, medium, and large organizations. Lastly, I've coordinated a new learning and networking program aimed at convening the local arts community and helping individuals become better connected across the city. My academic training includes literature, theater, cinema, and art history.

**Moya Marquez; South Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I have worked for a few galleries/individual artists as a contracted event organizer when I was in college. I have held a Getty Multicultural Undergrad Internship at Plaza de la Raza serving the latinx community of East LA, as well as an LA County Arts Commission Internship at the Arts Division in the City of West Hollywood. After graduating, I worked part time at Plaza de la Raza as a development coordinator, part time at Arts for LA as a programs assistant, and finally, full time at the City of WeHo as an Admin Assistant. Now I work as a Community Events Coordinator for the City, not in the Arts Division, but my love for local art and artists remains, and I would love to put that to use.

**Muriel Leung; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Muriel Leung is the author of *Imagine Us*, *The Swarm* (Nightboat Books), *Bone Confetti* (Noemi Press), and *Images Seen to Images Felt* (Antenna) in collaboration with artist Kristine Thompson. She is a recipient of fellowships to Kundiman, VONA/Voices Workshop and the Community of Writers. She is the Poetry Co-Editor of *Apogee Journal*. She also co-hosts *The Blood-Jet Writing Hour Podcast* with Rachele Cruz and MT Vallarta. She is a member of Miresa Collective, a feminist speakers bureau. She received her PhD in Creative Writing and Literature from University of Southern California where she was the Andrew W. Mellon Humanities in a

Digital World fellow. She was most recently the inaugural Visiting Writer at Arizona State University and a publicist for Kaya Press.

**Joy Veluz; Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

A native of Pasadena, Myra Joy Veluz, also known as Joy, began her training at the age of eight at San Marino Dance Academy. She grew up as a competitive dancer earning her numerous scholarships and performing opportunities early on in her career. She has since performed commercially and in the concert dance world with Deborah Rosen + Dancers and Blue13 Dance Company.

Joy attended the University of California, Santa Barbara where she received her BFA in Dance, BA in Sociology, and minor in Anthropology. She also holds her MFA in Dance from the University of Arizona. Over the past decade Joy's teaching experience has spanned K-12, higher education, the non-profit and private sectors. Joy continues to expand her knowledge as a Lead Mentor for Young Choreographer's Project. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at Pasadena City College and part of NDEO's Can Teacher Leader Project Team.

**M.J. Kang; Venice**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

M.J. KANG is a playwright, actor, director and improviser. She's been awarded The Breathe Project 2022 New Play award, Theater J's Expanding The Canon award (2022-24) and has been commissioned by Portland Playhouse, Shotgun Players, Blyth Festival Theater, Shakespeare in Action and AFO Solo Shorts (twice). Her plays have been produced in Toronto, NYC, and Los Angeles by Tarragon Theater, Theater Passe Muraille, Factory Theater, The Barrow Group, Cahoots Theater Projects, Raising Sun, Son of Semele, Playground-LA, East-West Players, Pan Asian Rep and many others.

**Na Hyun Kim; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My name is Nahyun Kim and I am a practicing artist living in San Francisco. My family and I immigrated to the Bay Area when I was 10 years old, so I feel a deep sense of belonging in this community and hope to give back by getting involved in collective programs like this. I graduated with a BFA in Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon University in 2012, and have been working as executive/administrative assistant for almost 9 years. My last job as an arts administrative was as the executive assistant and development associate at Chinese Culture Center, so working in the non-profit sector is a big interest of mine. As of April 2023, I have decided to prioritize my art career, so I have been mostly focused in working on my paintings, which are the inner visuals of my subconscious and conscious experiences as an immigrant woman in the U.S.

**Nada Shalaby; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Nada Shalaby has more than fifteen years of experience in the arts as a fundraiser, educator, and artist. Prior to her current role as Senior Grants Officer at the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, she held the position of Manager of Institutional Giving at the American

Folk Art Museum in New York. Nada was a faculty member in the Department of the Arts at the American University in Cairo from 2011-2015. She holds an MA in Middle East Studies from the American University in Cairo and an MFA in Art Theory and Practice from Northwestern University.

**Nakachi Clark-Kasimu; Richmond**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Nakachi Clark-Kasimu (she/they/fam) is a core team member at The Embodiment Project, a street and theater dance company based in the SF Bay Area. Central to her core values are nurturing community belonging and collective care through grief work, healing, compassion, love and transforming harm. She is also a poet, singer, abolitionist and elementary school teacher with a masters degree in Special Education from USF.

**Nancy Mora; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I was born in San Diego, California. Raised in San Francisco/Sausalito. I was exposed to local Bay Area artist Laurel Burch and was influenced by her work. She was doing a commission for Casa Madrona in Sausalito when I met her at the age of 4. At that time my family lived and worked at Casa Madrona. When it came time for higher education; I furthered my education and technique as a painter & video artist. I graduated with an MFA from ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, California in 2017 from the Grad Art Department. I traveled and lived outside North America before the age of 17. I have great appreciation, knowledge, and respect for the Arts. In 2021 following an invitation to donate a mural to the Chinatown Community, I established a 501c3 which donates murals to property owners in Chinatown.

**Nancy Heins-Glaser; Fallbrook**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Arts advocacy thru Board membership Pierro Gallery/ So.Orange, Prod/dir "Once Upon A Gaslight .. A Walking Tour of SO," coordinating 100 pro& amateur volunteers. Foubder/forler pres " South Orange Productions / FCG Support to Fallbrook High School Students, ; prod host/producer "ALL ART/ All The Time" and "Meet The Artist" and Art NEWS spots ( New Jersey) PR support and facilitator of youth volunteers on camera host/ producing interview local and regional artists. .

**Nancy Singelman; Santa Barbara**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

My support of artists, musicians, and local environmental groups though fundraising has been immense. My Masters in Special Education, teaching, as well as coaching Special Olympis has created a very well rounded person.

**Nanette McGuinness; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Award-winning soprano NANETTE MCGUINNESS has been hailed in the press for her "creamy golden tone" and "glorious soprano" across a repertory that ranges from 1600 to the present. A passionate advocate of music by living composers and women artists, McGuinness has performed operas, concerts, and recitals in twelve languages on two continents in over 25

operatic roles with the Silesian State (Czech Republic), Opera San Jose (Opera in the Schools), and West Bay Opera, among others. Her CD of music by 19th and 20th century women composers, *Fabulous Femmes (Centaur)* was called “perfect for the song recital lover” by Chamber Music Magazine. A voting member of the Recording Academy, she has recorded six albums and is the co-founder and Artistic Executive Director of Ensemble for These Times, as well as a core ensemble member.

**Nanette Kelley; McKinleyville**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

A lifelong traveler, I call both our Osage Reservation and Redwood Coast (unceded Wiyot land) home.

My foundation in the arts predates me by generations from time immemorial. My work includes culturally and regionally specific interpretation through an Indigenous lens.

Mentors Hung Liu, Lucienne Bloch (Diego Rivera’s paint specialist), and multimedia/transdisciplinary artist, Anh-Thuy Nguyen, gave me an appreciation for art as cultural history and contemporary stories, and not mere aesthetics.

A first-generation college student, I have a B.A. in Art, Humboldt State; a B.A. in Corporate Communications, Rogers State, and an Indigenous Education M.A., School of Social Transformation, Center for Indian Education, Arizona State.

One of 10 culturally based artists selected for the 2021-2022 inaugural CAC Administrators of Color Fellowship cohort, I received a commendation from the California Legislature. A professional member of the Native American Journalists Association, I am a regular feature contributor to First American Art Magazine.

**Nan Robarge; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have an MFA in Art from San Francisco State University and a BS in General Design from the University of Minnesota. I have been active in the arts as an educator and artist. My own art involves mixed media, making use of textile techniques, photography, painting and book arts. While teaching I took on leadership and presenting roles; heading up professional development sessions, presenting in conferences on Differences in the Art Room and reviewing curriculum. Other professional highlights include a residency at the deYoung Museum, being an affiliate artist at the Headlands Center for the Arts and receiving a WESTAF/NEA Regional Fellowship. While working in philanthropy, I was the program assistant: working with applicants, coordinating grant review panels and organizing application materials.

**Nasim Moghadam; Palo Alto**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Nasim Moghadam is an art educator and a multidisciplinary visual artist holding an MFA in studio art and a BFA in graphic design. Her installations focus on discrimination and hyphenated identity, and the constraints on women, their bodies, and their voices. Using sound, video, photography, and multimedia sculptures of varying scales, and materials that serve as constant physical reminders of femininity, Moghadam creates narratives inspired by the efforts of

women worldwide who are defending their basic, unalienable rights. Envisioning another world, an equal world in solidarity, Moghadam celebrates how womxn go beyond cultural and political limitations, rise up, and create a revolution.

Moghadam has received awards from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, H. A. R. D. Foundation, Outstanding Graduate Award from SFAI, along with residencies at the Cubberley Artist Studio Program, Kala Art Institute, and Building 180. Her works have featured in international festivals including Italy and Japan, and national museums and galleries, such as SFMOMA, San Francisco Art Commission, Museum of Craft and Design, Southern Exposure, Minnesota Street Project, Aggregate Space Gallery, etc.

### **Natalie Collins; Los Angeles**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a practising visual artist, with a BA in Art/Art History and have participated in art exhibitions in Los Angeles. I have a MSeD in museum education and have worked in museums in the US and Jamaica. I have served as an Arts facilitator for Arts2Go providing community based arts experiences and taught art to children in an after school outreach programme in southeast DC. Throughout the years, I have used the arts therapeutically as a social worker/therapist and as an educator in early childhood settings. I managed a summer arts program in Jamaica and have experience infusing the arts in my clinical practice in schools. I love the arts and have been fortunate to have learnt to play an instrument, learn modern dance, travel internationally to study theatre in London and visual arts in Ghana.

### **Nathan Cottam; San Francisco**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Nathan Cottam is a performing artist devoted to broadening the scope of people involved in the arts. Nathan was exposed early in life to music and drama, finally joining them together in the study of ballet. After completing a BS in sociology, Nathan went on to earn a Master of Fine Art in Dance from the University of Arizona.

In 2013 Nathan founded Mannakin Theater & Dance while living in Serbia, and produced his first full evening performance in Belgrade, Serbia. Two tours of Serbia followed, with support from the US Embassy. August of 2016 saw his first full production US soil, at San Francisco's Palace of the Legion of Honor. Nathan recently opened the iMPACT Center for Art & Dance, in San Francisco.

In April of 2018, Nathan founded Cultivating Ballet Culture, a classical ballet outreach program with a mission to bring high level ballet training to underserved youth.

### **NeFesha Yisrael; Madera**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

NeFesha Ruth Yisra'el is the Executive Director of the African American Historical and Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley. NeFesha holds a masters degree in Urban Studies with a concentration in Community Arts. She worked as an Arts Administrator and Community Organizer in Philadelphia, PA, before moving to Fresno, CA, to be the Chief Organization Officer

for Royal Roots. She is also a two-time national boxing champion and was a bantamweight fighter for Team USA.

NeFesha is also a member of The Fresno (CA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. NeFesha is the founder and Black Arts and Culture magazine. A daughter of Yechezch'el and Robin Yisra'el and a descendent of Araminta Ross, more widely known as Harriet Tubman; she inherited the spirit of the woman they called "Moses" and works to liberate her community's mind, soul and body as her ancestors before her.

**Sylvia Toy St. Louis; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am a middle-class Black American housewife who makes Arthouse movies in my livingroom. My work has screened internationally since 2010.

From 1988-2010, I was a sculptor, professionally represented and actively exhibiting in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

From 1990-2007, I was a small theatre playwright, solo performer and actor, regularly appearing in San Francisco Bay Area venues and showcases, as well as touring my solo shows around the country. I was the founding Artistic Director (2005-2010) of Jump! Theatre, which produced original plays about experiences of mental illness.

**Nereya Otieno; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I grew up in CA's public school system in the 90s/00s, back before significant cuts to arts funding were made. I attended USC and saw the stark difference in opportunity and safety consistent funding could offer — both for academic rigor and creative exploration. In 2011, I moved to Denmark to pursue a master's degree studying music and cognition. Following graduation, I began working with various arts organizations, eventually helping launch and serving on the board for Future Female Sounds — an award-winning nonprofit that makes DJing accessible to women and girls globally. In that time, I engaged European grant systems and socialist government programs. I moved back stateside in 2019 and developed communications for Art + Practice, a visual arts nonprofit located in South L.A. I still serve on the board of FFS and co-founded my own nonprofit, Rising Artist Foundation, in 2021 where I serve as Managing Director.

**Ngonda Badila; Alameda**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a youth educator by day and performing artist by night!

Since 2006 at the sweet age of 17 I was already teaching classes to a room full of students at the Multicultural Arts and Technology program at New Britain Connecticut. I was born into a traditional dance ensemble lead by my mother and father, so as child I was immersed into a world of serving community through the arts and education. After 4 summers of teaching traditional and contemporary dance to student from different cities in Connecticut and Afterschool in Hudson NY during the school year, I decided to get my BA at Hunter College for Music History & performance as well as start my own community music group Lady Moon &

The Eclipse. In NYC I was a teaching artist at Manhattan Youth Community Center teaching dance, art, songwriting to ages 6 months - 12 years. After 8 years living and working in the city I decided to move to hometown, Hudson NY where I began written curriculums for a home schooling center, Kite's Nest. These curriculums had to consider children with disabilities and those who come from abusive or troubled homes. I am currently living in Alameda California since March 2021. I am now a mother of two.

**Nicole Banks; Hayward**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Nicole is an educational consultant specializing in life coaching and success programming. For the last three years, she has focused on delivering cutting-edge psychosocial outreach and student retention programming with community college and private institutions of higher learning in the United States.

In addition to her U.S. collegiate work, Nicole has been the recipient of two coveted foreign Ministry of Education posts where she implemented work-based mentor, leadership, and capacity-building training programs. She is also an avid enthusiast of the arts. Through her psychosocial programs delivered at Santa Clara University, she was fortunate to integrate Frank Sinatra artists in residence and theatre-based events as a part of key campus mental health efforts. On her weekends, she regularly attends Lorraine Hansberry productions and supports Black, Indigenous, People of Color artistic events. Her life coaching work often extends to work with students studying the arts and artistic entrepreneurs.

**Nikki Cardoza; Fair Oaks**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Since 2016, Nikki Cardoza has served in various roles at 916 Ink. Namely, she spent 5 years as the Director of Programming for 916 Ink's Find Your Voice creative writing workshop series, her main duties were program design and curriculum development, implementing data collection and overseeing outcome reporting for grantors and funders. As the Director of Resources, Nikki is responsible for all grant writing, grant compliance and reporting. Nikki is active in the Sacramento writing community and has published her own writing in The Sacramento Bee and several local literary journals. Her previous work experience includes as an associate education lobbyist in state government, representing community colleges, school districts, and employee unions. Nikki served as a humanitarian aid worker in China from 2003-2012, this included 3 years as a Volunteer Coordinator for International China Concern. In 2015, she completed her undergraduate education at California State University, Sacramento, where she graduated with a degree in government. She also holds an Associate Arts degree in Journalism.

**Nicole Gelormino; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I began working as a Teaching Artist while in undergrad at Eugene Lang College and Parsons School of Design, where I studied Art Education, Urban Education and Painting. In 2009 I acquired my K-12 Teaching Credential in Visual Art and Masters in Art & Art Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. In the Bay Area I worked as an independent Teaching Artist, serving youth of all ages in public schools, community centers and museums. I have

worked with dozens of arts and culture non-profits and museums, leading professional development for teachers, designing visual art curriculum, lecturing, and teaching youth. I have served as the Youth Arts Program Coordinator of the Cultural Arts Division of San Francisco Recreation & Parks and the Pacific Arts Camp Director. I taught Visual Art for 9 years as faculty of Gateway High School in San Francisco, where I also served as Department Coordinator and Teaching Coach. I have served on the California Teacher Credentialing Advisory Committee and on the Teaching & Learning Working Group for the Art Education Association of Sonoma County. I currently teach in Los Angeles Unified School District and maintain an artistic practice.

**Nicki Heskin; Claremont**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Prior to COVID, I was an AEA Stage Manager, Freelance Director and former civic (Rancho Cucamonga) and intimate theatre producer. During COVID I went back to grad school to earn a dual MBA/Masters in Arts Management to be able help to make and lead the sort of institutional change in theatre and the arts that COVID gave us time to envision. Studying with Laura Zucker was career-changing. Currently I am the General Manager at Boston Court Pasadena working to model change in the LA 99-seat world.

**Nicole Verdes; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

Nicole Verdes (she/they) is devoted to serving arts and culture organizations as an administrator and advocate. In their time as Board President of Lambda Archives, she has been successful in using her passion for social justice, arts and culture, and cultural preservation to create policies that center equity and access. In addition to her role at Lambda Archives, they have served on the Executive Committee of the San Diego LGBT Community Centers' Young Professionals Council, Treasurer on the Steering Committee for Rising Arts Leaders San Diego, and as a member of Diversionary Theatre's Community Advisory Committee. She has presented on topics such as Youth Archival Futures at the ALMS Conference in Berlin and has served on a grant panel for the California Arts Council's Administrators of Color Fellowship initiative. She currently works at San Diego Pride as a Grant Writer and is the staff liaison for their Art of Pride Program.

**Nina Lopez; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Nina Lopez is a values-driven nonprofit professional with a passion for the intersection of arts, culture, and social justice. She holds a B.A. in History of Art and Visual Culture, Honors, and a B.A. in Latin American and Latino Studies, Highest Honors, Cum Laude from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is also pursuing an Arts and Culture Leadership Certificate at the University of San Diego. Her professional experience includes working as a Program Manager at Women's Foundation California where she ensures an efficient grant lifecycle process that promotes trust and communication among organizational and community stakeholders. Nina has also participated in various professional development programs, such as ACTIVATE Delegates with Arts for LA. With comprehensive experience in general administration, grant administration, and project management along with proficiency in Spanish language, she is eager to make meaningful contributions to the arts and culture sector.

**Nishtha Goel; Calabasas*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am someone who like to perform, create and present. In my professional life I'm a Project Manager. I utilize my creativity in websites and applications to enhance their usability.

I have performed musically in cultural programs and created artwork in public settings.

**Nitya Narasimhan N/A; Sunnyvale*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Nitya Narasimhan is a South Asian artist specializing in Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance form. She is also a dance educator, cultural worker, and founder of Prayukti Arts, Bay Area.

Nitya's work explores the intersections of art, culture, and identity, emphasizing the universality of emotions that break all social and cultural boundaries. She upholds the traditional values of Bharatanatyam while acknowledging its problematic past, working with its rich present, and remaining open to its evolving future. This allows her to embody the spirit of innovation and evolution that is essential for any art form to thrive and remain relevant. Through Prayukti Arts, Nitya celebrates and showcases South Asian Arts while engaging in community-based projects that use the arts for cultural exchange. She believes in the transformative power of art to connect with audiences in profound ways and strives to create a space that prioritizes the arts while fostering human connections.

**Noelle Forestal; San Pedro*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

A SoCal native, Noelle Marie Forestal is a consummate professional artist with an incredible dynamic range that gives her an edge few singers possess. She is a brilliant singer/songwriter and a lover of languages. She sings many genres including rock, soul, country, opera, jazz, pop, bossanova, blues, musical theater, and Irish folk music. Performing since age 3, she began private lessons at age 12, worked with L.A. Opera at age 15, and studied vocal music, dance, and theatre at the L.A. County for the Arts (LACHSA), CSULB, CSUF, and CSULA. She taught preschool and directed Music Together® family classes for over ten years. Noelle currently teaches various voice, music, bellydance, yoga and wellness workshops and classes online and in person, throughout California and abroad.

**Noor Al-Samarrai; Berkeley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Noor Al-Samarrai's fieldwork-derived poetry collection, EL CERRITO (2018) was recognized by the Arab American Book Awards and named "the best piece of literature I have read in a long time," by poet and filmmaker Jonas Mekas. A stubborn Mesopotamian and Californian, she was a 2016-2017 Fulbright Creative Arts Fellow in Amman. Her work has been supported by Mophradat, the NY Center for Book Arts, Intersection for the Arts, Tamalpa, and published in Cosmonauts Avenue, Washington Square Review, and more. She also produces podcasts and is infusing somatic practices into her writing.

**Ola Gilkey; North Hollywood*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a watercolor artist and writer. I have illustrated several books. I am also a dancer who moves in the artistic spaces of ceramics, fashion, and sports (gymnastics). I have volunteered with the Burbank Tournament of Roses (decorator). I was a headaddress designer for Los Floristas, a charity that supports disabled youth. I have donated art work for a charity auction with the Michael Hoefflin foundation, a non-profit that supports disabled youth. I have volunteered with the NCAA for their National Collegiate Regional Gymnastics Competition. I have also volunteered to help paint murals at middle schools in the Mid Town District.

I currently work with youth in an under served communities coaching gymnastics. As well, I coached youths from all demographics and economic backgrounds. I have a pulse on the sensibilities of the "street" art climate from animation to sports, dance and styling. As we know, the youth are our future. Working with them we use dance, art, music, planning, process and showtime to showcase their skills. Their involvement in all the artistic aspects of their any art production fuels their desire to keep art as a career. I want to validate those artists.

**Mayowa Tomori; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Mayowa Tomori is a Nigerian-American multimedia artist who uses mixed reality, artificial intelligence, and storytelling to create interactive experiences that challenge power structures and knowledge hierarchies. Their work is feminist and intersectional, remixing bold, marginalized narratives with emerging technology to create audience-focused art.

As a queer, black immigrant in America with a cross-cultural upbringing, Tomori's art and approach are heavily influenced by their identity. Notable works include Queer Icons: An Augmented Reality Filter for Queer, Trans People of Color, CacheApp: a computer virus that helps marginalized people steal back their wage gap, and most recently, Loot Merch - an anti-colonial lifestyle brand that steals images of looted Indigenous art from museums to remix into new media.

They have received over \$100K in fellowships and grants from organizations such as Mozilla and the Smithsonian. Their work has been featured internationally at the Humboldt Forum (Germany), Tvibit Studio (Norway) and in North America at OMCA, Tribeca Film Festival and other institutions.

Tomori is also a co-founder of AMPL Labs, an award-winning art + technology studio.

**Thomas Garcia; Chatsworth*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I volunteer with several nonprofit organizations involved in dance and music and education. I sit on the board of directors of three non-profit organizations Straight Up Abilities, a dance team for individuals with physical disabilities and intellectual development disorders. The team performs at events nationwide and encourage persons with disabilities to do the same. Hands Across The Planet to Poor Youth. This is an education and environmental group working with rural communities in Ethiopia, Africa. Red Suspenders, a film and media arts group created by

students attending Chapman University's Dodge School of Film and Media Arts. I also volunteer with Chrysalis and the Union Rescue Mission. I am a strong believer in the power of the human spirit so I mentor first generation college students at Chapman University and men in need of spiritual support. I also enjoy performing with my band, Nyte Lhyte that plays 70s, 80s and 90s R&B and Classic Rock. I am a parent of a child performing with Straight Up Abilities parent.

**Pamela Blotner; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Pamela Blotner examines ways of protecting the environment and threatened and endangered wildlife. She has worked for the Houston Zoo and the Leatherback Trust and taught at the University of San Francisco, the University of Chicago, Tufts University, Pixar Animation Studios, and other schools and universities. In 2018, she was appointed a U.S. Arts Envoy to Burma and Laos. Blotner is co-founder and co-curator of Artists Beyond Boundaries.

**Pam Price; Cathedral City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1965 with a B.S. in Art Education with a special interest in "special education" art.

**Pamela Low; Hayward**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Since 2019, I have been an Education Assistant at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. There, I supported the museum's school programs, which provided free guided gallery tours for all preschool through college school field trips. I designed and facilitated 14 school gallery tours and 5 professional development sessions that align with California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, social-emotional learning goals, and artful thinking routines. With these on-site opportunities, my team and I learned that not every school has access to affordable transportation to the museum. Consequently, I collaborated with early education and middle school teachers to sustain partnerships and execute over 50 outreach and virtual programs. Now, I am a master's student in the Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies program at Stanford University's Graduate School of Education. My studies primarily focus on how schools can better leverage informal learning spaces that promote arts education and exposure.

**Jennifer Christie; Hollywood**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Decades of Living History - from Los Encinos, Campo de Cahuenga and Dominguez Adobe, to dancing with Yesteryears Dancers and the Historical Tea and Dance Society to teaching games and crafts at the Original Renaissance Pleasure Faire from the days of Agoura, I have been involved in arts and culture. I have served on my Neighborhood Council and have been a docent at a few museums.

**Patricia Eagan; Truckee**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Patricia K. Eagan is a writer, editor, and creative consultant who serves on the Public Art Commission of Truckee.

**Pat Evans; Duarte*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been an artist all my life. I have a BA in art and an MLA in landscape architecture.

My three-decade corporate career was spent responding to requests for proposals for multi-million/billion-dollar infrastructure projects, leading teams, organizing talent, and completing the submissions to compete. The last five years of my career was at Claremont Graduate University, four of those as the MFA program administrator.

I retired in 2013 and moved from an urban setting with access to art, theater, and music to a rural town in Arizona. I thought I was the only artist in the county. I finally found a group of like-minded folks creating a nonprofit arts center for which I became a founding board member.

After 9 years in AZ, I moved back to urban southern California for health reasons and still carry an admiration for arts organizations that need support from our tax dollars. I wholeheartedly believe that arts are essential to our mental, spiritual, and physical wellbeing. I am a practicing artist working in watercolor, nontraditional calligraphy, Ebru marbling, and box and bookmaking.

**Patti Fortlage; Monrovia*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Patricia Fortlage is an award-winning photography-based artist residing in the greater Los Angeles area. For over fifteen years she worked with nonprofits and NGOs in developing countries as a documentary photographer. Patricia learned a lot during her work overseas. She learned that no matter where one lives, everyone is doing the very best that they can, and that most welcome support and ideas and collaborations where they can find them. She is humbled to have partnered on this treasured work.

Patricia also learned that in addition to love, food, and health, art is sustenance. In so many cultures, art is revered... it is savored. Whether that art be music, paintings, weavings, sculpture, photography... the list goes on... art is contentment for the soul. It inspires change. It brings joy. This has led to an alchemy of her own work, transitioning more towards fine art photography in recent years.

**Patricia Lord; Dunsmuir*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Lord is a cultural sector professional with over fifteen years' experience in the industry in places large and small across the United States. She holds masters' degrees in Museum Studies and Business Administration with an emphasis on non-profit management. In previous positions she worked closely with the Shasta County Arts Council to designate the Redding Cultural District, the Siskiyou County Museum, and has been using history in creative placemaking/keeping activities in far northern California for 7 years.

**Paddy Calistro; Santa Monica*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I have for thirty years been the publisher of Angel City Press, a book publishing company based in Santa Monica, specializing in the history of Southern California and California. I spearheaded

the project MyCalifornia, a book published to benefit CAC when a former governor slashed CAC's budgets, and have worked in many of Southern California's arts and cultural communities, primarily overseeing books published by various authors. I have served on grant review panels. I have a master's degree from USC in education. I review submissions by authors for potential books constantly and must decide what to publish.

**Trish Stockton; Chula Vista**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I graduate from Southwestern College with Associate's Degrees in both Studio Art and Art History May 2023. In addition to curating shows and workshops for the college, I have also curated shows for the City Manager of Chula Vista and local businesses. Although my career over the past 30 years has been as a licensed Qualified Manager & Investigator for a California Private Investigation's firm, Gray & Gray Investigation, my passion has always been related to the art world.

My experience in art includes designing the Historic Route 40 road signs (these are along the route from San Francisco to Truckee), parade floats to include San Diego Pride Transforming Families and US Naval Base Cubi Point, hosting paint parties at businesses and retreats, and I will begin at SDSU as an Art Major in the fall.

**Patricia Tumang; Glendale**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Patricia Tumang is a passionate advocate for the Asian and Asian American artistic community. Her extensive experience in the performing arts sector includes working with prominent organizations such as East West Players, the nation's longest-running theater of color and the largest producer of Asian American artistic work. She has been recognized for her exceptional talent in short-form writing, receiving an Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant from Creative Capital for a series of engaging articles on Philippine contemporary art and female artists. In 2009, she was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct groundbreaking research and write about revolutionary women in Philippine history, showcasing her commitment to uncovering underrepresented narratives.

**Patricia Williams; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Dr. Patricia Williams is the CEO/Founder of PTWO- Push The Word Out Foundation. She has been working in San Diego communities for over 7 years as a liason for non-profit community organizations. She is a volunteer for many community programs as well as a supporter of school reform programs. She has volunteered in the Arts communities to help continue arts, culture, dance, mime, and other creative art programs.

She has her Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership Development, Masters in Education, and Bachelor's in Business Administration & Technology.

She is an author, publisher, educator(30yrs), and grant writer for her own non-profit business-TriUnity Foundation.

**Patricia Zamora; Livingston**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

As a Visual Artist, I honor my traditions, culture, family, community and lived experience as part of my creative social practice. My aspiration is for personal, collective and ancestral healing that leads to larger systemic change. Some of my lived experience includes: Director of Citywide Creative Arts at Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco

Advisory Board - Arts Education Alliance for the Bay Area, Community Artist Intern for Southern Exposure and Mission Girls. I currently work for the Community Arts Stabilization Trust as a Community Engagement Manager in the Bay Area. My passion is to create through the healings, grounded in social justice a sanctuary for emerging BIPOC artists, with a focus on low income youth and womxn to grow, learn and lead in the Central Valley

**Patrick Burns; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Patrick Burns is an actor, director, playwright, and composer who has performed off-Broadway, regionally and in national tours. He is the creator and star of the original one-man-musical From Foster Care to Fabulous which has won philanthropy awards in New York and the Bay Area and played to enthusiastic audiences across the United States. Patrick's plays have been produced off-Broadway and regionally and his writing has been featured online in The Atlantic, The Chronicle for Social Change, and Stage Agent.

**Patrick Horn; Pescadero**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Patrick Horn is a credentialed UN-ECOSOC consultant, public scholar published by the American Academy of Religion, and an award-winning, critically-acclaimed singer-songwriter and veteran performer at the world-famous Kulak's Woodshed, a 49-seat music listening room and live-streaming recording studio in North Hollywood with six HD cameras and ProTools operated by volunteers and sponsored by donations. He was profiled on American Idol: Underground and produced "The Flying Saucer Song," certified by Radio Indie Alliance as an international hit single (#1 in the United Kingdom and Spain, #3 in Los Angeles, #4 in Australia, #5 in the United States, #8 in Japan, and #13 overall in more than 20 countries). His original composition "Run River Run" based on poetry by Swami Vivekananda was his second international hit single (#1 in the United Kingdom, #2 in the United States, #3 in Los Angeles, #3 in Australia, and #15 overall in more than 20 countries).

**Patrick Sumlin; Bakersfield**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been affiliated with the non-profit organization Project Ensemble for 2 decades. First as operating officer and now as president. I love the arts and feel at home in the Arts world. Currently, my organization partners with The Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl, providing free tickets to the Bowl's summer session of classical music. Project Ensemble's

part in this is to contact the underserved, bringing them to The Hollywood Bowl, and introducing them the wonder and majesty of Bach, Haydn, Handel, Mozart, Gershwin.... Project Ensemble has been doing this for 15 years.

I have created arts and crafts projects for 12 and under. I worked with Home Depot, organizing hands on wood working. I have organized a fund-raising event, "Sip & Paint" where participants learn canvas painting.

In my role as operating officer of Project Ensemble, I help organize private tours of the Los Angeles Getty Museum for underserved communities of Los Angeles. I'm a retired engineer, at&t.

**PK Brannon; Solana Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I relocated to California from New York almost 7 years ago. In New York I was managed Accounts Payable for a municipality as well as headed the Performing Arts for a local school district. I also was on the Community Arts Professionals committee for the regional Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor as well as the Directors committee for the East End Arts Council's Teeny Awards, design work and as an actor and director for the Young Artists /Writers Project(YAWP) Southampton location Stony Brook University, Guild Hall, and others. I have been a theatre director, choreographer, set and costume designer, writer, and set artist for over 40 years. Here in San Diego, I have managed Accounts Receivable for a private day school, San Diego Jewish Academy and am now their Managing Artistic Director developing a theatre program where there was none and having oversight for their first Performance Arts venue.

**Paula Davis; Newbury Park**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Paula D. Davis is a recently retired artist and educator who specialized in costume design for theatre, dance, and opera, particularly collaborative new works. She taught courses in design, history, theatre, global dress, folk dance, and arts management at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania for over 20 years. She was a Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble Affiliate Artist and in addition to her costume designs for theatre and dance at Bucknell, Paula also designed for the Fisher Ensemble; Idaho Shakespeare Festival; Phoenix Theatre; Actor's Theatre of Phoenix; Arizona State University; and choreographers in Philadelphia, Boston, New York, and Taiwan. Paula also studies traditional dress of Eastern Europe and has presented this work nationally and internationally. Prior to becoming a designer, she performed with the Avaz and Aman International Dance Ensembles in LA. She holds a Fashion Certificate from LATTTC, a BFA in Costume Design from CalArts, and an MFA in Scenography from ASU.

**Paula Ely; Studio City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Paula Ely has enjoyed a variety of creative endeavors as President of Paula Ely Projects. She's had a successful 25-year career helping media companies maximize their television budgets in the rapidly changing marketplace. Her documentary films produced in Botswana and Ghana have been distributed globally and her video and photographs of the San community in Botswana have been archived by the Human Studies Film Archive at the Smithsonian. Paula

served on the board of the community-engaged Cornerstone Theater Company for seven years (three as Chair) and has been a grant panelist for several years for the Carole Dean documentary film grant and an award panelist for the IDA documentary film awards. Paula is a founding board member and current board president of the Photographic Arts Council Los Angeles, a host committee member for Las Fotos Project's Foto Awards and an advisory board member of the web3 photography startup Fellowship Trust.

**Paula Reynolds; Mount Shasta**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist with an AA degree in Vocal Performance.

My emphasis has always been on community arts. I organize and promote open mics, live art, public art, festivals, jams, lessons and more.

I have over ten years of grant writing experience including general arts and arts education. I was formerly executive director for a nonprofit that was an SLPP partner and obtained several CAC grants that provided a significant creative, economic, and cultural boost to communities where I live.

I specialize in project management and currently work with a team of grant writers who help local municipalities submit Community Development Block Grants. I am very aware of what is needed for large community project sustainability and how important it is to clearly convey well-designed, achievable, results-based plans in a grant request.

As a contract grant writer and former nonprofit executive director, I also have over ten years of experience in creating and analyzing organizational and project budgets.

**Pedro Urena; Fresno**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Hello, I am an artist, entrepreneur, photographer, social media manager and community builder. I am bilingual, I like to empower people, make a difference, give back to the community, and connect people to resources based on their needs. I have worked and mentored organizations, small businesses, artists, and professionals with areas such as communications, photography, research, translation, social media management, and business development.

**Pete Evaristo; Bonita**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I incorporate community-oriented public art into places such as parks, schools, community gardens, medical facilities, business districts, etc. in some of our most culturally diverse and underserved neighborhoods.

**Pete Theron; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I went to S.F.A.I. Which was known for being a more liberal school that pushed boundaries. I also went to Parson, Paris where I got to see many of the old masterpieces as well as the contemporary shows at that time. After college I worked at Jeff Koons' studio where I got to

experience working on the production side of a famous Artist's studio. I think this variety of experiences has exposed me to many different kinds of art and artists.

**Philip Weil; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

My background is very much based in nonprofit arts, cultural and educational institutions, working in a wide range of capacities. My interest in cultural expression led to a love of and rich relationship with the musical and cultural traditions relating to the Anatolian instrument known as the saz. Eventually moving to Istanbul in 2011, there I completed an intensive traditional saz-making apprenticeship under master luthier Celal Doldur. For several years after returning to Los Angeles in 2015 I carried on this practice as Luthier in Residence at the Museum of Jurassic Technology. I began developing the Stringed Crane Conservatory in 2018 with the aim to preserve, celebrate, and engage the public with underrepresented musical, artistic, and cultural traditions. Here I work to curate, organize, and host performances, cinematic presentations, workshops, and discussions focusing on traditional arts and cultural practices.

**Phylise Smith; Pomona**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Phylise Smith is a native of Los Angeles and currently lives in Pomona. As a longtime Dance Professor at College of the Canyons, and Scripps College, her dance specialties and background include, modern, West African dance and other dance styles. She is also a certified Yoga Instructor. A staunch advocate for dance and the arts, Phylise has led her own dance company, "The Serakumbil Project" and has received grants from the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Phylise has presented scholarly papers on dance both nationally and internationally and works locally to create choreography and produce dance concerts allowing the "everyday" student to experience the beauty of dance. With graduate degrees in both Political Science and Dance, Phylise has always advocated for students and the importance of the arts in their lives and their communities. She was a delegate to L.A. Activates in 2021.

**Phyllis Green; Santa Monica**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I began my career as an artist, educator and curator in Los Angeles in 1981. My practice integrates gender politics and the sphere of craft. Though I have worked in video, installation and performance, I am primarily an object maker who represents the body. My sculpture has been exhibited widely for forty years in solo and group exhibitions. I am the recipient of artist's fellowships from local and national foundations. The Guggenheim Foundation named me a Fellow in Fine Arts in 2014. I have taught extensively in colleges and universities in Southern California and have traveled and lectured world-wide. I was appointed to the Santa Monica Arts Commission in 2000 and served as Chair from 2004-2006.

**Pierce Meehan; Costa Mesa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Though I am 35 years old, I have been involved in the CA creative community for nearly 20 years. From being awarded a summer scholarship in high school to LCAD, all the way to making a career in fine art with international shows in places like Tokyo, Japan. I come from a large

Mexican/Irish family, and put myself through college at USC, attending Roski where I sit on the alumni council. I understand the communal approach to decision making as well as the benefits of programs like grants, and scholarships. For the past 7 years, I have been honored to participate in the Laguna Art Museum CA Cool Art Auction by donating works toward furthering their outreach and educational programs. It is my wish to get more involved in the CA Arts community and see the CAC as an opportunity to learn and participate with other folks who are also passionate about contributing to this community.

**Polly Toledo; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Polly Toledo is a San Diego native. She works as a grant writer for the San Diego Housing Commission. Polly received her M.A. in Art Galleries and Museum Studies from the University Leeds, UK and her B.A. in Art History from Dominican University of California. She has previously worked as the consulting Executive Director to San Diego Book Arts, as the Grants Coordinator at the New Americans Museum, as the Operations and Programs Manager the San Diego Model Railroad Museum and at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Previous Board experience includes the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition (SDRACC). She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for The Rosin Box Project, a San Diego based contemporary ballet company.

**Rachael Dzikonski; Riverside**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

RACHAEL DZIKONSKI began with the Riverside Arts Council as one of its teaching artists. She was the second instructor in RAC's Art as Therapy program, working with dementia patients at Plymouth Village in Redlands. A graduate of CSU, San Bernardino with a BA in Arts Education, Rachael is a multi-media visual artist whose work has been exhibited throughout the Inland Region. In 2009 she was hired as the Program Director for the Riverside Arts Council, and over the years has mentored hundreds of artists, guiding them in such areas as marketing themselves and their work to galleries and applying for grants. She has an MA in Art History, Theory and Criticism from Azusa Pacific University and an MFA in Media Design from Full Sail University. She has been teaching in the Art Departments of Norco College and Moreno Valley College for the past three years and often teaches for Norco College at the California Rehabilitation Center, a state penitentiary in Norco. In 2022 Rachael became the Executive Director of the Riverside Arts Council and continues to mentor while bringing the arts to the community.

**Rachana Upadhyay; Porter Ranch**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

My name is Rachana Upadhyay and I have a master degree in Indian classical dance Kathak from Bhatkhande Music college, Lucknow India. After an award-winning career as a touring performer representing the Lucknow gharana of Kathak, which highlights nuanced expressive story telling and graceful techniques, I moved to US in 1995 and started teaching Kathak and founded Kathak Kala Academy in 1998 and a non-profit organization, Indian Performing Art Center in 2010, which act as a hub for the preservation and propagation of Indian classical dance and music in Los Angeles and to facilitate the involvement of other professional artists and platforms in this artistic endeavor. We offer classes at all levels, and sustain a Performing

company which offers performances, lecture demonstrations, workshops around Southern California in settings as wide ranging as traditional house concerts to formal recitals to university classes to middle school, museums to community centers. We provide training in the art of Kathak, which includes lessons in music, history, movement, cultural heritage and social relationships.

**Rachel Rosekind; El Cerrito**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

As a connector and conduit, I work across diverse sectors to break down silos that separate communities of interest and hamper concerted effort toward the social good. This foundation has organically driven the range of my professional practice and direct service, stretching across teaching, strategic communications, organizational consulting, editing, development/fundraising, mentorship, and creative arts facilitation. At the heart of my professional and service streams is sharing and redistributing resources—of all kinds and through all channels—in order to bridge visibility, opportunity, and communication gaps. From facilitating drop-in writing workshops at local laundromats and public housing sites; to partnering with youth to diversify school curriculum; to teaching writing classes, arts workshops, and writing groups out of my home and in community spaces around the country; to securing books for libraries in underserved communities and spaces; to serving as a creative mentor to presently and formerly incarcerated individuals, my work is inclusive, emergent, and multi-dimensional.

**Rafael Gonzalez; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Rafael is President & CEO of Grand Performances whose mission is to inspire community, celebrate diversity, and unite Los Angeles through free access to global performing arts. He's a proven leader, manager, artist and advocate driven by his core values and pursuit of social justice. He's worked/organized in the nonprofit, government, corporate and philanthropic fields. This multisector background has gifted him the capability to develop/maintain relationships with individuals from diverse experiences to realize common objectives, social impact, equity and community/systems change. Rafael acknowledges and integrates the people's social, political, cultural and economic context through Grand Performances' artistic presentations. This framework serves as the narrative that weaves together expression, struggle and aspirations in the form of music, theatre, poetry and dance. Rafael serves on the boards of the Community Coalition, Center for Nonprofit Management and ActiveSGV. He also serves on the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Advisory Council, the City of El Monte's Planning Commission.

**Ramya Harishankar; Irvine**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I am a dancer, teacher, choreographer, presenter, arts administrator, and cultural ambassador. Recognized as a 'Distinguished citizen'/ Wall of recognition honoree (2022 City of Irvine), I am also the recipient of Kala Seva Bharathi (India 2012) and the Helene Modjeska Cultural Legacy award (Arts OC 2007). Besides a 2-time National Endowment of the Arts' Choreographic Fellow, my company and I have received several grants from the NEA, the CAC and ACTA. My solo

career has taken me to India, Asia, Europe, Australia, and N. America. Many of our productions/tours have been fund raisers, raising over \$150K. Through the SCFTA's Arts Teach roster, I have been sharing my art with school children all over SoCal since 1990. I have been teaching classes online, nationally and internationally and also premiered a digital series Dance Conversations, documenting my four-decade journey in the Diaspora through the 'lens & voice' of mentors, colleagues, and collaborators.

**Raquel Beltran; Carson**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

My background is in public administration, labor and community organizing, and nonprofit board governance. I have managed nonprofits in San Diego, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Los Angeles. My nonprofit experience includes developing and support organizational change, designing new programs, and training recipients of services as volunteers. It is in this area that I developed an understanding of nonprofit accounting, grant administration and the fundamentals of solicitation. My public administration background provides me with extensive experience in contract management and public agency administration. However, it is my social justice and organizing background that is most closely associated with my work in the arts/cultural community. In this experience dating back to 1979, that the motivation to create cultural programming for low income communities originated.

Art programs give families self-pride and confidence. It accomplishes this by showing people that who that are and where they come from matters. It is the source of strength for them is the foundation to achieving their goals and dreams.

**Rasheed Shabazz; Alameda**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Rasheed Shabazz is an educator, historian, journalist, and urban planner.

Shabazz received his bachelor's in African American Studies and Political Science at UC Berkeley. He later received a visiting scholar appointment to teach journalism and media literacy on University of California campuses. Shabazz recently completed a master's of city and regional planning at Berkeley, where he served on the Big C Funding Committee.

As a journalist, he's published writing, photography, and broadcasts throughout the Bay Area. He previously hosted the Black Hour radio show and recently co-hosted Community Visions, a podcast focused on race and urban planning.

Shabazz is currently co-director of Oakland Voices, a program of the Maynard Institute, where he trains Oakland residents in digital storytelling and journalism.

In Alameda, he has led multiple public history efforts, including the effort to rename Henry Haight Elementary and Andrew Jackson Park. Shabazz is currently vice-president of the Alameda Museum.

**Rasheedah Rashada; Spring Valley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Ms. Rasheedah Rashada, San Diego native, growing up in the community of Southeast provided a solid foundation and a unique vantage point to navigating life. This has been the key to her success in project management, community outreach and engagement, program development & implementation, strategic planning, providing technical assistance and resources for the overall well-being of the community. An advocate and immensely committed to being of service to the under-represented and improving the health and wellness outcomes in the community. Ms. Rashada has been involved in several community-based projects over the past 25 years, ranging from public health programs, arts & cultural projects, urban agriculture, working with formerly incarcerated youth and adults, and implementing programming within educational institutions to name a few. Giving her a tremendous amount of experience and savvy, allowing her to be an asset to all that know her. A true community gatekeeper, visionary and lived experience expert.

**Raylene Gorum; Sausalito*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My background in architecture helps inform my public art practice. I have been creating large scale, public facing works for the last ten years. I was recently awarded the \$25k Pirkle Jones Grant. I just finished a community driven unity mural between Sausalito and Marin City as our school district desegregated. I love injecting art into our everyday world. It is why I am helping to launch the Sausalito Center for the Arts. I have also served my community for the last 5 years as the Chair of Parks + Rec Dept.

**Bekki Borrego; Modesto*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I am a native Texan who grew up in California. While at University I spent about six months in Europe as an Art History major and Photography minor. My career is varied from customer service to manager at a Paint Company. I came into grant writing by accident. I've written 3 grants total and I've won all three. Almost 30 years passed between the second and third grant. While I may have talent there is much I need to learn. What better way to learn than to read other writings. Let's face it one day my luck will run out. I want to be able to learn as much as I can all the time. If that were possible.

**Rebecca Catterall; Ventura*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have a long career as an educator and in arts, creativity and learning research. I am currently a studio potter/artist. I worked with my late husband, James S. Catterall in the Centers for Research and Creativity. My role as a field researcher and program evaluator allowed me to work with some of the top arts organizations in Los Angeles and the country. For example: Inner City Arts (LA), PS Arts (LA), Disney Musicals in the Schools, Chicago Arts Partnership, MIT Makers project with Boys and Girls Clubs among others. I also traveled nationally and internationally to arts conferences. Most notable were UNESCO's Arts Education Conference in South Korea, Creativity Conference organized by Johns Hopkins in Erice, Italy and several Baltic States Arts and Learning Conferences.

**Rebecca Chapman; Huntington Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

As a former English Professor and Director of Writing Education at Vanderbilt University, poet Rebecca Chapman, ph.D., changed career paths five years ago for a future as an arts and cultural practitioner, holding the belief that the arts and community-based educational initiatives can heal the world and hold space for underrepresented communities in ways that formal, institutionalized programs cannot. For the past year, Rebecca has volunteered as Development Fellow at The Poetry Lab, a literary non-profit based out of Long Beach that aims to level the playing field of poetry education. The Poetry Lab works with intention to create an adaptive, interactive community for writers all over California, mentoring poets on their learning journeys. As Development Fellow, Rebecca writes all grants and assists in donor cultivation, and offers free poetry works. Rebecca is a working-class poet born and raised in Santa Ana who is happy to serve their community.

**Rebecca Gomez; Sylmar*****Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

I identify as a Queer Xicana with my lifetime work fueled by my involvement in community and activism within social justice movements and causes. In 2018, I brought critical race and organizing lens to her work at Tia Chucha's to build, shape, and oversee the Trauma to Transformation (T2T), a program rooted in amplifying the voices of our community members impacted by the incarceration system in order to shift the narrative to ending mass incarceration. I have overseen art programs in multiple settings such as the Juvenile Halls, Camps, Re Entry spaces for both adults and youth, and managed the program under CAC's Arts in Corrections and Re Entry through the Arts grants. I have also successfully wrote those grants to gain funding for the T2T program. I have been part of organizing amongst a coalition of organizations to create a new youth development model in LA County. This experience will allow me to be a fair panelist.

**Rebekah Frank; San Francisco*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Rebekah Frank is a maker, a writer, and an arts worker. As a maker, she exhibits and lectures regularly, enjoys mentoring students and teaching workshops, and loves thinking and writing about all things related to art and craft. Her education includes an AA in Mathematics, an AS in Welding Technology, and a BFA and MFA in Metalsmithing. After attending Cranbrook Academy of Art, Rebekah worked her way up from volunteer to executive director of an international arts advocacy nonprofit. She currently advocates for craft and traditional artists as a program officer.

In addition, Rebekah writes about artists with a strong material focus. In 2022, she partnered with a UK arts organization to feature international queer artists in a digital project exploring how identity shows up in material-based practices. In 2023, she'll be the guest editor of a Surface Design Journal special issue featuring LGBTQIA+ writers and textile-based makers.

**Gina Arnold; Palo Alto*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I am a former music critic and current writer, journalist and the author of 4 books of literary non fiction. I have a PhD in literature from Stanford (2011) and I teach english at USF and Creative Nonfiction writing in the MFA program at SJSU. I have wide experience in both the DIY music communities of California and in the literary world as well, both local and national. I am a well regarded critic and writer.

**Regina Klein; Culver City*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

A Chicago native, I grew up (quickly!) with a love of the arts that opened many doors and continues to enrich my life and others. Whether academically (DePaul University School of Music, B.A. Music and Music Therapy; classes at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago) or professionally (formerly as a Music Therapist, Illinois Masonic Hospital and DePaul Hospital, New Orleans, LA; and Booking Manager, Mother's Sound Stages, New York, NY; Cultural columnist for Der Monat in Berlin, Germany and other U.S.-based publications (including Culver City News' Theater columnist), or serving as Cultural Affairs Commissioner (Culver City) and participating in community events, my interest is to build health and society through arts' programs and access.

**Rena Winton; Long Beach*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

As an art educator of 11 years, having taught all grads TK-12, I am currently a visual art teacher at Wilson High School. I began my career earning a BFA in Art Education and went on to obtain my ME in Art Education. I have served in various roles in the National Art Education Association since 2005, including my most recent position as Middle Level Director of the California Art Education Association. I have spoken at many conferences about numerous topics, including "How to Run Reflective Circles in the Art Room." In 2006 I was awarded the Frank McCourt Prize for Excellence in Teaching from the After School Arts Program and in 2021 I was named Outstanding Secondary Art Educator for the California Art Education Association.

**ReNae Jackson; Monterey*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Being involved in music, I have learned discipline, work ethic, team-work, and creative expression. These are skills that cross over into every day life. I studied to become a music educator because I wanted to share these skills with the students I worked with. Over the course of my 15 years in the classroom, I was able to help students create together to produce beautiful music. The students learned that their hard work and dedication paid off when they were able to perform music that at first glance seemed too difficult. With my time outside of the classroom, I am now working in arts administration. I find that many artists have the same skills that are so important to me. Being involved in advocating for the arts has allowed me to play a small role in positively impacting others.

**Rene Bustamante; Bakersfield**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I started drawing when I was in my teens. Then began watercolor painting. I recently learned to make necklaces from beads.

**Camila Carr; Mount Shasta**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Renée Camila is a bilingual yerbera and traditional birthworker. Born and raised in San Francisco on Ohlone and Ramaytush territory as the child of Nicaraguan immigrants, her practice La Yerba Buena Herbs draws from her Spanish and Indigenous (Chorotega) ancestry. Trained in Indigenous energetic herbalism by Karyn Sanders and Sarah Holmes of the Blue Otter School of Herbal Medicine, Renée has been in clinical practice since 2016. Following in the footsteps of her ancestors, she is also a student of Mesoamerican Traditional Medicine (MTM) and Curanderismo. She is dedicated to the empowerment and healing offered through plant spirit medicine when practiced with a social justice lens. She offers energetic herbal consultations, traditional birth care, folk medicine for ritual use, and classes. She is also one of the hosts of the Herbal Highway, co-founder of the Now and Then Herb School, and founding member of the Siskiyou Chapter of SOAR.

**Renee Ya; Antioch**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have 18+ years working in the video game industry and have served as a CAC reviewer twice before. I'm looking forward to another year of providing my services in a representative position within and around the Hmong community.

**Bushmama Africa; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I've been part of the AAACC since 2013 as an artist, a panel reviewer, an employee in arts administration, and as a curator. During my time there I curated in City Hall, SOMarts Cultural Center and had a major group show in the San Francisco Public Library. The opportunity to be a panel reviewer the grants they are offering gave me the understanding of the process, the integrity and professionalism needed when reviewing the applications.

**Rhoda Teplow; Mendocino**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I was born and raised in Berkeley, CA in 1944 to dancing parents. I took ballet as a child and modern dance as a teenager. Then I went to UC Berkeley where I took dance classes. I spent my junior year abroad at University of Grenoble in France after which I joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Togo, West Africa. I lived across the road from where the Kotokoli held their ceremonial dances which influenced my choreography in the future. When I returned to California I taught French and African Dance at College of the Redwoods and Mendocino College.. I was the founder and producer of the Mendocino Dance Series for which I wrote their grants for a decade. I am now retired from dancing and producing and live in Mendocino where I design and make jewelry which I sell in the local galleries on the Mendocino Coast. I have been

on arts council as a panelist for the Mendocino County Arts Council and spent a summer in the dance department of the National Endowment for the Arts in WDC.

**Rhodessa Jones; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Rhodessa Jones is Co-Artistic Director of the acclaimed San Francisco performance company Cultural Odyssey. She is an activist/actress, teaching artist, director, writer and social scientist. Ms. Jones Founder/Artistic Director of the award winning Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women and HIV Circle, a performance workshop designed to achieve personal and social transformation with incarcerated women and women living with HIV. In 2015, they presented BIRTHRIGHT?, in collaboration with Northern California Planned Parenthood at Brava Theater Center. Ms. Jones was named the Frank Rhodes Chair at Cornell University, and was awarded the prestigious Montgomery Fellowship at Dartmouth College, where she presented her work alongside Dr. Edward Machtinger. In 2016, Rhodessa received an award presented to individuals that have made "extraordinary contributions to the Bay Area theater community", and the Sui Generis Foundation Achievement Award for "one of a kind contributions, which benefit society in unique ways."

**Richard Chow; Porter Ranch**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Richard S. Chow is a photographic artist in Los Angeles whose work is recognized in fine art, documentary, analog, and original photo-based objects. He had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Art and History Lancaster; Orange Coast College; Neutra Museum & Gallery and Metro 417 Gallery. His work is also in the permanent collection at the American Hotel in LA, and in the LA Public Library, among other private collections. He has widely shown in group shows across the U.S. His work was featured in the monograph LACMA Jazz 25th Anniversary published by the LA County Museum of Arts. He is represented by UPAG United Photographic Artists Gallery in Tampa FL, and Gallery 825 in West Hollywood, CA.

Richard is curator/producer for Open Show LA whose mission is to provide a platform for visual artists to share & dialog. In 2021, he served as grant reviewer California Art Council.

**Richard Schultz; Carlsbad**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Richard Schultz possesses a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre from Illinois State University. Richard was the co-founder and Director of Arts of the Arizona Conservatory for Arts and Academics, a performing arts charter school in Phoenix, and Theatre Eclectic, a professional theatre in metro Chicago. He directed, wrote and designed the original production Patsy's Bridal Shower, which was one of Chicago's longest-running comedies with an extended run in Phoenix. Richard has directed over fifty stage productions in Chicago and Phoenix including productions at the Herberger Theater Center, Tempe Center for the Arts and a LGBTQ new play festival. He has also directed corporate shows for EMI/Capitol Records, Hilton Hotels and ReMax and worked with national entertainers Ben Vereen and RuPaul. He is currently the Cultural Arts Manager for the City of Carlsbad, CA.

**Richard Stein; San Juan Capistrano*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

During more than 14 years under Rick's leadership, Arts Orange County has addressed the needs of the arts and culture community in Orange County, California by becoming a trailblazer among nonprofit arts councils-- augmenting traditional arts agency programs and services with its unique role as the community's go-to arts consultant to government, education and nonprofit organizations.

Prior to his appointment at Arts Orange County in August, 2008, Rick transformed the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach into a major resident professional theatre over the course of more than 17 years as its Executive Director, producing more than 100 plays, including two national touring productions. There he also directed many notable productions, including several premieres.

Rick first came to Orange County in 1987 to serve as Managing Director of the Grove Shakespeare Festival in Garden Grove following a five-year stint as Director of Lincoln Theater at the University of Hartford (Connecticut), and holding management positions in two major symphony orchestras before that. Rick holds degrees in English from Columbia and Syracuse Universities.

**Richard Varrasso; Copperopolis*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I have evaluated artists for over 40 years. I program radio stations, produced main stream albums, buy talent for live jobs, generate compelling marketing. I work with the biggest and smallest artists. I am also a real estate appraiser. My reputation extends from the Bill Graham days to present day calendar. I have designed evaluation packages for record label A&R and have been on judging panels at seminars and award shows. I work with all arts with maximum diversity and the power of Love in mind. Music and art heals the soul.

**Richard Radosh; Carlsbad*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Richard, an active community volunteer, serves on the Board of Directors of Reading Legacies and is a past-President of the Coastal Communities Concert Band Foundation. Richard plays trumpet in the band, performs with Trumpets R Us, a trumpet ensemble, and the Temple Solel Shabbat Unplugged Band. Richard enjoys walking and reading, especially mysteries.

He has diverse experience in development including annual giving, planned giving, and grant writing. He is the Grants & Contracts Manager for Community Resource Center, an Encinitas social services organization that provides emergency assistance, case management, counseling, shelter and food assistance to low-income individuals and families who are economically vulnerable, unsheltered or at imminent risk of being unsheltered, including domestic violence survivors.

Richard is a native Californian. He grew up in the San Fernando Valley, graduated from UCSB, and went to law school at University of San Francisco School of Law.

**Rob Goyanes; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Rob Goyanes is a writer and editor from Miami, Florida, currently living in Los Angeles. His arts writing has appeared in places like Art in America, BOMB, Cultured, e-flux journal, Los Angeles Review of Books, and The Miami Herald. His criticism, journalism, and essays have received numerous awards, including the Miami Writers Prize, the Warhol Foundation's Arts Writing Workshop, and the Contemporary Art Stavanger writing residency. A generalist, he covers visual arts, music, and literature. As an editor, he works with various publishers, including Anthology Editions and Radiator Comics. Goyanes also teaches a virtual prose workshop for writers and artists.

**Rob Pierce; San Francisco*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Rob Pierce has worked in arts management and administration for fifteen years and is currently the lead administrator for Collections, Exhibitions, and Design at SFMOMA. He is the author of Francis McComas: Rediscovering California's First Modernist, has been named a Magdalena Abakanowicz Fellow at the SAIC Institute for Curatorial Research and Practice, Scholar-in-Residence at the Monterey Museum of Art, and San Francisco Art Institute Master's Fellow.

**Robert Rootenberg; Joshua Tree*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

As an arts attorney and accomplished fine artist, I bring a unique combination of legal and creative expertise to the California Arts Council grant panelist role. With experience owning and operating an art gallery in West Hollywood, I understand the challenges and opportunities that face artists and cultural organizations in California. My passion for supporting the arts is reflected in my community work, including serving on the Board of Directors for Lawyers for Human Rights and the Los Angeles Mural Conservancy. Additionally, I have collaborated with the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and the City of Los Angeles sponsored Gallery Row on non-profit legal and grant-related issues. With a JD from Southwestern University School of Law and a Bachelor's degree in Music Composition from the University of Southern California, along with Masters-level art courses, I have a deep understanding of both the legal and creative aspects of the arts community. My extensive art show experience in Los Angeles and Joshua Tree demonstrates my dedication to the artistic community and my commitment to supporting the arts in California.

**Rob Taylor; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I'm a recording artist myself, so I understand the mindset of an artist who really wants to take their craft to the next level, because I am that person.

**Roberta D'Alois; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am a playwright, social justice activist and Artistic Director of Jump! Theatre, whose mission is to present theater based on authentic stories of mental illness.

I have a B.A. with honors in Theatre Arts from Brandeis and an M.F.A in Playwriting from San Francisco State. I am an adjunct writing instructor at San Francisco State, University of San Francisco, and the Osher Center.

As a solo performer her work has been produced in many venues throughout the Bay Area and elsewhere. Her short and full length plays have been read or produced as part of the national One Minute Play Festival, as well as in several Bay Area and Washington State venues. She is a former Artist in Residence at Z Space Studios and the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive and was an invited playwright at the Sewanee Writers Conference and the Southampton Writers Conference.

As an artist-activist, Roberta was chosen as one of the 2016-17 Fellows at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, where she worked with 30 other artists and change makers to delve deeply into the intersection of cultural and social responsibility.

**Robin Sohnen; Pacifica**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I founded EORO in 1998, which provided playwriting, visual arts, life skills, academic tutoring, and a transitional support program for incarcerated youth and youth attending community high schools for over 25 years. We merged the org in 2019 with Success Centers, and I retired two years later. We serviced over 7500 youth throughout the years and passed two pieces of legislation that allowed incarcerated youth to study and test for GED's while incarcerated instead of high school diplomas. Very little work was being done inside short-term detention facilities when we began. We developed many programs and helped to pioneer the way for greater access to many other programs.

**Rochelle Sherbert; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Rochelle Sherbert has kept a hand in public art since volunteering for Cristo's Running Fence in 1976. After graduating from California State University Long Beach in 1980 she went on to a career in fashion design in Los Angeles. With a Mural Project (1998) for grade schools in Los Angeles, she became versed in managing the challenges and reaping the personal rewards of arts learning for youth. As a judge in the annual Poetry Outloud competition (2010) and in the Modern Masters of America Art competition(2015), she continued the fulfilling venture of arts learning for youth. She contributed to cultural development in her tenure with Marin Arts Council; involved in placemaking/keeping, and worked with the Dominican College Dance Program. During her tenure at Marin Arts Council, she curated gallery exhibits, Juried Gallery exhibitions for Marin Arts Council, and authored the Tour Guide for Marin Open Studios. As a Therapists for Social Justice Writing Group member, she published in their social justice blog. She currently exhibits at Two Rivers Cider Studios, where her primary practice is painting.

**Rocio Villanueva; Escondido*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Rocio Villanueva, Army Veteran OEF 21-C, Artist and Advocate. Rocio a multimedia artist born in Jalisco, Mexico, in 1986. She is currently based in San Diego, California. She primarily works with ceramics to create traditional & 3D works fusing elements from her heritage and American upbringing.

Rocio was enlisted in the US Army for eight years and deployed to Balad, Iraq as a bridge engineer in 2006 with the 50th Engineer MRBC Co. She is currently pursuing her degree in Arts and Ceramics at Palomar College. Rocio artwork has been displayed at various galleries and Veteran Art Exhibitions. The complexities of the immigrant experience and bicultural identities, as well as her current life and practice inform her art practices. She believes that the meaning of a person's expressions can aid and inspire others.

**Rocío Delgado; Oceanside*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Rocío was born in Puerto Rico and lived in the Caribbean for 28 years. As a child, she showed an interest in art. Rocio studied architecture for 3 years and graduated in Fashion Design. In 2006 she moved to San Diego where she did a BSHA and a Master in MPH.

After finishing her master's degree, she started a non-profit organization called Coqui Saludable to help people live healthy lifestyles. From the Diaspora Rocío channeled with her art the love and longing for the Island. Here she shares that evolution embodied in her paintings for the last 16 years. Her art full of vibrant colors takes you back to the island of enchantment.

**Rodney Schmidt; Loma Linda*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I have an MFA (Master of Fine Arts) from the University of Riverside, California. I am a long time writer, with publications in NYU's Caustic and Frolic, Kelp Magazine, High Voltage Magazine, and the Press Enterprise to name a few. I've also worked as a substitute teacher for Colton Joint Unified School District, showing students creative ways to express themselves through different mediums. Every story published is a product of all the support I've received over the years, so I understand how important projects like the California Arts Council is to artists and art education, which is why I would love to contribute my time to this great opportunity.

**Katie Katherine; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Through international networking and artistic cultivation, I seek to promote social enrichment through theatre and work alongside a community of diverse and passionate creators to develop innovative, culturally engaging, collaborative feats of storytelling – with an ardent passion for art that nurtures and expands an empathetic way of seeing the world. I hold a B.S. degree from UCSD in Global Health with a minor in Theatre and have had nearly a year and a half of hands-on experience in administrative theatre, community outreach, and theatrical marketing in my position as Marketing Assistant at The Old Globe. Previous experience include my time as the Digital Media Intern for Alzheimer's San Diego and Mental Health Crisis Counselor for Crisis Text Line.

**Roger Eyes R.; Santa Ana*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Professional multidisciplinary artist Roger Eyes R, has creatively engaged with communities in and around his hometown since 2015. His interest is in the people, history, and culture of Southern California and has this to offer on the practice of art:

“Do it with love & do it well; stay creatively busy to find your muse and always remember, when you begin to have fun it means your genius has found you.”

He was 5 when his teacher arranged for his work to be shown publicly, and from there it began. Roger studied sculpting, painting, & design and currently focuses on large scale murals. He employs his signature “Color- Rez” style, layering application informed by impressionism and pointillism to form textures and images through the placement of complimenting colors in all of his personal work.

**Rome Hamner; San Leandro*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

A certified Orff instructor with 20+ years experience, I’m a teaching artist, taiko performer, and arts entrepreneur. I run my own small arts business, work as General Manager for San Jose Taiko, and perform with several taiko groups, including Mukaro Taiko, my ensemble. Career highlights include drumming while suspended 200ft in the air, international festivals, televised performances, and presenting at PASIC.

I believe passionately in the power of art to change lives and also teach taiko in schools and community settings, both in-person and virtual. I’ve developed lessons for thousands of students and trainings for educators. There are no degrees available in North American taiko, but I’ve studied with some of the most recognized artists in the world, including members of KODO, Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, and Seiichi Tanaka. I hold an MPA and have followed a dual career path, working in arts administration along with performing and teaching.

**Roopa Mahadevan; San Francisco*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Roopa Mahadevan is a leading second-generation Carnatic classical and crossover vocalist known for her powerful, emotive voice, versatility, and collaborative spirit. She leads the crossover ensemble Roopa in Flux, where she works with musicians in jazz, soul/R&B, and various global traditions, directs the innovative choir Navatman Music Collective, and sings for leading Bharathanatyam (South Indian) and modern dancers. Roopa received formative training in Carnatic (South Indian) vocal music under Asha Ramesh, and later Suguna Varadachari in Chennai, India through the Fulbright.

Roopa has performed in prestigious venues in India as well as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Hollywood Bowl, Chicago Cultural Center, and numerous venues across the country. She was a soloist on Christopher Tin’s Grammy Award-winning album Calling All Dawns and has participated in residencies at the Banff Center for Arts and Creativity, Hedgebrook, Ryder Farm, and Joe's Pub. She is currently working on a body of compositions on South Asian diasporic life

through a Creative Work Fund grant. In a previous avatar, Roopa worked in public health policy, following undergrad/grad studies at Stanford.

**Rosa De Anda; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Rosa De Anda is the founder and Director of the San Francisco Day of the Dead Festival of Altars since 1991. She works with hundreds of diverse artists, disciplines, and age groups. She believes culture fosters sustainable human and environmental relationships. De Anda worked as Education Director at the Mission Cultural Center and Theatre Artaud, taught foundry at the Chicago Art Institute and Arts administration at New College. Her curatorial work has also included over one hundred shows at Lila Rosa Studios. She received her BFA from UC Berkeley, an MFA in Sculpture from the School of the Chicago Art Institute, an MFA in Creative Writing from California College of the Arts, and an MFA in Poetry at the University of San Francisco in 2021.

**Rosemary Soto; Salinas**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

For the last fifteen years I led community initiatives for the County of Monterey that were strategic priorities of the Board of Supervisors. One of my key priorities was to include the arts in each of those initiatives. The 2020 Census campaign was one initiative which included theater, visual and performing arts to drive the key messages in the most relevant way possible for each of the populations we focused on. Another initiative I developed and led was the Governing for Racial Equity in which the most marginalized and disenfranchised communities are centered and policies and practices are evaluated for its impact in said communities. I currently work on an internal organizational transformation process to become an anti-racist health foundation of which the arts are an integral part of its health focused campaigns. Marginalized communities have limited to no access to vital services for living a healthy life and the arts are one of those vital services.

**Rose Muralikrishnan; Riverside**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Everyone has a right to deserve what they deserve, especially underrepresented communities most of the time are denied with the same opportunities as the privileged ones. So it is definitely very important as an artist & humanitarians to support and work towards their rights.

**Rosemary Graham; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

At Saint Mary's College, I served on a number of committees and bodies relevant to the work of grant application review. For three years, I served on our rank and tenure committee, which evaluates and votes on applications for promotion and tenure by applying specific, written criteria to applications and supporting evidence. In my final year on that committee, I served as its chair. As a member of the graduate creative writing faculty, I evaluated applications for admission and scholarship support according to creative achievement and promise. I served on several curriculum committees which considered course proposals based on specific criteria. Over the years I also served on several hiring committees.

**Roxanne Trujillo; Oxnard*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am the cofounder and Art Director of Open Door Studio a working art studio for young adults on the spectrum situated in downtown Oxnard. Our studio has been in operation since 2021 and we are in the process of becoming a vendored program through the County of Ventura. I have been teaching art for the past 12 years for several nonprofits in my community. I live and work in my community and my studio supports and partners with other non profit organizations that support diversity and inclusion.

**Roy Hirabayashi; San Jose*****Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

In 1973, Roy Hirabayashi co-founded and led as San Jose Taiko's artistic and executive director, North America's third oldest taiko group. Roy is an activist, composer, performer, teacher, and lecturer, and he has toured internationally, performing both the taiko (Japanese drum) and shinobue (Japanese bamboo flute). In 2011 Roy and his wife PJ received the National Endowment of the Arts National Heritage Fellowship. In 2017, he was part of the US-Japan Council Japanese American Leadership Delegation. He is a co-founder and the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute Program Director at the School of Arts & Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, a founding board member of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose in San Jose Japantown, and a senior fellow with the Silicon Valley American Leadership Forum and a 2015 John W. Gardner Leadership awardee. In 2023, Roy and PJ will celebrate 50 years of performing taiko.

**Rudy Rubio; Huntington Park*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Let me tell you a story, a story about a journey that started in 2017. It was a journey that began with a loss, a loss of a job, and a good friend who saw that I needed something to lift my spirits. That friend invited me to Beijing China for 20 days, a trip that would change my life forever.

In China, our concierge and translator disappeared after just three days, leaving us lost and alone in a foreign land. We were in a tough position, not knowing how to navigate the city or speak the language. But in that moment, I realized that I had the power of networking on my side.

I reached out to my friend Jessica, who connected me with her best friend Judith, who lived in the city. And just like that, the power of networking took over, and I was able to navigate my way through China. I experienced the wonder of the Great Wall of China, learned how to use the Beijing Subway system, and even tasted the delectable flavors of Peking Duck.

When I returned to the States, I was fired up and inspired. I wanted to share my experience with everyone, to help them see the world from a different perspective, and to connect them with new opportunities.

**Ruth Mankin; Sebastopol*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

B.A. Psychology. M.A. Education w/ Specialist - Child Development, California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential w/ Specialist- Early Childhood Education. Stanford Live - consultant/casting w/ CIRCA performance(Australian Circus). Booking Agent - national booking w/ Sewam American Indian Dance Company. Young Audiences of No California- Community Engagement Mngr (2017-2023) & Education Director (1998-2006) -booking visual/performing artists into schools for residencies/assemblies & Professional Development workshops for teaching artists and teachers. Oak Grove USD - Fine Arts Coordinator (TK-8th). Education Director: ALICE Arts, SF Youth Arts Festival/Asian Art Museum - Festival Stage Manager, Education Director - Montalvo Arts Center, SF Circus Center, World Arts West/SF Ethnic Dance Festival, Miracle Theater - Associate Producer,

Luther Burbank Center for Arts. Bright Horizons -Paramount Pictures Child Care Center - Director of first onsite CCC in movie studios. Sonoma State Univ Child Care Center- Ass't Director/ College Instructor (Child Development & Parent Education). Jane Fonda's Laurel Springs Summer Camps - Program Manager/Counselor.

**Ruzanna Hanesyan; Pasadena*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

First-generation Armenian-American, Socially Engaged art has become a medium for me to care and engage for my communities both in Armenia and Los Angeles.

My experience in Art Teaching and Assistance enabled me to share my love for art as an impactful language and medium to engage. My art projects and residencies in Armenia and Los Angeles give me an insight into the process of creating public art (murals) and expanding the knowledge and vocabulary of the local communities. One such project, La Loma Stories at Ramona Gardens, Los Angeles (2019), was a project with Legacy LA: where we created an engaging art event for the local community. It gave me insight into working collaboratively, budgeting, marketing on social media, and thinking of art as a process. La Loma Stories is one of those works that stemmed from our conversations in the form of a podcast to amplify our stories.

**Sabina Czajkowska-Simpson; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Sabina is an art historian and educator turned jazz musicians' agent, event co-ordinator, project manager, consultant and arts administrator, with broad experience within the cultural sector.

Founder of Mo' Connections - Creative collaboration Company she started working as an agent and manager with renowned British, American and Polish musicians while being part of a team at a non-profit, Jazz Services.

Currently she is a collaborator and project manager at music and arts non-profit organisations Reva, Inc. and Continuum Culture & Arts, providing arts administration services.

Art historian and critic, Sabina writes for art publications, and was editor for a major art monthly in Poland. She was a teacher and delivered lectures on art. She also curated and

organised exhibitions and was involved in creating workshop program for the Biennale of Art for Children. She is a keen collaborator on projects encompassing all art forms.

**Samantha Hull; San Jose**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Samantha is an art administrator and arts advocate who has worked in the nonprofit arts sector for a decade in administration, curatorial, education, and programming at the de Saisset Museum, San Jose Museum of Art, Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon. She is also the Research Assistant to author Gail Anderson with two publications "Mission Matters: Relevance and Museums in the 21st Century" (Rowman and Littlefield, 2019) and "Reinventing the Museum: Relevance, Inclusion, and Global Responsibilities" (Rowman and Littlefield, 2023).

She is the Board Vice President of Local Color SJA where she provides governance, financial and general oversight to the Executive Director of the organization. Local Color SJ's mission is to build equitable opportunities for artists in San Jose with over 50% of their artists-in-residence identifying as women and BIPOC. Samantha also serves on the Museum Committee for the College Art Association and Content Advisory Committee at the Alliance of American Museums. Samantha holds a B.A. in art history from the University of Oregon and an M.A. in museum studies from John F. Kennedy University.

**Samantha Fordyce; Vallejo**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I've been on the board of the Vallejo Symphony for a number of years. I have served on boards of other organizations including the Vallejo Yacht Club and the Carquinez Sail & Power Squadron. I worked for the Solano Community Foundation for five years as its development associate. I wrote grant applications for SCF and the symphony. I am currently a member of the Solano County Civil Grand Jury. I am a professional writer.

**Jack Forinash; New Cuyama**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Jack Forinash is an affordable housing and organizational development obsessive found most often in rural towns. As a leader in conscientious design/build ethos, he brings empathy and consideration to the practice of applied arts, architecture, and good old-fashioned fun. He's a program director, builder, list-maker, spreadsheet artist, and amateur stargazer. As a practicing artist (social practice, public interest design, architecture), Jack has experience as an arts program developer and administrator across many rural locations, helping communities identify their assets and employ artists to address persistent issues of a broad lack of access. His experience includes writing, receiving, and administering numerous grants from all levels of government and private philanthropy.

**Sam Price; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

As a professional collage artist and an art educator from San Francisco, Samuel Price's work has been featured in exhibitions, private collections, public art installations, and festivals across the country and beyond. He is best known for creating large, intricate pet portraits made by hand

from hundreds of tiny magazine squares. For more than 20 years, Samuel has curated and developed a specialized technique that combines classical collage processes with his own unique analog-grid system. This method has helped him develop scale and precision in his portraits without the need for highly technical drawing or drafting skills.

**Sandee McGee; Simi Valley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Sandee McGee was Umpqua Valley Art's (UVA) Exhibitions Program Director and has been creating and directing transformative and engaging public arts and culture programs for 10+ years. Prior to her work at UVA, Sandee McGee was the Assistant Professor of Art at Umpqua Community College. McGee received her BA in Studio Art from Mills College where she was the recipient of the Ralph DuCasse Award for Excellence in Art. She received her MFA from the University of Oregon in 2010. McGee currently serves as Curator and Assistant Manager of Community Services at the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center in California.

**Sandra Griffiths; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a mother of four amazing young adults ages 28-33. My life have always entail community service, designing and implementing youth development programs in schools, corporations, correctional facilities for youth and communities.

**Sandra Higuera; Murrieta**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a 40-year-old woman, with a Bachelor's Degree in Design, among several other certifications in the Art and Design career. Arts Educator with experience with children from 5 to 12 years old.

Founder of the only Art and Creativity Club for children in Murrieta, Ca. Facilitator of Art and Healing workshops for women who need to express themselves and heal. I also enjoy creating my own art and growing in my personal development.

**Sandy White; Woodacre**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have a BFA in Painting from the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts . I recently completed an MFA in Creative Writing / Poetry with Dominican University of California. In the 80s, I wrote plays, including the music, for Masque Unit Junior Theater of Marin. I have sung tenor with Redwood Chorale and most recently have been affiliated with the Mayflower Chorus in San Rafael. I participate in several writing groups and recently was part of a poetry anthology: Word Wranglers of West Marin. Over the years, I have taught briefly as a substitute teacher in Philadelphia public schools, as a core teacher in a private alternative school, Rivendell in San Francisco, and in an after school homework program for the Nicasio school system.

**Sandra White-Stevens; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I currently am the Founder/Ceo of Prestige Communtions where I publish 2 quarterly online digital magazine's, Urban Teen Magazine focuses on up & coming music artists and our section celebrating outstanding teens around the country and ModelStyle Magazine features aspiring models with a spotlight on photographers/photoartist. I have produced a coordinated fashion shows and worked as an account executive in media sales for a local radio station.

**Sandra Wong Orloff; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Sandra Wong Orloff earned a BFA in Painting from the San Francisco Art Institute and a MFA in Fine Arts from Mills College. She was included in the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts first Bay Area Now and awarded an Artist-In-Residence Grant from the San Francisco Arts Council. She was a founding member with Gina Gaiser of the artists collective Ben Dunne Presents, producing pop-up art exhibitions and events. She has been a GearBox Gallery member since March 2022. Wong Orloff has taught artmaking to young people, exhibits her artwork here and there and continues to explore her creative process in Oakland, CA.

**Sara Garcia; Redwood City**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I received an honors Bachelor of Arts in Art History and wrote my thesis on the photography of Robert Mapplethorpe. In my junior year of college, I was awarded a student fellowship to work at the Guggenheim in Venice. While in law school, I clerked for the law firm which represents most of the San Francisco muralists (and particularly the Balmy Alley and Mission area muralists). I am a regular volunteer mediator for California Lawyers for the Arts, and am frequently looking for ways to assist and amplify artists.

**Sara Hiner; Woodland Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

With nearly 20 years working in the nonprofit sector, Sara Hiner has held leadership positions at some of the nation's top arts education and presenting organizations. She has served as Director of the Germantown Branch at Settlement Music School in Philadelphia, the largest community arts school in the country, Assistant Dean at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, and held a variety of roles at organizations such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Hollywood Bowl. Currently, she is the Executive Director of Temple Emanuel, a modern reform synagogue in Beverly Hills. Ms. Hiner is a skilled bassoon instructor. Her students are regularly placed in honors ensembles, and her seniors have been accepted to schools such as USC's Thornton School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music. Ms. Hiner earned her B.M. and M.M. from USC's Thornton School of Music.

**Sara McDaniels; Santa Clarita*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Sara McDaniels has actively lent her expertise in Arts Education over the years including, serving on the Santa Clarita Arts Master Plan Stakeholder Committee, serving as board president of Arts for Santa Clarita for five years, and is the Regional Arts Education Liason for the Santa Clarita Valley. In her role as Arts Coordinator for iLEAD California, Sara supports arts learning and arts experiences for the over 6,000 students attending the six schools in the iLEAD California charter school network by developing and monitoring the iLEAD Arts Strategic Plan, sourcing dedicated arts funding, coordinating teaching artists, providing teacher professional development, coaching school leaders on the value of arts education, and developing partnerships with artists and arts organizations. She is the proud mother of two. Her oldest attends SJSU, majoring in theatre arts, and her youngest is a 10th-grade artist beginning her exploration of options for college.

**Sarah Buckius; Santa Cruz*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Sarah Buckius is an artist and educator who lives in Northern California. Her creative work incorporates digital video, photography, and performance and has been exhibited nationally and internationally. She was an Assistant Professor of Photography at Michigan State University from 2010-2011 and has worked as an adjunct instructor of digital art, photography, time-based media, and art appreciation at Augusta State University (2012), the University of Michigan (2007-2010), and Eastern Michigan University (2009-2010). Notable video screenings include The State of The Art: Accademia di Romania in Roma (Rome, Italy), InsideOut Step2: White Box Museum of Art (Beijing, China), SIMULTAN #6: Past Continuous, Future Perfect | (Timisoara, Romania), Visions in the Nunnery: Nunnery Gallery (London, UK), EXiS 2010 International Film & Video Festival (Seoul, Korea), Images Contre Nature 2011: P'Silo International Experimental Video Festival (Marseille, France), and AC Institute Rotating Video Project (New York, NY).

**Sarah Gilbert; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Sarah Gilbert is an artist and educator based in Los Angeles, California. Her work explores craft and collectivity— how the sticky relationality of material transformation can open spaces for thinking and feeling together in more-than-human worlds. Joining a wide range of materials and processes, her promiscuously interdisciplinary practice often moves between art and science, synthesizing traditional craft techniques with emerging technologies. Against narratives of material mastery or maker-movement individualism, she is interested in the ethical particularities of encounters with difference, and the radical potential of embodied attunement to reorient us towards collective care. She has exhibited widely throughout the United States and internationally, and her writing has been featured in a variety of exhibition catalogs and scholarly publications. She is currently Assistant Professor of Sculpture and affiliate faculty in Gender and Feminist Studies at Pitzer College.

**Sarah Bella Mondragon; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Sarah Bella Mondragon is a multimedia artist, activist, and digital storyteller. She is the artistic instigator behind the Barrio Artists Partnership and currently, The Our Walls Speak Project Conference. creates alliances between Chicano Mural Artists, Educators and Civic Leaders to protect murals . Sarah works as a freelance project manager, arts administrator, and web media designer for several local nonprofit Arts organizations, including Mundo Gallery and Gente Unida, a human rights organization focusing on the San Diego/Tijuana border region. She produces the podcast Buen Hombre, Magnificent Mujer for Gente Unida. Sarah Bella Mondragon has worked with arts and culture organizations in Central America and Brazil and speaks Spanish and Portuguese. She is also a spoken word poet and Capoeira Brazilian Martial Arts teacher.

**Sarah Umles; Pasadena*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Sarah Umles (b. 1986, Germany) is a queer Ashkenazi artist, arts administrator, curator, and collector living in Los Angeles, California on Gabrieleño-Tongva land. Sarah is the founder and director of The Residency Project—an artist residency and project space that emphasizes opportunities for historically underrepresented artists and artists who actively pursue environmentally sustainable practices. As an independent curator, Sarah has organized numerous exhibitions in both traditional and alternative contexts across Chicago, Los Angeles, and Minneapolis. Her own interdisciplinary work has been exhibited internationally at institutions like the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, California Museum of Photography, Annmarie Sculpture Garden, Franconia Sculpture Park, and CICA Museum South Korea. Sarah holds an MA in Arts Administration & Policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA in Creative Writing with a minor in Film & Visual Culture from the University of California, Riverside.

**Sarah Wass; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Sarah Wass is a nonprofit leader, award-winning arts educator, and active professional musician with over 20 years of experience in the arts. She joined Brightwork newmusic as Executive Director in 2021 after serving in various leadership roles with The Harmony Project, and brings expertise in fundraising, grant writing, project management and curriculum design. She has created and implemented innovative curricula that help students of all ages achieve their full potential through artistic expression and in this capacity has worked with the LA Phil, Kadima Conservatory, Oakwood School and others. She has been an artist-in-residence at Stanford University; University of Surrey, UK; and Cal State Summer Arts Festival. She has performed with Brightwork Ensemble, Wild Up, ICE, The Industry Opera and on the Ojai Festival, Hear Now Festival and Monday Evening Concerts, and can be heard on Bridge Records. Sarah holds a BM from Oberlin Conservatory and an MFA from CalArts.

**Sarah Yazdani; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been in the field of social work for over 20 years. Working first as an ASW-directly with a range of communities impacted by housing insecurity, domestic violence, trauma, systemic racism and incarceration in shelters, childcare centers, substance abuse recovery centers, domestic violence shelters and more. I then moved on to become licensed as a LCSW continuing to work in the bay area directly and then managing/supervising these programs providing direct services. I obtained my hours to become licensed by an art therapist as well. Through out my work art has always been central-whether it has been supporting clinicians, case managers and teachers with using creative methods to help children express themselves or now as a Program Manager in an arts program that connects communities with local artists, weekly/biweekly art groups, and other opportunities for self-expression through many different art mediums.

**Scott Kaz; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Native Los Angeleno attended CSUN earned two B.A.'s (Religious Studies and Art) and an M.A. (Art). Worked as administrative and clerical support for faculty and graduate students in Humanities and in Social Sciences at a major university. Considered quite liberal and open minded in intercultural studies. Currently retired, legally disabled, working on my painting and volunteering at Art Share L.A.

**Sean Cawelti; Sun Valley*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Sean Cawelti is a director, puppet / video designer and a creator of immersive and site-specific experiences. Sean graduated from the University of California Irvine with honors in Directing and studied puppetry at Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. He is the founding Artistic Director of Rogue Artists Ensemble in Los Angeles and has won awards for his work as a designer, director and playwright, including a UNIMA Citation of Excellence and the Sherwood Award from the Center Theater Group in Los Angeles. His work has been seen at the Pasadena Playhouse, Getty Villa, South Coast Repertory, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Cornerstone Theater Co., Central City Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, LA Theatre Works, Center Theater Group, Geffen Playhouse, Long Beach Opera, Imago Theater, NY City Opera, Center for Puppetry Arts and as part of the Kanye West Yeezus Tour. Sean is a member of USA829.

**Seth Corrigan; El Cerrito*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Direct personal experience in in-school and out of school arts programming - visual arts and ceramics

Background and experience teaching as well as designing and implementing programs in middle school and high school in Brooklyn, East Oakland and Berkeley

Experience and training developing and evaluating community driven programs for youth and adults with the City of San Francisco and an MPH from UCLA

Currently conducting qualitative research to understand the longterm impacts of arts participation via 100+ interviews of artists in three countries (Australia, UK, and the US)

**Shahed Mohseni; Reseda**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am an experienced music industry professional with a deep passion for the arts and cultural communities. As the director of the InterContinental Music Awards, I have had the privilege of working closely with artists and musicians from a wide range of backgrounds and genres. Through this work, I have gained valuable experience in artist management, event planning, and marketing, as well as a comprehensive understanding of the music industry.

In addition to my work in music, I am committed to supporting various cultural communities through initiatives and events. I have collaborated with organizations to promote cultural exchange and understanding, as well as to celebrate diversity and promote equity.

Given my extensive experience in the arts and my commitment to equity and cultural exchange, I believe that I would be a valuable addition to the CAC Panel Reviewer team. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of the arts in California and to work alongside other experienced arts professionals towards this goal.

**Shanguo Jia; Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Shanguo Jia, born in China in September 1974, immigrated to the United States in 2022 as an outstanding art talent. Now living in Los Angeles. He has been engaged in the creation and research of paper art for a long time, and his works of art have been collected by international art foundations and museums. He is now a member of the Chinese Artists Association and the CEO of the California Paper Art Research Center, a non-profit organization.

**Sharee Barranco; Castro Valley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

With over 30 years experience in healthcare contracting and network management, I am new to the Non-Profit grant writing space. I leverage my professional management expertise as I am learning. I've worked in the role for almost a year and would consider this opportunity a perfect way to continue my growth in the grant writing non-profit realm.

**Shari Poindexter; North Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Shari Poindexter is currently completing a short story collection titled Love and a Sachet of JooJoo & Other Infidelities. In addition to the residency at The Writer's Colony, she has won fellowships with La Maison Baldwin in France, Sagansky Harvardwood TV Writers Program, PEN Center Emerging Voices, Napa Valley Writers Conference and Squaw Valley Community of Writers.

Shari has an MFA in Writing and Literature from Bennington College and lives in LA, where she divides her time between passions of mothering her five children, writing, promoting breast/chestfeeding and helping adults enjoy healthy sexual function as a Holistic Pelvic Health Therapist and doctor of Occupational Therapy.

**Shary Ross; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

With a BA in dance from UCLA, I have extensive dance and arts experience as a teacher and performer in educational, community, and professional settings. Teaching includes creating curriculum with implementation of state standards and arts integration at Los Angeles Unified School District elementary, middle and high schools. I have also developed dance programs for adults and children at city recreation centers, teaching, choreographing and directing student performances in modern dance, creative movement, ballet, and jazz dance.

In addition, I have served as an adjudicator for the National Honors Society for Dance Arts (NDHSDA) in conjunction with the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO). This is a scholarship program involving assessing student dance performance, dance composition and writing skills according to stated aesthetic criteria.

As a performer, I have danced with numerous Los Angeles based concert dance companies in modern dance and ballet.

**Shayla James; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Shayla James balances her time as an arts administrator, teaching artist, and researcher. Her work is rooted in community and collaboration with others across disciplines. She is currently the Director of San Diego Creative Youth Development Network.

She is a multi-instrumentalist and Teaching Artist with over 15 years of experience in the performing arts. She is the owner of Sempre Music Studio, a creativity focused studio that offers a responsive and trauma informed music curriculum to students. She is the founder of Teaching Artist Circle, a community space that centers Teaching Artist voices of San Diego County.

Ms. James is a Research Associate at RISE Research & Evaluation, where she focuses on arts assessment and evaluation, inclusion, racial and cultural equity in the arts, and cultural policy.

She is currently a San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition board member. She is the Chair Emeritus of Rising Arts Leaders San Diego.

**Shayna Brodnick; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I currently work at the SFMOMA, where I am an administrative project coordinator in the collections, exhibitions and design division. I previously worked for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco in the exhibitions management department. Prior to finding my home in the museum world, I also gained experience in an array of industries, including education, retail, law, and hospitality. Art and community are the values closest to my heart, so much of my time outside of work is also spent visiting local art galleries and art fairs and visiting museums.

**Shelby Whallon; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I am currently in my seventh consecutive season with Los Angeles Ballet as a corps de ballet member. Being a member of the company over so many years, I have had the privilege to partake in the positive impacts that the performing arts industry has on our local communities stemming from both our performances and our community outreach departments. More specifically, I have also been a regular volunteer in our Chance to Dance Program, making dance classes free to the public once a month in both administration and as an instructor. In my evenings and offseason weeks, I have also been working part-time towards an associates degree for transfer from Santa Monica College in Nonprofit Management and Business Administration, and am planning to transfer into a four year university for the upcoming fall semester. I am the founder of The Encore Fund - a fiscally sponsored nonprofit dedicated to professional dancers who are transitioning into higher education opportunities. I have catered Encore towards a marginalized part of the dance community, those who have decided to move away from the performance aspect and into their next steps as professionals.

**Sherry Suisman; San Francisco*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been “arts-community adjacent” much of my professional life, nearly all of which has been focused in education and around social justice work. As a consultant, I’ve helped support schools, school districts, and colleges through technical assistance and program management in their efforts to bolster arts programming, curriculum, and other projects. I’ve led workshops for high school educators working across disciplines to build out courses that integrate Career Technical Education and academic subjects, helping teachers bring artistic and creative themes and activities into their curriculum. As a volunteer, I was President of the Board of Directors at SOMArts Cultural Center for two years and a board member at large for six years prior so became familiar with the arts funding landscape in the Bay Area and beyond. Outside of my work in education and the non-profit sector, I am an amateur printmaker and consumer of many art classes and workshops.

**Sherry Traylor; Temecula*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Dr. Sherry Traylor and Psalms Dance & Creative Arts Network is a nonprofit organization established in 2005. This organization reach children, youth and adults in the Arts through Dance, Play productions, Community summer programs, Workshops, Conference and their online Dominion Certificate Course Program. Our goal is to Transform our communities through community outreach, schools and educational projects, Concert, workshops and seminars, and Missions by inviting other cultures to come and pour into our next generation. We offer Ballet, Hip hop, Modern Dance, Drill team, Drumline, Acting and Play writing.

**Sheryl Boutte; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Sheryl Bize-Boutte is an award winning multidisciplinary writer, poet and Pushcart Prize nominee based in Oakland. She has authored several books with latest being her highly praised debut novel "Betrayal on the Bayou." A book of poetry she co-wrote with her daughter Angela

is the namesake of the Mechanics Institute Library of San Francisco's "No Poetry No Peace™" biannual poetry series. An inaugural Oakland Poet Laureate runner-up, Sheryl is also a popular teacher, literary reader, presenter, storyteller, curator and emcee/host for literary and poetry events.

**Iris Peretz; Woodlands Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Precious art director turned professional artist and curator. Love community and environment.

**Sibylla Nash; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Sibylla Nash is a Los Angeles-based writer. Her work has appeared in various outlets including Midnight & Indigo, The Gumbo, Lit Hub, Essence magazine, Vibe, and others. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from Otis College of Art and Design and her BA in Journalism from the University of Southern California. She was previously treasurer of the Maplewood Arts Council. She is the author of several non-fiction books for children and most recently was a teaching artist for 826LA's program at The Hammer Museum.

**Sid Parasnis; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Education: MFA Painting, Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA 2005, BFA Illustration and Advertising, Directorate of Art, Bombay, India 1997.

Grants: Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant 2012-13.

Artist Residency: STAR Shipyard Trust for the Arts, Artist in Residence Program 2016-17.

Collections: Mandarin Hotel, San Francisco, CA, The Priscilla and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, San Francisco, CA, Bakersfield Museum of Art, Bakersfield, CA, Stanford Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA, Dell Foundation, Austin, TX.

Museum Exhibitions: 78th Crocker Kingsley Exhibition, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA 2017, "Recent works" Bakersfield Museum of Art, Bakersfield, CA 2014.

Solo Exhibitions: "Intangible Realities" Caldwell Snyder Gallery San Francisco, CA 2022, "Utopia" Caldwell Snyder Gallery San Francisco, CA 2021, "Hues and Harmony" Caldwell Snyder Gallery San Francisco, CA 2019, "Serendipity" Caldwell Snyder Gallery, San Francisco, CA 2018.

Reviews, Catalogue Essays: 2018, "Serendipity", Hardback Book, Essay by John Seed, 2017 American Art Collector, by John O'Hern, 2015 Huffington Post, by John Seed.

**Simone Enderlin; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am the Grants Officer at the Asian Art Museum. I am responsible for managing all foundation and government relations at the museum. I have experience writing proposals for exhibitions, education and public programs, as well as collections and infrastructure grants. Prior to my current role, I was the Institutional Partnerships Associate at AAM, where I assisted with various foundation, corporate, and government administration and outreach. I have my MA in

Museum Studies from San Francisco State University, and a BFA in Photography from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. I am also a 5th generation San Franciscan, and the diverse community of the Bay Area motivates me at work and in my personal life.

**Simone Montemurno; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Simone Montemurno is Creative Arts Instructor at the Braille Institute, L.A. She teaches art to blind/visually-impaired adults, including Deaf/Blind students for which she has become conversational in Tactile-ASL. Prior to Braille Institute, Montemurno worked in Community Programs at the Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, teaching at-risk/ in-crisis teens (Learning Annex at Homeboy Industries, Central Eastlake Juvenile Hall). In 2017 she was a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for a child in L.A. County Foster Care.

Montemurno's own artwork consists of paintings, sound-recordings, and books inspired by cultural artifacts one might encounter in a regional folk art museum or out-of-the-way collection. In 2023, Ha Ha Records will release a cassette edition of Montemurno's collaborative work with artist/composer Byron Westbrook. Montemurno is partaking in an Artist-Book residency at Los Angeles Contemporary Archive (LACA). Montemurno received her MFA at CalArts in 2011, and BFA from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU in 2002. She has exhibited in both the United States and Europe.

**Sophia Shen; Fremont**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Born in Zhangzhou, southeast China, Sophia Shen is an award-winning composer, sound artist, pipa performer and improviser currently based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her music often bridges the divide between cultures and breaks boundaries between subjects, facilitating cross-cultural and interdisciplinary dialogues. She has performed internationally at music festivals and programs such as SXSW, BBC Radio 3, ICMC (International Computer Music Conference), San Francisco Tape Music Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, SF Performances PIVOT Festival, EcoSono Environmental Music and Sound Art Festival, SEAMUS (Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States), Other Minds Festival, Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival, among others. As a composer, she has been commissioned by many distinguished ensembles and organizations including the San Francisco Asian Art Museum, Headlands Center for the Arts, Wild Projects Production, EcoSono Institute, William Winant Percussion Group, Thingamajigs and Gamelan Encinal. Her original pipa compositions have received both Silver and Bronze Awards of the Dunhuang Cup National Pipa Composition Competition in China.

**Skylaer Palacios; Healdsburg**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Sky was always drawn to singing and dancing as a child. She learned how to play ukulele with friends and performed in school. After graduating from high school at the age of 16 she went to college where she fell in love with dance. Sky won the title of Miss Sonoma County in 2014. Upon graduating with her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and Performing Arts, Sky attended Dance Theater of Harlem, the first Black classical ballet company. She then after began teaching dance. Sky continues to be a strong advocate of the arts, education, and social

justice. In December of 2020, she became the first Black or Latina woman to be elected to her home town of Healdsburg's City Council. Sky's creative focus has shifted to songwriting and recording for her debut EP set for release this year. Sky continues to simultaneously pursue her other talents of dancing, modeling, and acting.

**Fía Benitez Villanueva; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Fia Benitez is a research-driven artist and educator living in Los Angeles. They are a 2022 REEF Artist-in-Residence and a 2020 Research & Practice Fellow, with recent solo and group exhibitions at The Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles, NÉVÉ, The Reef, Tin Flats, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 7313 Melrose, Newhall Crossings, Other Places Art Fair, and CalArts. Publications include Tense Renderings: the will and won't of spatial logics, re:connections, water / relic / spices, as well as Baest Journal, Sublevel Magazine, The Kitchen Blog, and The Vassar Review. Fía holds degrees from Vassar College and California Institute of the Arts (CalArts).

**Sonia Lee; Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a longtime arts practitioner, arts writer/editor, educator, community and arts events producer, consultant, and arts administrator who have experience and vision in advancing cultural and racial equity. As a musician, multidisplinary artist, and educator/speaker, I have performed, directed, and given guest talks in nearly 150 cities on four continents.

In the U.S., I have worked with diverse communities and stakeholders. I have served in different roles, including committee, board, leadership, executive, and advisory positions for arts, cultural, and social initiatives and organizations in several states, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, Illinois, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. I have enjoyed working with organizations that support equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion.

I hold a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Leadership from Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education.

**Soo Jin Hwang; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Originally from South Korea, I earned a BA in Aesthetics (the philosophy of art) from Seoul National University and later moved to the US to obtain an MFA in Film Production from Florida State University. My thesis film won multiple awards at various film festivals, including Student Emmy awards. After graduation, I worked as an entertainment journalist, covering Hollywood films. This experience led me to become the sole representative of the Korean Film Council in the US. In that liaison role, I curated numerous cultural and business exchange programs, facilitating interactions between Korea and Hollywood in the film industry. I have also worked as a mentor, panelist, moderator, and jury member. Additionally, I have been documenting murals in Los Angeles and creating my own archive of street art through my photography and videography, discovering the untold stories of our lives. Beyond my love for film, I'm passionate about public art, as it adds a living and ever-changing context to our surroundings.

**Srinivasa Manapragada; San Ramon*****Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Cultural Ambassador - Recognized by State of California Governor's Office, Recipient of United States of America - The Presidents Lifetime Achievement Award 2022 from President Joseph R Biden Jr - The White House, USA, Guinness World Record Holder & Guinness World Record Event Producer. Achievements Recipient of United States Of America - The Presidents Lifetime Achievement Award 2022 from President Joseph R Biden Jr - The White House, USA, Guinness World Record™, Event Organizer, Vandemataram in 265 languages, San Jose, CA, USA, 16 May 2010, Guinness World Record™, Event Organizer & Participant. Saare Johan Se Achcha in 277 languages. Fremont. CA. USA, Aug 15, 2010, Guinness World Record™, Event Producer. "Trinetram" Jana Gana Mana. Fastest Piano Player. San Jose. CA. USA. Nov 18. 2011.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS: The Distinguished Citizen & Leader of Bay Area Indian Community, City of Milpitas, CA, USA, 8th June' 11. International Awards London School of Music and Drama. UK, have recognized his services to the music industry in 2001, Initiated Folklore FARMI Research Award.

**Stacey Smith; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am the Founder and Principal of SKS Consulting, a woman-owned agency partnering with nonprofit and public sector leaders to strengthen systems and remove barriers to effectiveness. I'm also a life-long volunteer, committed to serving my community. I specialize in board training and development, community engagement, education and outreach, planning and evaluation, and volunteer engagement. My 20+ years of experience with arts organizations of all sizes and stages of growth includes work with theater groups, dance companies, instrumental groups, a museum, an online arts journal, a community band, a youth outreach and education group, and an artist/community partnership. I've also supported organizations serving youth, people with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, seniors, low-income, at-risk, and historically underrepresented communities. As a former Development Director and grant-writing consultant, I understand the grant application process. For the past two years, I've evaluated scholarship applications for my local community colleges. I offer the experience you seek.

**Stacey Dove; Hemet*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I started my professional career as an artist in the female quartet VYBE. We were signed to Island Records. Toured with artist Naughty by Nature, Notorious BIG, Monica, Brownstone and more. Professional song credits include Whitney Houston, Deborah Cox, Montell Jordan, Tamara and Lil Mo, and Shae Jones. I provided Vocal performance and songwriting coaching for local artist as well as Grammy winning artist Olivia Rodrigo. Executive Producer of Temecula Gospel Fest. Performing Arts Instructor at Oak Grove Center For Education Treatment And The Arts.

**Luz Helena Thompson; Oceanside*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Luz Helena Thompson is a Colombian artist and Marine Corps veteran. She is a self-taught Artist based on the Southern California Coast. Thompson's work is inspired by her military service and deep sense of patriotism. She often explores elements of the individual and collective identity experienced within the veteran community and teaches art to veterans across the country. Her work highlights topics such as vulnerability, invisible wounds, military sexual trauma and post-traumatic growth just to name a few. Since 2011, her artwork has been featured in several exhibitions and fundraisers throughout the United States. Venues include museums and galleries in California, New York, Texas and Florida. Thompson currently serves as an Art Commissioner for the City of Oceanside. Thompson received a BS from the California University of Pennsylvania (CALU) and also received her Master's Degree from CALU in 2014. She works from her private studio in Oceanside, California.

**Stacy Brightman; Claremont*****Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Recently named the first Executive Director ever for The Ebell of LA, Brightman is responsible for creating and implementing a vision for dynamically advancing The Ebell's mission to inspire women and the LA community by creating space dedicated to arts, culture, education and service. The Ebell's historic 83,000 square foot arts and education campus on Wilshire Boulevard, which encompasses the renowned Wilshire Ebell Theatre.

Prior to joining The Ebell, Brightman served as Vice President for LA Opera's renowned community, education, and learning department from 2000-2021. She has held senior leadership positions at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Shakespeare Center LA, and LA Stage Alliance, as well as teaching positions at USC, LMU, and FIDM. She holds a Ph.D. in Dramatic Arts from UC Davis, BA in Theatre and Religious Studies from Pomona College, and is completing her MA in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from Arizona State University.

**Stacy Sullivan; San Luis Obispo*****Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

After 30 years in Seattle, I've moved back to California where I earned a BA in Literature from UCLA in 1988 and learned to love the arts. My friends and colleagues call me the world's best audience member as I love nothing more than a live show. I reviewed performances for grant funding purposes in Seattle at county-funded 4Culture until the pandemic hit. Over time have experienced more shows than I can count. In addition to reviewing dance, theater, music, and visual art, I also served for 12 years on the advisory board of Pacific Northwest Ballet. There I volunteered for DanceChance, the community outreach program dedicated to bringing diversity to ballet through partnerships with high poverty public schools. Other arts experience includes fundraising for the Seattle Art Museum, planning Starbucks Hot Java Cool Jazz concerts and starting a Free Little Art Gallery in my neighborhood. After moving to San Luis Obispo 18 months ago, I've gotten involved with the arts community here through SLOMA and the Performing Arts Center on the Cal Poly campus. I continue to positively impact my community by helping to make a wide range of art accessible to all.

**Stella Jones; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I work with young artist in underrepresented communities, and I give back to the young artists at their career days at the schools.

**Stephanie Baker; Alameda**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an artist with experience as an art educator and writer. My exhibition history dates from 1996 to the present. March, 2023, given the Merit Award for "Watch", 2022, show title; 2023 Human Rights Art Exhibition, College of the Sequoias. The painting is my response to Ageism, now in the College of the Sequoias Permanent Art Collection for study by art students. I am featured in UC Berkeley Extension's Art & Literary Review Magazine (2018, 2020) as author, fiction editor, lead art editor, and artist. In 2018 I received an MFA in Studio Art, and MA in the History and Theory of Contemporary Art, San Francisco Art Institute. My thesis, "Jay DeFeo and Dorothy Miller in Conversation:...", documented San Francisco Bay Area artist Jay DeFeo and Dorothy Miller Chief Curator of MOMA, New York, elevating their contributions to art history in the post WWII era.

**Steph Gilbert; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I currently work in operations for one of fashion's most powerful retailers based in Los Angeles. With over 15 years' experience in the fashion and apparel industry, I have worked for notable companies such as Fast Retailing and LVMH. My expertise focuses on designing policies, supply chain management, private security, strategic planning, and implementing technology solutions. I also have an extensive dance background, which is why I am leaning into pursuing more endeavors in dance and the arts. I studied under the Balanchine method of ballet with the New England Ballet Company and Boston Ballet for a combined total of 20+ years. In my 20's I expanded my dance repertoire into contemporary roles, participating in festivals such as, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the 5x5 Dance Festival, Berkshire MASS MoCa, among several others. In my spare time, I am a board member for MashUp Contemporary Dance, a certified yoga instructor, lover of philosophy + art, and continuing my education with a master's in clinical psychology.

**Stephanie Jones Parker; Escondido**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I received my BA in Theatre Arts in 2005 from SDSU — then worked for over 15 years in the professional theatre community of San Diego. Most notably the Old Globe Theatre where I was Lead Craft Artisan in the Costume Department. Over many seasons I interpreted sketches, using designer research and my own to bring designs to the stage. Research and development, experimentation and innovation drive cultural institutions to grow and expand into new areas of interest. Now that I have been with CCAE for over a year I am more in touch with my community, I want to expand on that knowledge to better serve the artists and performers that enrich all our lives. A recent Museum Studies graduate from JHU, I want to share my experiences and continue to support the arts in a more powerful way.

**Stephanie Johnson; Berkeley**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I have previously served on panels for CAC, San Francisco Arts Commission, and Berkeley Civic Arts. I was a commissioner on Berkeley Civic Arts (8 years) and City of Berkeley' Landmark Preservation Commission

**Steven Trull; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I'm an artist who happens to conceive, construct, and publish artists' books. My publishing work has appeared locally and abroad--at art book fairs and in bookstores. My writing has appeared in print and online. An avid writer, I am also a diligent, careful reader.

I have successfully consulted and written foundational grants for individual artist friends, local indigenous cultural projects, and after school enrichment programs. However, I would like to learn how to receive art grants from state agencies. I'm also curious about the advantages and disadvantages of being a non-profit and I feel that serving CAC might provide some information into that.

**Steve Dilley; Encinitas**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Steven Dilley, Executive Director has chosen to use his Artistic passion to help people better themselves and the communities they call home. Through a social practice lens, the creation and sharing of personal narratives, Steve continues to expand the arena where people connect through the process of Art Making. What started as an idea to help Veterans after their service through Art. VETART has grown to be a national program utilizing D.A.E. Deep Arts Engagement to work closely with Veterans, Spouses, Dependents, Caregivers and Active duty in the following disciplines. Bronze casting, wood working, Ceramics and Glass casting.

**Su-Fei Kuok; Davis**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I have over 5 years of experience in nonprofit management for an independent preschool through 6th grade school. I am eager to learn about the grant-making process and share my experience.

**Suki Liebow; Vallejo**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Suki Liebow is an award winning professional artist whose primary focus is on emotional engagement through artistic exploration.

In addition to creating and exhibiting her own work, Suki has a wide range of experience including: professional grant writing for art-based nonprofit organizations, creating, administering and teaching art programs for all ages, youth to adult, and has been on the board of directors for both the Oceanside Cultural Arts Foundation and Arthatch, a non-profit that benefits at-risk youth.

Suki currently works with Arts Benicia as an arts instructor, most recently serving at-risk youth at Liberty high school, offers private tutoring, and is working toward establishing an arts program for at-risk youth in Vallejo where she has her home.

**Surabhi Bharadwaj; San Ramon**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Surabhi Bharadwaj, Artistic Director of Siddhi Creative, is a seasoned Bharatanatyam dancer, teacher, choreographer, and a lighting designer based in the Tri-Valley region. She holds an MFA in Bharatanatyam from Sastra University, India and an MFA in Dance: Design and Production from Saint Mary's College of California.

Surabhi has been supported by the Zellerbach Family Foundation Grant, the CA\$H Grant, and Apprenticeship from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts as a Mentor. She has received accolades for her performances across the globe including rave reviews on publications like New York Time, Broadway World, DanceTabs, to mention a few.

Wearing multiple hats, both on the creative and the management side, Surabhi has produced multidisciplinary works including 'Ashrutam – The Unheard Voice', 'The Dream Tree', 'The Maze' and 'Finding Joy'. She continues to collaborate, create, and hopes to bring communities together through her work.

**Susan Davis; San Pedro**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I AM A 47 YEAR RESIDENT OF SAN PEDRO, A HIDDEN GEM OF LOS ANGELES WITH AN ACTIVE HARBOR, A VIBRANT MULTI-ETHNIC COMMUNITY AND AN ENCLAVE OF DEDICATED ARTISTS.

I AM ALSO AN ARTIST, A GRAPHIC DESIGNER BY TRADE AND A VOLUNTEER. AS A BOARD MEMBER AT ANGELS GATE CULTURAL CENTER, I AM PROUD THAT OUR FUNDING HAS GROWN OVER MY TENURE ON THE BOARD IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. WE EXCEL IN OFFERING ART IN THE CLASSROOMS OF LAUSD STUDENTS WHO HAVE NO OTHER ACCESS TO DANCE, MUSIC, POETRY AND ART. WE HAVE AN AMAZING CAMPUS OF ENGAGED ARTISTS WHO ENLIVEN THE COMMUNITY AND MYRIAD EVENTS THAT ATTRACT PEOPLE TO OUR CAMPUS WITH OCEAN VIEWS.

THE BOARD IS DEDICATED TO OPENING OUR DOORS TO MORE OF THE COMMUNITY. WE EMBRACE CHANGE AS A WAY TO ENGAGE MORE YOUNG AND DIVERSE ART PARTICIPANTS SUCH AS OUR TEEN MURAL WORKSHOPS, FREE FAMILY ART WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY CLASSES.

I'D BE GLAD TO HELP WITH THE CAC SELECTION PROCESS.

**Susan Farese; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Susan J. Farese, MSN, RN, (Veteran), a native of NJ, is owner/president of SJF Communications PR in San Diego, CA. Ms. Farese has diversified experience in health care and communications. She is the Author of Poetic Expressions in Nursing: Sharing the Caring (1993 and 2021). Susan has published poetry and articles on a variety of topics and is a blogger. Clients include

theatres, musicians, filmmakers, authors and businesses and nurses/nurse entrepreneurs. Susan is a member of SAG-AFTRA, Veterans in Media & Entertainment, San Diego Writers Ink, the Southern California Writers Association, the Army Nurse Corps Association and the San Diego Press Club.

**Susan Swinburne; Torrance**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Susan Swinburne began her nonprofit management career directing Fortune 500 Social Responsibility programs. After a decade as a corporate philanthropist, the opportunity arose to make a leap into professional development and fundraising in order to help a beloved nonprofit organization conquer a bankruptcy crisis after the Northridge Earthquake.

That first experience of running a high-stakes fundraising campaign, which successfully rescued the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra from closing its doors in 1994, launched a new professional direction and ignited a passion for helping visual and performing arts organizations craft innovative solutions to problems or circumstances that are preventing them from thriving.

With a career now spanning 40+ years and more than 50 institutions, Susan offers insight, knowledge, key skills, and the dedication of a passionate advocate to arts organizations seeking change, growth, sustainability, and mission-driven success.

Susan graduated from U.C. Irvine and the Loyola Marymount University School of Business.

**Susie Tanner; Pasadena**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Susan “Susie” Franklin Tanner is an innovator in the field of documentary theatre & arts education with 38+ years of experience as a producer, director, actor and teaching artist. For TheatreWorkers Project (TWP), she has led the creation of 21 community-based participant-generated original performance pieces. Susie was a core member of the Living Stage Company at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, performing and teaching in prisons, halfway houses and community facilities. She has done residencies and workshops at CIM, CIW, and Valley State Prison. leads TWP’s program at California State Prison-LA County, and directs theatre programs in collaboration with multiple reentry communities. She created/led a distance collaboration with La Colmenita, the Cuban National Children’s theatre company, and has been a presenter for Connecting Art and Law for Liberation (CALL)/UCLA and co-presenter for ALLIES AT THE TABLE: The Role of White Theatre Artists in Multi-Ethnic Conversations, NYU. Susie is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA, The Transformative In Prison Workgroup, SAG-AFTRA, and Actors’ Equity Association.

**Susan Hatchett; Riverside**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I’ve been a teacher/mentor/advisor for the past 20 years. In that time I have been a(n):

Teaching Artist (Acting, Modeling, Improv, Public Speaking, Creative Writing, Filmmaking and Stop-Animation); Afterschool Enrichment Instructor; ESL Teacher; Teaching Assistant/ Student Advisor (The Bridge Program in association with Antioch University Los Angeles, serving underrepresented and underserved adult students); Mentor and Advisor to international

student leaders (Center for International Education Graduate Assistantship at Otis College of Art and Design and as Interim Assistant Director of International Student Programs at Davidson College) and as an advocate for children's literacy, where I volunteered through The Screen Actors Guild's BookPALS program. I was a Reader at an elementary school in Long Beach, CA.

**Suzanne Brooks; Sacramento**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Through the years, I have held various jobs from live-in maid, waitress, telephone operator and policewoman to English teacher and education administrator. Today I am CEO/Founder of the International Association for Women of Color Day, The Jazz Generation band (singer, songwriter, bandleader), and launched WomenWorldCulture, a unique/innovative global website with educational and social services, international conferences and arts events, beginning first in the Americas. I have been motivated to earn formal education on an ongoing basis from BA to MA to all but dissertations completed to 2 doctorates.

Co-founded first Police Athletic Club (PAL) in the US for girls, while a Philadelphia policewoman; followed by co-founding the nonprofit, Girls, Inc. Helped establish March 1st as Women of Color Day; later began International Assn. for Women of Color Day in 1999. My focus has grown from national to international, in 25 states and 6 other countries. Active entertainer in music.

**Suzanne Isken; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Suzanne Isken, Executive Director joined the Craft Contemporary in February 2011 where she has led initiatives to support the creation of contemporary craft and build audiences by developing a sizeable program of hands-on-experiences for the public. In 2019 Isken led the Board of Directors in an initiative that renamed the museum formerly known as the Craft & Folk Art Museum as Craft Contemporary in order to reflect the relationship between materials, processes, and the human hand. Under her direction, the museum has presented landmark exhibitions including This is Not a Silent Movie: Four Contemporary Alaska Native Artists, Betye Saar: Keepin' it Clean, Man-Made: Contemporary Male Quilters, The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination and Possibility, and Strings of Desire. Previously she served as the Director of Education for ten years at The Museum of Contemporary Art, following 10 years of service as coordinator of school and teacher programs and gallery educator.. She attended the Getty Leadership Program in 2008. Awards include recognition as the 2004 Pacific Region Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association.

**Suzanne McCaslin; Modesto**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

This is written on the fly... Throughout my life, I've loved the creation process. Majoring in Business at Fresno State, I sought to incorporate as many art classes as possible into my electives. I've spent my adult life taking art and art-related classes and using these skills in my career. At the University of Kentucky, I hand painted signs; at E&J Gallo's marketing department, I created point of sale and refined ads; at the City of Modesto, I did extensive desktop publishing. Now retired, I'm pursuing an arts education and my arts journey has taken

me to ceramics. This medium is full of surprises at every stage of the creation process - the only limitations are your imagination and skill in working in the material.

### **Suzanne Brooks; Sacramento**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Suzanne Brooks, Vocalist, Bandleader, Song Writer of The Jazz Generation Band, originally from Philadelphia, PA. Now in Sacramento CA, she is still influenced by East Coast Jazz, R&B, The Philly Sound, Latin & Caribbean rhythm, love of language diversity--especially Spanish, folk songs and country music, and the influence of deep family Gospel roots. A Jazz Stylist who writes, produces & directs her own musical shows and recordings in her own studio, on her own label, she is an independent recording artist with 12 CDs, covers and original music. Am a literary writer of poems, fiction, nonfiction, one-act play and public speaker on social issues, a lover of dance and theater with a history as an English/ESL teacher-tutor from K-12 to University and adult community students; now converting her audio studio to a live/video streaming studio. Honored as a California Trail Blazers by the legal publication, The Record.

### **Suzanne Isken; Los Angeles**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Suzanne Isken, Executive Director joined the Craft Contemporary in February 2011 where she has supported the creation of contemporary craft and build audiences by developing a sizeable program of hands-on-experiences for the public. In 2019 Isken led the Board of Directors in an initiative that renamed the museum formerly known as the Craft & Folk Art Museum as Craft Contemporary in order to reflect the relationship between materials, processes, and the human hand. Under her direction, the museum has presented landmark exhibitions including This is Not a Silent Movie: Four Contemporary Alaska Native Artists, Betye Saar: Keepin' it Clean, The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination and Possibility, and Strings of Desire. Previously she served as the Director of Education for ten years at The Museum of Contemporary Art, fShe attended the Getty Leadership Program in 2008. Awards include recognition as the 2004 Pacific Region Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association.

### **Talya Franklin; Lake Elsinore**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Talya Franklin, widely acknowledged as a very accomplished and influential visual artist. Born and raised in southern California, she is always seen African American women fighting against injustice and social rights for lower class citizens. Although she did not pick up a camera until she was thirty, Talya Franklin has made quite a presence as a writer. Her work has made her a very prominent grossing black woman in the industry.

### **Talyia Liebig; Stockton**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I'm a 21 year old disabled, trans, lower class artist and healthcare worker who has, for most of my life, benefitted from community outreach in some way or another. I have participated in local zine and art shows, but beyond that I haven't engaged in much public artistry. I would love to be more involved in a way that could truly change someone's life- in turn changing mine!

**Tamara Liu; Watsonville*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Tamara manages Arts Council Santa Cruz County's Grants Program, which provides funding to individual artists and arts organizations across the county. She staffs the Grants Committee, manages the fiscal sponsorship program, and provides training and support to our county's creatives. A trained flutist, Tamara holds a BM in musicology and a minor in Business from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She began her professional career in the arts as a production assistant and development intern. Returning to Santa Cruz, she worked in arts administration with Opera Cultura, a Latinx opera company based in San Jose, and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. She served on the Santa Cruz Chamber Players' board from 2019-2022. Tamara brings deeply-seated values of equity and community to her work.

**Tamara Serrao-Leiva; Redlands*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Tamara Serrao-Leiva is the Curator of Anthropology at the San Bernardino County Museum in southern California. After a decade of work in archaeology and CRM, Tamara transitioned into the museum field in 2015. As Curator of the archaeology and ethnography collections, she identified the need for restructuring the loosely managed archaeology collection, as well as the implementation of the advanced storage solutions. She has focused on NAGPRA compliance through documenting unreported individuals, sacred ceremonial objects in the county's possession. Since 2016, she has worked to develop a collaborative environment between Native American tribes and the SBCM by establishing transparent communication regarding NAGPRA issues. Tamara is a Registered Professional Archaeology who holds a BA in Classical Archaeology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and MA in Prehistoric Archaeology for the Universidad de Sevilla, Spain. After a decade of being a citizen of the world, she now resides in Redlands with her husband and her toddler.

**Tania Estrada; Los Angeles*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Chinese Colombian and Black Colombian Latina that has worked to make her way from La Puente to Hollywood through my talents and my job skill of accounting and public relations. I have accounted for brands like Hello Kitty Wholesale/ Nakajima, worked for FLY PR, assistant to the controller at The Music Center La Opera Walt Disney Concert Hall and then to A Place Called Home where we worked with after school programs dealing with grants and funding to facilitate our children's programs. I currently am assisting artist Kevin Llewellyn on IG in assisting in his artist expenses and shipping of his artwork to his collectors.

**Tara Graviss White; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have an MA in Expressive Arts Therapy and focus on trauma recovery for survivors of sexual violence. I am a visual artist & poet. I have been on the board of Young Audiences of San Diego, Vanguard Culture, Arts Empower, AERO & San Diego Regional Arts & Culture Coalition. I've sat on leadership panels for The SDSO VAPA Foundation, The Women's Museum, & Villa Musica. I've volunteered at A Reason to Survive, Young Audiences of San Diego, & Vanguard Culture. I was the Executive Director at Arts for Learning San Diego; the Grants Manager for

Californians for the Arts & now serve as a Program Manager & Curator for Villa Musica. I am bilingual English/Spanish. I have served on 4 prior panels for CAC & enjoyed the process as a community member.

**Tatev Sargsyan; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a communications and marketing professional within the non-profit STEM world and as a part of my job, I moderate discussions of program committee members who select scientific symposia for the large Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

I have also been working on an oral history project about a DIY/arts community space in Washington DC, where I took oral history workshops, interviewed community members, and preserved their stories in library archives. I deeply understand the ethos of arts communities and believe that those spaces and stories should be available and accessible to as many as possible. In this spirit, I also wrote and received grants from Humanities DC to carry out public presentations of my oral history research, which included curating events and discussions, collecting video footage from community, and editing a short documentary film about the DIY arts in nation's capital.

Last year, I served on CAC Grant panel, which allowed me to understand California's diverse cultural landscape better and I hope to continue to learn more.

**Taylor Macias; Eureka**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am an artist from a rural and largely underserved community rife with poverty and devoid of art culture. The extremely conservative and heavily cultivated landscape of the central valley impressed upon me the importance of having community and accessibility to the things which elevate us as human beings. I moved to Humboldt county for college after I saw art exhibits not only in galleries, but outside in buildings, in people's yards, and as events throughout the year. As a student I studied art education and invested a lot of time exploring themes around public performance art, social practice, and art administration. I have applied for 1-2 grants and executed projects in many veins which address social concerns, political ideology, and to simply express thoughts ideas or feelings about issues that might effect me or my community. I like to provide spaces to have conversations and elevate ideas among artist in the community and find ways to pay ourselves to collaborate and bring a message fourth. I aspire to start a publication which critiques local art and also serves a compendium of local artists, and am currently working on a painting exhibit about traditional feminism.

**Taylor Price; Vacaville**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I'm a Bay Area native with passions ranging from education reform to documentary filmmaking. I'm an alumna of New York University where I had the opportunity to explore my interests through various mediums including journalism, social research, and film. Some of my most meaningful experiences were conducting anthropological research on immigration patterns in Paris, studying documentary filmmaking in Greece with a hyperfocus on the Syrian refugee

crisis, and teaching classes at a juvenile detention facility in Queens, NY. These experiences molded me as a woman and gave life to my expansive perspectives. Through my multidisciplinary studies, I came to realize that storytelling and community building is where my passion for social advocacy and creative interests align. After graduation, I freelanced as an independent producer, editor, and set designer. I completed a fellowship at a Black woman owned and operated gallery in downtown Oakland and worked at KQED. I have since found a home in tech, specifically in consumer marketing, and continue to freelance producing social documentaries.

**Tegan McLane; Pleasanton**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Tegan has more than 25 years' experience working in arts administration. She currently oversees performing and visual arts programs and events for the City of Milpitas, public art, and cultural and heritage programs. she has held similar positions for City of Dublin and City of Sunnyvale. She previously worked in arts nonprofits (education, outreach, marketing, fundraising, production roles, and resident playwright/lyricist) and as an arts journalist.

**Terah Drent; Escondido**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I am currently working on a project that uses my background in law and philosophy to develop a philosophy of freedom exploring a possible causal relationship between the efficient functioning of an inclusive representative democracy and the mental health of its citizens. My goal is to inspire others to govern themselves with respect to their family and neighbors in a manner similar to how they expect their government to operate, relative to its citizens and other nations. I believe that recent technological developments could help citizens feel more comfortable becoming transparent in their neighborhoods which may help them achieve more accountability to each other and grow greater emotional intelligence. Such citizens might improve their interpersonal relationships and, in the process, provide the groundwork needed to help their chosen representatives reform its systems of government to achieve a more efficient and inclusive representative democracy.

**Terri Lloyd; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a self-taught artist living and working in Los Angeles. I spent 25 years in commercial art. Volunteerism and community arts projects were a prominent part of my activities. In 2010 I founded The Haggus Society, a non-profit feminist arts group for women over the age of 40. I have published two books under The Black Scat books imprint. In 2013, I had three strokes and shuttered the doors of the Haggus Society. My father's death in 2017 was the catalyst for my return to painting. My work is collected by weirdos across the U.S., Europe and Australia.

**Terri Le; El Cerrito**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Since 2010, I developed my career in the non-profit sectors to promote arts, culture, and humanities as agents of change. I have experience as a museum educator, summer field trip curriculum developer, public program/events manager, communications and social media

coordinator, grant writer, and development/fundraising director. I graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2010 with a B.A. in Art History and History. In 2016, I graduated from John F. Kennedy University with an M.A. in Museum Studies and an M.B.A. I am currently employed at the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) as the Institutional Giving Manager. Concurrently, I am the Co-Founder & Principal Coach of Resourceful Roots LLC, a nonprofit freelance and coaching service. I also serve as the Treasurer of Cultural Connections, a museum culture professional development volunteer-run nonprofit organization.

**Teuna Gremillion; Fairfield**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Teuna Gremillion was born and raised in San Francisco until she moved to Daly City during her teenage years. She is an alumna of Omega Boys Club/Alive & Free. She graduated from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. She is currently pursuing a Masters Degree. Teuna initially started volunteering during high school and has continued to do so as an adult. She has worked for several non-profit organizations and county government agencies throughout the San Francisco Bay Area in various capacities serving underserved communities. Teuna's love for music and social interaction created an entrepreneurship opportunity for her planning events, concerts and working with the art & culture community including assisting with planning Oakland Carnival & Wellness Festival. She enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. Teuna believes that if we have been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge and time, then it is expected that we bless and benefit others.

**Tad Lupton; Huntington Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning. I have served as the 2006 President of Indianapolis' American Institute of Architects and Board Member of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. I am an Architect by day, and have taken painting, drawing and sculpture classes continually for the 30 plus years since I graduated. I have numerous commissions for my impressionist landscape and cityscape oil on canvas works of art. Since moving to Huntington Beach California, I have had my work selected for exhibit in the 2020 Virtual Huntington Beach Surf City Arts Fest. I believe in the importance of Arts Council's abilities to facilitate Grant opportunities to fund exhibitions and artistic exploration of any nature.

**Theresa Nelson; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Theresa Nelson, MBA (Golden Gate University), CFRE, has 40 years of experience advising nonprofit organizations in campaigns, fundraising and marketing, board governance, and strategic planning as well as serving as interim chief development officer for numerous organizations. Earlier in her career she served as a director of development and executive director of various nonprofits.

As a consultant, her arts and culture clients include: Cal Performances, California Academy of Sciences, Asian Art Museum, Bay Area Discovery Museum, Exploratorium, Stanford Jazz. She taught nonprofit management at U.C. Berkeley's Haas School of Business and the University of San Francisco's Master of Nonprofit Administration program.

She is President of the Board of Children's Fairyland in Oakland, serves on the Board of Directors of Humanities West, an organization she co-founded, is past Chair and Board Member of the Rockridge Community Planning Council, and chaired the \$3.0 million campaign for a new Oakland community park.

**Theresa Yvonne; Mountain View**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Theresa Yvonne is currently the Executive Director for the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (MVCPA) in the heart of Silicon Valley. The MVCPA hosts over 400 performances annually, including three resident theatre companies on three stages in the heart of downtown Mountain View.

Prior to Mountain View, Ms. Yvonne was the founding Executive Director for the Performing Arts & Event Center in Federal Way, Washington nestled between Seattle and Tacoma. As the first Executive Director, she collaborated with the architects, oversaw the facility's construction budget, secured funding with our non-profit partner, and ensured the project came in on time and on budget.

Ms. Yvonne holds a bachelor's degree in Drama from C.S.U. Sacramento and a master's degree in organizational management and has spent 25 years working at city owned and operated performing arts facilities across the western United States.

**Tomas Benitez; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I've been in the arts and culture nearly fifty years. I have been a consultant to the NEA, CAC, Smithsonian, Notre Dame, USC, UCLA and others. My background is in theater arts but I have served mostly Chicano/ Latinx arts organizations and projects. I have been a grant writer for numerous organizations including Plaza de la Raza, SHG&A, Shakespeare Center of LA, Ojai Playwrights Conference, USC, UCLA, U Notre Dame, and several smaller grass roots organizations. I have lectured on Chicano Art and Culture across the USA and in Europe, Africa, Israel and Mexico. I am also a published poet short story writer and essayist and a produced playwright and screenwriter. I have a BA in Theater Arts from CSULB. I am a former board member of the CFTA and CAA. I am Chairman of the Board of the Latino Arts Network CA. I have NEA, CAC prior experience.

**Tom Bradac; Garden Grove**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

a theatre professional for 50 years. I adapted and staged Shakespeare's poem, "Venus and Adonis," for the Prague Fringe Festival with The Prague Shakespeare Company. I am the founder of Shakespeare Orange County theatre and served as artistic director. During my tenure, SOC was recognized by Arts Orange County as Arts Organization of the Year and

received special recognition for Community Service by the Walt Disney Company. Additionally, I founded the Grove Shakespeare Festival a two-venue Actors Equity Company and was awarded Hollywood Drama-Logue Publisher's Award for Exceptional Achievement in Theatre. I am a founding director of the Shakespeare Theatre Association, an international service organization for theatres dedicated to producing Shakespeare, and additionally served as the organization's president. I served as Chair of Theatre and Dance at Chapman University where I am a professor of Theatre where I taught for 33 years.

**Tierra Allen; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Tierra Allen is a theatermaker, teaching artist, curator, and more. She's co-created spaces braiding performance, activism, healing, and critical consciousness-raising at theaters, community-based organizations, schools, and parks, behind prison walls and in the streets. She's won an Isadora Duncan "Izzie" Dance Award, earned award nominations from Theatre Bay Area, and performed with the Black Choreographers Festival, Dance Brigade's D.I.R.T. (Dance in Revolt(ing) Times) Festival, House/Full of Blackwomxn, Campo Santo, BAMBDFEST, and others. She's directed for Playwrights Foundation and PlayGround and choreographed for the National Queer Arts Festival, Spectrum Queer Media, and TheatreFIRST. Devised works with her collective The Bonfire Makers include PLACE to LAND (an oakland love story), which explored cycles of displacement and pathways toward a just Oakland, and a performance-based toolkit to organize for housing justice and Proposition 10. They wrote, directed, and performed in the speculative abolitionist short film THE REMEMBERING TIME.

**Tiffanie Heben; Tracy**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am active in the arts in Tracy and surrounding cities. I have served in various roles in the Tracy Art League and the Tracy Friends of the Library. I help to organize the TAL's annual Expressions! exhibition and the TFOL Tracy Poetry Contest. I am currently helping the City create a poet laureate position. I was the paid executive director of the Grand Foundation, the non-profit that raises funds for the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts for two years, during which I created a newsletter promoting arts and arts education. I then served on the board for several years. I have used my photography and graphic design skills to support the work of local art and literacy non-profits.

Last year, I received a grant from the Tracy Arts Commission to support my first solo exhibition, "What I Want to Say: Photography by Tiffanie Heben," at the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts. My exhibition featured images of visual artists from my community. I created a book about my experiences photographing artists in their studios that highlighted the importance of artists in community-building. I have shown my photography and collage work in exhibitions in Tracy, Sacramento, Lodi, and Livermore.

**Tisha Reichle-Aguilera; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Chicana Feminist and former Rodeo Queen, Tisha Marie Reichle-Aguilera (she/her) writes so the desert landscape of her childhood can be heard as loudly as the urban chaos of her

adulthood. A former high school teacher, she earned an MFA at Antioch University and is a PhD Candidate at USC. Her fiction has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, Best of the Net, Best Microfiction, and Best Small Fictions. Her stories have been anthologized in *Rural Writers of Color*, *Made in L.A.*, *Ramblings & Reflections: SouthWest Writers Winning Words*, and *Puro Chicanx Writers of the 21st Century*. Her play *Blind Thrust Fault* was featured in Center Theater Group Writers' Workshop Festival and her one-act was featured in the Latinx group of the Short+Sweet Festival Hollywood. Her debut YA novel, *Breaking Pattern*, is forthcoming with Inlandia Books. She is a Macondista and works for literary equity through Women Who Submit.

**Tomás Pagán Motta; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I'm a multimedia artist with a background in investigative reporting, Latin-X kid who grew up in the east coast. I recorded three albums, an EP and two singles under my own name and had some honors over the years, including a song featured on "The Complete List: NPR Music's Favorite Songs Of 2015" and the critically acclaimed soundtrack of Netflix's "Flaked," season two. I've toured the United States and parts of Europe while holding down jobs as a transcriptionist, ghostwriter, coffee messenger and children's music educator among other occupations, including a six-year stretch working for the White House where I was able to travel to more than 40 countries, the bulk of them with now President Biden (then Vice President Biden).

**Tommy Bui; Arleta**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Tommy Vinh Bui is a librarian based out of Los Angeles. He was a Peace Corps volunteer working in education and community development serving in Central Asia from 2011-12 and was a 2018-19 Arts for LA Cultural Policy Fellow for the City of Inglewood. Along with being a 2015-16 American Library Association Spectrum Scholar, he is also a contributor to ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom writing about issues of censorship and public art. His work has also been published in Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs publications. He has also taken courses on cultural production and urban spaces at the University of Copenhagen and participated in critical research on the intersection of arts, culture, and technology at NØ School Nevers in Burgundy, France. His doctoral research examines artist residencies in library spaces and the short and long term effects on stakeholders.

**Tony Gaines; Anaheim**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a graduate from the University of Iowa with a BFA in visual Arts and have shown my Art nation wide.

**Toti O'Brien; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Born in Rome, living in Los Angeles, Toti O'Brien is an artist, author, musician and dancer. Her mixed media have been exhibited in group and solo shows, in Europe and the US, since 1995. She has published eight collections of prose and poetry, as well as illustrating numerous books by other authors. She is a member of two companies of ethnic/historical dance, as well as of

several folk music ensembles. Trained as a classical vocalist, she sings in many Los Angeles based classical choirs, and as a soloist. She contributes articles about the arts, music, dance and literature to newspapers and magazines in the US and abroad.

**Travis Hedge Coke; Riverside**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

A disabled, mixed-race enby, Travis Hedge Coke is a professional poet, critic, teacher, visual artist and musician who has worked for Shandong University, University of California Riverside, University of Nebraska Kearney, Oxnard College, edited for University of Arizona Press, Future Earth Magazine, and the UCR/Inlandia Along the Chaparral anthologies, as well as producing free-access short films, music, and two free-access books of critical nonfiction with Comic Watch (Mutant Thoughts: Examining New X-Men, the Early 21st Century, and Ourselves; Us Living in Fictional Cosmogonies), for which they also write a weekly arts/entertainment column. Hedge Coke has taught students from preschool to graduate level, produced commercial visual art, designed posters, and had art displayed in fine art galleries. Their new book, There Is Nothing Left to Say begins serializing in late 2023, with an expanded print edition planned for 2025. They hold an MFA in Creative Writing from UCR-Palm Desert.

**Usha Chari; Newport Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Indian music cultural lead - Pomona temple NY, 2009-2014. President, South Indian Music Academy, 2019-2022. Ascend Cultural Pillar Lead, CoreLogic, 2021-Present.

Ever since I moved to the US in 1995 I felt the need to help promote Indian arts and got various opportunities to support them without a title, by hosting several musicians, helping them out in their musical journey!

Serving for CAC as a panelist will be a different kind of opportunity to serve the arts! I see myself as a truly fair and just person and so feel like I will be a great fit!

I am also an IT technology leader and feel that my background leading several projects will be an added advantage to manage being in a panel for an area that I am truly passionate about.

**Valentina Lunati; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Valentina Lunati is a development professional passionate about fostering community-centered and inclusive fundraising practices. She's been serving since 2018 as MOXIE Theatre's very first Development Director. She led the organization's substantial growth in grant income, as well as solidified and expanded their donor base. She was a recipient of the 2019 Colette M. Murray fellowship from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, San Diego Chapter and serves since 2019 on their Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee. She recently joined the board of the San Diego Regional Arts & Culture Coalition and is a member of the giving circle Women Give San Diego. Her previous experiences include working as a Language Interpreter, and a Relocation Consultant, before arriving to the nonprofit sector in 2014. As a Department Manager at a social service nonprofit assisting refugees, she oversaw their development and fundraising efforts, as well as the operations and growth of multiple income generating

programs aimed at offering training and job opportunities to the refugee population. Valentina holds an M.A. in Philosophy and an M.A. in Conference Interpreting.

**Valeria L. G. Barrett; Chino Hills**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Valeria L.G. Barrett is an award-winning leader in the visual arts, with over 25 years of experience in creative and operational roles in the fine arts, publishing, entertainment, and fashion industries, both domestically and internationally. Over the past two decades, Valeria has successfully launched and overseen three businesses in New York and Los Angeles. She is a committed advocate for the advancement of the arts in local communities, and mentors young artists and designers in both the United States and Europe.

**Valiant Robinson; Bakersfield**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I am big on supporting and elevating the Arts and Creatives in my community. I write direct and produce plays and short movies. I am re-learning photography. I am here to serve.

**Vernelle Edwards; Port Hueneme**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Attorney Edwards is a member of the State Bar of California. She has represented record labels, artists, & producers. She founded SiSi Records & released music created by over 20 artists, including the late Sylvia Moy, the only female producer at Motown who wrote "My Cherie Amour." Ms. Edwards wrote the musical "Amandla ka Mandela" which was produced at the Henry Street Settlement Theater in Manhattan, NY. She worked at Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts in NY.

**Veronica Popovic; Glendale**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

As a child, my parents sent me to Mexico every summer to take danza folklorico classes at Academia Superior de Danza Calmecac. I volunteered with Rochester Community TV in Rochester, NY. I was the Editor and secured grant funding for a show called "Youth Voice, One Vision." I was a member of Harry Gamboa Jr's performance troupe, Virtual Vérité. I contributed a voice-over to "ASCO: Elite of the Obscure", on display at the LACMA in 2011. I have a Masters from USC. I've worked at USC, CSU Northridge, CSULA, UC Irvine, and SDSU. I have helped hundreds of students apply for art scholarships. I participated as a Panelist for the Gilman Scholarship, funded by the U.S. Department of State & Cultural Affairs. I have served as a Planning Member for Glendale's Día de los Muertos event. I was a Featured Artist with a photograph on exhibit for Las Fotos Project Viva La Muxer Festival. I served as an Arts for LA Advocacy Delegate. As a Consultant for California Lawyers for the Arts, I provide college and career counseling to formerly incarcerated adults who are participating in art internships.

**Victoria Delgadillo; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a visual artist and filmmaker, graduate of UCSD (1973). I moved to Los Angeles in 1978 to join the Chicano Art movement through artist collectives in East LA. From the 70s to the present I have been an active artist at Self Help Graphics & Art through printing, their artist advisory

council, their Maestras program (2002), curator of the XL print atelier (2013) and teaching for BMAS. In the early 80s I was an artist in ASCO, an ELA art collective responding to the lack of opportunities for Chicanx artists. In the late 90s I was part of Centro de Regeneracion in Highland Park through women and children's art programming and producing a radio show called Chuck D for Prez. This space served as a hub for activists, artists, and young people to coalesce around the issues of racism, police brutality and indigenous rights in the Americas.

**Victoria Kraus; Los Angeles**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

My cumulative work experience in and managing small businesses and past experience working at mid- to large-size nonprofit organizations has trained me to study and understand all aspects of business operations including developing budgets and planning for and projecting future programs. I am a patron and supporter of the arts and volunteer when I am able. I offer my professional training in preparing grant proposals for organizations I support. Additionally, I volunteer as an elected representative in my community through the City of Los Angeles' neighborhood council system where I chair a committee, and attend monthly board meetings where we discuss and vote on community issues as well as determine how to fund local public projects.

**Victoria Ahia; Costa Mesa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Victoria has been baking her great-grandmother's recipes since the age of 7, and over a decade in bakeries. As a young artist not keen on starving, with a creative mother and sous-chef father reminding her that everyone eats; why not beautifully? The Professional Culinary Institute 2010 top of class awardee now infuses art into everyday foods.

**Victoria Sebanz Zee; Landers**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I received BA's in Art and Dance, a masters in Multicultural Arts Education. I taught dance and art for over 30 years. I made 5 murals for the Children's Court that lasted 22 years. I wrote CA Standards in Art, Dance, PE and Health. I have a gallery in the Brewery and Landers. (Hwy 62 Tours). I am president for the non profit Chaparral Artists.

**Violet Cavicchi Muñoz; Marina**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Violet is Assistant Professor in Music and Performing Arts at California State University, Monterey Bay where she teaches and researches on topics in music and culture, community engagement, and music media and technology. Violet earned a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from Brown University where she studied music as part of expressive arts and culture and the roles of media in the transmission of traditional knowledge in the arts. Violet's interests in traditional music and arts include Peruvian huayno and carnival music, Indonesian gamelan, Mexican son jarocho, and Guatemalan marimba music, among others. Her scholarship involves public and community-engaged projects, including contributions to folk arts festivals and regional arts councils, highlighting diverse experiences of Latin American and Latinx music communities. She

continues this work with MPA's Heritage Musics of Monterey Bay Initiative that celebrates and supports the vitality of local music communities in the Monterey Bay region.

### **Ginny Nichols; Bodega Bay**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Visual Artist Ginny Nichols runs Nichols Design, a business focused on Interior & Exterior Design projects including gardens. A lifelong gardener since childhood she graduated from the Sonoma County Master Gardener program Class of 2022.

Her fine art mediums include drawing, pastel, paint, printmaking and works in clay. As a Teaching Artist she enjoys working with both students and adults. Ginny has played an enthusiastic role in several visual teaching artist programs for pre-K through grade 12 students, as well as community centers. Her rich hands-on experience in collaborative mural making, book design and individual art making projects reinforced her drive to make a difference in lives of all ages in her communities. Ginny holds a B.F.A. from Pratt Institute.

### **Mina Sparks; San Francisco**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Jewell Sparks is a global innovation executive, investor, media professional (journalist and podcaster), and venture development strategist with a passion for the arts and sciences. Jewell obtained her MBA from University of San Francisco with a focus on Strategic Planning, Global Markets and Corporate Communications.

Jewell has served on boards for public/private arts, media and community redevelopment initiatives focused on maintaining culture and uplifting communities throughout her entire career. Jewell was one of the original founders of the Museum of the African Diaspora's (MoAD) Vanguard Leadership Council, and was the membership and events chair for the young professional boards of the San Francisco Ballet and San Francisco Symphony. Upon opening, she was the acting VP of Strategic Development for The Jazz Heritage Center (JHC) which was the cultural and educational complex dedicated to the long history of Jazz in San Francisco and the Fillmore District and Lush Life Gallery. Jewell is on the jury for IADAS, SXSW, and most recently was elected to the board of the U.S. Department of Commerce Investment Advisory Council.

### **Whitney Peskin; San Diego**

#### ***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

In her hometown of San Diego Whitney Shay has been honored to win 5 San Diego Music Awards, and a San Diego CityBeat Magazine "Best Of" Award. Abroad Shay has toured extensively throughout Europe and South America, and was nominated for a national Blues Music Award in 2019. Shay's latest release on Ruf Records "Stand Up!" debuted at #1 on the Billboard Blues charts. Shay has received high praise from music critics calling the singer "a future blues icon" (Blues Matters!), "one of the next best things in soul music" (Blues and Rhythm Magazine), and "the epitome of a rising star" (Elmore Magazine). Shay's tracks have been placed in TV/film, including shows on NBC, Fox, HBO, Bravo, BET, Hulu, and Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral.

Whitney has previously taught for several music based non profits in San Diego county including the SoCal Jazz Society, Blues Lovers United of San Diego, and Villa Musica. She was asked to speak and inspire young female entrepreneurs at OLP High School's 2022 Women's Symposium. She also has experience in the disciplines of Theatre (a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre-Performance from SDSU plus 20+ years of acting), Dance, and Visual Art.

**Bill Carmel; San Ramon**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Bill is a practicing visual artist, working as a sculptor, painter and educator in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 40 years. Working with arts organizations such as the Danville Arts and Cultural Alliance, Alamo Danville Arts Society, Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Pioneer Art Gallery (Founder), and Lamorinda Art Council (Curator of Exhibits), Bill has designed community based art projects, exhibitions and artworks that speak to social justice, conservation, and stewardship of our communities and ecosystems of our planet.

**William Laster; Morgan Hill**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Education: BA, Maryville College, TN; MEd, U of Southern California. Military: United States Air Force Band program, 1966-70, Robins AFB, Georgia, and Ramstein AFB, Germany. Non-profit organizational work experience: 1965-66 and 1970-72, Asst Dir of Admissions, Maryville College, TN, 1972-1976, Dean of Admissions, Newberry College, SC, 1976-1995, Asst Dean, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, OH, 1995-2002, Dean, Aspen Music Festival and School, Aspen, CO, 2003-2008, Vice President and Dean, Music Academy of the West, Santa Barbara, CA, 2008-2011, Retired, 2011-2021, General Manager, The Choral Project, San Jose, Ca, 2021-present, Retired (again).

Former: Panelist for Arkansas Arts Commission and California Arts Council, Board member, Desert Friends of Music, Palm Desert, CA, Board member, Berkshire Choral Festival. Current: Maryville College Alumni Association Board member, Vestry member, St. John's Episcopal Church, Morgan Hill, CA. Other: International travel to 51 countries.

**Minister King X Pyeface; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Minister King X Pyeface was born and lives in Oakland, and is a rapper, producer, and overall "Artist." He spent six years in federal prison and eighteen years in state prison. He was the youngest New Afrikan organizer during the 2011-2013 California Prisoners' Hunger Strike. Minister King X Pyeface is the Director of California Prison Focus and has currently created a Political Musical about his lived experiences in solitary confinement, entitled "Hunger Striking for True Freedom."

**Windsor Valcinus; Long Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

As a festival and concerts producer I have been working with Performing and visual Arts & Cultural exchange Programs.

**Cathlyn Choi; San Diego*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Cathlyn Choi is a seasoned TV/film producer, director, and community activist with over 25 years of related experience. As the founder and Executive Director of Asian Culture and Media Alliance, her mission is to empower and promote the voices of AANHPIs in California through media arts.

Choi's extensive portfolio of work includes hosting and producing four seasons of the widely popular PBS cooking show Cathlyn's Korean Kitchen, five seasons of Asian Pacific Voices TV series, and three seasons of Asian Pacific Voices Radio Podcast. In 2016, she founded the Take One vocational youth media arts training program to inspire and mentor the next generation of filmmakers and storytellers.

Since 2008, Choi served on the board of 11 non-profit organizations. She has received regional and international recognition for her efforts to promote AANHPI culture through media, including the Telly Award, Fil-Am Humanitarian Award, and the Asian Women Entrepreneurs' SoCal Lotus Award.

**Xiaopeng Jia; Pasadena*****Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I am a second-term interaction design student at ArtCenter. When I was in high school, I established the first art creation club in Beijing National Day School. I also won First Prize in International Youth Creative Art Exhibition (2019) and Best Creative Award in China Youth Sculpture Competition (2018) during High School. I found the OO Art Exhibition in the 798 art area and received hundreds of artworks from youth artists with an online charity auction and donated over 6000rmb to Beacon Vocational School. In ArtCenter, I received over 15000 dollars ArtCenter UG Scholarship with 3600 dollars Honda Endowed Scholarship per year. I was also an TA in Design one class with serious and responsible work. Based on my academic record in ArtCenter, my name was on Provost's List. I believe as an interaction designer, I could use my design knowledge to improve people's life quality.

**Xochitl Frausto; Oakland*****Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have a background in education, literature and over 10 years' experience of nonprofit work, 5 years working to bring arts and literature to youth and to the general public of the Mission community at Calle 24. I have participated in creating art calls, grant processes, and making funds more accessible to underprivileged communities. In addition, I am a writer that has published work in literary journals, so I have lived experience in working towards grants, and other ways to support my work.

**Xochitl Tafoya; Santa Bárbara*****Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Xochitl Tafoya is an experienced School leader, professional Musician and arts education consultant. Xochitl Tafoya is an advocate for every child deserves a well rounded education. She holds a MA in ethnomusicology from University of Maryland and a BA in music from Scripps

College and practitioner of culturally relevant pedagogy in the school setting. She is experienced in performing and teaching the music and dances of Mexico.

**Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo; San Gabriel**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and author of *Posada: Offerings of Witness and Refuge* (Sundress Publications 2016). Her second collection, *Incantation: Love Poems for Battle Sites* is forthcoming from Mouthfeel Press in fall 2023. A former Steinbeck Fellow and Poets & Writers California Writers Exchange winner, she's received residencies from Hedgebrook, Ragdale, National Parks Arts Foundation in partnership with Gettysburg National Military Park and Poetry Foundation. Her poem "Battlegrounds" was featured at Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day, On Being's Poetry Unbound, and the anthology, *Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World* (W.W. Norton). She is the director of Women Who Submit and teaches poetry and creative writing with Antioch University, MFA and UCLA Extension. Inspired by her Chicana identity, she works to cultivate love and comfort in chaotic times.

**Yajaira Rubio Machado; Vallejo**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

My name is Maestra YAJAIRA I am the founder of Moon Azteca Dance and Art School. I have a passion to share the unique cultural music, traditions, arts, history and folk dances of Mexico to our future generations. My roots are originally in Mocorito, Sinaloa Mexico, where my grandfather was a well-known composer of Banda Songs. Music and dance have always been in my heritage, since the age of 4 years old I have been dancing the traditional forms of Mexican folklore. I have 4 certifications of dance arts, traditions and cultural enrichment in four different regions of Mexico.

I am currently taking two certifications the first on indigenous pre- hispanic dance, traditions and history, this certification/diploma is being provided by SEP MEXICO The secretary of public education of the United State of Mexico. The second is a license, certification and accreditation on early child education accredited by Cognia.

**Yang Zhang; Azusa**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Yang Zhang has a versatile career with decades of cross-sectional experience as a music creator, educator, and entrepreneur. As a creator, she is a voting member of the Emmy Music Peer Group. She won the Best Original Music for the 2016 Montreal "View Of The World" film & music festival by bringing a wildly dynamic range of film scoring, electronic, and world music productions. She was nominated for the 2021 Hollywood Music In Media Awards for Best Instrumental and won the best Sci-fi/Fantasy music genre in the 13th Hollywood Music In Media Awards in 2022 after the success of her award-winning album titled "The Hard-boiled Wonderland and The End of Flame," which was also awarded the Bronze Medal at 2022 Global Music Awards.

As an entrepreneur and an educator, her venture Mercury Orbit Music and music education program gained numerous recognitions, including XPRIZE, TedX Talk, USC Rossier Ed-ventures, and Amazon AWS.

**Yolanda Kalb; Mountain Center**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Past board member of the the Oceanside Cultural Arts Foundation, my primary contribution was to make theatre space available to begin the Oceanside International Film Festival. I severed in multiple capacities with the film festival as well as Days of Art. My 7 years of operation at the City's facility, Sunshine Brooks Theatre, Oceanside gave me any husband ( New Vision Theatre, a non 501c3 ) opportunity to produce 6 major shows a year as well as provide a music venue for original music, ten minute play writing contest, and we opened a black box for spoken word and poetry in a second stage venue.

Reviewing submissions for the 10 minute plays and the film festival was one of the committee's I participated in that may serve useful in this position.

**Ann Huang; Newport Beach**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Ann Huang is a multilingual Chinese American poet, filmmaker and visual artist based in Newport Beach, CA. Her award-winning poetry has been featured in Denver Quarterly, Ruth Stone, Rue Scribe, The Blue Mountain Review, The Elevation Review, Helen Lit Mag, The Florida Review, The Bare Life Review, The Bookends Review, Tiny Seed Journal, The Write Launch and Verse Wrights. She is producing a limited short film series Ann Huang Presents. Huang is the Visual Arts Editor for the New Found Org and Traveling Show Manager for the Marin Poetry Center. She is a veteran of marketing initiatives, managing a household brand (NatureBright) of light therapy products and sits on the advisory board at The University of California Riverside Women in Leadership program.

**YY Zhu; San Francisco**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Yuanyuan Zhu, currently the Director of Galleries and Programs at the Chinese Culture Center, where she oversees CCC Gallery, 41 Ross community gallery, the artistic programming, exhibitions and artist community. Zhu has years of experience working in the community and uplifting underrepresented/underserved artists. She has successfully implemented artist residencies with local and international artist and research fellows, cultivated a strong artist/community partners network, as well as heading multi-year long artist-community projects including "dawn\_chorusiii: the fruit they don't have here" with Sofia Cordova, foregrounding the stories of six Bay Area women who journeyed to the United States as refugees, "Art, Culture & Belonging" in collaboration with artist Christine Wong Yap and the Chinatown Arts & Culture Coalition, and "Interior Garden", a major solo exhibition of large-scale ceramic-based installations by Cathy Lu exploring the dream and dystopian states Asian America. She holds a MFA degree from the San Francisco Art Institute.

**Yvonne Flores; Santa Ana**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

In 2012, I opened my home to local artists, community activists, and entrepreneurs and created Gallery 211, a community workspace and non-profit gallery in the Artists Village of Santa Ana. I hosted and sponsored local artists, monthly art shows, concerts, book signings, workshops, and

crochet classes at Gallery 211 for over three-and-a-half years. I also served the arts community as a Board Member of Community Engagement for 4 to 5 years, was a judge panelist for the City of SA Arts Grant program, and am a current member of South Coast Repertory's Community Working Group encouraging friends and family to see live theater on a regular basis.

**Zaquia Mahler Salinas; San Diego**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

I am an arts administrator, producer, choreographer, performer, and educator. I have been choreographing and producing work since 2011 with a focus on collaborative dance-making practices and community building. I have been deeply involved in the San Diego dance and arts and culture community for my entire professional career, and have build relationships with and an understanding of the performance community in the Bay Area and Los Angeles as well. I am a big fan of lifelong learning and hold a BA in Dance with Honors from UC Santa Barbara (2011), an MFA in Dance: Creative Practice with Honors from Saint Mary's College of California (2017), 500 hour yoga teacher certification (2012/2019), a certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of San Diego (2021), and a California Single Subject Teaching Credential for Dance (2022). I am the Founder and Director of San Diego based movement arts organization, DISCO RIOT.

**Zoe Broussard; Oakland**

***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Zoë Broussard is a talented cellist, media psychologist, and multifaceted professional who has dedicated her career to problem-solving and community empowerment. As a Black woman, she brings a unique perspective to her work, with a deep understanding of the importance of diversity and representation in the arts.

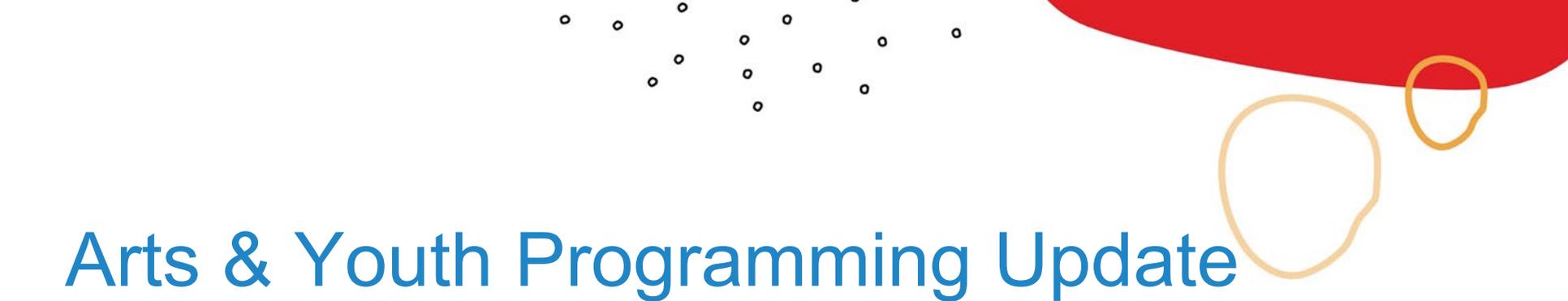
With a background in behavioral health, marketing, media production, podcasting, and non-profit communications, Zoë has developed a range of skills and expertise that make her a valuable asset to any project. She is passionate about using her knowledge to explore and express community needs, with a particular interest in topics such as online education, communication, psychology, media literacy, self-liberation, creative expression, and philosophy.

One of Zoë's recent projects, Animo Style, is a testament to her dedication to promoting self-expression and confidence in young creatives. Through Animo Style, Zoë has created a platform that encourages young people to explore their creativity and share their unique perspectives with the world.

# TAB E

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California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/28/2023



# Arts & Youth Programming Update

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# CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

Friday, April 28, 2023



#ArtsCA | [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov)

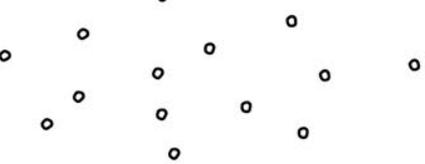


# About the CAC's Arts & Youth Programs

CAC Arts & Youth programming is funded through General Fund Local Assistance funds. Programs under Arts & Youth include:

- **Artists in Schools** - Supporting projects integrating community arts partners as part of the regular school day
- **Arts Education Exposure** - Supporting student attendance at arts performances and exhibits
- **Arts Integration Training** - Supporting arts integration training for educators facilitated by teaching artists
- **Creative Youth Development** - Supporting arts projects for youth outside of traditional school hours
- **JUMP StArts** - Supporting arts education projects for youth impacted by the justice system





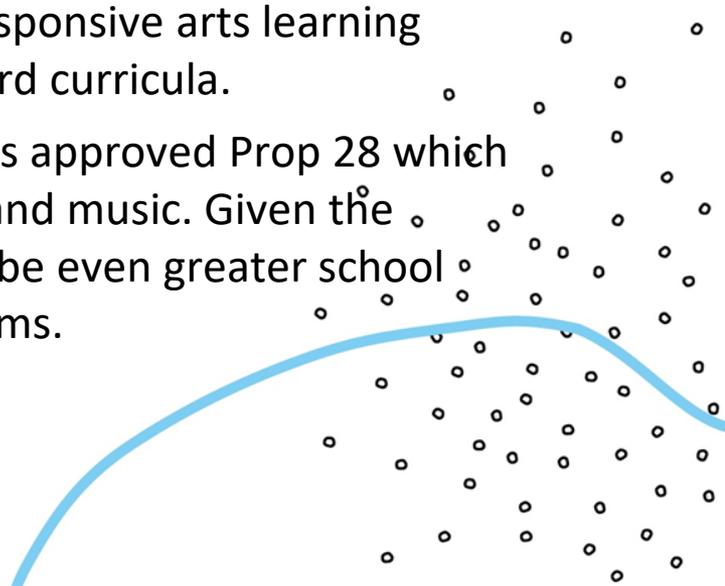
# Impact of 2021 One-Time Funding

**With the \$40 million investment in Arts & Youth in 2021, the CAC was able to:**

- More than double its grant funding to the field in the 2022-2023 year
  - Serve 10% more counties – including some of the state’s most rural areas
  - Serve 26% more grantees overall
  - Offer multi-year grant awards in these programs for the first time
  - Greatly increase the depth of impact and number of youth served
- 

# Considerations Moving Forward

- **Need Remains High:** The CAC funded a slightly smaller percentage of applications in 2022 (~66%) than in 2021 (~69%). This increase in applications demonstrates an elevation of need in this area of funding.
- **One-Time Funding Allocation:** If the one-time 2021 funds are not renewed, funding for Arts & Youth programming beginning in 2025 will be only a percentage of the CAC's baseline funding, competing for funds with all of the agency's other project-based, regranting, and operating support programs.
- **Culturally and Linguistically-Responsive Arts Education:** In all its Arts & Youth programs, CAC funds culturally and linguistically-responsive arts learning opportunities that are often not included in standard curricula.
- **Leveraging Other Arts Funding:** This past fall, voters approved Prop 28 which guarantees 1% of state education funding for arts and music. Given the requirements for that funding, it is likely there will be even greater school interest and capacity to participate in CAC's programs.



Thank you!

# TAB F

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California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/28/2023

This agenda item was provided to Council as an oral report. A detailed summary will be included in the record of the meeting's minutes, published to the CAC site following Council's approval at the next scheduled business meeting.

# TAB G

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California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/28/2023



## Memorandum

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833  
T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575  
[www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov)

**Date:** April 28, 2023

**To:** Council Members

**From:** Programs Policy Committee- Ellen Gavin and Leah Goodwin

**Re:** Awardee Fiscal Sponsor Change Recommendation

**The Programs Policy Committee recommends Council approve a fiscal sponsor change for Cycle B CYD grant recipient SAPPA (Scholarship Audition Performance Preparatory Academy).**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memo is to provide a recommendation on a fiscal sponsor change for Cycle B CYD grantee SAPPA, for Council vote.

### **Background**

The current fiscal sponsor policy was last revised by Council in August 2022. Regarding changes to a fiscal sponsor, the current policy reads as follows:

“An awardee organization may only request a change to their fiscal sponsor organization after the grant application deadline when it is necessary and reasonable, such as when the fiscal sponsor used in the application:

Becomes defunct or closes

Is not in good standing with the IRS or loses its 501(c)(3) status

Loses its fiscal or administrative capacity to serve out the grant term

A change will not be made for an awardee based solely on a desire to change to a different fiscal sponsor. Changes will only be made by official written request to and prior approval by the California Arts Council.”

### **Recommendations**

The Programs Policy Committee has reviewed and accepted the information for SAPPA’s new fiscal sponsor, and recommends that Council vote to approve the change of fiscal sponsor as being necessary and reasonable. Approving this change will allow the organization’s Creative Youth Development grant in the amount of \$40,000 to be paid. Denial will cause termination of this grant (CYD-22-19529).

**Other Supporting Documents**

[August 2022 Programs Policy Memo](#)

Statement of Justification (brief explanation of situation)

Fiscal Sponsor Letter of Agreement

Fiscal Sponsor's 990 tax form



April 19, 2023

California Arts Council  
2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: CYD-22-19529 Request to Change Fiscal Sponsor

Dear California Arts Council:

SAPPA – the Scholarship Audition Performance Preparatory Academy – is requesting to change our fiscal sponsor to Community Partners from Fulcrum Arts for the above-referenced grant award. The reason for this request is Fulcrum Arts no longer has the capacity to meet the demands of our expanding programs.

Since the end of the pandemic, SAPPA's programs have expanded to ten partner sites in Watts, South Los Angeles, and Pasadena, including parks, libraries, community centers, social service agencies, and churches. We now have more teaching artists, youth interns, and staff who work throughout the year – currently 13 and growing – than ever since our founding in 2000. All of this has meant more payroll, more invoices, more purchasing of instruments and supplies, more MOUs and contracts, more insurance requirements, and more grants and gifts.

As SAPPA's capacity and administrative needs have grown, Fulcrum Arts has been challenged to expand its staffing and capacity for its fiscal sponsorship program. Nearly all Fulcrum Arts' current staff are dedicated to the organization's own artistic initiatives. As a result, for the past 18 months SAPPA's teaching artists have not been paid in a timely manner on several occasions. Fulcrum Arts provides financial information upon request rather than on a regular basis and often takes several days to respond to these requests. This hampers the efforts of our volunteer fundraiser, who writes our grant applications and reports nights and weekends. Most importantly, SAPPA has several capacity-building needs which Fulcrum Arts' services do not address, including helping us to create a leadership succession plan and to ensure that we are in compliance with state labor regulations.

Community Partners is a much larger organization with more than 50 staff members dedicated entirely to the support of the non-profit community. They provide extensive services, including organizational capacity-building. We are confident that, under the fiscal sponsorship of Community Partners, SAPPA will grow into our next phase of organizational development, double the number of inner-city children and youth of color in our programs to 400 by the end of 2024, expand our roster of teaching artists, and engage more people in LA's most economically challenged neighborhoods in the arts.

We appreciate the California Arts Council's consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Billy Mitchell  
Founder & Executive Director  
626-641-3262



**Alicia Lara, MPH**  
President & CEO

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*K&L Gates LLP*

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*Retired Partner at Deloitte Tax LLP*

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*Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP*

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*Covington & Burling LLP*

**Gabi Loeb, MBA**  
*CFO at IRL*

**Kadar Lewis, EdD**  
*The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation*

**Lisa Cleri Reale**  
*Lisa Cleri Reale & Associates*

**Rigo J. Saborio, MSG**  
*The SCAN Foundation*

**Trella Walker**  
*Trella Walker Consulting (TWC)*

**Leisa Wu**  
*Independent Board Director*

**Ani Zonneveld**  
*Muslims for Progressive Values*

**Paul Vandeventer**  
*Co-Founder and Former President & CEO*

**Albert R. Rodriguez (1951 - 2009)**  
*Founding Board Chair*

April 20, 2023

California Arts Council  
2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95833

California Arts Council Fiscal Sponsor Letter of Agreement

Dear California Arts Council,

This letter of agreement is between Scholarship Audition Performance Preparatory Academy (SAPPA) and Community Partners. The parties agree to the following terms regarding the oversight of all grants awarded to SAPPA by the California Arts Council (CAC) through the fiscal sponsorship of Community Partners. This agreement will be effective upon execution of the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement between Community Partners and SAPPA.

Community Partners, as fiscal sponsor, will be responsible for:

- Executing CAC grant contracts and required state forms.
- Maintaining CAC grant funds and matching funds in SAPPA’s fund account.
- Issuing payments for CAC grant-funded projects as directed by SAPPA in accordance with the approved expenses as shown in the grant applications and grant contracts.
- Providing regular reports to SAPPA on project expenditures.

SAPPA, as the grant recipient, will be responsible for:

- Sending required acknowledgements to local elected state representatives.
- Implementing grant-funded projects as described in the CAC applications and grant contracts.
- Reporting to the CAC as required on progress, including any changes to the projects.
- Submitting all final reports to the CAC.
- Providing copies of all communications with the CAC to Community Partners.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Letter of Agreement.

DocuSigned by:  
*Alicia Lara* April 20, 2023  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Alicia Lara, President & CEO, Community Partners Date

DocuSigned by:  
*Billy Mitchell* April 20, 2023  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Mitchell, Executive Director, SAPPA Date