



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

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Danielle Brazell, Executive Director
2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
(916) 322-6555 | www.arts.ca.gov

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL MEETING**

Friday, April 19, 2024

10:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

On Location/Virtual Hybrid Meeting

**2750 Gateway Oaks Dr., Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833**

Online meeting access will be provided at:

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

ASL Interpretation will be provided via Zoom.

Interpretación simultánea en español – transmisión de audio por Zoom.

10:30 A.M.	1. Call to Order	R. Messina Captor
10:30 A.M. (5 min)	2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum	M. Diab
10:35 A.M. (5 min)	3. Land and People’s Acknowledgement	G. Clarke
10:40 A.M. (10 min)	4. Opening Remarks and Community Agreements	R. Messina Captor D. Brazell
10:50 A.M. (10 min)	5. Welcome from the City of Sacramento <i>Megan Van Voorhis, City of Sacramento Director of Convention and Cultural Services, will welcome the Council and briefly present on the City’s work as it relates to Council programming.</i>	M. Van Voorhis
11:00 A.M. (10 min)	6. Chair’s Report (TAB 1)	R. Messina Captor
11:10 A.M. (10 min)	7. Executive Director’s Report (TAB 2)	D. Brazell

11:20 A.M. (10 min)	<p>8. VOTING ITEM: Minutes from Previous Meetings (TAB 3) <i>Council will vote to approve the following minutes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Council Meeting- 11/17/23, Virtual (Revised)</i> • <i>Council Meeting- 3/1/24, Hybrid</i> 	R. Messina Captor
11:30 A.M. (55 min)	<p>9. VOTING ITEM: Grant Panelists Pool (TAB 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overview from Staff (10 min)</i> • <i>Public Comment (15 min)</i> • <i>Discussion (25 min)</i> • <i>Votes (5 min)</i> 	A. Garrett Y. Ruiz
12:25 P.M. (45 min)	10. LUNCH BREAK	
1:10 P.M. (10 min)	<p>11. PRESENTATION: Poetry Out Loud (TAB 5) <i>CAC Staff will present on the 2024 Poetry Out Loud State Finals</i></p>	C. O'Malley
1:20 P.M. (50 min)	<p>12. General Public Comment <i>Two forms of general public comment will be offered:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Comments will be accepted during the meeting in person or over Zoom</i> 2) <i>Written comment submissions will also be accepted online prior to and up through 10 a.m. on the second business day following the close of the meeting.</i> <p><i>Live public comments will be limited to three minutes per person and 45 minutes in total, as allowed by Bagley-Keene.</i></p>	
2:10 P.M. (10 min)	<p>13. PRESENTATION: Local Cultural Districts (TAB 6) <i>Eliza Tudor, Executive Director of the Nevada County Arts Council, will present on the Nevada City and Truckee Cultural Districts</i></p>	E. Tudor



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2:20 P.M. (10 min)	14. PRESENTATION: Arts in CA Parks (TAB 7) <i>Isby Fleischman, a consultant on the CA Department of Parks and Recreation’s Arts in CA Parks Program, will provide updates on the program’s work in partnership with Parks CA and the California Arts Council.</i>	I. Fleischman
2:30 P.M. (20 min)	15. DISCUSSION: Committee Priorities (TAB 8) <i>All Council committees will verbally report out on identified goals for the year</i>	R. Messina Captor
2:50 P.M. (5 min)	16. In Memoriam (TAB 9)	V. Estrada
2:55 P.M. (5 min)	17. Closing Remarks <i>Call for agenda items for the August 1 Council Meeting</i>	R. Messina Captor
3:00 P.M.	18. Adjournment	

*Agenda items included within this public notice may be added, removed or altered until 10 days prior to meeting time.

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. Public meetings held featuring a virtual/Zoom component will include online Spanish and ASL interpreters whenever possible. Should you need additional reasonable accommodations, please make sure you request no later than April 16, 2024 at 5 p.m. Please direct your request to the Public Affairs Specialist, Kimberly Brown, at 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 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 1

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024



Memorandum

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575
www.arts.ca.gov

Date: April 19, 2024

To: California Arts Council

From: Chair Roxanne Messina Captor

Re: Chair's Report

I want to start with a big hug of gratitude to my Vice Chairperson, Leah Goodwin, for exquisitely taking the reins. While I was away, I was able to stay in touch by attending executive committee meetings.

Coming back from the land down under, I am reflecting on all the wonderful artists and aboriginal art I was privileged to see and partake in. The Adelaide Fringe, like the Edinburgh Fringe, brings artists from all over the world to these cities. There are performance and art installations everywhere, including parks, coffee houses, and hotels- it's very inspiring. I would love to see a California Fringe throughout our state for the 2028 Olympics.

As we all know, art is so important to the health of the community and the individual. What a platform for the world, to highlight CA artists during the 2028 Olympics. As a person who is able to make her visions a reality, I believe we can make CA Olympic arts a reality. I am actively working with organizations and our legislature to make this happen, and the CAC is an important part of this. Our amazing council can help with this vision coming to life.

We have talked about a CAC Awards event. Looking toward the Olympics, wouldn't this be a perfect time to introduce the Awards?

The CAC is making such great progress with all your hard work as a Council and staff. The new committee assignments are out and you are all planning goals to accomplish this year.

Our outreach to areas of the state that need our support is happening. We will be in Salinas/Monterey for our August meeting, the wonderful Western Stage Company on the campus of Hartnell College. They are a conservatory program, which turns into a professional summer stock in summer. Professionals, students, community members all performing together on and off stage. Their outreach to all members of the Salinas community is an important part of community building.

The State budget is, as always, an ongoing discussion. However, there is always a way when passion and determination are present, as I know they are with the CAC council and staff.

I leave you with:

Some painters transform the sun into a yellow spot, others transform a yellow spot into the sun.” – **Pablo Picasso**

Roxanne Messina Captor,
Council Chair

TAB 2

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024



Memorandum

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575
www.arts.ca.gov

Date: April 19, 2024

To: California Arts Council

From: Executive Director Danielle Brazell

Re: Executive Director's Report

Good morning, and welcome to Sacramento!

The CAC staff have been engaged in a period of high-paced planning and implementation on multiple fronts:

In March,

- We presented the 2024 Poetry Out Loud Competition;
- Prepared and released the guidelines for our 2024 funding opportunities; and
- Relaunched ArtBeat and activated our social media channels with new energy.

We have been working closely with our consultants, Institute for the Future, on the Creative Economy Workgroup. Our first public meeting is slated to take place on May 17th in Los Angeles.

This week represents a culmination of planning and co-creation:

- We convened 54 State and Local Partners, along with several of their board and staff members. The convening focused on advancing racial equity in California and building a strong and sustainable network of partners in every county in the state.
- Participated in the 2nd Annual Arts Summit presented by Californians for the Arts. The CAC had a wonderful presence at the event. We had a booth where attendees could stop by and meet the CAC staff and Megan Morgan presented on our Decision Support Tool to a packed house.
- On Tuesday the CAC's Budget was heard by the Assembly Budget Committee. Ayanna and I presented on the important work of the CAC and defended our budget.
- We've reached a 100% fully staffed agency. Onboarding and workflows are being strengthened through our ways of working.

Most recently we are exploring the growing practice of integrating arts and health - including mental health.

As we look toward the future, we are actively monitoring and responding to requests by DOF and Legislative Offices. These requests are timely and come with little notice.

Over the next three months, our focus will be:

- Engaging the field through providing technical assistance;
- Training and convening Panels;
- Ranking and Ordering for the Consideration of Council purview of allocations; and
- Supporting each Committee to fulfill its goals.

Finally, we are following up on our commitment to serving Native American and Indigenous artists by seeking to hire a consultant to develop a grant program that is specifically designed to serve this sector. We are engaged in the preplanning now, taking recommendations from the great work of the equity committee. We will report out on our progress at the August meeting.

The CAC is a catalytic agency. Partnerships with the field and with other state agencies such as the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and State Parks, are two great examples.

As we have heard from Megan Van Voorhis, from the City of Sacramento - arts in service of environment, health, social justice, and other aspects of civic life.

We believe there is room to grow in this area and we are excited to explore possibilities in advancing arts intersecting and advancing civic life.

As I continue to learn about the workflow rhythm of the operations of the Agency over the next few months our attention will shift to advancing the work of Council Committees, convening the Creative Economy Workgroup, advocating for the FY 2024–25 budget and preparing for the end of FY 2023–24.

None of this work is possible without the dedication, coordination, and collaboration of our extraordinary staff of the CAC. It's a pleasure to work with this esteemed group of professionals.

This concludes my Executive Director Report.

Danielle Brazell,
Council Chair

TAB 3

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024



Strengthening arts, culture,
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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

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
November 17, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 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.

PRESENT:

Council Members

Consuelo (Chelo) Montoya, Chair
Vicki Estrada, Vice-Chair
Gerald Clarke
Caleb Duarte
Ellen Gavin
Leah Goodwin
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
Kristin Margolis, Director of Programs
Artemio Armenta, Public Affairs Director
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist
Qiana Moore, Outreach Events Coordinator
Mason Diab, Council Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chair Montoya opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

2. Land and Peoples Acknowledgement

Council Member Messina Captor read the [CAC Land and Peoples Acknowledgement](#) into the record.

3. Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum, and Community Agreements

Council Liaison Mason Diab conducted a roll call.

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

With 10 of 11 present, a quorum was achieved.

Community Agreements were read into the record by Chair Montoya and Vice Chair Estrada.

4. [Chair's Report](#)

Chair Montoya reported that the CAC invests in California arts communities to build and sustain a healthy ecosystem. This helps the field extend outlets for creativity.

Discussions pertaining to the 2024 Grant Program recommendations provided by the Programs Policy Committee will take place at this meeting.

The Programs Policy Committee works with an iterative process and recent and longstanding programs will be discussed.

Public comments will be followed by Council discussion. The Programs Policy Committee will assess input and a vote will take place at our December meeting.

Chair Montoya welcomed Parliamentarian Lorenzo Cuesta, and had Cuesta introduce himself.

5. [Executive Director's Report](#)

Executive Director Moscone announced the outgoing status of his position. Moscone decided to step away from the next two Council meetings to allow for a free and unfettered discussion by Council and staff.

Moscone shared a brief, personal history with the CAC and a continued desire to support the Council and staff.

Travelling throughout the state conducting CAC business has been very rewarding.

Community meetings are vital and learning opportunities are enhanced using this venue.

The fragility, diversity, and interconnectedness of our ecosystems must be recognized. Diversity is our unique strength.

We must acknowledge that the intentions of everyone's actions and the CAC community are genuine and good.

Discussions to hone and refine Council policy and recommendations must continue with mutual respect. The best part of this position has been to be among people who care and are committed to our artists' ecosystem.

And to all of you, thank you for allowing me to serve as best I can.

Chair Montoya acknowledged and moved on to Approval of Minutes.

6. [Voting Item: Council Minutes from Previous Council Meeting](#)

There were no corrections to the minutes of the August 30, 2023 Council meeting and they were approved.

7. Public Comment

Chair Montoya explained the purpose and prohibitions for making Public Comment at CAC meetings. Public Affairs Specialist Kimberly Brown explained the process and provided specific instructions.

[Click here for the full meeting public comment.](#)

8. Discussion Item: Bylaws

On behalf of the Governance Committee, Council Member Miner gave a [brief overview](#) of some of the work done pertaining to bylaws and discussed with Chair Montoya specific areas changed and/or omitted or moved to another area.

Council Members read sections of the bylaws to Council Members for discussion.

Council Member Miner mentioned that the section on the duties and responsibilities of the Director is in the Council bylaws and the Council does not have jurisdiction over the Director. This gives the wrong impression that the Director is somehow hired by the Council, which they are not.

Parliamentarian Cuesta explained that Sections 8755 through 8756 is the ending part of the Dixon-Zenovich-Maddy-California Act, and that means that whatever was included must not contradict the conflict with that Act. If the contents of the Act are being repeated, they should be cited so as not to be confused with bylaws that can be amended.

Chair Montoya noted that the existing bylaws were not authored the current Council, and Chief Deputy Director Ungar clarified that the code sections are from the CAC enabling legislation that established the agency which is known as the Dixon-Zenovich-Maddy-California Arts Act of 1975.

The Council decided that these Sections, along with the full text of the CAC's enabling legislation, which is already included in our Handbook, be moved out of the bylaws and be referred to within the Handbook only, since it is not on the Council to vote on this language, but it is very important to have it as a reference point.

Discussion

Parliamentarian Cuesta suggested that the phrase, "Dixon-Zenovich-Maddy-California Arts Act of 1975" should be in the first paragraph of the bylaws. He also mentions that the end of all bylaws includes how to amend them, and that has not been listed in these bylaws.

Vice Chair Estrada, Chair Montoya, and Council Member Goodwin endorsed the suggestions from the parliamentarian.

Definition of Terms was brought to the floor for discussion.

Council Member Clarke addressed the stipulated bi-annual budget review and recommended establishing specific dates for this to happen.

The stipulated number of CAC meetings per year is in the enabling legislation and cannot be amended through the bylaws process.

Chief Deputy Director Ungar discussed the timeline and procedure for establishing the annual state budget and offered hypotheticals for determining specific dates for review.

The Council's purview is the Local Assistance Budget which is how the CAC votes regarding programs and allocations.

Deputy Director Kiburi chimed in to say that the actual, total budget for the Council is posted on the Department of Finance website. It is publicly accessible to look at the budget.

The authority over the Executive Director is the State Controller's Office and viewing of budget line items is accessible to the public.

Council Member Raynor suggested that on necessary state training, the wording should be changed to "upon appointment to the Council."

Vice Chair Estrada requested clarification around the length of terms of service for individual Council Members.

Chief Deputy Director Ungar stated that it is part of our enabling legislation and not something that is up for change or debate in the bylaws.

Director of Programs Margolis also noted that the rationale for these terms being staggered was to ensure that the Council does not lose all of its existing members simultaneously.

Director of Programs Margolis suggested that the Council set two dates where it can comprehensively go over the budget.

It was suggested that the Strategic Plan does not seem like a bylaws issue and should be in the Handbook.

A discussion of the prohibition of sub-committees not meeting with other sub-committees unless in a publicly noticed venue was talked about and suggestions were made.

The CAC's role in advocacy was discussed and Chair Montoya noted that further information would be provided to the Council.

It was suggested that under the conflict-of-interest category, retired Council Members should not be allowed to lobby the Council for a period of one year from their leave of serve date.

The line of command and accountability of the Director's position was raised and the ramifications of this were discussed. These same issues were also mentioned pertaining to Council Members and staff.

Chief Deputy Director Ungar clarified that the Director serves at the pleasure of and is appointed by the governor and reports directly to the Governor's Office.

It was clarified that the CAC is a formal state agency and reports to the Department of Finance for anything related to its budget, and to the Governor's Office for policy and procedures.

Chair Montoya deferred further investigation to the Governance Committee.

Council Member Raynor made suggestions under the section pertaining to Responsibilities of the Chair, and advocated for a statement assuring that planning for access is incorporated into the daily operations of the agency and Council Meetings.

Wording stating that meetings are accessible and meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act should be included.

Chair Montoya stated that the utilization of ad hoc committees has become a fruitful tool and language enhancing their use should be explored.

It would be ideal to see a redline version of the bylaws at the next meeting to make sure Council members are aware of what moved off and what stayed on and what was added.

The Committee List and Descriptions has been removed. Chair Montoya requested input from the Committee or deferring to Parliamentarian Cuesta if that does not really belong in the bylaws and if it should live somewhere else.

Parliamentarian Cuesta stated that Committee Lists and Descriptions are found in bylaws because the ones listed are standing committees. The ones not listed are the disbanded ones and ad hoc committees.

He also clarified referring to changes as “amendments” and suggested instead referring to them as “revisions” to the bylaws.

Council Member Messina Captor clarified that a decision was made to include Committees and their responsibilities in the Handbook. If this needs to be in the bylaws, it can be put back but it was not just deleted.

Parliamentarian Cuesta stated that the custom is to leave them in the by-laws because they become “standing committees” and are very different from ad hoc.

9. Presentation and Q-and-A on Grant Programs

Council Members read published descriptions of CAC programs under considering for the 2024 grant cycle, including Title, Purpose, History, Grant Amount Maximum, and End of Funding Period.

Council Member Raynor noted that the Arts and Accessibility program is missing, which was acknowledged by Chair Montoya.

Vice Chair Estrada wanted to know if maximum amounts of grants were ever revised based on any kind of feedback from the field and how the amounts were determined.

Director of Programs Margolis stated that the Allocations Committee established a range.

Council Member Clarke pondered what the impacts of Prop. 28 might be and that data showing high-demand programs would be useful.

Council Member Messina Captor pointed out that a lot of the educational programs are very similar and asked about grantee parameters with an eye to potential redundancy.

Director of Programs Margolis informed the Council that applicants can apply for more than one grant and across programs.

The impact of Prop. 28 is unknown at this time with over \$1 billion to be infused into our school systems.

It was mentioned that the Council developed the Impacts Projects program to use as an umbrella grant program to absorb previous individualized/specific project-based grant programs such as Reentry for the Arts, Veterans for the Arts, etc.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Individual Artist Fellowship Program was not on the list or in the recommendations.

Council Member Raynor observed that the Individual Fellowship Program description in the packet did not include how funds were allocated to conduct specific outreach to be inclusive of disabled artists therefore making it an incomplete description.

Director of Programs Margolis talked about the Arts and Accessibility Program mentioning its purpose and targeted populations.

Vice Chair Estrada noted the poor response to the Folk and Traditional Arts Program and wondered if increased outreach might be in order. Chair Montoya responded by saying that the opportunity for Folk and Traditional Arts is an administering organization and had been opened to new applicants. Council Member Raynor cautioned against blaming the applicant pool when evaluating the value of any CAC program. There may be factors beyond the applicant's control that will determine the final numbers.

Deputy Director Kiburi emphasized that a change to language to be less direct with regard to racial equity was implemented to avoid any potential perception of a violation of Proposition 209 and the equal protections clause of the 14th Amendment.

10. Break

Chair Montoya called for a 30-min lunch break from 12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

11. 2024 Grant Programs Discussion

Council Members Ellen Gavin and Leah Goodwin [provided the overview of considerations](#) to lead the 2024 Grant Programs discussion on behalf of the Programs Policy Committee.

Council Member Gavin informed the Council of the efforts and process they used in gathering feedback from the field. Hearing from the SLPs and SRNs was very helpful.

Guidelines, principles, and suggestions regarding the CAC process and outcomes were shared with the Council.

Vice Chair Estrada inquired as to the basis for determining the suggested \$3 million budget limitation. Council Members Goodwin and Gavin explained that in order to save money, it made sense to cut funds based on budget size. Exceptions should be based on current conditions and more research is needed.

Council Member Raynor noted that State and Local Partners are a county-level network essentially, and State and Regional Networks are based under some other affinity. Redundancies are possible and refining is needed. SRNs were established as an emerging idea and often were very grassroots in the early days; technology has changed the dynamics on the concept of networks.

Council Member Messina Captor suggested that panels need to increase their conversations with their peer reviewers regarding potential grantees before making decisions. The current process often has decisions being made by individuals in silos without any discussion or input from other panelists or guidance from staff.

Council Member Clarke mentioned Prop. 28 and potential funding streams for a variety of programs under Item 4: Arts Education Programs. It was suggested that Council do a deeper dive pertaining to actual grants and timelines, and especially regarding the \$2 million figure. Chief Deputy Director Ungar explained that funding for Prop. 28 is dedicated only within the Department of Education to fund credentialed teacher positions as art teachers in classrooms only.

Staff reminds Council members that the budget is never final until around September of 2024.

Council discussed the possibility of different tiers of funding between statewide networks and regional networks. Networks are not always geographically based, and Council's preference should be established. Categories should be delineated and recognized with some type of order established contingent upon CAC priorities, especially funding going directly to artists.

The goal with SRNs is to focus on grantees involved with services for artists, creators, and tradition bearers. A description of what constitutes a network was read into the record from the Guidelines.

Staff can provide Council members with a clear analysis of the best way to utilize CAC funds to complement Prop 28 at a future meeting.

A continuation of funding for SLPs was proposed, and it was noted that some of the larger SLPs don't mind the reduction of their funds.

Chair Montoya recalled questioning the SLP model – the per capita versus the equity model. Removing SLPs entirely breaks the idea of covering California. Engaging the SLP Coalition will help the Council understand the variations and different needs of the field.

Council Member Messina Captor asked for the rationale behind the request limitation for organizations with budgets in excess \$3.5 million per year.

There is ongoing debate on this. Destabilization is not wanted. Perhaps an across-the-board reduction is warranted.

Vice Chair Estrada questioned committing to the specific number of adding 10 new Cultural Districts to creating an artificial situation considering new or emerging cultural districts. Stipulating “up to” and not necessarily declaring a definite number might be useful.

Leftover money for Cultural Districts could be used for planning grants or developing cultural districts nearing a level of development to qualify them for funding was suggested by staff.

The idea of the Cultural Anchors Institutions Project was discussed; this is based on the old Multicultural Advancement program, and these would be organizations within the CAC’s equity priorities.

Council Member Gavin stated that the intention of this proposed program is to provide support for institutions who are survivors and represent underserved communities who have evolved to be hubs of the community. They have decades of experience and potentially been cut out from support through the GenOps program due to budget limitations within the guidelines. They are unrelated to State and Regional Networks.

Guidelines should be very clear as to what the CAC is looking for from the field, and staff should screen that. If they do not meet the criteria, then they should not be considered.

Council discussed the GenOps program ensuring that organizations are not double or triple “dipping” funding and to see guidelines are clear on granting parameters. Staff recommended that Guidelines restrictions should be discussed in finalizing this document. GenOps funding should be reviewed for possible redundancies.

An earlier discussion by staff on Item 10 concluded that the Native American Initiative needed more vetting and input before bringing it up for a vote by Council.

It was noted that Items 10, 11, and 12 are all connected because they are all related to being able to fund work necessary for a variety of programs.

Council Member Clarke strongly encourage and advocated for consideration of the Cultural Pathways program to return in the 2024 cycle.

The Governance Committee's decision to omit Cultural Pathways was based on 80 percent of the GenOps funds going to smaller organizations in this last grant cycle.

Staff stressed that funding restrictions within guidelines have made it clear that at no time can an organization get two operational support grants at the same time.

Council needs to make sure that redundancies are not being created and that gaps are covered – the Committee should discuss this with staff and analyze any additional data.

Chair Montoya asked Council Members to mention any other programs that were not discussed or that needed to be discussed further.

Council Member Gavin wondered if it was possible to go back and fund midsized groups that ranked high but did not get funded during the GenOps vote in August. Committee members Gavin and Goodwin discussed potential hypotheticals pertaining to funding in these categories.

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The Individual Artists Fellowship Program was mentioned by Chair Montoya as not appearing on the list and asked what thoughts Council might have on this.

Council Member Goodwin thought highly of this program but was uncertain how it could be funded with the dearth of funds available – Council input was sought.

The Council's discussion included various potential strategies for extending monies to benefit the largest possible number of organizations. Consistent feedback from the field is the need to get money directly to artists. Data allows the Council to target organizations for funding with the most effective programs.

Support for particular programs was voiced, especially funding individual artists.

Staff is happy to provide data relating to funding based on budget size and total revenue.

Timeliness of deliberations affecting programs is essential and choices must be made. Decisions are cycle specific but have multi-year ramifications.

The Committee studied all the potentialities contingent upon available funding. The retention of programs funneling money directly to artists was prioritized.

The Council acknowledged the tremendous work done by the Committee and discussion was conducive to voicing diverse perspectives as opposed to diminishing the latitude, depth and value of work wrought by the Committee.

The issue of having to vote in December on these items was raised because budgetary timelines seem to be moving targets. An open meeting of the Committee might be appropriate in contributing to enhanced feedback.

If Impact Projects and GenOps grants are indeed agreed upon as priorities as Council Member Gavin suggested, the question was asked as to how Council expresses that priority in intended funding for specific programs without creating additional procedural requirements.

Parliamentarian Cuesta pointed out that the bylaws stipulate that it is the Council that has complete accountability. Priority setting has been left up to a Committee without Council voting on anything, and establishment of priorities as a body is critical to enable Council to vote on program funding in alignment with these priorities. He suggests a vote on instructions to the committee so that priorities are made clear.

Staff informed Council that December is when voting on the slate of programs for 2024 is scheduled followed by voting on the guidelines in January. Committee recommendations are still to be voted on by the Council, and the first iteration of the governor's budget in January will better inform Council as to where they are in terms of local assistance funds available.

Staff also reminded Council that money from 2024 has already been reserved to fund the second year of the two-year Folk and Traditional Arts and GenOps programs.

Council Member Goodwin asked the Council to clarify a strategy for 2024.

Sentiments on this were as follows:

- Council is asking grantee institutions to tighten their belts.
- Overlapping grant programs have the potential to be consolidated.
- Cuts must be across the board.
- Additional cuts may still exist and should be explored.
- New programs are probably not fundable at the present time.
- Committee clearly carried out their mission.
- Creating pathways that are not redundant is necessary.

A concern about the tone, vote, and decision regarding GenOps was raised by Council Member Raynor. She opined that a suggestion that Council's decision was a mistake is unfounded, and to frame a previous decision as a mistake and Council proposing something to compensate for that mistake is dislikeable. If priorities are clear, then programs can be anchored to them. Decisions should be made based on clearly established priorities.

Council Member Gavin feels that a mistake was made in that 80 percent of GenOps money is going to organizations with budgets under \$250,000, and that Tiers 2 and 3 with higher budgets did not get the percentage of allocations that were estimated within the program guidelines.

Staff informed the Committee that packages have been prepared that will allow them to chat with the Legislature about how additional funds could be used.

Chair Montoya referenced the GenOps vote and the previous request the Chair received to review that vote. An extensive amount of time was taken, exhausting all directions with great integrity and great respect for each participant on the Council. The Chair made a decision informed by consultation with many different perspectives. It was a legal vote, and Council needs abide by their procedures and move forward.

12. Committee Reports.

Chair Montoya reminded the Council Members of the Strategic Framework Committee's request to submit their priorities to be incorporated in the aspirations of the Strategic Framework.

This will then be brought to Council for discussion for integration of priorities into the Strategic Framework.

Committee Reports consisted of the Ad Hoc Partnerships Committee and the Ad Hoc Disabilities, Access and Inclusion Committee.

Council Member Mercado introduced the Ad Hoc Partnerships Committee, noting that an extension of their deadline would be needed to establish a baseline of partnership development, which will focus on partnership development within state government. This is being done with the intent of enhancing, strengthening, and informing state government of the CAC's work and activities to foster increased support.

Council Member Raynor introduced the Disability, Access and Inclusion Committee. Historical Council developments were mentioned as well as emphasizing the long history of the CAC working with the disability community. Information needs to be gathered to update the Council on existing field conditions to better serve the disability community.

13. In Memoriam

Vice Chair Estrada read into the record the poem "When I Think of Death" by Maya Angelou, and acknowledged the recent passing and celebrated the legacies of the following creatives:

- Radcliffe Bailey, visual artist
- Kan, Japanese singer-songwriter
- Mohammed al Amin, Sudanese musician
- Conny Van Dyke, American singer and actress
- Angelita Vargas, Spanish flamenco singer and dancer

- John Bailey, former president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
- Manuel Gusmao, Portuguese academic, poet and politician
- C-Knight, rapper
- Ivan Cruz, Peruvian bolero singer and composer
- Pat Johnson, martial artist
- Robert Butler, director
- Ian Ferrier, Canadian artist and poet
- Georgina Almanza, Cuban actress
- Peter White, actor
- Aaron Spears, American drummer

Council Member Goodwin mentioned a young woman who sent in the name of her friend Migwa Nthiga, a commercial and documentary photographer based in Kenya with work focusing on indigenous communities.

Director of Programs Margolis added Robert Laos, who was a former staff member at the CAC for many years and a musician.

14. Adjournment

In closing thoughts, Parliamentarian Cuesta mentioned committees may have meetings and consist of more than two Council members provided that the meetings are open with public notice.

It was noted that individuals who are running for Chair and Vice Chair for 2024 will need to put themselves forward at the December meeting via a self-nomination process. Director of Programs Margolis added that this methodology is to ensure that there is no outside-of-public-meeting coordination or communication among Council Members. Any discussions around candidacy and nominations should take place in the open as is required.

Chair Montoya adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.



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

Gavin Newsom, **Governor**
Danielle Brazell, **Executive Director**
2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
(916) 322-6555 | www.arts.ca.gov

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
Friday, March 1, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

On Location/Virtual Hybrid Meeting

The Center for Healthy Communities
Eastmont Room
2000 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

The members of the California Arts Council convened in Oakland and 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](#).

Council Members Present In-Person:

Leah Goodwin, Acting Chair
Gerald Clarke
Vicki Estrada
Nicola Miner
Olivia Raynor

Council Members Present Virtually

Caleb Duarte
Ellen Gavin
Phil Mercado

Council Members Absent:

Roxanne Messina Captor, Chair
Alex Israel

Arts Council Staff Present:

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director
Ayanna Kiburi, Deputy Director

Carissa Gutierrez, Public Affairs Director
Kristin Margolis, Director of Programs
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist
Mason Diab, Council Liaison
Qiana Moore, Outreach & Events Coordinator
Rebecca Ratzkin, Research & Evaluations Manager
Zachary Hill, IT Associate

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Goodwin opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

2. Land and Peoples Acknowledgement

Council Member Vicki Estrada read the CAC Land and Peoples Acknowledgement into the record and a personal statement.

3. Welcome from Alameda County Arts Commission

Rachel Osajima welcomed the CAC on behalf of the Alameda County Arts Commission with a [Powerpoint presentation](#).

4. Welcome from Oakland City Cultural Affairs Division

Roberto Bedoya welcomed the CAC on behalf of the Oakland City Cultural Affairs Division with a [Powerpoint presentation](#).

5. Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum, and Community Agreements

Council Liaison Diab conducted a roll call.

Present: Acting Chair Leah Goodwin, Gerald Clarke, Caleb Duarte, Vicki Estrada, Ellen Gavin, Phil Mercado, Nicola Miner and Olivia Raynor.

With 8 of 10 present a quorum was achieved.

6. Chair's Report

Acting Chair Goodwin [provided a report on behalf of Chair Messina Captor](#).

7. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Brazell [provided a report](#).

Research & Evaluations Manager Rebecca Ratzkin was introduced and briefly commented.

8. Voting Item: Council Minutes from Previous Council Meeting

The October 25, 2023, December 12, 2023, and February 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Council Member Clarke noted that the November 17, 2023 Minutes are in the printed but were not provided electronically.

MOTION: Council Member Clarke moved to table the November 17, 2023 Minutes, seconded by Council Member Estrada.

Acting Chair Goodwin announced that the November 17, 2023 Minutes would be tabled and sent back to the staff for review.

9. Presentation: Center for Cultural Power

Favianna Rodriguez shared pertinent information relating to the Center for Cultural Power via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

10. Presentation: Alliance for California Traditional Arts

Amy Kitchener discussed the Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) with attendees via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

11. General Public Comment

Acting Chair Goodwin explained the purpose and prohibitions for making Public Comment at CAC meetings. Public Affairs Director Gutierrez explained the process and provided specific instructions.

In-person Public Comment.

Hugo Morales:

- The Land Acknowledgement is important to Native People.
- Folk arts enable Native People to perpetuate their cultures.
- Christopher Columbus introduced slavery into the Americas.

Shirley Kazio Miramoto:

- My mother gifted me her music and it became an important part of my life.
- Because of the WWII internments, many Japanese Americans felt a shame toward their culture and arts.

- Traditional arts in the Japanese American community are dying.
- By teaching and performing I am striving to keep them alive.

Megan Kraus Fijoles, Theater Bay Area:

- Service organizations are the corral reefs of the arts ecosystem.
- We are the Bay Area's only theater service organization.
- We are a network of over 2500 individual artists and nearly 200 theater-producing companies.
- We have received regular SRN funding from the CAC for many years and perplexingly we were denied this past year resulting in destabilizing our theater work in the Bay Area.
- We urge careful consideration of your review process insofar as changes are concerned.
- Applicant organizations need further clarification on CAC expectations.

Alexandra Urbanowski, Silicon Valley Creates:

- We are an SLP for Santa Clara County of nearly two million people.
- We thank CAC's commitment to the field and its work on SLPs.
- We collaborate with other SLPs to expand the impacts in our region.
- We would ask that CAC agendize a future presentation on the regional impact of the IAF and the Creative Core administrative models.

Nancy Uhm, a teaching artist:

- We support artists in schools, family dance and public parks and libraries.
- We have been a recipient of an SRN grant for the past three years.
- We ask that you consider an SRN's potential impact when awarding funds.

Lacey Williams a San Diego Resident with Serene:

- I have worked with prison populations for over 16 years.
- I have greatly benefitted from West African drumming in my community.
- We are frequently asked to drum for cultural events.
- Our CAC grants help us continue our work in the communities we serve.

Francis Coffey, a dance teacher with Access:

- I teach Ghanaian traditional music, dancing and singing.
- Classes are conducted at Richmond Elementary School.
- I received a grant last year and purchased instruments from Ghana.

Acacia Chan with Ethnic Ties:

- We run local culture-based organizations in Oakland.
- CAC grants help us continue traditional artist storytelling via regenerative tourism in Oakland.
- We do this through our China Town, Black Oakland, and Taco Tour.
- The pandemic caused the loss of many of our elders and our CAC grant helps us mitigate some of these losses.

Virtual Public Comment

Shira Lane, Atrium 916:

- We are a creative innovation center for sustainability.
- We appreciate our CAC grant.

Jennifer Caballero, California Association of Museums:

- We are a grateful SRN recipient.
- Now is the time for the CAC to define terms of the data collection expectation.
- Some SRNs may have the capacity to do this, but many do not.
- I recommend forming a task-specific advisory group composed of SRN recipients.
- The California Networks Council is a possible model for this.
- Careful planning is necessary to enable the collection of information relevant to the evaluation and development of prioritized grant initiatives.
- I would urge this action prior to finalizing guidelines.

Cecilia Yen, Film Independent, a champion of creative independence and visual storytelling:

- We support artists and audiences who embody diversity and curiosity.
- We do not support the \$5 million cap on potential applicants.
- This will harm our ability to provide critical fundraising support to small organizations and individual artists.
- We do recognize the importance of funding smaller organizations but we urge you to reconsider taking funding away from this group of organizations.

Nancy Olivares, California Humanities:

- We are the only non-profit devoted to promoting the humanities throughout California. CAC funding is significantly impactful for us.
- We help to shape the future through the intersection of the arts and humanities.
- SRN funding helps amplify visual and performing arts, and public programming through an equitable humanities lens.

Leslie Castellano, Ink People Center for the Arts and Culture:

- We are recipient of SRN funding and are excited about the data collection requirements. We need more data to support advocacy efforts.
- Implementation is a cause for concern and CAC should create a tool kit for this endeavor.
- The three-county requirement for regional networks creates challenges for those of us in places affected by winter storms, fires, and geographic barriers.
- We are concerned that you will begin to see an absence of network members located in rural areas.
- It is beneficial for organizations with small and large budgets to share a robust network of SRNs.

Ricky Abilez, Arts for LA:

- We have concerns about the proposed SRN guidelines.
- Arts advocates generally agree that budget caps are not an effective way to narrow eligibility because pass-through funds and/or regranting are not accounted for.
- We generally agree with CAC's commitment to equity and expanding funding to smaller arts organizations.
- We also know that SRNs tend to serve as intermediaries for small arts organizations and non-profits which is not reflected in total operating budgets.
- We recommend that the \$5 million cap exclude pass-through funds and regranting from budget totals.
- Data collection should be further clarified and delineated.

Natalia Neira, La Peña Cultural Center:

- We applaud your efforts to diversify funding.
- La Peña serves as the home to 15 roots arts classes with culture bearers from different Latin American and Caribbean diasporas and hip-hop.
- We are an incubator for disenfranchised artists and cultural leaders.
- Our biggest need is infrastructural support enabling us to successfully apply and navigate the grant process.

Jenny Balisle, Arts Contra Costa County, Arts CCC:

- I have been an artist, educator, curator, and administrator for over 15 years.
- The Board of Supervisors designated us and our fiscal sponsor to serve as the County's official local arts agency.
- Our top priority is to be an equitable and sustainable arts organization for our county.
- We currently have an inspiring poetry program at juvenile hall.
- We are currently expanding to provide additional services.

Tracy Hudak, Californians for the Arts:

- We are an SRN grantee, and we appreciate your engagement with the field.
- We would like to see the guidelines clarified to make sure they align better with SRN functions and serve the state more effectively.
- We strongly advise against using budget caps to determine eligibility.
- We propose that you consider a three-year average of budgets.
- You should adjust the definition of “regional” to be more self-determined by SRNs. This is a big concern with our rural areas.

Written public comment:

- Julia Murphy, Pedal Press, Butte County
Previous or Current Grantee: JUMP StArts, Impact Projects

To the California Arts Council:

We received a Jump StArts planning grant in 2022-23. We planned our project believing that there was also a project grant that would be available to fund the actual project. Recent communication with CAC staff revealed that “The JMP StArts grant (including project & planning) will not be opening or continuing for 2024 and there is no projected date for them to reopen.”

CAC funds paid young people to participate in planning this project; and this is a setback to their work and the subsequent project (of providing Art and screenprinting internships to youth on probation)—as well as making us look unreliable to our partners in the project.

From the Field Scan Report (p 30):

“To build trusting relationships, it’s important to approach communities on their own terms (and on their own timeline), with a tangible commitment to better supporting their needs, and then follow through on that commitment.”

The lack of follow-through and transparency in re: the project grant was...unexpected. What is puzzling on a larger level is that CAC went to the trouble of compiling the Field Scan Report that indicated the organization’s renewed commitment to equitable funding.

If that is the case: why on earth would CAC discontinue a grant that specifically benefitted the category of people who are historically excluded from artmaking opportunities, as the data from the Field Scan Report shows?

Thank you for your time.

- Nanette Star (She/Her/Hers), Pedal Press Board Member, Butte County

Previous or Current Grantee: JUMP StArts

Dear CA Arts Council,

I am deeply concerned about the discontinuation of the JUMP StArts grant for 2024, as recent communication with CAC staff revealed. This decision undermines efforts to support underserved youth in Butte County, particularly those on probation, who rely on these opportunities.

The lack of transparency and follow-through regarding the discontinuation of this grant contradicts the California Arts Council's commitment to equitable funding and supporting communities in need, as evidenced by the Field Scan Report.

I urge the California Arts Council to reconsider its decision and reinstate the JUMP StArts grant for 2024. Investing in programs that provide arts opportunities for underserved youth is crucial for fostering creativity, empowerment, and community engagement.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I hope that the California Arts Council will take meaningful action to address this issue and continue to support programs that benefit underserved youth in our community.

Sincerely,

Nanette Star

Concerned community member and Pedal Press Board Member

- Richard Stein (He/Him/His), Arts Orange County, Orange County
Previous or Current Grantee: Individual Artists Fellowships, State-Local Partnership

Warm greetings, Chair, Council Members, Executive Director and Staff, from the ancestral home of the Acjachemen Nation-Juaneno Band of Mission Indians. Arts Orange County is your State-Local Partner serving this 3.2 million population county comprised of 34 cities and a highly-diverse population, which our Board mirrors in its composition. We also serve CAC as the Administering Organization for its Individual Artist Fellowship Program for the 5-county Region I (Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego), where we have exponentially increased the number of applicants and recipients. Understanding that the current year budget constraints have made it necessary to defer CAC offering this program in 2024, we look forward to sharing with you in depth data about its impacts in our region when you make plans for 2025. We are an independent nonprofit organization with a budget of only \$800,000, and we serve more than 600 arts & cultural organizations through a robust menu of programs. Like many SLPs, it is difficult to secure contributed income since we are primarily a service organization and not an arts producer. Therefore, we supplement our grants through contract services in cultural planning and public art management for local cities. In addition to generating earned revenue, this strengthens our advocacy

networks which we employ regularly to connect with our State Legislators and to promote increased funding for the CAC. Learn more about us at ArtsOC.org.

- Elida Ledesma (She/Her/Hers), Arts for Healing and Justice Network, Los Angeles County
Previous or Current Grantee: Creative Youth Development (formerly Youth Arts Action), Statewide and Regional Networks
RE: Agenda Item 11. VOTING ITEM: 2024 Grant Programs Guidelines

As a current recipient of the State and Regional Networks, our organization is able to sustain the various pieces of work necessary for successful partnerships. This funding is enabling us to support smaller organizations while they build out their capacity but it also helps us leverage our collective impact. While I understand the intention behind setting a budget cap, I strongly urge the CAC to reconsider as that would have an impact on larger organizations that are still crucial to the arts ecosystem. I believe the CAC should factor in whether funds are being regranted and what populations are being served. The SRN's serve a vital role in our sector and the impact of our work is more nuanced than that of direct service organizations. We invite the council to engage in thoughtful conversations with existing SRN's to better understand our impact and challenges before implementing reforms that could negatively impact many organizations receiving this source of funding.

- Sarah Weber (She/Her/Hers), Association of California Symphony Orchestras, Los Angeles County
Previous or Current Grantee: Statewide and Regional Networks
RE: Agenda Item 11. VOTING ITEM: 2024 Grant Programs Guidelines

Thanks to the Council for maintaining the SRN program. I would like to share 3 recommendations to the SRN program revisions.

1 - REVISE THE \$5M BUDGET CAP REQUIREMENT: Do not place a budget cap on eligibility, as budget level alone does not accurately reflect capacity or impact. If there must be a cap, adjust the \$5M budget threshold requirement by excluding from budget totals any pass-thru funds or fiscal sponsorship revenues. Also, consider a 3-year average for budgets.

2 - REFINE DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENT: While supportive of the potential of this recommendation, concerns exist about the nature, composition, and expectations of the data collection, as well as SRNs capacity to undertake research. CAC should develop the survey instruments and fund SRNs to disseminate. Or form a Data Collection Advisory Group comprised of SRNs and SLPs to help define research scope and methods, clarify what needs to be measured, and ensure against harmful data extraction.

3 - REVISE DEFINITION of "REGIONS": A more nuanced and self-determined definition of "region" is needed that better fits arts service orgs' work, which often does

not neatly align with county boundaries or population numbers. SRNs should be able to clearly describe and define our own cultural network or service areas, and then evaluated on our impact. And capacity is an important factor, especially in rural areas that face barriers like terrain, distance, weather, and lack of access to other funding.

- Jessica Mele (She/Her/Hers), Create CA, Los Angeles County
Previous or Current Grantee: Creative Youth Development (formerly Youth Arts Action), Statewide and Regional Networks
RE: Agenda Item 11. VOTING ITEM: 2024 Grant Programs Guidelines

Thank you for recognizing the value of state and regional networks to a healthy arts ecosystem. Our work at Create CA in arts education policy and advocacy could not be done without a statewide network of advocates (artists, teachers, teaching artists, parents, students and school administrators). This network has become essential since the passage of Prop 28, and the need to ensure that training, materials, information and support reaches school communities in all 58 counties of California.

We appreciate the value of the \$5m budget cap. To account for one-time increases in revenue that could be the result of a multi-year grant whose funds are all received in one fiscal year, we recommend a three year average be used to assess organizational size. In addition, we recommend that re-granting dollars and fiscally-sponsored projects (efforts that are a net neutral to an organization's bottom line) be excluded from the \$5m budget cap calculation.

We appreciate the data component of the new guidelines. And at the same time, as an arts education advocacy organization, our data collection includes information on students, schools, and advocates in our networks. These data may not be compatible with the CAC's expected data points pertaining to communities of (non-student, practicing) artists and culture bearers. We suggest that the CAC clarify its goals around data collection so that we can best assess how to meet them, given our organizational structure and resources.

- Cynthia PEPPER (She/Her/Hers), CPDANCEworks, Marin County
Previous or Current Grantee: Artists in Schools, Arts and Accessibility

I feel and have direct evidence to support my stance that the CAC prefers and favors diversity choices over artistic choices for all your grants, programming and projects. Marin County and Caucasian people are completely left out and the reverse prejudice is blatant. Very unfair and quite shameful. Diversity over Artistry. Look at the individual grants! I stand corrected.

- Shayla James (She/Her/Hers), San Diego Creative Youth Development Network, San Diego County
Previous or Current Grantee: Statewide and Regional Networks
RE: Agenda Item 11. VOTING ITEM: 2024 Grant Programs Guidelines

I am the Director of the San Diego Creative Youth Development Network (SDCYDN). I was looking forward to seeing the proposed Statewide and Regional Network (SRN) grant guidelines and was interested in reading the reconfigured guidelines. I have two main recommendations for the Council to consider. Data Collection is informative, necessary, and can be exciting for those collecting information and those sharing their information. However, I have concerns about what data will be collected, how, and why. I would like more clarity about what data collection entails. Also, gathering data takes additional administrative labor, so how can the Council create supports, especially for smaller organization capacity? Can the CAC create a survey and data collection tool to distribute to SRNs, with our input about what data will be collected? Also, how the data is collected is important to ensure data extraction methods that cause harm do not occur.

My second recommendation for the Council is to more clearly define a regional network. The SDCYDN works across communities and geography, however we practice depth instead breadth of our work. While some members in other Counties attend our virtual meetings, we primarily serve communities in SD County. The SDCYDN is a supporter of the SRN grant and I ask for clarity in the proposed guidelines, so that I can better understand what SRNs the CAC is seeking to invest in through the revised SRN guidelines.

- Meg Hamill (She/Her/Hers), California Poets in the Schools, Sonoma County
Previous or Current Grantee: Artists in Schools, Impact Projects
RE: Agenda Item 11. VOTING ITEM: 2024 Grant Programs Guidelines

As the ED of California Poets in the Schools, I am grateful to the CAC for a decades-long funding relationship supporting both our work in schools, as well as our network of professional poets throughout the state. We offer a professional, network experience for California poets that includes over 60 annual training and networking events, a 3-day poetry conference, fundraising assistance, affiliation with a nationally-recognized nonprofit, as well as a clear pathway to earn income and give back to their local communities as Poet-Teachers. Our grassroots model allows us a unique ability to engage communities of poets in any town in CA, and indeed our programs are flourishing in some of the most remote regions. We have received the SRN grant for many years, however we did not receive the grant this past year. To my knowledge, there were no organizations specifically serving networks of poets who received SRN funding in 2023. After this council considered shutting down the SRN program altogether, and after carefully reading through the guidelines this year, I find myself confused about the overarching vision that the current council holds for this grant program. It seems much narrower than the past. This grant is vital to our ability to serve our network and I sincerely hope that the vision for this program remains broad and supple enough to continue engaging specific arts networks such as ours so that we can continue to provide critical arts services throughout the state.

- Michael Tamony (He/Him/His), The Center for the Arts, Nevada County

Previous or Current Grantee: Artists in Schools, Arts Education Exposure, Creative Youth Development (formerly Youth Arts Action)

The Center for the Arts in Grass Valley is the most established arts 501c3 in the rural Foothills above Sacramento. We serve a rural population that is in desperate need for arts and arts education. We are grateful for the support we have received from the California Arts Council. While we may be known for sold out concerts like Lyle Lovett, Keb' Mo', Blind Boys of Alabama, and others, we are also presenting enriching content like WorldFest, children's theater productions, and a host of arts-related programs.

Our recent grant from CAC, helped deliver a children's theater production of Mozart that was seen by a packed house, primarily children who had never even seen live theater.

We are writing to the CAC Board to emphasize the need to support rural community art. Nevada County, including Grass Valley and Nevada City have a vibrant arts community that is in serious need of support from agencies like CAC, especially through an established entity like The Center for the Arts.

We have a history of success, but we can not succeed alone. We need you.

(A lunch break was taken from 12:26 p.m. to 1:06 p.m.)

12. Voting Item: 2024 Grant Programs Guidelines

Acting Chair Goodwin called the afternoon session to order and called for Item 12 to be presented.

Program managers Elisa Gollub and Carlos Casillas briefly introduced this item. Program Manager Casillas presented a detailed history and development summary of the program.

Council Member Gavin of the Programs Policy Committee covered the history and development of the Programs Policy Committee.

Acting Chair Goodwin noted that the Programs Policy Committee did look at the Decision Support Tool to inform their decisions.

A list of decisions to be made by the Council was read into the record by Acting Chair Goodwin.

Executive Director Brazell noted that this is part of the CAC's commitment to transparent and informed decision-making. As part of the Strategic Framework this Decision Support Tool is also a bedrock.

Public Comment

Acting Chair Goodwin explained the purpose and prohibitions for making Public Comment at CAC meetings. Public Affairs Director Gutierrez explained the process and provided specific instructions.

In-person Public Comment

Alma Robinson, Executive Director, California Lawyers for the Arts

- We thank you for continuing the Statewide and Regional Networks Program.
- This is our 50th year and we provide legal services, educational programs, and advocacy for the arts community.
- We work extensively with formerly incarcerated individuals.

Jorge Courtade, Arts & Community Development Program Manager, California Lawyers for the Arts:

- I work with continuation students and meet with them monthly.
- We explore ways for artists to have a sustainable career path in the arts.

Virtual Public Comment

Susana Villalon, Founder, California Academy of the Arts:

- We were established in April 2023, and this is new to me.
- Our mission is to provide jobs for young artists and art teachers.
- We are a cultural dance studio focusing on Mexican, Peruvian, Colombian and South American folk dance while also incorporating Hip-Hop.

Liz Baselia, LA Swing Dance Posse:

- We are a small 501(C)(3) that is a dance team endeavoring to preserve, protect, and teach vernacular jazz and swing dancing.
- We are excited to see the continuation of funding for small organizations.

Felicia Shaw, Executive Director, San Diego Regional Arts & Culture Coalition:

- We are an arts advocacy and arts services organization serving San Diego County.
- We thank you for listening to the field and making appropriate decisions to the SRN Guidelines.

I would encourage you to ensure that the review panels are adequately trained.

MOTION: Council Member Clarke moved to accept the recommendation of the Programs Policy Committee to approve the Statewide and Regional Networks Program Guidelines including the policy change to restrict applications from applying for the SRN

grants with a total revenue equal or greater than \$5 million in the most recently completed fiscal year, seconded by Council Member Estrada.

Council Discussion

Council Liaison Diab read the following into the record:

MOTION:

The motion from Council Member Raynor is to amend the Guidelines to add “outreach” and “communications” to the list of areas demonstrated for accessibility and to delete the list of disabilities, seconded by Council Member Estrada.

VOTE:

YES: Council Members: Clarke, Duarte, Estrada, Gavin, Miner, Raynor, and Acting Chair Goodwin.

NO: 0

ASTAIN: 0

There were 7 Yes Votes and 0 No Votes. The motion passed.

Council Liaison Diab read the following into the record:

MOTION:

The motion as moved by Council Member Clarke is to accept the recommendation of the Programs Policy Committee as amended by Council Member Raynor to approve the Statewide and Regional Networks Program Guidelines including the policy change to restrict applicants from applying for the SRN grants that have total revenues equal to or greater than \$5 million in the most recently completed fiscal year, seconded by Council Member Estrada.

VOTE:

YES: Council Members: Clarke, Duarte, Estrada, Gavin, Miner, Raynor, and Acting Chair Goodwin.

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

There were 7 yes Votes and 0 No Votes.

Member Raynor advocated for revising Council verbiage to make access to the CAC more positive and inviting and that applicant accessibility managers be identified.

Vice Chair Goodwin noted that a two-year average pertaining to applicant budgets has been used in the past and that a three-year average was not considered by the Programs Policy Committee.

The \$5 million dollar cap was informed by the field and perhaps the new Programs Policy Committee can revisit this stipulation.

Council Member Gavin was open to considering a three-year average and Director of Programs Margolis stated that pass-through funds are considered when looking at the total for applicant budgets.

Council Member Estrada recommended that a more welcoming verbiage should be applied to all CAC programs.

Director of Programs Margolis noted that there had been a reconvening of SRNs in 2018 and additional ones before that. Quantifying the amount of pass-through funds per applicant has not been done and the process and procedures for such have not been established.

Executive Director Brazell emphasized the incredible importance of the Decision Support Tool informing decision-making by the CAC.

Council Member Clarke had concerns about the staff's ability to determine total revenues including pass-through funds and other factors not currently delineated.

13. Presentation: Californians for the Arts

Julie Baker made a presentation via [Powerpoint presentation](#). Historical data and ongoing developments specific to Californians for the Arts were discussed.

Council Members thanked Julie and briefly touched on various aspects of the details given during the presentation.

14. Committee Reports

Council Member Clarke of the Equity Committee shared his and Council Member Duarte's report with the Council. An update was given and potentially useful information for future Equity Committee endeavors was provided.

15. In Memoriam

- Ed Reed from Richmond was a jazz vocalist and toured national venues.
- Glynis Johns was remembered for her role in Mary Poppins, died at 100.
- Norman Jewison produced and directed socially important films.
- Hinton Battle was the Scarecrow in "The Wiz".

- Lisa Lopez-Galvan was killed in the mass shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs' Celebration.
- We acknowledge the Palestinian and Israeli writers who have died long before their time.
- Inas Al-Saqa was a Palestinian playwright and actress.
- Yahav Winner was an Israeli filmmaker murdered in the Hamas attack.
- Halima Karim Al-Kahlot created work using unconventional materials such as brooms and cardboard to explore themes of social justice.
- Matan Elmalam was an Israeli DJ and producer killed by Hamas.
- We lost Seiji Ozawa and N. Scott Momady who live long and artistic lives. Seiji was a well-known world-class conductor. N. Scott was the first Native American novelist to win the Pulitzer Prize.
- Alexei Anatolyevich Navalny was an amazing Russian opposition leader.
- Radcliffe Bailey was an artist out of Atlanta who was very well known.

16. Adjournment

Acting Chair Goodwin adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

TAB 4

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024



Memorandum

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575
www.arts.ca.gov

Date: April 19, 2024

To: Council Members

From: CAC Programs Staff

Re: 2024 Grant Review Panelist Pool

The CAC Programs Staff is presenting the list of applicants for the 2024 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 2024 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 various networks, including former panelists, grant applicants, and organizational partners (Statewide-Regional Networks, State- Local Partners, CA Creative Corps, and Cultural Districts) to apply and to help publicize this opportunity. The CAC shared the opportunity widely through social media and communication channels and extended the application period from 4 weeks to 8 weeks. The CAC is grateful for the exceptional number of applications received.

The following pages present demographics and biographies of 916 applications submitted between January 12, 2024 and March 8, 2024. The CAC received 115 more panel applications than in 2023, with 20% of those applicants having prior CAC panel service. The CAC selects reviewers from this pool when curating diverse peer review panels, unique to each grant program. Although there are a number of distinguished panel applicants, based on the number of grant applications received and the necessary number of panels needed, not all panel applicants will have the opportunity to serve.

Note: Data entries were submitted directly by panel applicants; language, spelling, grammar, and capitalization remain as originally recorded. 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 ability to select more than one response, which many panelists did. The most frequently selected responses were White/Caucasian (39.4%), Black / African American (15.2%), Latinx / Chicanx (12.7%). The broad range of responses are available in detail in the enclosed table.

Gender Identity

The most frequently selected responses were Female (69.7%) and Male (22.7%). A number of panel applicants selected multiple gender identities; the broad range of responses are available in detail in the enclosed graph.

Primary Artistic Area of Experience

The most frequently selected responses were Visual Arts (33%), followed by Multidisciplinary (20%) and Music (12%). Multidisciplinary can include all categories, such as Visual, Music, Theater, Literary, Dance, Media, and Folk/Traditional Art. The broad range of responses are available in detail in the enclosed graph.

County

The largest number of applicants are from Los Angeles (31.7%), Alameda (10.4%), San Diego (8.0%) and San Francisco (4.8%). The remaining percentages are distributed statewide, covering 47 out of the 58 counties in the state.

Age

The most frequently selected responses were the 35-54 range (42%), 55-70 range (26%), and 25-34 (18%).

Panelist Demographic Data

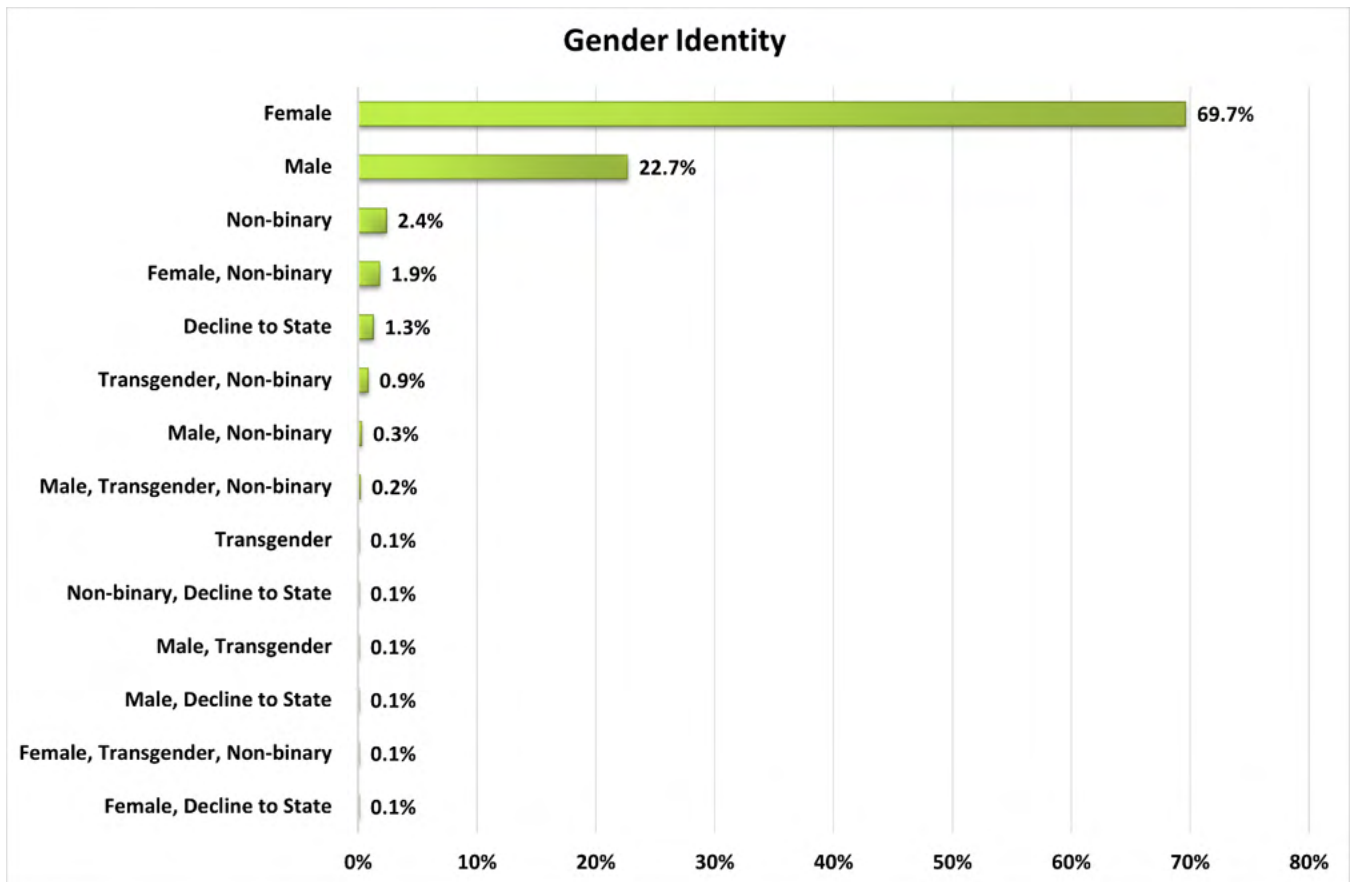
Data compiled from self-selected responses by panelists in Panelist Application.

Total number of panel reviewer applications: **916**

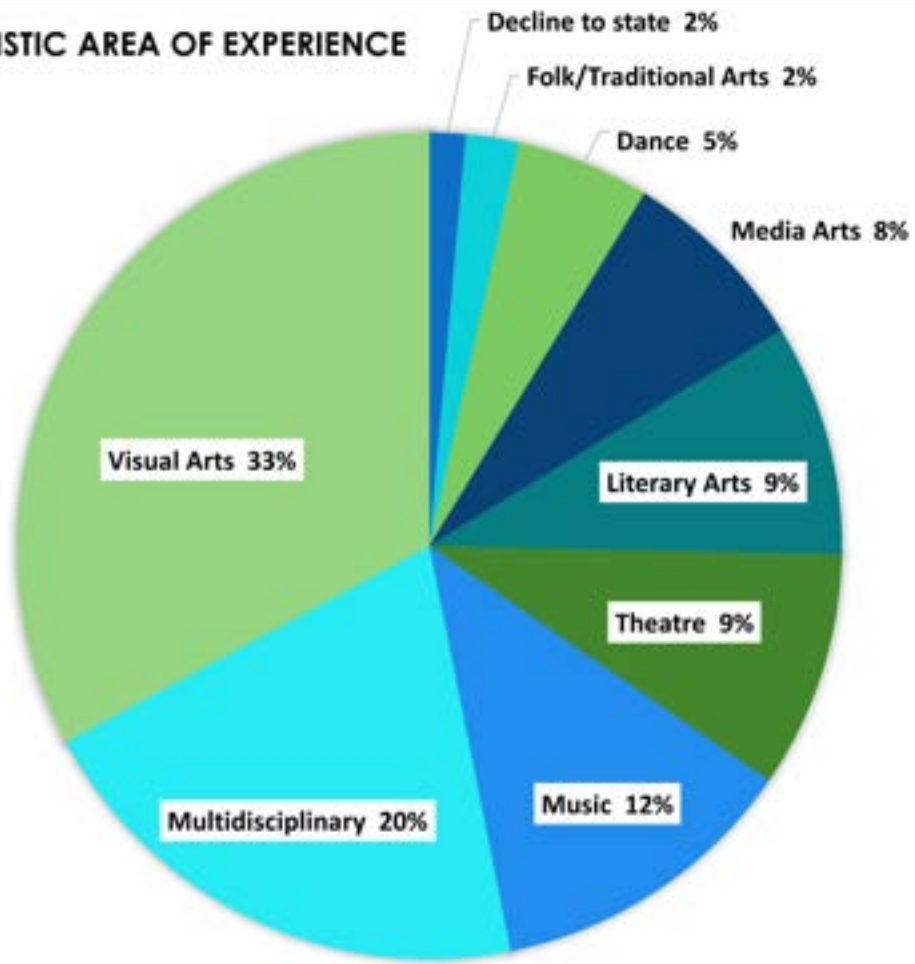
*Note: All data displayed in percentages unless otherwise stated

Race and Ethnicity: Panelists submit what they most strongly identify as and can select more than one option.	Number	Percent
Asian / Asian American, Black / African American, Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
Asian / Asian American, Black / African American, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
Asian / Asian American, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
Asian / Asian American, Middle Eastern	1	0.1%
Asian / Asian American, Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
Black / African American, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	1	0.1%
Black / African American, Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	1	0.1%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
Latinx / Chicanx, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	1	0.1%
Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous, Decline to state	1	0.1%
Latinx / Chicanx, White / Caucasian, Decline to state	1	0.1%
Middle Eastern, Black / African American, Latinx / Chicanx, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	1	0.1%
Middle Eastern, Black / African American, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
Middle Eastern, Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
Middle Eastern, Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	1	0.1%
White / Caucasian, Decline to state	1	0.1%
Asian / Asian American, Black / African American	2	0.2%
Asian / Asian American, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	2	0.2%
Asian / Asian American, Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous	2	0.2%
Black / African American, Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous	2	0.2%
Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	2	0.2%
Asian / Asian American, Latinx / Chicanx	4	0.4%
Black / African American, Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	4	0.4%
Black / African American, White / Caucasian	5	0.5%
Black / African American, Latinx / Chicanx	6	0.7%

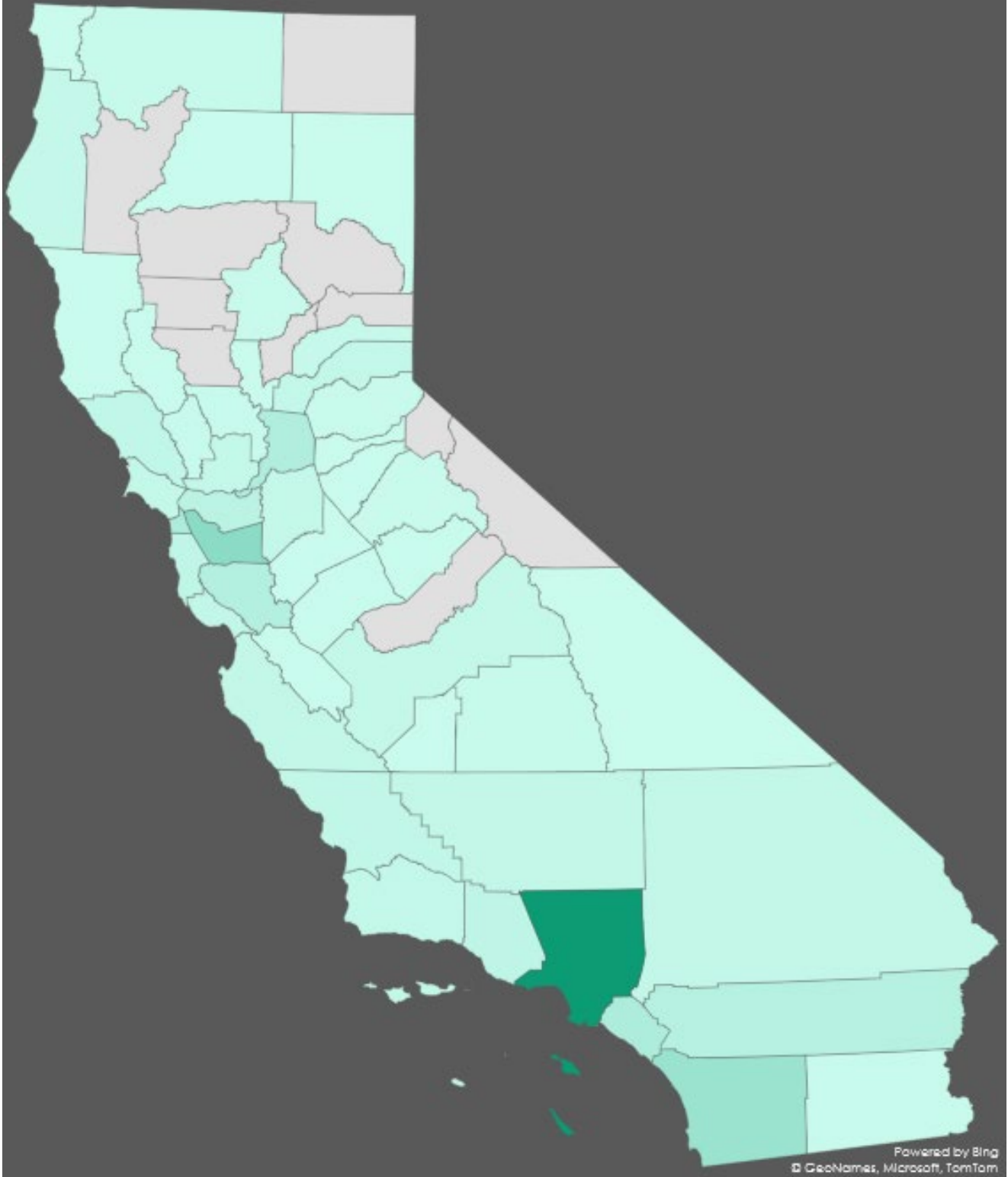
Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous, White / Caucasian	6	0.7%
Asian / Asian American, White / Caucasian	8	0.9%
Middle Eastern, White / Caucasian	9	1.0%
Black / African American, Native American / Indigenous	10	1.1%
Middle Eastern	13	1.4%
Native American / Indigenous	13	1.4%
Latinx / Chicanx, Native American / Indigenous	20	2.2%
Latinx / Chicanx, White / Caucasian	23	2.5%
Decline to state	63	6.9%
Asian / Asian American	89	9.7%
Latinx / Chicanx	116	12.7%
Black / African American	139	15.2%
White / Caucasian	361	39.4%



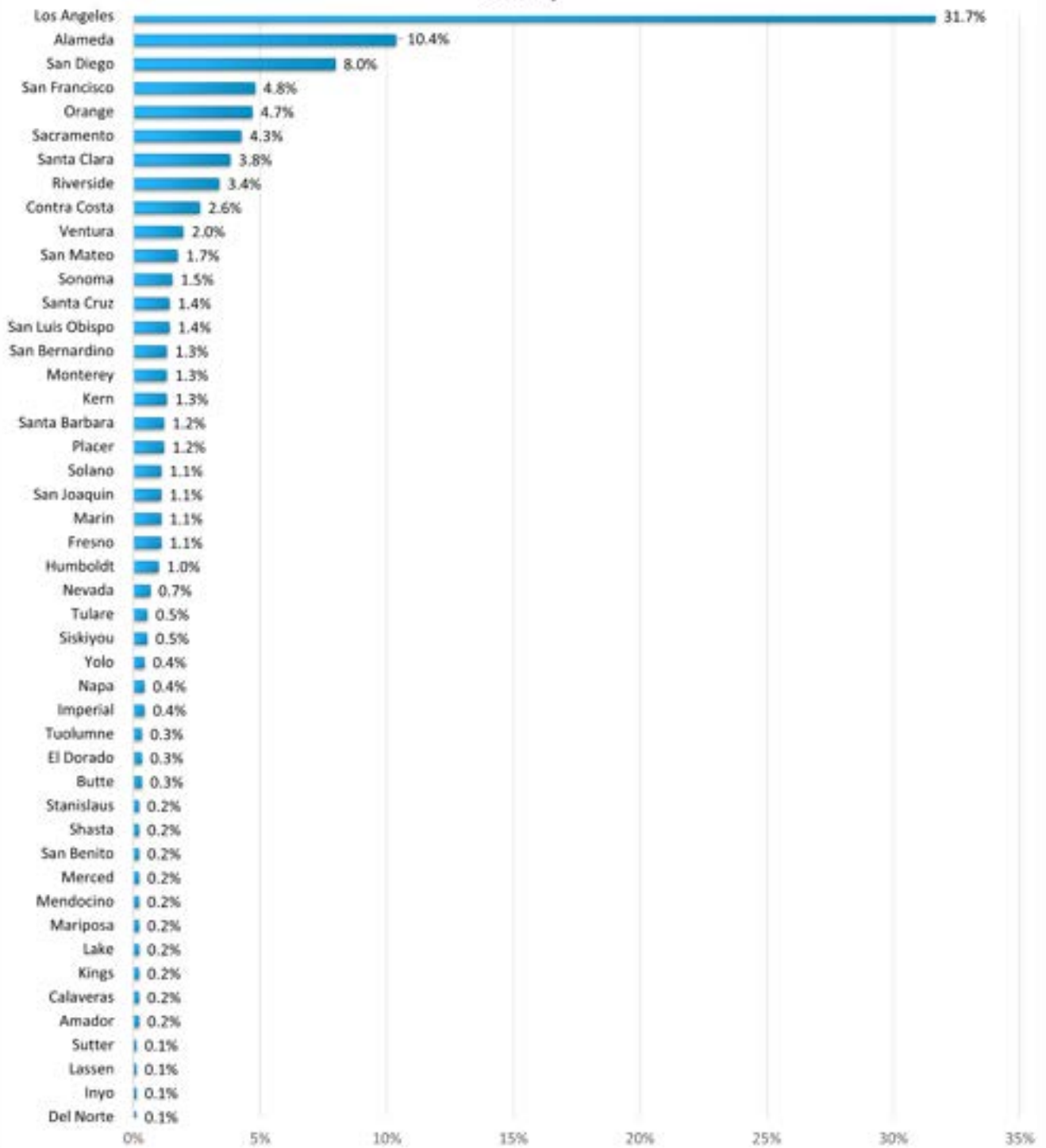
PRIMARY ARTISTIC AREA OF EXPERIENCE



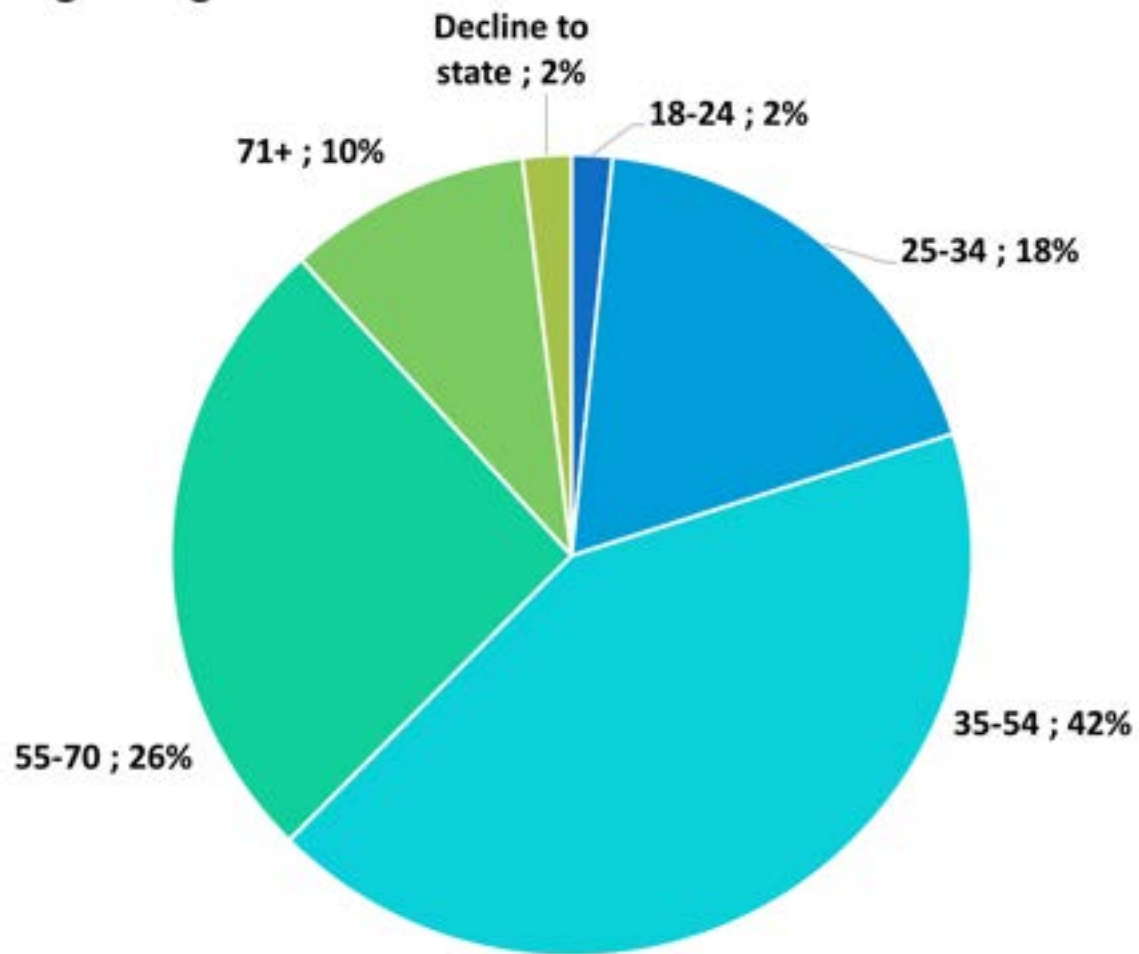
County Map by Panelist Density 2024



County



Age Range



Panelists Biographical Information

Note: Panelists listed in alphabetical order by last name.

Joseph Abbati; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Joseph Abbati is a San Francisco-based artist and curator whose creative journey delves deep into the intricacies of the human experience, particularly through the lens of queer identity. His artistic expression thrives in the realm of figurative art.

His artistic process begins in the digital realm, where he crafts his compositions from photographs. This blend of digital and classical painting results in a fusion that mirrors the complexities of the time we live in. His work serves as a mirror, reflecting the diverse range of LGBTQ+ representation that often get overlooked in a heteronormative society.

In the past year, Abbati's artistic voice gained more resonance through his solo exhibition "Shape Shifters" at the Schlomer Haus Gallery. One portrait has been chosen to be part of "The de Young Museum Open" in the fall of 2023.

Abbati's passion for curating has manifested in his collaboration with the office of Senator Scott Wiener in the State of California Building, San Francisco. Since 2017, he has curated thirteen exhibitions that shine a spotlight on the rich resources of San Francisco Bay Area artists.

Dina Abdul Karim; South Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a visual artist based in Los Angeles. My practice investigates the notion of home, comparative identity, and urban dwelling. The work addresses these issues from critical contemporary perspectives in urban theory but is also in relation to the ties that connect my Middle Eastern and North African heritage with my American home. After receiving training in architecture, urban design, and city planning, I completed an MFA at California Institute of the Arts in 2015. I am an Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California, and the co-founder of The City at 3 Miles Per Hour, which brings urban exploration and intergenerational play to cities.

Maricela Aboytes; Santa Cruz

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

My name is Maricela Aboytes, I am passionate about restorative justice, education, and radical leadership. I hold a Masters Degree in Organization & Leadership from the University of San Francisco.

As a collaborator and passionate about community based projects, I intend to serve communities through empowerment and love. Embodying restorative justice practices allows me to show up to spaces authentically and such an approach fosters and nurtures opportunities for healing, connection and deep empathy. My professional background consists of working in Education (K-12), Community College and CSU, non-profit work, formerly a Program Manager running a TAY Youth Resource Center and other past roles which includes a

Program Coordinator role with a Tribal entity. My formal trainings include GONA Facilitator (Gathering of Native Americans), and Non-Violent Communication with the intention to seek opportunities for relationship building. As a dedicated advocate for system impacted youth and their family units.

I am committed to creating safe, enough, spaces founded in healing, empathy and belonging for the collective.

Millicent Accardi; Topanga

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Millicent Borges Accardi, a Portuguese-American writer, is the author of four poetry collections, most recently Quarantine Highway (2022). Her awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Fulbright, CantoMundo, Creative Capacity, California Arts Council, Foundation for Contemporary Arts (Covid grant). Yaddo, Fundação Luso-Americana (Portugal), the Barbara Deming Foundation and two honorable mentions at the Latino Book Awards. She lives in rural Topanga canyon, where she curates the popular Kale Soup for the Soul literary reading series. She has served as a panelist at the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs DCA (visual arts and non-profits) and was on the board of Portuguese Heritage Press.

Che'Rae Adams; Tarzana

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Che'Rae Adams has been the Artistic Director of The LA Writers Center since 2006 where she works with local writers. She also ran The Moss Theater in Santa Monica for seven years and was one of the founding Artistic Directors of The Road Theatre Company. She is an advocate for playwrights and teaches playwriting at various institutions across the country including Drexel University and Hussian College.

Janelle Adsit; Cutten

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I teach writing classes at Cal Poly Humboldt, along with courses on environmental and health justice.

I'm interested in the role of the arts in health, wellbeing, and advocacy.

I'm currently working on a textbook titled Creative Writing and Health Care (forthcoming from Bloomsbury in 2024).

The books I've published in recent years are primarily meant to support the teaching of creative writing. Another book, which was released by Routledge, focuses on mindfulness and contemplative practice, epistemic justice, and the environmental humanities.

I also write poetry. Unremitting Entrance (poetry collection, published in 2015 from Spuyten Duyvil) is a meditation on grief in relation to place and environment.

Off campus, I offer writing workshops for community members in healthcare settings. I offer writing as a tool for processing emotion and reducing stress. I've recently co-facilitated writing workshops at Hospice of Humboldt with local artist Julie Doerner.

Analicia Adsuara; Fairfield***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

As a student at Solano Community College, I am on track to graduate with an associate's degree and a certificate in Human Services and Social Work this Spring. Throughout my coursework, I've learned about the vital role of cultural responsiveness and the significance of understanding diverse cultural perspectives when working with historically marginalized communities. The organization I work for has also afforded me various opportunities to expand my cultural awareness for delivering optimal services. These include participating in training sessions covering cultural competency, trauma-informed care, de-escalation strategies, and specialized training for serving individuals experiencing homelessness.

Kamran Afary; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I'm a performance scholar and activist who arrived in Los Angeles from Iran at the age of 16 in 1975. Holding a PhD in performance studies from Northwestern (2007), I'm currently an associate professor of communication studies and a registered drama therapist. My scholarly work focuses on performance activism in LA, particularly grassroots movements. Notable publications include "The Multiple Meanings of the Assault on Rodney King" (Routledge), "Narradrama as a Three-Act Play" (Journal of Systemic Therapies), and the award winning "Molla Nasreddin: The Making of a Modern Trickster, 1906-1911" (Edinburgh University Press). Additionally, I've co-authored works like "Narradrama, Intersectionality, and Devised Therapeutic Theatre in the Prison Communication Studies Classroom" (Drama Therapy Review) and "Iranian Diaspora Identities: Stories and Songs" (Rowman & Littlefield). Apart from teaching courses, including those at Lancaster Prison, I provide supervision and conduct trauma-informed workshops for mental health professionals on Narradrama.

Tonga Victoria Afuhaamango; East Palo Alto***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Tonga Victoria is a first generation Tongan-American who grew up in East Palo Alto, California. Running for local office as a jumpstart into grassroots community work, Tonga Victoria has since served over 1,000 individuals, youth, and families and developed curriculum, leaders and media campaigns across the state of California. In 2021, Tonga Victoria published Hyphen American, book one of the trilogy series to fuel conversation around culture, and to usher in a new approach to communications media.

In 2022, Tonga Victoria deepened her commitment to building grassroots communications, and successfully led several media campaigns, including the California humanitarian relief, To Tonga With Love and the political election campaign for the San Mateo County Office of Sheriff.

With a passion for writing, design, and social impact, Tonga Victoria founded Swordhouse Inc. as an envisioned hub for grassroots communications and cultural diplomacy.

Tonga Victoria is currently a Master's Student at University of Southern California.

Kevin Akers; San Luis Obispo***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

A California native, Kevin Akers is a graphic designer with extensive experience in corporate identity and logo development, packaging and collateral. His goal is to create imagery with intelligence and convey content with style, a process he calls "Design with Personality."

Having designed upwards of 100 corporate identities, he is well-versed in creating and implementing an effective brand.

Kevin is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo with a degree in Applied Art and Design.

His twenty-five years of experience in the field includes stints at several Bay Area design and packaging firms. He was senior designer with the international public relations firm of Burson-Marsteller.

Kevin established his design studio in 1993.

His interest in the magic of design prompted him to write and produce a book for Chronicle Books titled All Wrapped Up! - Groovy Gift Wrap of the 1960s. The book is a visual

survey of more than 400 wrapping paper designs from the swinging sixties. After extensive interest in his ancestry he decided to author an historical novel based on his immigrant family's journey to California in the 1850s.

Arinzechukwu Akpa; Orange***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Akpa Arinzechukwu is a 2023 Oxbelly Writing Retreat Fellow, a winner of the 2021 Poetry Archive Worldview Prize, a Best of the Net nominee, Pushcart, and Geoffrey Dearmer Prize, shortlisted for the FT/Bodley Head Prize, and a finalist for the 2020 Black Warriors Review Fiction Prize, his works appear in Kenyon Review, Adda, Transition, Prairie Schooner, The Nation, Poetry Review, and elsewhere. He is the curator of Muqabalal, a bilingual conversation series, co-host of Muqabalal's Poem a Day in Translation, and the Church of Poetry.

Andrew Akufo; Santa Rosa***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art and a Minor in Art History in 2012. I worked for 5 years as the Executive Director of the Lea County Commission for the Arts in Hobbs, NM as well as the first-ever Executive Director for the Healdsburg Center for the Arts for 2 years. I have organized and promoted several art exhibits, classes, open mic nights, book readings, poetry events, art festivals, cultural celebrations, and live performances of music and dance, working with various artists and art organizations throughout the country. I'm currently a part of a local Sonoma-based Black artist group known as BMM (Black Artist Monthly Meet-up) and work professionally as a visual artist. I've studied art in the U.S., Italy, Hungary and Slovenia and have exhibited my work in various museums and galleries throughout the country including the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Gina Lujan Alatorre; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Gina, founding CEO of Hacker Lab, has significantly impacted the tech and creative sectors with 30 years of experience. Under her leadership, Hacker Lab became a top Maker Space, positively impacting over 1500 students annually. Recognized with numerous awards for her entrepreneurial and community contributions, Gina has fostered partnerships with major corporations and co-founded Code For Hood, empowering underserved youth through creative education. Her initiatives have earned national recognition, including an invitation to the White House, highlighting her commitment to innovation and the creative economy. Through her visionary leadership and dedication to community growth, Gina exemplifies the transformative power of fostering creativity and technological advancement.

Sharron Alexander; Fresno***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a self-taught sculptor based in Fresno, CA. Wife and mother of three sons, I enjoy spending my time sculpting, being outdoors, and listening to music. Over the past 15 years, I have enjoyed experimenting with different artistic techniques and styles.

Shelby Alexander; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Bad Talents is the creative identity of mixed-media artist, Shelby Alexander, and the pseudonym under which she exhibits her fine art nationally. Shelby lives and works in Los Angeles. Shelby graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2014 with a degree in Visual Art (Concentration in Painting), and she also studied fashion design at Pratt Institute in NYC. Her work has been exhibited nationally in galleries, museums, and on three billboards. Most recently, her work was on a billboard in Los Angeles in February 2023. Shelby currently works full-time as art director for Barbie at Mattel in El Segundo.

Dania Alkhoulis; Huntington Beach***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Dania Ayah Alkhoulis is a Muslim Syrian writer, poet, blogger, and editor, born and raised in Southern California. She earned her B.A. in Sociology and her M.A. in Public Policy & Administration, and is currently completing her M.B.A. Alkhoulis is the author of three poetry and prose collections, centering the narratives of Muslim and Arab women experiences in today's socio-political climates. Alkhoulis's written work and community organizing centers on feminism; alternative mental health; domestic violence and sexual assault; identity, culture; religion; grief, loss, and death; and her homeland, Syria. In 2012, Alkhoulis and her mother co-founded the nonprofit organization, A Country Called Syria, dedicated to combating stereotypes and myths through traveling arts exhibitions and events that showcase the history and culture of Syria. They are working towards their long-term goal of establishing a permanent home base for their 500+ artifacts that will also serve as a cultural community center for both the Syrian community and the Southern California public.

Jane Allen; Santa Rosa***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Jane Ingram Allen, originally from Alabama, now lives in Santa Rosa, CA, and does environmental and community art projects around the world using natural materials and handmade paper. Jane has lived and worked in many communities in the USA as well as internationally. From 2004-2012 she lived in Taiwan, working as a Fulbright Scholar artist in 2004 and 2005 and then continuing as an independent artist and curator. Jane also writes about art for publications such as SCULPTURE, PUBLIC ART REVIEW, and FIBER ART NOW. She has received Artist in Residency awards for projects in the USA, Philippines, Japan, Nepal, Brazil, Tanzania, Indonesia, China and Taiwan. She was a Fulbright Specialist artist in Turkey in 2015 and an artist in residence in Costa Rica in 2023. She is a former college art instructor and museum/art center curator. She served on the peer review panel in visual arts for the Fulbright Foundation for two terms and has been a judge for the Chenven Foundation grants to artists for two years.

Jacqueline Alvarino; Brea

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual 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.

AZUL Amaral; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Azul recently was the Creative Director of Grand Performances... contracted to rebrand the longest running presenter of free global performing arts in Los Angeles. Azul's expertise in creative brand strategy, design direction, marketing, video and creating stories with images strengthened the brand and achieved the organization's creative vision onsite, in print, online, on-air and in digital media. The 2021 Grand Performances' 35th summer season was the most attended in the organization's history. Over the past 20 years, Azul has established a career as creative director, photographer, DJ, promoter, visual artist, and producer in film and live events working with many of today's current relevant brands and artists. Azul remains an active artist in the Los Angeles community. The past 10 years, Azul has been aligned with several landmark outdoor event productions and activations

Beth Anderson; Eureka

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Beth Anderson is a dedicated professional with a Master's in Social Work from Boston University and a Master's in Nonprofit Leadership & Management from Arizona State

University. With a rich background in program development and strategic planning, Beth's expertise extends to diverse arts and cultural communities. As a Consultant at Sorrel Leaf Healing Center, she orchestrated a \$17 million budget, achieving a 97% grant award rate and fostering cultural initiatives. Beth's extensive experience in facilitating Circle of Security classes and collaborating with organizations like Circle Ecology reflects her passion for enriching community connections through the arts. Her leadership roles at Maple Star Specialized Community Services and contributions to cultural consultants' grant highlight her dedication to inclusivity and community engagement. Beth's diverse experiences her adaptability and commitment to fostering creativity and well-being within communities. Aspiring to serve as a CAC Panel Reviewer, Beth combines her clinical and leadership skills to contribute to an equitable and vibrant arts landscape in California.

Paige Anderson; San Luis Obispo

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Paige Anderson currently works for the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), leading a transportation program for seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities. She is Co-Chair of SLOCOG's Equity Committee and a new volunteer with SLO County Arts, most recently helping out at the Poetry Out Loud finale.

Before moving to SLO, Paige lived in Seattle, Washington, where she worked for the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA). Projects included serving on the BDA's summer arts market jury and the City's Bellwether Arts Week as social media ambassador.

Paige also served on the board of Seattle's Volunteer Park Conservatory, where she was Chair of the Education Committee and regularly assisted with fundraising events such as Lusio Lights, a large-scale installation project in partnership with local artists.

Paige dabbles in her own arts practice, recently moving from paper crafts to fiber art. She previously had a photography practice and volunteered her skills to a small local business and local community-aid organization. Paige holds a Master's in Urban Design with a particular interest in placemaking and, as a queer person herself, queer spaces.

Mary Anderson; Montara

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I am a university faculty/staff member with a background specifically in theatre, dance and performance art. My graduate degrees are from CSU Sacramento and UC Davis and my formative professional experience was as a teaching artist in the public schools and as a puppeteer. I spent 14 years at Wayne State University in Detroit, where I built performance programs in the schools and taught university students how to create original community-based performance work. I write and publish arts criticism across the disciplines. In my current role at SJSU, I support faculty research and creative activity.

Heather Andrews-Horton; Riverside

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Born and raised in Riverside, California, in the heart of the so-called Inland Empire, I am inspired by other local artists to reject the idea that some areas aren't as inherently beautiful as others. As warehouses and freeways add monotony and smog to the region, artists are an important part of the movement to say we deserve more—more color, more beauty. In addition to showing individual pieces in open exhibitions in Riverside and San Bernardino, I have painted murals in Riverside, Jurupa Valley, and Pomona, California. Murals are a particularly important vehicle for my artistic philosophy, which includes that art should be accessible, egalitarian, and locally relevant. My educational background studying racial and gender inequalities also informs my belief that art can and should tell a story, whether that be an overt critique of inequalities or resisting the economic stratification of the art scene by being public or—in the case of individual works—affordable. My artwork includes lively colors and vivid contrasts, because that is how art makes me feel: alive and complex.

Eva Angeloff; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

A Maryland native, Eva currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and three children. She works diligently, facilitating Arts Grants for the City of West Hollywood, while enforcing the City's values of inclusion, equity, and creativity. Ever the organized dancer, she launched herself into arts administration in 2012, and became the Managing Director of the L.A. Contemporary Dance Company (LACDC) till 2019. In her time with LACDC she learned an incredible amount and is proud to have increased the company's revenue by 30%, facilitated international tours, and represented Los Angeles at National conferences. In 2006, she received a Masters of Arts in Dance and Dance Education from NYU. Eva has taught dance, yoga, and dance history at colleges and community centers. In her spare time, Eva enjoys brief moments of alone time hiking, practicing yoga and taking naps while the kids play. She brings a fresh sense of humor to everything she tackles, though her favorite things to do are move, empower others, work toward common goals, and cross things off her list.

Leslie Anvari; Laguna Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Leslie Anvari started her life as an entrepreneur at a young age, serving customers pastries and baked goods from her family's bakery business. She played her piano and sang to her prospective clients at the bakery and now, serves clients their dream homes from her brokerage, Anvari Realty Solutions. For the last 10 years, she has been in several prominent choirs. Leslie grew up back east where she branched out from the family bakery and started her own baked organic foods delivery service. While working for herself, she acted in many off & off Broadway plays & musicals. She also sang in an Operatic Repertory Company. She then found her new home in Southern California, working in the Real Estate industry as a licensed Real Estate Broker for the better part of a decade. Prior to opening her brokerage, Leslie had years of experience serving as the Vice President of TL Group Corporation, a SoCal Architectural and Engineering firm, as well as the President of Anvari Associates, a land development corporation. Aside from Real Estate, Leslie has enjoyed a career in the arts.

Marisol Aragon-Herold; Playa Del rey

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I started in my teens doing peer health education & did anonymous HIV testing (in the 90's). I helped the local health center in the accounting department. Outside funding was very important to these organizations. I now help Commercial directors , artists, work with Agency/ Brands to make commercials. I would love to help use my understanding of the Need for funding, Budgeting, Marketing etc. to give the council insight on applications. Thank you for taking the time ! I understand if you have better applicants and wish you all the best.

Matthew Arat; Glendale

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I am the first Armenian-American person in my family born in the US who has lived in the Los Angeles area for all my life. I was the first in my family to attend college-level courses and obtain an Associate's in Science and am currently enrolled in California State University - Northridge, studying for a Bachelor's in Business Management. Under my family's business, I act as Secretary for organizing and digitizing hundreds of forms every day and handle important documents. During the pandemic, I joined a movie club to discuss film history and studied under a former USC professor and storied documentarian. I watched four films every week, reviewed two of them, and participated in two Zoom meetings to discuss them, all over the course of two years. Thanks to this, I am now a freelance writer with articles in the Daily Sundial and Crescenta Valley Weekly. In 2020, I participated in the US Census as a Census taker around Greater Los Angeles, working and developing relationships in Glendale, Inglewood, and Culver City. I've also acted as Election Official for elections since 2020, serving in communities like Koreatown (Los Angeles).

Gloria Arjona; Temecula

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I hold a PhD in Spanish and currently teach at the college level. While teaching is my primary profession, my passion for curating music programs has been a constant, serving as a natural extension of my educational endeavors. I infuse these programs with an educational twist, seamlessly blending my roles.

For the past 18 years, my husband and I have embarked on a journey of creating house concerts, with a special focus on Brazilian jazz. This endeavor has led us to collaborate with musicians from Brazil and France, enriching our cultural tapestry. My extensive experience and genuine interest in the arts earned me a position on the Long Beach Arts Council committee, where I dedicated three years of service.

Since our relocation to Temecula in the past year, my husband and I have taken on the role of curators for Brazilian jazz concerts at a non-profit venue managed by the city. This venture signifies a new chapter in our commitment to promoting the arts. Starting from June, we will become partners in this organization, further solidifying our dedication to fostering cultural experiences within our community.

Raquelle Armendariz; Riverside***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I'm Raquelle "Rockee" Armendariz, a designer and illustrator based in Riverside, CA. I've been working professionally as a graphic designer for the past 9 years, but have been interested in art & design most of my life. I was born in Montebello, CA but have lived in various cities as Portland, OR and Berlin, DE and during those times have always worked within the local art community.

As a graphic designer, I have worked with clients in industries varying from education to entertainment. Some of the clients I have worked for are Blizzard, Amazon, Wizards of the Coast and KIPP Schools. As an illustrator, my mediums outside of digital illustration are ink drawings, gouache painting, and more recently, relief printing. I also have freelance illustrations in publications such as Portland Magazine, and have done character design work for GlowMade Studios.

I am now settling in Riverside with my family and looking again to utilize my skills within the art community.

Rebecca Arnfeld; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a first generation college student, and a product of both the California community college system and the UC. I became an art historian because of childhood visits to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. I was inspired by my professors to become a community college professor and especially love teaching art history to students in the visual arts. Enriching their work by teaching them about the broader conversations in the arts empowers them to increase the complexity of their work and to appreciate the richness available in their own history and communities.

I enjoyed being a CAC reviewer a few years ago, and am part of the Permanent Art Collection Committee on my campus. Being part of the larger arts community enables me to be in dialogue with artists and bring that to my students as well. I began an artists' talk series on my campus that brings artists together to talk about a shared topic or medium. This enables them to interact with students and provide connections and mentorship in a new way. On our minority-majority campus, this is an especially important source of support.

Shawntay Arroyo; Yuba City***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I have been involved in arts and culture from a young age. My bachelors degree is in English Literature from CSU Sacramento. At university I assisted in re-instating the English Lit. club with a special emphasis in volunteer work with ELS students from the surrounding schools. In my professional career I began working with the Yuba Sutter Arts Council in February 2020, and have been the Arts in Education Coordinator for 4 years. My work with this 501(c) 3 non-profit places me in a position to work with educators and administrators to engage students at the high school and middle school levels in arts-based programs like Scholastic Art and Writing and Poetry Out Loud. Beyond that I am Board President of Tri-County Diversity (501(c)3), a

non-profit that works to educate and provide a safe space for 2SLGBTQIA+ in Yuba, Sutter, and Colusa counties. We incorporate art in our support groups and have an art gallery that promotes and sells art for Queer Artists. I am also currently the President of the Yuba Sutter Rotary Nightclub that has a special focus on Arts and Culture along with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We help fund public art and volunteer at events that promote the arts.

Diana Arthur-Roe; Kelseyville

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a Certified Equal Employment Opportunity Investigator and mediator with a demonstrated history of working in the alternative dispute resolution industry. Skilled in Conflict, Policy Analysis, HR Consulting, Arbitration, and Dispute Resolution in both federal and private sectors. Strong legal professional. Recipient of awards from the San Francisco and Seattle Federal Executive Boards for Mediation / Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Skilled in Diversity, equity, and inclusion(DEI). I strive to work within organizations that are seeking to promote the fair treatment and full participation of all people. I am also a special education teacher/ case manager. I am a classically trained concert pianist.

Alix Asker; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As a long-time Californian, I have experience with the nonprofit and government sectors and am familiar with Criminal Justice and Immigration Law. I served on the Civil Grand Jury in 2015, investigating San Francisco's Citizens' Complaints and the City's Departments. I'm also familiar with Arts Organizations, and I recently returned to school to pursue Film education (since 2022, I've been involved with Development and Film Programming.)

Mangwi Atia; Mission Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Mangwi Atia is a proactive, innovative leader with experience directing organizations and multidisciplinary leaders toward success. She transforms vision into action and results. Her interdisciplinary background and experience equip her to achieve strategy and vision alignment.

Atia serves on the LA REPAIR Steering Committee for the City of Los Angeles, where she provides guidance, support, and oversight for distributing funds to community-based nonprofits. She has organized arts and cultural-related activities and events for the Empowerment Congress, where creatives learn how to scale their businesses. She also led the first virtual reality event for the Pan African Film Festival and executed the Sundance Film Festival's special events.

Atia advises and helps organizations committed to economic and workforce growth and national emergency: City of Los Angeles LA REPAIR Steering Committee, Selective Service System Local Board, and more.

Atia received her Bachelor's in Global Economics from the University of California–Santa Cruz and her Master's in Research, Statistics, and Evaluation from the University of Virginia.

Pat Atkinson; Alameda

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Patricia A. Atkinson joined the Nevada Arts Council as the director of the Folklife Program in December 2007 and retired at the end of FY2019. Atkinson has been a professional folklorist, arts administrator, cultural consultant, writer/editor, educator, and interpretive specialist for five decades. She served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress from 2010 through 2022.

As a trainer and peer advisor, she has provided consulting and training programs to traditional artists, community groups, non-profit organizations, and folklore associations in more than a dozen states.

Atkinson has been active as a program and project evaluator, sitting on advisory and grants review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Southern Arts Federation, and state arts councils in Idaho, Illinois, Montana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. She has been a program evaluator for the Southwest Folklife Alliance and South Arts. As a consultant, presenting research on state traditional craft programs, and for the NEA in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission to evaluate folk and traditional arts programs.

Eric Avery; San

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Eric Avery is Black queer interdisciplinary artist with over fifteen years of professional experience in theatre, immersive performance, and community-based art. This wide-ranging freelance creative practice has utilized puppets, buildings, food, improvisation, song, installation, participation, travel, humor, text, time, imagination, algorithms, honesty, facilitation, and tape; lots of tape. Since 2018, they have focused on applying a reparationist framework to their creative practice, cultural organizing projects, and life. This dedication to relationship-centered process has put Avery in collaboration with partners at non-profit organizations, municipalities, social service agencies, universities, farms, community centers, prisons, art galleries, and private homes. In addition to collaborations, Avery has independently created and produced over 25 original productions. They earned a Bachelor's in Theatre & Film from the University of Kansas and an MFA in Theatre Arts from Towson University.

Sam Avitia; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Samantha Avitia is an arts administrator, teaching artist, and California Naturalist born and raised in the east side of Los Angeles. She currently serves as the Arts Internship Program Specialist for the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. In this capacity, she plays a crucial role in managing the county's largest arts internship program, overseeing a grant that provides funding for 228 paid arts internship positions for local college students.

From 2019 to 2023, Samantha worked for the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County developing programs and curriculum on history, culture, and public art in L.A. She co-developed free arts programming for her community, emphasizing the intersection of nature and traditional art forms.

Samantha is a graduate of the 2017-2018 Arts for LA ACTIVATE Cultural Policy Fellowship. She holds a B.A. in History from CSU, Long Beach, with a focus on Latin America, and a Master's in Public Administration in Nonprofit Management from California State University, Northridge.

Angela Ayala; Arcadia

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Angela Yang Ayala is an arts advocate and development professional who is dedicated to advancing the role of arts and nonprofits to cultivate stronger communities. Born and raised in Los Angeles County, Angela has had a lifelong passion for the visual and performing arts. She received a Masters of Public Administration from the USC Price School of Public Policy and Bachelors in Art History, Theory, and Criticism from the University of California, San Diego. She is the Director of Philanthropic Partnerships at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), where she has served for the past seven years managing grants and contributions from corporate, foundation, and government funders. Prior to this, she worked at VIA Art Fund and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). She has volunteered at Inner-City Arts and currently serves as a museum commissioner for the City of Arcadia.

Carolina Ayala; Lake Elsinore

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Carolina Ayala serves as the Founder and CEO of The Happier Life Project, a role in which she leads the organization as a trauma-informed bilingual peer coach, facilitator, and advocate for the recovery community in Riverside County. With a unique approach shaped by her extensive experience as a justice-involved woman in long-term recovery, Carolina's insights into the recovery community and re-entry process empower her to enhance the system for others. Her advocacy is characterized by empathy and compassion, driven by a commitment to positive change within the community. As living proof that recovery is attainable, Carolina dedicates her life to The Happier Life Project's mission, contributing to meaningful transformations in her community. Residing contently in Riverside County, she fulfills the roles of a devoted mother to a young son and daughter.

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. Lior's 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.

Gabrielle Bacchus; Eureka

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have worked for most of my life in film and video, from independently produced documentaries to big Hollywood Features. In my 20+ years of production work, I have worked in a number of capacities; Production Assistant, Assistant Director, Director, Casting, you name it. I have seen the industry shift DRAMATICALLY in that time, on my first features, "Nonnie & Alex" & "Outbreak" the former an Indie Film Directed by Todd Field the latter a Feature by Wolfgang Peterson, I was the ONLY (non-cast) person of color on-set and one of a very small handful of women working. Flash forward to the film, "After Earth" (With Will & Jaden Smith) where all departments had women and people of color, many as heads of their department. I'm looking forward to seeing happen, no, helping to make this possible, and to facilitate opportunity in general for the unrepresented multitudes I hold dear on a much larger scale, fingers crossed 🙏😊

Jewell Bachelor; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a ritual worker, Goddess mother of two children, writer, designer, educational training facilitator, homemaker, and mediator. As an educator of 12+ years and problem solver, I have learned to curate spaces of wellness as a commitment to building relationships and repairing harm.

I study herbal medicine, female hormonal care, yoga, and many other holistic understandings of being that keep me creatively available for communal led solutions. Although I have been a podcast co-host, teacher, Dean, and many other roles, my main offering is creating paths of wellness that center people being cared for.

Michele Baer; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Michele Kumi (久美) Baer (she/they) is a social justice practitioner, working in modalities of process design, facilitation, education, organizational change, and coaching. Michele's career is focused on igniting, kindling, and sustaining people's knowledge and capacity to practice equity, justice, and liberation in their lives.

Michele designs and leads her own consulting practice, Kumi Cultural; clients include grantmakers, philanthropy-serving organizations, arts and cultural organizations, social justice organizations, and individuals working in these fields.

Michele is a coach for the MAP Fund's Scaffolding for Practicing Artists Program and provides tailored support to a multi-disciplinary group of artists: filmmakers, visual artists, choreographers, poets, etc. She is on the board of Versa-Style Dance Company and a member of Women of Color in the Arts and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy.

A lifelong dancer, Michele's sensibilities as a mover and choreographer shape how she strategizes, facilitates, and collaborates. She has been committed to deep study of dance traditions from West Africa (Mandé & Malinke), Brazil, and Haiti for over 16 years.

Elizabeth Baidoo; Citrus Heights

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Elizabeth Baidoo is an award-winning and influential leader with 20+ years of experience enhancing growth strategies for arts and cultural institutions. At Celebration Arts, she has transformed the organization's financial landscape by implementing a comprehensive box office and donor management system and establishing best-in-class marketing and communications executions. Her freelance consultancy includes facilitation for the Professional Arts Leaders of Sacramento and serving as the communications manager for the Museum Education Roundtable. With a proven track record in strategic planning, team development, and communications, she continues to drive impactful change in the arts and culture sector.

Stephanie Baker; Alameda

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have a unique combination of three qualifications; a Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics, University of San Francisco, a Master of Fine Arts, Studio Art, and Master of Arts, History and Theory of Contemporary Art, from the San Francisco Art Institute. But degrees did not make me an artist. It is my lifelong relationship to the California coastline and Pacific Ocean that inspire me as a born Californian to reflect on the psychological engagement between human culture and the natural world. It is my childhood contrasts that stimulated me growing up in Los Angeles underneath tall palm trees next to decaying movie backlots of Twentieth Century Fox, moving periodically to different communities up and down the coastline. The location of California is the geography of place in my fantastical paintings recently exhibited in The de Young Open 2023, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. I have taught students from elementary to undergraduate levels how to create art. I am the curator for Zee Continental Jewelry, Inc. & Gallery in San Francisco. I regard myself as a West Coast artist with experience as an art educator, writer, and active involvement in the California art scene.

Christina Bambino; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

A San Diego native, & artist; I grew up in Old Town, up the street from the state historic park, the San Diego River, shorelines, & beaches. I am grateful and appreciate the significance of my Chicana heritage, to my local and global Indigenous communities.

In 2019, I had the pleasure to learn from Yusuke Kozaki, while at a Concept Design Academy workshop; His art, in Pokemon Go, empowered 50 million users to play together in a matter of 19 days. I find the rate of network connectivity, reassuring as also exemplified within the fungi of the soil/ food web, so I remain optimistic in our people's restorative justice & climate action potential. I've sought training, during lunch and evenings, and exhibited at every opportunity available, while as the Lead Media Scheduler at Disney Animation Studio, and also as the Technology Concierge, Cord. at DreamWorks, SKG. My quest for knowledge led me to train

with Glenn Vilppu, Karl Gnass, Mark McDonnell, Ron Pekar, Bob Kato, Randy Haycock, and Rey Bustos, "Mr. Bazaar", Victor Ochoa, and Tina Wimer, to name a few artist.

Community-Living-Schoolyards to expand STEAM Garden footprint, hours, & inclusivity via sustainable eco restoration.

Shera Banbury; Grass Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My background includes grant writing, teaching art other subjects, community volunteering, career management and non-profit executive positions. I have served on more than 30 Boards of Directors and a Board of Trustees, and am currently retired and have the time to devote to my love for art and artists. I initially majored in art and art history at Mills College, got my BA in Political Science from Hanover College, and my M.A.Ed at University of Rochester. I have been taking ceramic sculpture classes for several years with Deborah Bridges, and painting classes for over 10 years with Sondra Hersh and Denise Wey (3/24). I have a strong knowledge of composition, color, design, and more. I am also currently a member of the Nevada County Arts Council. I also bring training as a Peer Support Specialist who worked with chronic mental health clients for five years until retirement two years ago. My background includes working with very diverse cultures and individuals as well as six years as an International Marketing Manager in Hi-Tech during which I hired 25 foreign sales reps and traveled to DC monthly and overseas to many foreign countries. I enjoy art and artists most of all.

Gina Barba; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I was born and raised in San Diego, CA and found a love of the arts at a young age. I grew up performing in musical and dance recitals while simultaneously falling in love with both writing and visual art. As I grew up, I began to spend my time primarily on theatre arts with a distinct focus on youth arts education. I began working as a Teaching Aide for San Diego Junior Theatre's summer programs at 15. My work at Junior Theatre informed my studies at UC Santa Cruz and led me to work as a Education Programs Intern for Arts Ignite, a non profit organization focused on expanding the reach of arts education based in New York City during my final years of college. After graduating, I received an Artist Year Fellowship and taught theatre arts in a Title 1 middle school in Vass, North Carolina. At the conclusion of my fellowship, I returned to San Diego Junior Theatre where I currently serve as the Education Coordinator. In my current position, I work to expand our outreach programs and oversee our expansive camp programs which serve over 1000 students yearly.

Mary Beth Barber; Carmichael

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Mary Beth was a staff member of the California Arts Council for over a decade, and was instrumental in the reboot of the Arts in Corrections program. She was also an advisor for the CA Department of Education's arts framework rewrite in 2019, advising on media arts and theatre. She was one of the few advisors representing the teaching artist (non-in-school certified) field with the insight of how nonprofits and independent teaching artist can support

classroom arts education. She's been a teaching artist for two decades and helped write a book on advanced acting techniques for renowned acting coach Terry Schreiber. She currently works for the California State Library supporting online school-library resources for K-12.

Benjamin Barnes; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have qualifications and experiences relative to the arts. Qualifications: Master of Music and Bachelor of Music San Francisco Conservatory of Music Art History coursework City College of San Francisco: Executive Director of an arts organization: Owner and curator of an art gallery: Painting instruction from Ilan Laks: Performed with Rilke String Quartet, several professional symphonies, several professional rock, jazz, and bluegrass bands: EXPERIENCES: winner 20,000 dollar grant from SF Arts Commission: winner of Mayors Covid Relief Arts Grant SF: 110 recordings of classical jazz rock and bluegrass on all streaming platforms and major web stores: subject of documentary about my life as a rock star and street musician "Violin Madness" (2020): Violin, Viola, Guitar and Voice teacher 1986-present: winner Lucky Strike Band Competition 2000: Performed and recorded with Isaac Stern, Les Claypool, Jason Newsted of Metallica, Mr. Bungle, Eric McFadden, Swindlefish, Deadweight, Street Preacher Benji, Benatra Coltrane The Crooner at Large, Rilke String Quartet, Hardcore Bluegrass, Old Tyme Bluegrass Revues, The Coup, Dead Prez, DJ Disk, Fishbone: signed Alternative Tentacles, Nippon Columbia

Carly Barnhill; Playa Vista

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Carly Barnhill is an arts administrator based in Los Angeles. Carly spent the first 6 years of her career in corporate marketing and global events at companies such as Jack Nadel International and Bain & Company, before making a career transition into the nonprofit arts sector. She recently completed her graduate studies at USC in May 2023, earning a Master of Science in Arts Leadership and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Policy. While pursuing her master's degree, Carly spent time working with arts organizations such as the Hollywood Fringe Festival (as the Communications and Outreach Director) and Long Beach Opera (as the Interim Company Manager). She currently works as the Content Marketing Manager at BroadStage Santa Monica. Carly also holds a B.A. in Communication Studies and a minor in Journalism from Loyola Marymount University. Carly was born and raised in Los Angeles, and is passionate about the performing arts, telling a story, and making an impact.

Cristie Baron; Vacaville

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am the founder of, Joyful Art Studio, a studio driven by a mission to address the dearth of art enrichment, I'm deeply passionate about the transformative power of creativity. With over 8 years of experience as an approved educator for large homeschool charters, I've dedicated myself to bringing art education to students from preschool to 12th grade.

I've extended visual arts enrichment to after-school programs in various districts and institutions, including the Boys and Girls Club and The Leaven, serving at-risk youth. Having

collaborated on developing an adaptive art programs in our community, I now provide the visual arts portion to this underserved population. Additionally, I've curated art experiences for memory care facilities, assisted living, and nursing homes. My commitment to youth welfare extends beyond education, as I actively serve on boards dedicated to children and youth.

Alongside this, my studio is committed to delivering high-quality enrichment experiences, ensuring excellence in every program we offer. Through our skilled instructors and thoughtfully curated programs, we strive to spread joy and inspire a lifelong love for art in our community.

Jeni Barrett; Gardena

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As a seasoned spoken word artist, I've graced stages across California, channeling the power of words to captivate audiences. Beyond the mic, I've shared my passion by teaching poetry to youth, fostering creative expression. Balancing artistry with academia, I hold a Master's degree in IO Psychology and currently navigate the realm of employee relations as a specialist, merging the worlds of creativity and organizational dynamics.

Valeria Barrett; Chino Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Valeria is an award-winning visual arts professional with 30+ years' global experience. Over two decades, she's launched and managed four businesses in New York and Los Angeles. A dedicated advocate for local arts advancement, Valeria also mentors emerging talents in California and New York.

Virginia Barrett; Lagunitas

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I hold an MFA in Writing from the University of San Francisco where I was poetry editor of Switchback. I also hold a MAT in Art from Rhode Island School of Design. My six books of poetry include *Between Looking* (Finishing Line Press, 2019) and *Crossing Haight—San Francisco poems* (Jambu Press, 2018). My prose has appeared in *The Writer's Chronicle*, *The Raven's Perch*, *Awakenings*, and elsewhere. I've been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and the Best of the Net among other honors. I have worked with multilingual students, artists, and writers in the capacity of educator, editor, and events coordinator for many years.

In addition to the literary and visual arts, I have spent a great deal of time in the company of musicians. I wrote the travel memoir, *Mbira Maker Blues—a healing journey to Zimbabwe* (Jambu Press, 2010), after living with traditional musicians and their families in Zimbabwe for nine months, where I was able to assist orphans after raising and saving funds for that purpose. One of the families I lived with in Zimbabwe had a daughter who immigrated to California. She has been able to organize and maintain a successful dance troupe due in part to grants from CAC.

Inayah Bashir Baaqee; Emeryville

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Inayah is a career coach, transformational educational leader, professional dancer, and youth dance instructor. She has studied African diasporic dance styles including; West African, Brazilian, Haitian, and Congolese. She performed professionally across the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and China. She began performing professionally at the age of 9 years old with the African Queens Dance Company led by Leslie Carter. In 2013 she studied with creative director Renee Phuckett as a member of West African and Congolese performance arts dance company, Ballet Lisanga. In 2019, she co-founded African-fusion dance collective, ESHÈ. With grant funding from Alliance for California Traditional Arts, she partnered with the African Queens Dance Company in 2020 to offer free Afro-Fusion dance workshops to Bay Area youth. In 2021, she transitioned to principal dancer for Afro-Brazilian performance group Samba Funk, led by artistic director King Theo. Currently she is a youth dance instructor, teaching West African and Afro-Brazilian dance to youth ranging from 6-18 years of age.

Amy Bauer; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an artist with experiences in a plethora of social practices workshops. An arts administrator who has worked in education and non-profit fields. I've been a panelist for LA County of Arts and Culture in 2023. Hold degrees in Educational Technology, Fine Arts and Design. Certificates for Climate Reality Project Leader, HR & Marketing for nonprofits, and ACTIVATE Arts Advocacy Leadership.

I am the founder of Fun-A-Day-LA, a free community art show. These art shows are hosted in areas who score low in the HPI. Helping continue bringing activities to areas who historically have not been included in the arts. Also activating places the community may not realize it is in their neighborhoods.

A humbling experience was working with a child who spoke no English and was at Harbor UCLA Medical Center. She was in the ICU, surrounded by doctors. I brought her art supplies and started making art in front of her, she started drawing. At one moment, when she overheard the doctors, she turned her head and started to tear up. I moved to be facing her again, encouraging her to express her feelings through art. This moment lives on in me daily and one that shapes my practice.

Tandy Beal; Felton

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Tandy Beal toured world-wide with Nikolais Dance Theatre & in France with Carolyn Carlson. Annual tours with her own company (incl State Dept tour of Eastern Europe) & Bobby McFerrin with whom she has worked 40+ yrs.

Directed Moscow Circus in Japan (2 yrs); Pickle Circus in US (10 yrs); 'Looking for Normal' play.

Guest appearances: Atlanta Ballet, Remy Charlip, Murray Louis, Momix, Oakland Ballet.

Collaborations: Zappa, Ibe Kyoko, John Adams, Corazon en Flor, Art Lande, Lou Harrison, SoVoSó, Jon Scoville, Hi Kyung Kim.

Choreographer for Tim Burton's 'Nightmare Before Xmas', MTV & emmy award winning PBS special 'Voice/Dance'. Award from AFI for film on Hildegard vonBingen. Chosen for SF Perf Arts Library video: '4 Dance Icons of the West'.

Produced 1st local world dance festival in 80s & Brazil Carnival.

Taught at Centre National de la Danse Contemporaine (France), Mills College, 30 yrs guest artist at Univ of Utah, UC Santa Cruz. Chaired Cabrillo College Dance. Designed pedagogy classes at UCSC & Cabrillo. Speaker, DANCE USA colloquium on arts ed, WESTAFF on collaboration. Irvine, Skaggs, NEA grants etc.

Julie Beardsley; Ukiah

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, with a minor in art history, and a Master's degree in Public Health. I have had works exhibited in the Fine Arts Museum in Honolulu, Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah, the Art Institute of San Francisco, and over 50 individual shows. From 1996 to 2014 I was employed by the County of Los Angeles first as a Research Analyst 3 with the Dept of Mental Health, and then as a Program Specialist 3 with the Chief Executive Office. Work involved research on the children in the Mental Health system of care, and then in the CEO's office on welfare reform. I retired in 2014, and moved back to Mendocino County. I was employed by Mendocino County for 7.7 years as their epidemiologist. During these years, I continued to create art and show my work at various venues.

Irene Bee Kain; Walnut Creek

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Growing up in SF with Cynthia Tom as my mentor and being involved in many different Arts as a child, I have honed my Curation skills to create Fun, Vibrant & Prosperous Exhibits and showcase my work and others as much as possible. I really enjoy the back of the house aspects of the art world which I view like the underground floors of an Opera House

Donna Bee-Gates; Cupertino

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I taught for over 20 years at San Jose State University in the Department of Child & Adolescent Development and am now Emerita Faculty. I consistently incorporated the arts in my curricula and I was on the Marion Cilker Conference for the Arts committee for several years. This conference focuses on incorporating the arts into educational pursuits. During my tenure at SJSU, I earned a certificate in Art Gallery and Museum Studies at Cal State East Bay and founded an arts exposure nonprofit for school-aged children (visits to museums, musicals, and other arts venues). I volunteered for five years as a docent at the San Jose Museum of Art and I'm currently starting to volunteer at the Oakland Museum of California.

Kristin Belden; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My background relevant to serving as a panelist includes:

- Holding a degree in fine arts
- Attending a language immersion program and interning at an art gallery in Spain
- Curating art shows and working for an art gallery in San Francisco
- Volunteering as an art docent at my child's elementary school, fostering creativity within the community
- Co-launching an Oakland-based company focused on storytelling, podcasting, and community engagement, blending artistry with community building and narrative exploration
- Sustained engagement with social impact-minded organizations, including California Humanities, local media equity labs, rural county libraries, and community foundations

Mouna Benbouazza; Beverly Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

A multilingual and multicultural resident of California, I am an Arts Associate at the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Grants Administration Division. Since joining DCA, I have assisted with the coordination of multiple grant panel reviews meetings for our different programs (for organizations of all sizes and individual artists). I am familiar with the various steps of a grant review process and, while I have not served as a CAC panelist yet, my experience gives me a keen eye to review proposals and work alongside other panelists. Last year, I served as a panelist for the City of Long Beach and enjoyed learning about what arts organizations do elsewhere in LA County.

I have reviewed an average of 4 DCA Public Space Activation Fund (PAF) proposals per month to determine eligibility and competitiveness to be presented to the Cultural Affairs Commission. In addition to this and to liaising with the Department's grantees, I also serve as the program manager of the DCA Arts Workers Evening Webinar Series, which aims to convene the local arts workers and help build community. My academic training includes literature, cinema, art history, theater.

Tomas Benitez; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I have spent fifty years in the arts field, mostly in Latino based arts organizations, including serving as Executive Director for Self Help Graphics & Art. I began my career with Inner City Cultural Center in the mid-70's and have worked with a number of groups in various capacities, including Bilingual Foundation for the Arts, Los Angeles Shakespeare Center (nee festival) and my current home at Plaza de la Raza in Los Angeles. I am a former Arts Commissioner for the County of Los Angeles (20 years). I am a former board member of the

Californians for the Arts and California Arts Advocates. I am currently Chairman for the Board of Latino Arts Network of California.

Jeffrey Benson; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Jeffrey Benson is currently Director of Choral Activities at San José State University and Artistic Director of Peninsula Cantare, community chorus based in Palo Alto, CA. Dr. Benson made his international conducting debut with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the SJSU Choraliers in Limerick, Ireland in 2016, and he made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 2015 with the SJSU Choirs and the New York Festival Orchestra. He has served as cover conductor for the Grammy award-winning Washington Chorus, where he helped to prepare the ensemble for Maestros Leonard Slatkin and Marvin Hamlisch. Recently Dr. Benson's choirs have been invited to perform with the Rolling Stones, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, Sarah Brightman, the Los Angeles Festival Orchestra and the Skywalker Orchestra. Dr. Benson currently serves as Past President of the California Choral Directors Association (CCDA) and on the National Advocacy and Collaboration Committee for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Benson received his Masters degree and his Doctorate in Choral Conducting/Music Education from The Florida State University and his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from New York University.

Amy Berk; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Amy Berk is an artist and art educator who taught at the San Francisco Art Institute since 2006, serving as Chair for the Contemporary Practice program from 2011 to 2013. She directed the award-winning City Studio program which engages underserved youth in their own neighborhoods through sequenced art classes that are both rigorous and joyous. 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. She has shown her work internationally, was one of the founders of the web journal stretcher.org and the artist group TWCDC.com.

Since 2019 she and Chris Treggiari have collaborated on ARTIVATE which creates opportunities for youth to explore artmaking and citizenship in the public sphere. Amy has recently taken on a Program Director role at Industrial Design Outreach and is running a mentor-driven project creating light sculptures at Academy High. She remains committed to giving teens (and adults) a much-needed voice, a safe place in which to speak and helping them find the proper tools to do so.

Judith Bernstein; Arroyo Grande

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I began career in arts administration as a grants' processor with The NEA during its early years. I next worked on a capital campaign for the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis

and also assisted with public relations for its film events. My next position was as Director of the California Dance Project, funded by the CAC, which promoted and booked touring national dance companies and published and distributed the Directory of California Dance Companies and Sponsors.

Following a year of work in Africa as the photographer for The Theater of West Africa by Lee Warren, I went to graduate school at UCLA where I got an MA

In social policy development. I have since worked as staff for private non-profits

And government agencies as a program planner/administrator for programs primarily

Serving low income seniors. I have also been a grants reviewer for the Fred Myer Foundation in Oregon.

I recently ran a literary contest (the Golden Quill) for San Luis Obispo Nightwriters with awards in creative non-fiction, poetry and fiction. I have published memoir, fiction and poetry in numerous literary journals. I served on the board of Canzona Women's Chorus in San Luis Obispo for three years.

Ellen Berrahmoun; Monterey

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I'm a multidisciplinary artist (music, visual arts, writing), curriculum developer, administrator and educator with decades of practice in East/West Coast schools and community settings. In Boston, MA, I worked for over 30 years in administrative and teaching positions including instructor (Arts in the Parks), Camp Art Director, K-5 Arts Specialist, Art Club leader, Artist in Residence (Children's Hospital), arts presenter (Boston Public Library), Arts Manager (Boston Children's Museum), Teacher Resources Coordinator (Museum of Fine Arts) 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. Along with my visual arts background, I've been a practicing musician for decades. I hold a M.Ed in Arts in Education from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Martin Betz; Redondo Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been involved with arts and culture organizations for over 25 years. I have been a curator, public arts administrator, museum director, and artist in organizations both north and south.

Gloria Beverage; Rocklin

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a retired newspaper editor. During my 30-plus years working for newspapers in Placer County, I regularly wrote about local artists and art events. I won numerous awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association and United Press International.

In my retirement years, I indulge my three passions -- art, local history and literature -- by actively volunteering with three organizations.

I serve on the board of directors for the Arts Council of Placer County and, as the chair of the grants committee, work to ensure that artists and art organizations are given every opportunity to succeed.

I was just elected president of the Rocklin Historical Society, which focuses not only on preserving the city's historic artifacts but also seeks to educate the public about its rich heritage.

I am the Rocklin Friends of the Library's Bookstore Manager. I oversee the operation of a used bookstore location within the library.

Finally, I serve as a book group facilitator for Sierra College's OLLI Program. This spring I will be teaching a six-week film series called Travels with Tom Hanks.

In my spare time, I enjoy sketching and making jewelry.

Jennica Bisbee; Burbank

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Jennica is Field Engagement Coordinator, CA for the Arts with 9 years experience in arts education programming, emergency response, and fiscal sponsorship. Most recently Grants Associate for Community Partners, she managed a 45-client portfolio and was a member of the DEI staff group. She was Site Manager for the Hollywood Youth Orchestra site at The Harmony Project and co-managed the YOLA at EXPO site. While at The Center for Arts Education for nearly 4 years, she coordinated arts programs in NYC public schools including for English Language Learners and federally-funded research programs. In 2017, she participated in Women of Color in the Arts' Leadership through Mentorship Initiative and in 2018 served on the initiative committee. In addition, in 2017-18 she participated in Race Forward's Racial Equity in the Arts Innovation Lab. As Field Engagement Coordinator for Community Organized Relief Effort, she created COVID education outreach procedures in underserved LA communities, and was also Assistant Site Manager, Cal State LA Walk Up COVID vaccination site. She has a M.A. in Music Business from NYU and B.M. with Elective Studies in Business from the University of Puget Sound.

Laura Bishop; Santa Cruz

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Laura Bishop has served as Executive Director of The 418 Project since 2012, and as a volunteer and board member since 2005. She led the organization in the acquisition of its new, permanent facility when faced with displacement, and spearheaded the deepening of The 418

Project's Mission: Supporting Emerging Artists and Diverse Communities to Create a More Inclusive World. Laura serves as Artistic Director for The 418 Project Creative Team, and has mentored and directed hundreds of emerging artists, and overseen dozens of original, locally sourced, artist-led in-house theatrical productions. Her greatest joy is providing resources for emerging artists from diverse communities to they can not only lead and inspire others, but can earn a living making their art. Laura has served a grant reviewer for Arts Council Santa Cruz for four of the past five years. She has led The 418 Project's most recent two strategic plans. Locally she has participated in Santa Cruz Works Accelerator, and nationally the Of/By/For All DEI training program. Laura is currently a finalist for an anticipated role as a TEDEX speaker.

Daniel Bisuano; Los angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Daniel Bisuano is an actor, writer, poet, and advocate. He continues to pursue his dream and goals to pursue his creative goals well also empowering his community through his advocacy work. Daniel has been an advocate for ten plus years and has worked with and been a part of organizations like Homeboys Industries, California Justice leaders, Youth Commission And Inside out writers. Daniel continues to strive to not only better himself but also his community around him. Having spent seven years in the justice system as a youth he has a strong passion for the empowerment and advocacy of the formerly incarcerated community. Living as a former foster youth Daniel believes that many different communities intertwine and has a strong passion for creating awareness and change amongst each one. Currently Daniel is on the board and committees of different community advocacy organizations like Reproductive Health and Equity Project for Foster youth, ACLU serving on the Arts Justice Council served as a Youth Commissioner for District 3. As well as his different engagements with advocacy Daniel is a part time student at Los Angeles Trade Technical Community College majoring in English.

Emily Bittner; Vallejo

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been a Fine Arts Teacher/ Ceramics for 7 years in the public school system. I have worked with different ethnic groups to ensure fair and equitable services. I have been apart of curriculum planning, studio management, teaching various arts from glass, ceramics, drawing, painting, metal smithing, to craft and 2D arts. I have worked with learning styles and creating meaningful lessons that help students develop socially and emotionally. I have worked with community for after school arts in various places providing arts to underserved communities. I also have worked with (k-12) and understanding the full scope of the arts through the ages all around the Bay Area. I also have worked with various populations and have done many professional development around ethic issues and serving our communities.

Tavarus Blackmon; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Tavarus Blackmon is an educator in the CSU system, instructing in Painting and Drawing and Digital Art and has been a Panelist for the CA Arts Council and a Community Advisor to the

Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture. Blackmon has been named a Charter Member of the UC Davis Art and Art History Advisory Board. And, has placed artist in the Artist Pool for UC Davis Health, working directly with Beth Jones Consulting as a broker.

They hold Trademark Tavarus Blackmon Art™ and have a growing USCopyright portfolio. Blackmon has written extensively to the U.S. RE: Public Requests for Comment and NOI (Notice of Inquiry): NFT, Digital Assets, AI, Taxation and Digital Assets, etc...

Find the Blackmonster Animated Digi Art White-paper online. As well as the Tavarus Blackmon Art™ Multi-Chain NFT Ecosystem Prospectus.

John Boone; Novato

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

My name is John Boone, formerly incarcerated inmate in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) served a ten (10) sentence for Wire fraud. I'm responsible for the crime I committed. I was challenged on many levels in the criminal justice system. My experience and qualification spans from fear of death to tears of joy and relief knowing I hit rock bottom in my life. I'm qualified to become a Panel members because I learned how to Paint under extreme conditions while expressing the importance of compassion. I'm qualified to see through the lens of the Artist, I'm qualified because I have empathy and I listen to every word when someone is presenting. The criminal justice system was both fair and unfair to me, and I learned to metabolize both feelings and emotions by turning my mess into my message through Art, specifically, painting everyday, and shipping Art work home to my loves ones, and donating my Art to local charities like Battered Women Shelters, and Kids with Cancer organizations. It was a start in the Criminal justice system that turn my life of crime into a life of meaning and it stings everyday as a reminder. Peace.

Jonathan Borca; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Jonathan Francisco Borca is an advocate, storyteller, and performing artist who currently serves as the Deputy Director for the School of Arts and Culture at MHP. Borca is Mexican-Filipino, was born in Albuquerque, NM, and was raised in Eastside San José. He has a decade of experience developing and scaling programs for nonprofits and public entities, and in 2021, directed all efforts for the "California Arts Council Administrators of Color Fellowship," a statewide initiative aiming to uplift an inclusive workforce. In June 2022, Borca was appointed as an Arts Commissioner for the City of San Jose.

When not working, Borca dedicates his time and energy to local art and music projects. He's the resident emcee for 7th Street Big Band, performs rap and poetry with various jazz ensembles, and has produced several multi-medium concert experiences ("Francis Experience" and "Colour Me GOLD"). In 2023, Borca was awarded SJMA's first three-part musical residency, entitled First Friday: Hip Hop(e), Jazz & Storytelling. The series centers themes of migration, identity, self-love, and inclusion through written and spoken word. Borca views panel work as a service to the creative sector.

Beatta Bosworth; Irvine***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a Finnish-born photographer. I came to the United States for college in 2001 and moved to Irvine after graduating with a BFA in Photography. I am a single mother of 3 children, ages 17, 15, and 11. I remain committed to perfecting my craft through ongoing education opportunities and workshops. I frequently participate in exhibitions, exchanges, and festivals across California and the U.S.

I have been a visiting artist at Sage Hill School and a photographer's group in Huntington Beach. I participate in a monthly photographer's critique group and have recently agreed to review books for the PhotoBook Journal.

I work as a substitute teacher at Sage Hill School. This spring, I will teach a photography workshop at GEM(Fest), an enrichment day for middle schoolers from low-income families. I have also signed up to teach a weeklong course for middle schoolers in the summer and another week for high schoolers exploring photography as a career. I volunteer at my kids' schools and in my church organization. I have been in charge of organizing and training volunteers and teachers for the children's programs at church, as well as numerous other responsibilities, big and small.

Sheryl Boutte; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I am an award winning, internationally published indie author and poet. My novel, Betrayal on the Bayou, continues to garner high praise as do my autobiographical and poetic works. I am the moderator for the monthly Writers Lunch and the host of the bi-annual "No Poetry No Peace™ (named for the book of poetry I co-authored) for the Mechanics Institute Library of San Francisco. I have been appointed as the "Writing for Change" track coordinator for the 2024 San Francisco Writers Conference.

Armani Bowen; Los angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am the Founder/Creative Director of ArmaniDae LLC, Author and "Artist" (activist through art). Born & raised in Philly (now in LA). I pride myself on pouring into others, creating art & events that spark conversation and speak volume. My work (photography, paintings, apparel, and more) always shed light bringing awareness to many important life aspects such as Self Love, Equality, Body Positivity, Trans Rights, Wellness, Community, the importance of Art and the expression of life through it.

Traveling the US & Canada: I have performed, volunteered & partnered with many LGBTQ+ people, businesses/organizations utilizing my expertise & experiences to make a difference. I received the "New York State Senate Proclamation" & awarded "Juneteenth Jubilee Honors" Honoring Black, Queer and Trans Leaders. Photographs from my published photo book "Exposed Truth" (which aims to celebrate, uplift and motivate TGNC people while fighting misconceptions) are currently in a Texas university's gender and sexuality curriculum. More

recently my work is featured in the newly published international resource guide "Trans bodies, Trans selves".

Jack Bowers; Santa Cruz

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I have been a musician in California since 1969, I am a pianist, composer, band leader and recording artist. From 1969-73 I was principal songwriter and pianist with the folk rock band Oganookie. In the late 70s I played with country artist Lacy J Dalton. I studied jazz improvisation and composition at Cabrillo College. In 1980 I began teaching and working with musicians at Soledad Prison {CTF}. In 1982 I became Institution Artist/Facilitator at that institution. Working with incarcerated musicians and diverse guest artists, we developed a rich music program, that featured 15-20 prisoner led bands, music theory classes, jazz improvisation workshops and frequent performances. I held this position until my retirement in 2005. I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the William James Association Prison Arts Project, and on the Advisory Board of the New Music Works, a contemporary classical music presenting organization. I maintain relationships with many of the musicians and artists with whom I worked in the prison system as they have returned to contribute to their communities.

Toni Bowles; Hollister

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

After 18 years of government service in both legal services as well as grants administration, I moved to the private sector. I've invested in Downtown Gilroy, renovated a historic building and activated it to further community-related programming which has tremendous overlap with the arts and culture sector. I have devoted these next decades to uplifting economic development here in South County by bridging the gap between for-profit and non-profit business. I've also assisted with laying the foundation for our community arts and culture roundtables. I am a philanthropist with local investment in the arts scene but also a business collaborator helping artists secure space to cultivate their art and amplify their culture.

Nanilee Boyce Robarge; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Nanilee Robarge studied Design at the University of Minnesota and has an MFA from San Francisco State with an Art and Textiles emphasis. She is a working artist and has taught art for many years as well. Her teaching included working with elderly adults, adults in recovery, grade school students with learning differences and International high school students. Prior to her teaching career, she also worked as administrative support for the Walter and Elise Haas Fund and the Creative Work Fund in San Francisco in addition to other art related positions.

Shamanicka Boykins; Cathedral City

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Shamanicka "The Medicine Wombman" Boykins was born in Bellflower, CA, and is the eldest of five children. Raised in South Central Los Angeles, CA, and Compton, CA, Shamanicka is an alumna of Sacramento State University, where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work. She is a distinguished member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

With a solid background in Mental Health as a Therapist, she specializes in providing holistic grief therapies and serves as a hospice Social Worker.

Shamanicka has expanded her expertise through holistic training in energy work and has emerged as a sacred space holder for her community sweat lodge known as the "Temezcali". Additionally, she is a certified birth doula, grief doula, death doula, and a skilled medicine doll maker.

Her mission is grounded in addressing the deep cry of unacknowledged grief within the black community. And desires to bring healing and art together in a way that touches the heart and shifts the community. Shamanicka is committed to providing real-time tools to navigate grief and loss, acknowledging that grief is a shared human experience.

Thomas Brady; Santa Cruz

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Brady has explored sculpture/performance since 1969 (BFA Design) and 1972 (Sculpture/performance) at Kansas (BFA) and Rutgers (MFA) Universities. Performed in New York, Franklin Furnace (MOMA collection); PS1 Contemporary Arts Center; Generative Art Conference, University of Milano, Italy; St. Louis at Satori, COCA's Theatre, Laumeier Sculpture Park, Forest Park; odc Theater SAN FRANCISCO, Satori Santa Cruz.

Tom premiered original - Prodigal opening with a full moon rising, Forest Park, Shakespeare Glen, to critical acclaim.

Staged Brady's sculptural performance, MAN in the BOX 2019 with Monica Newsam Zlatko Ćosić odc Theater San Francisco CA; JAN 2024 SATORI an artist space, Santa Cruz, CA

2019 Brady established ANNONYArts in Santa Cruz CA and in 2022 opened a new performance venue. Currently developing "Beneath the Surface" looking at current geo/political crisis.

Brady at 77 continues to evolve as a prolific composer, designer, sculptor, photographer, choreographer and performer. He conceives, designs, builds and musically accompanies the installations in which he places himself and others creating magical images and reflections on the state of being.

Robin Brailsford; Dulzura

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Greetings

Born and raised on Boston's North Shore, on my fathers side (who was a British Master Mariner and peace activist) I am a first generation American. My mother was born in the sub arctic of Minnesota, a feminist, author and artist. I am the first generation to go to college - BFA, MA and MFA - having been a sculptor consistently for 50 years. I have never not had a studio, am a jeweler, environmentalist and photographer as well- but the smartest thing I ever did was

invent and patent a new civic art technique, 20 years ago, with installations now in most US states.

DeVaughn Braxton; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

DeVaughn Braxton, a visionary 3D artist hailing from the vibrant city of San Diego, California. His creative journey has led him to contribute enchanting illustrations to a few children's books, where his imagination breathes life into the pages, captivating young minds.

Beyond the realms of illustration, DeVaughn harbors ambitious dreams of founding his own indie video game company. With a passion for pushing the boundaries of interactive storytelling, he envisions crafting digital worlds that captivate players and leave a lasting impact. His dedication to the art of game design stems from a desire to create experiences that are not only entertaining but resonate with players on a profound level.

As he looks ahead to the future, DeVaughn envisions a world where his indie video game company brings joy and excitement to players of all backgrounds. Driven by a passion for creating memorable and enjoyable experiences, he strives to leave an indelible mark on the gaming industry. With each stroke of his digital brush, DeVaughn is carving a path towards a future where creativity knows no bounds.

Susan Breen; Salinas

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I have served on 11 nonprofit boards throughout my business career both in PA and CA.

5 of these board positions were with arts organizations - 3 symphony boards, the Monterey County Arts Council (Chair for 2 years) and currently the Monterey Symphony. I have owned and operated my own marketing/public relations consulting business since 1994 and have concentrated on serving nonprofit organizations.

Eddie Briskey; Winchester

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

With over two decades of teaching experience, I am a dedicated educator specializing in band and orchestra instruction for grades 6-12 within public school settings. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working in a diverse range of schools, from low to high socio-economic backgrounds, where I have prioritized inclusivity and equity in music education. Honored as a Grammy-nominated educator and celebrated for leading students to victory in state marching contests, my passion lies in nurturing musical talent and fostering the personal growth of each student under my guidance.

Ally Lara Brito; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

In elementary school I signed up for the school choir. I loved the community I gained through singing and because of that I've continued even after college. The arts have given me an

opportunity to not only have a creative outlet, but to also travel and make lifelong friends. I wasn't able to study music in college, but after earning my Bachelor's degree in Business Management from California State University, Bakersfield I applied to work at the Bakersfield Fox Theater and have made me way up to Theater Manager after 5 years. Through my work at the theater I have met people of all demographics and artistic styles, and I want to continue providing my community with entertainment opportunities and grow our relationship with them. Grants are a way to fund the ideas and dreams that artists and organizations have, and they provide unique and engaging experiences for the public. Without funding many ideas will unfortunately never be able to come to fruition, and as a performer I understand how frustrating that can be. For example, our theater is mainly a rental facility, but we have had artists use their grant award to afford making their event a reality.

Deborah Brockus; Lakewood

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Brockus is the Artistic director of the award winning and internationally touring BrockusRED dance company and Director of BPstudios a leading professional rehearsal studio in LA.

As a dancer and choreographer Brockus has worked nationally and internationally on stage, in film and television. She has received awards for her teaching, producing and choreography.

As a teacher her students work in international and national modern and ballet companies, jazz companies, on Broadway and in the Hollywood industry. She specializes in professional and pre-professional training working in college level, performing arts high schools, professional studios and low income students in public schools.

Brockus is the producer of the Los Angeles Dance Festival and other Dance in LA choreography showcases.

Deborah Brockus has been called a force of nature in LA dance. A master teacher for college, professional and pre-professional dancers. Both her choreographic and performing career cover both concert and commercial dance with works in Live Stage Performance, Site Specific works, TV and Film.

A. Laura Brody; Monrovia

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Laura Brody sculpts for the human body and its vehicles. She is the founder of Opulent Mobility, a series of exhibits that re-imagine disability as opulent and powerful. Her art has been shown at ACE/121 Gallery, Art Share LA, Brea Gallery, California State University Northridge, the Charles River Museum of Industry, the Dora Stern Gallery at Arts Unbound, Gallery Expo, Ikouii Creative, the Los Angeles Makery, Westbeth Center For the Arts, and The World of Wearable Art. She is also the co-founder and host of Genius Teatime, a series of talks that explore fascinating folks from all walks of life.

Ms. Brody is a skilled and innovative artist and curator who re-imagines disability as something to celebrate, not fear. Along with her disability arts community she builds opportunities and starts genuine conversations about diversity, access, and inclusion.

Zoe Broussard; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Zoe is a dynamic figure in the arts and cultural sectors, bringing a wealth of experience and a diverse skill set to the table. As a media psychologist, she possesses a deep understanding of the intersection between media, culture, and the arts. Her role as a Program Manager for the Black Funders Network of the Bay Area further underscores her commitment to fostering inclusive and equitable artistic communities.

In 2023, Zoe served as a Grant Review Panelist for the California Arts Council, a role that allowed her to engage deeply with numerous organizations dedicated to advancing the arts. This experience aligned with her personal passion for the arts.

As a mixed-media artist, Zoe explores various forms of expression, blending traditional and contemporary techniques to create portals to new realities. Notably, she showcased her musical talent during the Noise Pop & Civic Joy Fund's Summer of Music in San Francisco, where her improvisational cello performances captivated audiences.

Zoe's unique blend of professional expertise, artistic talent, and commitment to enriching the arts makes her an invaluable asset to the cultural landscape.

Ada Brown; Alhambra

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

A visual artist and retired Professor of Painting & Drawing at Rio Hondo College, I earned a B.A. from Queens College and an M.F.A. from the University of Houston. For two decades, I ran a program guiding artists on painting expeditions in Europe. I worked at Self Help Graphics with Sister Karen Bocalero as both an artist, administrative assistant, and life drawing coordinator.

I have actively contributed to the LA arts community through nonprofit volunteer service, including roles as president of the Southern California Women's Caucus for the Arts (SCWCA) and treasurer for both the Downtown Arts Development Association (DADA), and the Brewery Artwalk Association (BAA).

My artwork has been exhibited widely and is held in both in corporate and private collections; notably, Don Buchwald & Associates, the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

In addition to creating and exhibiting my own work, I host life drawing sessions for fellow artists, fostering a collaborative environment in my own studio. I am applying because I remain interested in taking part in the artistic growth and cultural exchange of Los Angeles.

Bernard Brown; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Bernard Brown is a Los Angeles-based performer, choreographer, arts activist and educator who situates their work at the intersection of Blackness, belonging, and memory. With an extensive performing career, Bernard now serves as Director of Bernard Brown/bbmoves choreographing for stage, specific sites, film, and opera. Brown has received invitations,

residencies, and commissions from Dance Italia, The Music Center, On the Boards, among others. Their award-winning dance films have been screened in multiple countries including the US (Dance Camera West, ADF Movies by Movers), Turkey (Dance Camera Istanbul) and Italy (Oscar-qualifying African Diaspora Cinema Festival), to name a few. Brown conducts residencies, workshops, and master classes internationally, namely in Israel, Burkina Faso, Panama and Brazil, and across the US. A first-generation college graduate, Brown earned his MFA from UCLA and BFA from Purchase College. He is an Assistant Professor at Loyola Marymount University, a Certified Katherine Dunham Technique Instructor candidate, and is currently a California Arts Council Established Artist Fellow. The Los Angeles Times has called him "...the incomparable Bernard Brown..."

Deon Brown; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Derwin Deon Brown II, a 25-year-old creative force from Pasadena, CA, graduated with double majors in Music and Political Science from San Francisco State University. His recent premiere alongside Rico Nasty for 'HOME' reflects recognition from Bandcamp HQ, SFSU, YMCA, UC Berkeley, and Yale University. As a dedicated community activist, he founded "FEED THE FAM," providing meals to California's homeless. Deon's multifaceted impact includes "Sunday Service," an annual healing event, and leading Bulletproof, recognized by LA County for empowering Black and POC youth. His artistic prowess, showcased in the genre-defying "HOME" album, draws parallels to Kanye West, Frank Ocean, and Sade. Deon's upcoming release, "22(2) fka ANGEL," explores Afrofuturistic black healing, combining gospel, orchestral, and electronic elements, accompanied by a choreographed film. A visionary blending passion, ambition, and freedom, Deon shapes culture through music, politics, and black emotional education.

Tracy Brown; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Tracy Brown is an educator, Curator, Artist and Capacity Building Consultant who has designed and delivered educational workshops and presentations to more than 1,000 community learners. Tracy is a seasoned visual artist who received her BA from the College of Education at San Jose State University and her MA in Arts Politics (Art and Public Policy) from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Tracy designed and delivered the Empowered Creative Seniors program for artists over the age of 60, hosted by the historic AAACC in San Francisco. She curated the Same Game Different Smokers exhibition illustrating how the tobacco industry has targeted the Black Community over the last 400+ years. Tracy also founded the effort to stop government agencies from using rubber Black men as shooting targets and has also spent more than a decade documenting the memorialization practices. and has taught and presented photography and visual culture in remote villages and urban centers. Today, Tracy serves as an installation artist, guest lecturer, respected ritual photographer, Cultural Arts Capacity Building Consultant, and so much more.

Minister King X Pyeface Brown; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

As an avid supporter of the arts, I have actively engaged in various artistic endeavors throughout my life. From organizing community art exhibitions to facilitating workshops on creative expression, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of the arts in bringing people together and fostering positive social change.

Furthermore, my background as a nonprofit director and relevant experience in grant administration and expertise in arts administration, art education, and professional artist has equipped me with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively evaluate grant applications and provide valuable insights to support the California Arts Council's mission.

I am particularly drawn to the opportunity to contribute to the Panel Review process, as I believe in the importance of ensuring equitable access to funding for artists and arts organizations across California. By serving as a Panel Reviewer, I hope to help identify and support projects that demonstrate innovation, artistic excellence, and cultural relevance.

Tommy Bui; Arleta

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

My professional experience includes working with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority working in the Art Department assisting with artist selection panels and the art docent program. I was also an 2018-19 Arts for LA Cultural Policy for the City of Inglewood. I'm currently a doctoral student researching artist residencies in library spaces. I've also been commissioned to paint murals for the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council.

Angela Bullock; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I am a stage and television actor with over 50 credits on IMDB. I've received three nominations for my stage work, including NAACP, StageRaw and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle. I am a member of Ensemble Studio Theater Los Angeles and currently sit on the Board of this long standing and newly reorganized LA theater Company. I hold an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University Los Angeles, have been published in several literary journals and am currently working on my first book. I am also a certified Teaching Artist.

Emily Burg; Woodland Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am an emerging abstract expressionist painter who comes to visual art after a career in social impact leadership. She has founded and run organizations that address mental health policy and practice, surface inequality in voting rights and political participation, and seek to make homelessness a solvable problem with a focus on unhoused women and families. Additionally, while leading a community-oriented 501(c)(7), she forged partnerships with Los Angeles-based arts organizations including LACMA, Center Theater Group, and The Getty for curator-led tours of and artist talkbacks.

Emily is a certified interfaith hospital and hospice chaplain and has a specialty practice in individual and group counseling of people with terminal illnesses. She has significant accomplishments leading companies in the for-profit world, as well as being a published and award-winning writer and poet. The Startup Artist's painting is heavily influenced by the New York School of AbEx women painters of the 1950s, and she seeks to develop a proprietary method of expressing a color story.

Melanie Burke; Camarillo

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am a private music teacher in Camarillo. I teach online and in person to a wide variety of students - ages, abilities and neurodiversity. I teach art in the community as well. I am also a state Certified Medical Peer Support Specialist. I hold a MFA in Music Education and I am hoping to combine my passion for the arts with recovery and detention facilities soon. I have taught for 15 years.

I have experienced first hand, what addiction and homelessness can do to a person's well being. Not only in my own life, but I have a daughter who is currently incarcerated, and I have learned so much through observation how music programs lift the spirits of inmates.

Music and art have been the saving Grace in my own life, having skills to fall upon which speak to my heart and have helped to shape a well-rounded life. The Arts are necessary for a healthy human balance, as they are intrinsic to us all. I have been an advocate for the arts since I was young. My involvement with music, theater and fine art gave me a place for my voice in the world, and I honor that voice in each and everyone of us through my teaching. I feel honored and privileged to have the ability to do so.

Joseph Burke III; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Have been a key organizer of arts cultural festivals, musical concerts, since 1974. From 1978 to 1986 was production manager in key organizer of the city of Los Angeles LA street scene; A key organizer Of Southern California Pride Festivals since 1977. I am also an exhibiting sculptor 3D artist utilizing ceramics glass and metal.

Lucy Burns; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

As a dramaturg, Lucy Burns has worked on a range of interdisciplinary performance projects, including David Rousseve/REALITY's Halfway to Dawn: a Billy Strayhorn Story, a dance theater piece exploring the life of American musical genius Billy Strayhorn; Qnuom Khoun Khmer/I am Cambodian by Tiffany Lytle, an interdisciplinary musical performance exploring refugee lives and memories; Global Taxi Driver, Te-A-Da Production's community-creation theater production on immigrant works in the taxi industry. Burns has also worked on new interdisciplinary dance works, performance texts, and plays by R. Zamora Linmark, Karen Tei Yamashita, J. Carlon, and Cindy Garcia.

As a reviewer, Burns has been a member of review panels for funding institutions such as the LA Country Arts Commission, Dance in Districts, Gerbode Foundation, MAAAP, and the California Arts Council.

Burns is an Associate Professor in the Asian American Studies Department at UCLA. They co-designed and were a member of the survey and report team that produced the "Impact of COVID-19 Closures on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Theatre Practitioners (BIPOC) and Black, Indigenous, and Theatres of Color (BITOC) Report."

Meghan Byers; Chico

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a research administrator with a background in museum management, as well as proposal development, award administration, and contract negotiation with funders, private, state, and federal. I have also served on CAC panels in the past.

Naomi Cabral; Grass Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an artist, curator, and grant writer. I work to begin art programs for nonprofits that focus on equity of art access and sustainable practices. I am an alumna of California College of the Arts. I have started art programs for DV and homeless services, recognizing the healing journey of arts and equal access to arts for all who normally can not afford to take formal art practice. I have held an art festival for 9 years focused on regional and sustainable art in Nevada County.

Cristina Cabrera; Emeryville

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a graduate of UC Berkeley with bachelor's degrees in Art Practice and Political Economy. Since 2019, I have worked at the David Brower Center in Berkeley, contributing my education and experience as an artist, along with a strong attention to social and economic issues, to Center's mission of promoting environmental action through art. Previously, I worked as a legal assistant in the field of immigration law at the Law Office of Rosy H. Cho, where I worked directly with individuals from diverse backgrounds and gained a sensitivity for the intersecting social factors that impact marginalized groups. I am a bilingual Spanish and English speaker and have applied my language skills to make the Brower Center's calls for art accessible to Latino communities across Northern California. In my time at UC Berkeley, I was a gallery intern and exhibiting artist at the university's Worth Ryder Art Gallery and was a UC Berkeley Art Practice Honors Studio Awardee. As an artist, I have worked in diverse visual arts modes including painting, drawing, digital projection, and installation.

Charlotte Cagan; La Mesa

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

I have been CEO of four arts and culture organizations and have been a civic leader, serving as the executive director of a city commission for women and CEO of a chamber of commerce. I have worked on a wide variety of projects for arts and culture institutions from membership development to website development. I have also been a consultant to a wide range of arts

and culture and business organizations. I have developed skills in organizational development, fundraising, strategic planning, grant writing, marketing and placemaking. I have been event planner for a wide range of organizational and community arts and culture events. I have designed exhibitions for two Balboa Park museums that were widely recognized. For seven years I served as chief grant writer for a Balboa Park organization, focused on parkwide community programming for multiple constituencies and placemaking.

Conrad Calimpong; Ferndale

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I was born and raised in California's Santa Clara Valley to Filipino immigrant parents. My dad, in his late teens, came to the US in the late 1920's, finding work in the Hawaiian sugar cane fields. Later he came to California, harvesting crops around the Salinas Valley and eventually working his way up and down the West Coast at various field work jobs all the way to Alaska where he worked in a salmon cannery. When WWII broke out he enlisted in the Army getting stationed in Papua New Guinea and then the Philippines. While serving in the Philippines, he met my mom. After the war my dad returned to California and sent for my mom after he had saved enough money for her travel to California.

In 1969 I became interested in ceramics as a high school student. This interest carried me through several college degrees; work as a production potter; some years teaching high school ceramics; to my present home in Ferndale, California where I have a studio and built wood firing kilns to complete my work.

1986 I moved to Ferndale, California where I renovated a home and built a large Asian style kiln fired with three cords of wood over a period of three days.

Paul Camarena; Lathrop

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Founder of Podcast, All Things Lathrop.

The purpose & goals of the Podcast is to shine a greater light on what the City of Lathrop; it's history, current developments, and future developments for the benefit of it's residents. Educate, inform, & provide opportunity for community engagement.

Jorge Camarena Junior; Ceres

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am the proud son of immigrant workers who came from humble backgrounds working their way through the agricultural fields. I hold many firsts in my family because my parents never let me overlook the opportunities I had, the opportunities they fought for me to have. My educational background is in the humanities, primarily through my undergraduate and graduate education in philosophy. This educational training has helped provide a foundation for me to engage with all corners of the arts and humanities. I have a M.A. in humanities and continue to study western and non-western forms of thought and creative expression. I'm also involved in several community projects that evaluate funding for community projects, including art and humanities projects.

Janice Campbell; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

In 1964-65, a long time ago, I worked for SNCC as a northeast region fund raiser preparing mailings and organizing events to support civil rights work in the south. In the 70's and 80's I organized an integrated parent run public school in Cambridge, MA, which is still going strong. As an attorney, with four others, I represented Black teachers in Cambridge in a successful federal lawsuit against discrimination in hiring administrators. I also represented parents from linguistic minorities, enforcing bilingual education

mandates in Massachusetts schools. Later, In Maine, I wrote grants for LGBTQ outreach in rural areas, for bringing internet access to low income rural areas, and for economic development plans for similar areas.

While I lived in Maine I also worked with the Maine College of Art to develop an idea I had called "The Patron Project", a continuing education class that visited young artists in their studios with the hope of creating ongoing relationships.

Since I moved to California in 2016 I've written many grant applications for Precita Eyes Muralists, as a volunteer, and I've advised artist friends about available funding and how to get it

Robert Cano; Signal Hill

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My introduction to the arts was when I was in seventh grade at Gage junior high, in Huntington Park, California. I was in orchestra and played the violin for 6 years in an Orchestrs, and our conductor, Mr. Haber, introduced us to the greats such as Brahms Bach and Beethoven. As a teenager he introduced me to a whole New World and possibilities that were out there. When I graduated from Cal State Long Beach, I started the Long Beach Q film festival, this year we celebrate our 31st annual Long Beach Q Film Festival. Our Film Festival has screened over, 1000 films which reflect the diversity at the LGBTQ community to an audience of over 30,000 avid film fans. I would like to share my experiences and bring them to the selection process for the various grants. I feel I have a lot to offer and would like to share my experiences.

Elizabeth Cardenas; Santa Ana

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My name is Elizabeth Cardenas, I have had a passion for the arts since childhood. As a chicana, 1st gen daughter of immigrant single mother I did not let that stop me from pursuing a career in art. After graduating high school I studied design and worked in the design industry, however my passion has always been visual art. I took a detour in the direction of my passion for art and teaching. Through many sacrifices and perseverance i have been able to pursue my goals as a teaching artist and art facilitator. Ironically , I am now raising two daughters, Giulia & Gianna ages 7 & 5 as a single mother. I currently teach at Orange County Museum of Art and I have my own business which I started while volunteering in my community of Santa Ana, Ca. I have been a lead artist for public art projects in the city where I

was raised, Santa Ana. Currently I facilitate art classes for Senior Communities in Orange County and I also teach monthly art classes to adults with disabilities through the YMCA New Horizons inclusion program. Art is a part of me and everything I do. I believe art heals not only individually but entire communities.

Jamie Cardenas; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Jamie Cardenas is an multidisciplinary artist, herbalist, and cultural worker located on Unceded Nisenan Territory/Sacramento. She is a first generation Filipinx-American and Ilokana. She is a natural plant dyer, weaver, potions maker, and film photographer. She shares her gift of fiber arts, plant medicine and healing from her Grandmother's ancestral knowledge in the hopes of supporting their community with healing, documenting community with film, ancestors and senses with the magic of plants. Jamie's love of fiber arts comes from a deep longing for connection. She loves exploring textures and colors, especially the color Blue. She sees it as both the color and the feeling. It elicits a very emotional response in humans, much like the pull to look at the deep blue ocean, or up at the beautiful sky. There's a connection. She sees weaving and natural plant dyes as a bridge between their ancestors and those in the diaspora longing to connect to their heritage.

Sharing Indigo with Kapwa (shared-self) is part of Jamie's life's work. Jamie's middle name translates to Research and last name translates to Blue.

Matthew Carney; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Matt Carney is thankful for his career in the arts in San Diego working as an artist and administrator. Matt was drawn into the world of dance as another way to convey his interests in equality, social activism, and the simple joy of moving. He has his BFA in Dance from the University of MO-Kansas City's Conservatory of Music and Dance and while working on his Master in Public Administration from SDSU's School of Public Affairs his research focused on organizational development, strategic planning, and communication. Matt guest teaches regularly at San Diego School of the Creative and Performing Arts, at the San Diego Ballet School, and the SDB Summer Intensive among others. Community commitments include immediate past Chair of the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition, the Port of San Diego's Art, Culture, and Design Committee, the UCSD's Park and Market Advisory Council, and has served on grant panels for the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, Port of San Diego, and the California Arts Council.

Carmen Carrasco; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Throughout my life I have been exposed to different forms of artistic expressions, coming from an indigenous community in southern Mexico. I have also explored my creative side in different ways, from weaving to jewelry making. Music and culture have always been part of my life growing up, and I feel I have a strong sense of what constitutes art in its different forms.

Del Carmen Carreto; Burbank***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am practicing artist who also works with a community based organization (direct services, non-arts related) in a management role. I have worked independently as a freelance photographer and most recently (2023) a teaching artist. In my most recent teaching artist role I developed and taught (English and Spanish) basics of photography to community residents (ages 15-40+) of South Central Los Angeles. The photography projects of the residents were showcased in a local gallery and created into a book. Prior to this experience, I have been working independently as a freelance photographer.

Throughout the years of developing my art, I have launched small projects to positively impact the community of South Central, Los Angeles. This includes but not limited to, I am South Central, an installation project (2016-2017) that placed community photography boxes that highlighted street photography.

Taloo Carrillo; La Verne***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am Taloo Carrillo (she/her), a Chicana/Indigenous activist who has worked as a grassroots organizer and advocate for Indigenous repatriation and environmental issues. I participated in occupations to protest and prevent the dumping of toxic waste on Native lands in Ward Valley and various other locations. I helped run the survival kitchen for the encampment that called for an end to underground nuclear testing at the Nevada test site. While working on these issues, I was, for a short time, a co-host of American Indian Airwaves on KPFK. Artistically, I have been a singer, performance artist and writer, nurtured by the hotbed of talent that was Troy Cafe in the 1990's Little Tokyo, downtown LA. As co-producer with Troy Cafe, I wrote scripts and presented variety shows with musical acts and sketch comedy on stage at Troy and at venues such as Plaza de La Raza and Los Angeles Theater Center. Since January 2023 I have been working as Development Director for TeAda Productions. TeAda's work with underserved populations has given me the opportunity to continue learning about my community and the diasporic populations we host here in Los Angeles and in cities across the country.

Cinthia Carvajal; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Originally from Bolivia, Cinthia is an intersectional feminist and social justice advocate with over ten years of advocacy and grantmaking experience promoting an intersectional lens to advancing human rights, gender equality and economic and reproductive justice in the United States and globally. A Latina mix-race trust-based activist and grantmaker, Cinthia has lived, learned and helped organize in three continents, and had led global strategies to resource feminist activists and gender justice movements advancing abortion rights and access, feminist-led crisis response and gender equity and equality with a strong focus on building deep, mutually accountable and trustworthy relationships. As part of CCP/Constellations, and grounded on deep trust, transparency and accountability, Cinthia diligently works to ensure resources are equitable accessible to BIPOC artist disruptors and culture bearers working at

the intersection of arts, culture and social justice. Cinthia weaves her love for dancing, jewelry design and somatic practice into her life and work, and enjoys spending time in community creating dreams and joy.

Beatrice Casagran; Claremont

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Beatrice Casagrán is a Cuban-American Stage Director and Artistic Director. They hold a Masters in Theatre from CSUSB, a Juris Doctor from UCLA School of Law and a BA in Political Studies from Pitzer College. A theatrical educator, actor, director, and producer, Beatrice co-founded Ophelia's Jump Productions in 2013 with a mission to produce thought-provoking theatre and to provide opportunity for underrepresented artists and arts workers. Casagrán has led Ophelia's Jump to milestones such as the 2014 launching of the annual Claremont Midsummer Shakespeare Festival, which is co-produced with Pomona College at the Sontag Greek Theater each July. Beatrice's efforts helped pass several bills providing funding and support for small performing arts companies in California. In 2023, the LA Drama Critics Circle awarded Beatrice Gordon Davidson Award for her work in service of the theatre community. They also received the Stage Raw Spirit of Los Angeles Award from Stage Raw. Beatrice is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

Victor Casas; Chino

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Victor Casas has over 20 years of experience working with public, private, charter schools and higher education institutions. Victor's career has focused on advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in students' learning experiences and in faculties' pedagogy. He has worked with diverse populations of students and educators and has served in many roles including: Adjunct Professor, Learning and Outreach Specialist, Magnet-Lead Teacher, Department Chair, School-site Council Vice-President, Computer Science, Media Arts, STEAM Teacher, and Independent Business Owner. Most recently he has been actively involved in capacity building, strategic partnership building, and outreach for emergent programs centered on innovation, creativity and transdisciplinary pedagogical approaches applied to STEAM curricular programs. Victor has a deep understanding of building and sustaining innovative and creative educational initiatives. He holds California teaching credentials in Industrial Technology Education, Art, Art History and Preliminary Administrative Services. Victor also has a B.A. in Fine Art and Master's Degree in Educational Administration with Distinction.

Jenny Case; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Jenny Case has over 22 years of experience in working in the non-profit theatre sector, including 10 years as the Associate General Manager of La Jolla Playhouse. She also served as Producer for the Playhouse's WithOut Walls Festival and other immersive theatre pieces performed throughout San Diego as well as line produced many of the La Jolla Playhouse's New York musical developmental workshops including Escape to Margaritaville, Hands on a Hardbody, Bonnie and Clyde, Little Miss Sunshine, Crybaby, and many others. Currently,

Jenny is working with Sharon Wheatley (Come From Away) to develop Wheatley's book "Drive" for the stage. Jenny serves on the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Membership Committee as well as the selection panel for grants through NAMT's Innovation and Exploration Fund. Jenny received her BA's in Visual Arts-Video and Filmmaking as well as the Study of World Religions from the University of California, San Diego.

Alma Catalan Montiel; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Alma E. Catalán believes in the value of the arts in all communities. Ms. Catalan has a bachelor's degree from California State University, Long Beach, in Film Production and a master's degree in Arts Management from Claremont Graduate University and Sotheby's Institute of Art.

Alma's career has taken shape as a community organizer and arts advocate, working on film sets and theater productions, mentoring youth, and collaborating locally and internationally through the arts. Ms. Catalan has received a Smithsonian Fellowship from the Smithsonian Latino Center and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), a Squire Foundation Traveling Fellowship to Cape Town, and an Arts and Culture Traveling Fellowship from the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, among others.

For the past ten years, Ms. Catalan has contributed ideas and practices that provide solutions to disparities in arts education. In her current position as the Program Manager for CalArts, Community Arts Partnership, Alma hopes to inspire the next generation of artists.

Rebecca Catterall; Ventura

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an educator, artist and researcher in arts and learning. As an educator I taught history, as an artist I maintain a ceramics studio at home and have been involved with several galleries. As a researcher with Centers for Research on Creativity I have worked with my late husband, professor James Catterall. Over the last 20 years I have worked on projects with Inner City Arts, P.S. Arts, GetLit Words Ignite, Disney Musical in the Schools, Chicago Arts Partnerships, 18th Street Arts, the Galef Institute, Disney/MIT Makers Project with the Boys and Girls Club, among others. I have attended numerous conferences on arts education including UNESCO Art Education in South Korea. I was trained through Arts for All as an arts in schools coach.

Violet Cavicchi Munoz; Marina

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Violet is Assistant Professor of Music 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 technology 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.

Danila Cervantes; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Danila Cervantes b.1996 (They/them/elle) is a queer Latine artist and educator based in Los Angeles, CA. They grew up on the border bouncing between Calexico and Mexicali in Baja California. Its vast desert and mixed cultural landscape have always inspired their work. Personal myths and Mexican folk tales spark colorful imagery that they translate into rich oil pastel and colored pencil illustrations and animations of tender creatures adapting to nature's cycles of life, death, and rebirth. They majored in film, animation, & video (FAV) at the Rhode Island School of Design and graduated in 2019. They now work as a teaching artist in various nonprofit arts organizations and museums across Los Angeles such as Craft Contemporary, Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) and Barnsdall Art Center. They are currently developing their first solo show with the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and plan to exhibit next winter/spring.

Alysa Chadow; Alameda

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I am a retired Special Education teacher as well as a published writer and occasional storyteller. I was the poetry page editor for the 'California Writers' Club from 2014-2016, and published essays in such publications as KALEIDASCOPE an online magazine on disability. During my 18 years at the California School for the Blind, I spent one academic year leading a drama club for my students. I am currently a board member at the Altarena Playhouse in Alameda,, a recent appointment, where I will be working on outreach as well as grant writing. I am also currently developing a pitch for the Motth.

Celeste Chan; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

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. She's a current Artist in Residence at SF Public Library.

Rebekah Chang; Redondo Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I am a lifelong artist, as a ballerina, classical pianist, ballroom dancer, Polynesian dancer, magician, playwright, actress, and theatrical improviser.

As a theatrical improviser, I have studied at Groundlings, Second City, Impro Theatre, and Held2gether. I perform monthly as part of the main company of April's Fools Improv Troupe in Hermosa Beach. At Impro Theatre, I created, produced, directed, and performed in fully-improvised plays in the styles of Jane Austen, Tennessee Williams, and Shakespeare.

I also support the arts in leadership roles. For Impro Theatre, I served on the Board of Directors, served as their Co-Chair for their Diversity Scholarship, and served on their Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

I have an B.S. in Business Admin and an M.S. in Education from USC, and currently own a management consulting firm where I help my clients be more effective, efficient, and productive.

I am currently involved with the California State Prisons, as a facilitator in theatrical improvisation, working with inmates to give them communication and personal connection skills.

Deitra Charles; Carson

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Deitra Charles is a visual artist and native of Los Angeles, California. As an undergraduate student, she studied costume design and graphic art. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Fine Arts from Loyola Marymount University, Deitra entered the corporate world where she remained for many years. As an artist, Deitra is inspired by nature and her love of family. She strives to synthesize dissonance with harmony to, ultimately, evoke a sense of peace. Deitra also focuses on elevating unsung African American women in history. She draws and paints them with the same energy and care that she puts into portraits of her loved ones. Deitra's work has been exhibited in numerous galleries as well as print and online publications. In addition to creating new work, she also teaches Drawing and Art Appreciation at community colleges within Los Angeles County. Deitra holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Claremont Graduate University.

Caitlin Chavez; El Centro

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

From 2015 - 2021, I worked full time as a French instructor at Lamar University. During this time, I was a faculty advisor for two cohorts of Freshman Interest Groups to develop relevant curriculum and introduce my students to local visual and performing arts institutions and programs. Additionally during this time, I cofounded Lightbox at the Museum, a mixed-media film program with local artists and filmmakers.

I earned my MA in Art History from the University of Houston in 2020. During my studies, I served on the board of the Public Art of the University of Houston System, sharing my perspective for commissions and installations of public art. I also completed a curatorial

fellowship in the Modern and Contemporary art department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Other experiences with arts and cultural communities include freelance journalism covering visual arts and various internships in Public Relations and Marketing.

Since January 2023, I have served as Museum Director and successfully earned my institution a Far South Border North grant to hire artists and support public art projects through August 2024.

Victoria Chavez; Van Nuys

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a native Angeleno, born in Pico-Union area and currently residing in the San Fernando Valle. I am currently a Master's student at CSUN's Social Work program. I have previously received my undergraduate degree from CSUN in Central American Studies and Psychology and graduate degree in Latin American and Caribbean studies from New York University. Most of my professional and educational background has been focused on immigrant workers, unaccompanied minors and immigrant families. I am currently pursuing a degree in Social Work in order to obtain licensure in order to be able to practice as a therapist. I have gained experience while working in various organizations like, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural and Bookstore, the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), the International Rescue Committee, the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, and the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN). While most of my positions have been in fundraising and administrative, I do consider myself to be an artists and practice pottery when the time allows it. When I am not working or studying, I enjoy running, ceramics, and traveling.

Elizabeth Cheatham 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 Valparaiso in Mojacar, Spain, a FIVA fellowship from The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, and two fellowships from the Pilchuck glass school in Seattle, WA. Wild has an undergraduate degree in Art with a minor in 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 curator of Winslow Garage, an artist-run project space in Los Angeles in operation since 2002. Wild is a board member of Prospect Art, a forward thinking LA based artist-run not-for-profit 501c3 organization that fosters artists' career by providing exposure through open dialogues, critical writing, project grants, and exhibitions.

Migdia China; Glendale

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I'm a professional screenwriter member of the Writers Guild of America, west with dozens of produced credits living in my historic Glendale home The Peterson House I also have a

useless UCLA MFA in film 2012. Hispanic faculties are not hired at universities. Look at the numbers — its just woke talk

Jae Yeun Choi; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Jae Yeun Choi is a poet and educator. Her writing is informed by engagement with other artists and peers who share practices grounded in an abiding respect for the smaller gesture. Her poems have appeared in *The Volta*, *NY Tyrant*, *A Plume Annual*, *Tin House*, *The Iowa Review*, and *Flying Object's It's My Decision* series. Her chapbook *Woman Carrying Thing* was published by *The Song Cave*. Additionally, her poems have been included with exhibitions at *356 Mission*, *3 Days Awake*, *Adams and Ollman*, *Lumber Room*, *Page NYC*, and *Good Press Glasgow*. She has taught poetry previously at *Reed College* and resides in Los Angeles with her dog *Cookie*.

Jamie Choi; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Jamie Choi is a flash fiction and short story writer, working mostly with themes of horror and surrealism within everyday life. She has been writing creatively since at least middle school, and continued to create works on her own while working on her B.A. in English at UCLA.

She is currently a part of DSTL Arts' Poet/Artist Development Program (2023-2024), and she is set to professionally publish her first chapbook of flash fiction/short stories with them around end of June 2024. She also led and presented a social justice based workshop on LA's transit systems for DSTL Arts' Creative Impact Series called "Potential of Public Transportation." The crux of the creative impact workshop included engaging the community participants to create a poem based on the information provided through the workshop.

She also published a piece called "time is felt, not measured" through an independent publication called *Third Iris Zine* for their 5th issue called "Tinted Memories." A sci-fi flash fiction piece called, "The Train", was published through *Mixed Mag Co.* in May 2022. She also created a series of faux newsletters called "Foglost Biped Monthly" with a fellow friend and writer.

Cathlyn Choi; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Cathlyn Choi is a multi-award-winning TV/Film Producer, show host, and community activist with over thirty years of experience spanning Korea and the US. Dubbed Korean Cultural Ambassador, she achieved acclaim through her pioneering work as the host of "Cathlyn's Korean Kitchen," the first Korean cooking show in English broadcast nationally on PBS.

Driven by her passion for media, culture, and community engagement, Cathlyn founded the Asian Culture and Media Alliance in 2013, with a mission to unite, promote, and empower the Asian and Pacific Islander communities through television, film, and new media. As the visionary behind the Asian Pacific Voices TV & Radio podcast, Cathlyn shares inspiring stories of Asian Pacific Islanders, culture, artists, and organizations in Southern California.

Additionally, she actively mentors and educates aspiring filmmakers from underserved communities through the Take One program, which she established in 2016.

Beyond her professional achievements, Cathlyn has dedicated her time to serving in 11 nonprofit organizations since 2008. She continues to serve her community as a speaker, judge, and emcee at various cultural events and seminars.

Kev Choice; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Kev Choice is a pianist, M.C., producer, composer, educator, band-leader, and community advocate, hailing from Oakland, CA. His music fuses the worlds of Hip-Hop, Jazz, Classical, and music from the African-American tradition. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans and a Master's Degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, both in Piano Performance. Kev has worked with artists such as Michael Franti, Goapele, Ledisi, Boots Riley, Zion I, Ms. Lauryn Hill, as well as Oakland and San Francisco Symphony's. He also established his own band, focused on performing his original music and uplifting the music of underserved communities, cultures, and traditions.

Kev has been an educator in Oakland community, having taught in schools for over 20 years. He was co-chair of the Music Department at Oakland School For The Arts, and has been an artist-in-residence and Program Director with Elevate Oakland. He is currently vice-chair on The City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission and was a Culture Strategist In Government in Oakland. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Oakland Symphony and SF Chapter of The Recording Academy.

Helen Chou; Milpitas

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As a retired research scientist in eco-agriculture, I have the pleasure of dedicating my time to making art and music available to all in the community. My work focuses on teaching art and music to students of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds in Milpitas and the surrounding area. I also do music arrangements for musicals, which are performed by and for the local community at no cost to the audience.

Richard Chow; Porter Ranch

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Renowned photographer & artist Richard S. Chow, based in Los Angeles (LA), is celebrated for his fine art, documentary, and unique photo-based creations. Living in the suburbs with his family, he also has a studio in Little Tokyo at downtown LA.

Notable solo exhibitions include Museum of Art and History Lancaster, Orange Coast College, Neutra Museum & Gallery, and Metro 417 Gallery. In 2024, he is slated to solo his art at Gallery 825. His works grace permanent collections at the American Hotel, and LA Public Library Foundation. He is featured in the book LACMA Jazz 25th Anniversary published by LA County Museum of Arts, and he has contributed to 120+ group exhibits.

Richard shares his expertise with the art community as a portfolio reviewer, curator/juror, seminar moderator, instructor, and producer of semi-monthly artist talks via Open Show LA. Since 2021, he also serves as a grant reviewer panelist for the California Arts Council, a State agency.

Represented by United Photographic Artists Gallery in Tampa, Florida; LA Art Association in West Hollywood, California, and the Makery Gallery/Studio in DTLA.

Jennifer Christie; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

As I have aged, my involvement has changed, from Circus Arts performer to stunt worker, from Stand-up Comic to Artist. Tomorrow we start to build the Renaissance Faire where I shall teach historic crafting. As a single mom raising my daughter, we got involved with Community Gardens, volunteering at Los Encinos and helping after school. I continue to step up to make a positive difference!

Nakachi Clark; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Nakachi Clark-Kasimu is an educator, poet, vocalist, aspiring bodhisattva and death doula who has worked in education and the arts since 2005. A former Artist-In-Residence for the City of Las Vegas, Nakachi has led writing and performance workshops for a diverse collection of participants ranging from elementary aged children to senior adults. In the San Francisco Bay Area, Nakachi has performed and collaborated with a wide array of renowned artists and dance collectives including CubaCaribe, Embodiment Project, Amie Cota, the Freight Singers Community Chorus and OneVoice CircleSingers. She is a core member of Embodiment Project's administrative leadership, as well as its artistic team. Nakachi is a Black Teacher Project Fellow (2019-2022), founder of Black Teachers Write and a former member of the Fierce Vulnerability Network Bay Area.

Elizabeth Clary; Petaluma

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Elizabeth Clary is Executive Director of Alchemia. A non-profit organization, Alchemia connects artists who have intellectual and developmental disabilities to their communities through the visual, performing, and creative arts. Alchemia operates art galleries and performing arts studios throughout Sonoma and Marin Counties. Elizabeth has served on the founding boards of the Sonoma County Bach Society (now Sonoma Bach) and Petaluma Sings! (now Cinnabar Theater).

Elizabeth holds bachelor's degrees in political science and music and a master's in public administration and has performed as a member of several amateur Bay Area choral ensembles.

Robyn Coburn; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Robyn Coburn is a writer, visual artist, and production designer of independent films and every kind of theater. In addition to non-fiction content and articles in magazines and online

publications, she is also a screen writer and aspiring novelist. Her published works are DERVISH DUST: THE LIFE AND WORDS OF JAMES COBURN (Potomac Books, Lincoln, NE. Dec 2021) the authorized biography of the late Oscar® winning actor, and the first two books in the Work in Production series. Robyn also helps creative professionals develop their careers in entertainment with custom resumes, cover letters and coaching services.

At the same time Robyn is a textile artist with an emphasis on figurative sculpture, collage and mixed media. Currently she is in the process of fabricating her first large scale public arts commission, a Backcountry Casita at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, to be installed in June 2024.

Robyn has volunteered for the last six years with the non-profit group Chrysalis which helps unhoused people gain sustainable work. Most recently she has found success as a grant writer, as Chair of the Fundraising Committee with the professional networking group, Women In Media.

Kim Cochran; Santa Barbara

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Kym Yung Ja Cochran is a multifaceted creative specialist blending a background in business with a distinguished 24-year career in the visual arts industry and 8 years with local non-profit organizations. Based on the Central Coast, Kym's career trajectory reflects a deep commitment to leveraging her diverse skill set for the betterment of both artistic endeavors and community development initiatives.

Her expertise in project management was instrumental in overseeing multi-million-dollar construction projects, ensuring meticulous compliance, and fostering relationships with stakeholders. In 2017, she co-founded a public art company specializing in community engagement. Kym started a non-profit in 2018 to address inequities and elevate communities through arts and culture. She offers 1-to-1 work sessions in professional development, grant writing, and strategic program planning. From serving on the City's Arts Advisory Committee to volunteering at local vaccine clinics and emergency operations centers, she is committed to community welfare and cultural enrichment. She holds a BS in Business Administration and, artistically, was a Sr Production Designer for Disney Imagineering.

Nikki Coffelt; Encinitas

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Nikki Coffelt is a self-taught abstract expressionist and multidisciplinary artist based in the Los Angeles area . She was born in 1979 in Buffalo New York and has traveled and lived all over the world . She values multiculturalism, considers herself a lifelong learner and lived as a nomad for five years . Her work is concerned with the expression, liberation and transmutation of primal energy and the collective shadow . It is heavily informed by 25 years of personal and professional exploration with non-ordinary consciousness (ranging from drug addiction to jungian dream work to vipassana meditation to somatic healing to astrology to animism to experiential studies in shamanism to completing a PhD in depth psychology in 2007) . Nikki is

devoted to the exaltation of the dark feminine, an archetype that continues to rise all over the globe during this time of cultural transformation .

Mater Cofield; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Mater was born in California and is proud to be a native of America's finest city, sunny San Diego. Mater developed a strong interest in social justice, community service, and the arts as a teenager through her involvement and dedication to community and community theater. Mater has performed in various community productions including Tambourines To Glory with the late Dr. Floyd Gaffney, The Wiz, West Side Story and Grease with the Ken-Vista theater group led by Donald Robinson. Mater has worked as an educator for the past 20 years serving diverse groups of students in underrepresented, Title 1 Schools and currently works as a Visual and Performing Arts Visiting Teacher serving up to approximately 1000 students per week.

Mater enjoys writing and is the author of 4 children's books available on Amazon.

"The arts can transform lives."

Mater Cofield

Fred Cohen; San jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Director of SJSU's School of Music since 2014, Dr. Fred Cohen is a second generation native of San Francisco. He spent his formative years as a chorister and later a staff member with the San Francisco Boys Chorus under the direction of the legendary Madi Bacon. Following his undergraduate degree at UCSC, he received his doctorate from Cornell University, where he studied composition with Karel Husa and Steven Stucky.

Previous to his appointment as Professor at SJSU, Dr. Cohen led the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University, the Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, and the Music Department at the University of Richmond. He directs the SJSU Symphony Orchestra, and was previously conductor and music director several other university orchestras. He served as the founder and director of CURRENTS, and has commissioned and premiered over 70 works by composers from around the world. He has appeared as guest composer and conductor with a variety of professional and collegiate orchestras and wind ensembles.

Raphaelle Cohen-Bacry; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am from Paris, France where I studied painting and printmaking at Ateliers Beaux-Arts, while completing a Doctorate in pharmacy and a degree in performing arts at Ecole de la Rue Blanche. These different areas of study shaped my mind and made me curious about many topics in arts and science. My long experience in integrative healing, helps me understand how art can bring relief mentally and physically to both the artist and the viewers. In 2003 I moved to Los Angeles to develop my art career. I have participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions in California (Cerritos art gallery, Torrance Art Museum, Alliance Française, the

Mike Kelley Gallery, Coastline College Art Gallery, Visalia Arts Center, LAMAG, etc.) as well as in Arizona and Nevada. In 2025 I will have a large painting show at The Sahara Studio Gallery in Las Vegas.

Additionally I am a certified Health and Wellness coach and my areas of focus are mental health and the underserved communities. I am a current awardee of a one-year grant from the Picerne Family Foundation that allows me to work with nonprofits and bring art to adults and children with social and emotional challenges, which is very rewarding to me.

Julia Cole; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Julia Cole has led efforts to solicit support from foundation, government, and corporate sources for the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2003. During that time she has raised millions of dollars for the LA Phil's programs, and partnered widely across the organization to develop support for music and community programs. Before joining the LA Phil, Julia worked as a fundraising consultant for David Bury & Associates in New York City. Her clients there included Meet the Composer, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, and American Composers Forum. Julia has also worked in fundraising for Poets & Writers, a literary arts non-profit.

Catherine Coley; Gardena

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I have been on the council for evaluations in 2023.

Ara Collazo; Ventura

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Araceli Collazo is an international, independent singer, songwriter, music producer, performer and cultural promotor of Mexican-American descent. Araceli is also a published poet. She grew up, was raised and went to school in California in the USA and has lived some seasons between the USA and México. She is married and is the mother of two boys.

Araceli currently promotes her music primarily through a world music project known as (Araceli Collazo) & Paloma Negra. Through this project she has released two music cd's that include original material and traditional songs from Mexico, Latin America and other parts of the world. She rereleased her cd "Altar, el canto a los muertos y sus vivos" (which translates to something like "Altar, the song to the dead and their living"). Altar is a musical series devoted to the tradition of Day of the Dead which is mostly celebrated in Mexico and the USA. Her mission with Altar is to guide others to understanding the concept of death as a part of the cycle of life and surrendering the fear of dying, to live fuller and more joyous lives.

Natalie Collins; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a practising artist who graduated with a BA in Art/Art history and Masters in Leadership in Museum Education. I have several years of experience facilitating art with children and families through museums and community based art organizations. I also have experience managing summer and after school art programs in the US and Jamaica. Through the years I have developed a love and appreciation for a range of art forms, studying theatre in London during

my freshman year of college and studying African dance, music and art in Ghana during my junior year. While i feel most comfortable as a visual artist- mixed media, painting, sculpture, and drawing- I have had the pleasure of playing the clarinet through high school, taking dance classes and performing on stage. I find the arts fascinating and even explored how to use them therapeutically as a social worker.

Spencer Collins; Los osos

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I've never questioned my want to be an artist. I am simply compelled to express myself with my hands. I consider myself a painter, but I lend myself to whatever medium speaks to me, whether that is paint, wood, en-caustic wax, bronze, print making, or my latest medium, film photography. During my early 20's I found myself figure modeling for fellow artists. Through these experiences modeling I have found a new appreciation and love for artwork pertaining to the figure. My painting compositions range from realistic landscapes to expressionist abstract figures. I never know what I'm going to create next, but I can promise I will put my heart into it.

Kathleen Comfort; Santa Rosa

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

During my 44-year career in K-12 education, I directed a standards-based science assessment program at WestEd; led science assessment for the California Department of Education; pioneered performance-based science assessment in CA requiring students to conduct investigations and demonstrate their understanding through written responses and artwork; served as a Senior Research Associate for the American Association for the Advancement of Science; directed the Shasta County Assessment System; and was a Science Education Specialist, mentor teacher; and teacher. I served on national educational committees and represented the United States on an international assessment project of 21st century skills. I authored articles in journals and contributed to the chapter on science assessment for the 2017 California Science Framework. I hold a BA, M.Ed, and three CA life teaching credentials. I also investigated the integration of the arts into science or STEAM. I am currently serving on the Board of Artstart where apprentices work under the mentorship of professional artists to create public and private art.

Matt Connolly; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As the co-founder and artistic director of a nonprofit arts organization in Los Angeles, I have spent the past eight years building a respected curatorial program with a global presence. Through my duties as primary grant writer and strategist, I have successfully cultivated relationships with (and secured support from) some of the field's most prominent and respected funders.

One aspect of this work that I have found particularly gratifying has been the obligation to become acquainted with the distinct priorities, language, and institutional demeanor of each potential funder, so as to be able to describe prospective projects in a way that makes their support for the project seem intuitive. In the role of Grant Panelist, I would take great care in

learning about the institutional culture and goals of the CAC, so as to become an effective steward of its values and agenda.

Recently, I designed and led two graduate seminars at the California Institute of the Arts that dealt specifically with the relationship between artistic forms and funding models.

Julia Conway; Redondo Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I have been teaching for about 25 years and during that time I have worked with all ages of students in all subject areas. However, my favorite years have been those spent teaching theatre in grades K-12. I have run an after school drama program for middle school students, taught high school theatre where I directed 3 plays during my 2 years, and I am currently working for LAUSD as an itinerant theatre arts teacher. I also have experience working on a Distinguished Schools Committee where I helped my school in the application process. In addition, as I mentioned previously, I am in an arts management master's program through The University of Oklahoma online. I think this would be a great opportunity for me to apply what I am learning in my program. Finally, I have been involved in community theatre productions over the last 20 years. As you can see, I am very passionate about the arts.

Wayne Cook; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I have worked in the Arts & Education field for over 40 years. I worked in all programs at the Council and once retired I continued to work in the Artist in Prisons Program with the William James Assoc funded through the Council. I was appointed to the Council by the Governor to assist in establishing a Multi Cultural Advisory committee at the Council. Would enjoy giving back to community. Thanks

Lyndsay Cooke; Santa Barbara

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Since March of 2022, I've served as the Outreach Program Manager at the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation. In this position, I aim to effect positive change and create impactful strategies to ensure that students receive performing arts education and experiences. A large portion of my work is grants related - making funding decisions that support the success of local non-profit arts programs. A significant focus of my role is understanding our community partner's needs, and working directly with a grants committee.

Prior to working at SBBF, I was the Education Programs Coordinator at Arts & Lectures - University of California Santa Barbara. I led artists on over 250 outreach activities annually, fulfilling contractual obligations and outreach host expectations. I planned activities on campus, in schools and in the community, creating and developing relationships with educators and community leaders, and supported grant opportunities and managed reporting data.

I also have experience working for a non-profit museum - the Santa Barbara Historical Museum. At the museum, I assisted in planning and execution of new exhibit openings, special occasions, and fundraising.

Carmen Cooley-Graham; La Mesa

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am blessed to be a 4th generation San Diegan and passionate about my state and city especially it's history. I own my own real estate brokerage and 4 years ago my father passed away. He was the founder of the JA Cooley Museum and upon his death I took over as Director of the museum and 501 C3. I have become very active in many museum and arts organizations. I know the struggles many organizations and individuals have in regards to writing and obtaining grants. I also in college studied art and have vast travel experience visiting art museums and enjoying all genres of arts. I am proud to be recognized as a minority women owned and operated museum by San Diego Tourism Authority and San Diego Business Journal. Helping inspire others as my father inspired me to dream big is why I like being and am qualified as a panelist.

Maria Bernadette Cooper; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts, Masters in Instructional Technology, another Masters in Special Education and a Doctorate degree. I am a seasoned practicing artist with 4 decades of art experience, have been an art professor, author and co-author. Founder of a state registered art organization, curated retrospectives, exhibited in the US, Asia, and upcoming in Europe. I have established collaborations with different organizations, schools and have introduced innovations in our organizations where I sit as chairman such as social initiatives, community building, international art exhibitions, creative placemaking as well as invited artists for cultural exchange. I have honed and introduced artists as ambassadors of goodwill of our organization who advocate for social justice-equality and equity. I am affiliated with The Alameda Artwork Studios in San Jose, Ca., the largest hub of Bay Area artists where I am a resident artist for more than a decade now and have actively involved in the community events..

Nanette Cooper-McGuinness; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Soprano Nanette McGuinness has performed in operas and concerts in over 25 roles on two continents and 13 languages. She appears on seven albums with Centaur Records and Yuggoth Records four of which have medaled in the Global Music Awards, and is a member of the Recording Academy. McGuinness is also Artistic Executive Director of Ensemble for These Times (E4TT), a contemporary chamber music group that she co-founded 16 years ago and which won The American Prize in 2021. E4TT performs and commissions music that speaks to our times, particularly by underrepresented creative voices, with women artists and composers are a special ongoing focus. Finally, she is the co-producer and host of E4TT's weekly podcast, For Good Measure, which features conversations with BIPOC and women creatives.

Nathan Cottam; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Nathan Cottam is a performing artist devoted to broadening the scope of people involved in dance and theater. 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 at the REX Cultural Center, Belgrade. 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.

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 in East Palo Alto and other parts of the Peninsula.

In 2017 Nathan led Mannakin Theater & Dance in the first production of The Nutshell! the MTD holiday dance festival and immersive performance. Dance artists from every culture are invited to create their own unique choreography to a selection of music from The Nutcracker

In 2022, Nathan led MTD in the acquisition of two leases to accommodate Mannakin's activities in San Francisco and East Palo Alto.

Bruce Coughran; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I was trained as an interdisciplinary artist, and was fortunate enough to serve as Artistic Director of Indra's Net Theater in Berkeley, California from 2012 to 2020. During my tenure at Indra's Net Theater I relished the opportunity to draw together the training I had received in dance, music, visual art, directing, and playwriting, over many years, and apply it to the particular focus at Indra's Net, a deep-dive into Science, and the connections between Science and Art. The Award-winning company became the highlight of my time in the Bay Area.

While at Indra's Net Theater, I was responsible for grant-writing as well as outreach to the artistic community in the Bay Area. In this role I served on grant review panels for the City of Berkeley as well as for Theater Bay Area. In these roles I learned to cherish the expressions of unique expressions of individual viewpoints, while maintaining a focus on artistic excellence. I continue to hold in the highest regard the search for transcendence in artistic expression, while maintaining a dedication to excellence.

Seumas Coutts PhD; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

My professional expertise and trajectory has been to advocate, manage, gather, research, produce, and work with artists and scholars both in the United States, Europe, and the MENA region. I bring leadership, structure and processes together collaboratively and interdepartmental, with a local, regional and international perspective.

My professional experience and academic training spans more than three and a half decades and encompasses arts and culture management and programming in academic, private, public

and community-based settings. Central to my academic interests and curatorial framework is the need to be actively engaged in discourse with the culture in which we reside. This assists to formulate the approaches and practices in which I engage. I believe my dedication and collegiality would be an affirmative addition to the CAC.

Bob Crabb; Sunnyvale

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have been in performing arts, both music and drama all of my adult life. First taught music in the Peace Corps in Palau. I have taught both music {both instrumental and vocal} for nearly 35 years. I direct and perform with an historically based Victorian Caroling group and have done so since 1987.

Elijah Crane; Merced

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

My name is Elijah Markel Crane I. My organization that I am currently an undergraduate student, former foster youth in Next Up, Amend BSU member, and Ambassador for Underground Scholar for the district of UC Berkeley under Danny Murillo.

Just like the mirror, I reflect nothing but the truth. I am pleased to tell you that I believe my recent work and experience have pushed me towards this direction. Being an advocate for youth, being a prior retail associate, and an ambassador for underground individuals. I know that I am by far qualified, but I persist in still trying. As for my skills, I am hardworking and efficient with connecting, and reinventing ideas beyond deceptions, limitations, and disarray. My goal is to be a creative director and grow, bond, and ground myself. To overstand others while understanding the task at hand and manifesting the company's desires mending that with a line of work that is the key to all possibilities.

Rebecca Crawford; Altadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Rebecca Crawford Muñoz is a writer, storyteller and facilitator who thrives most in the in-between spaces. Born with an insatiable curiosity and trained in public health, she's worked around the world to flip power structures that hold communities back from social change, including at the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), UNESCO, the New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Profamilia, Global Health Strategies and a practicum at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Rebecca bridges art and social justice advocacy as a flint to spark the creativity necessary to achieve the world(s) we've only yet dreamt of. Her current obsessions include shining a spotlight on the depth and breadth of Black and Boricua experiences and artistic expression and collaborating with civil society actors working to navigate intractable institutions on the path to success. She's also proud to be a member of Arts for LA's 2024 ACTIVATE Delegates cohort, advocating for progressive arts and culture policy in the broader Los Angeles area.

Eugenia Crews; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

My track record in philanthropy and social advocacy spans three decades and includes demonstrated experience with developing, managing and funding and leading community and educational non profits, including Arts/Dance. My experience includes high level strategic relationships with all sectors of influence: major philanthropists, corporations, and foundations; community based and arts and faith based leaders; and finally governmental agencies, environmental, activist and political leaders; for the sole purpose of impacting the long term well being of the community. I've served twice as a grant reviewer for the City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, for their Artists in Schools and Neighborhood Voices programs, and served on the Grant Review Panel the Cultural Equity Initiative.

Kyoni Cummings; Pomona***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

The arts have always been the go-to for my family and more recently, how we've supported a loved one who was diagnosed with a mental health condition.

My positions at NAMI Pomona Valley and the African American Advisory Alliance have provided opportunity to partner with Saint Remy Arts and Culture to bring opportunities to explore all facets of the arts. Our classes have been a tool for us to provide support for folks living with mental health challenges, as well as provide connection with our community members who don't have a diagnosis.

We've used the arts as a segue to conversations around mental health in the Black community and exploring systemic and generational traumas. We understand that a westernized approach to respite and healing can miss the mark with historically excluded groups. This allows us to tap into a healing space that runs deeply through the DNA of our culture.

Connecting people of color to means of healing and support through creative and artistic expression gives me a joy that is truly hard to express with words. I've seen professionally and personally how opening this door can make change and I'm honored to support stewarding this mission forward.

Kahlil Cummings; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Currently Kahlil is the Founder of Extra Ancestral which began in 2017 as an ensemble that aimed to educate audiences through the fusions of hypnotic Afrobeat, Reggae, Jazz, Afro-Latin, and traditional African diasporic rhythms, narrated by powerful ancestral dancing. Kahlil also plays and tours with international recording artist Rocky Dawuni, and can be heard on the albums "Branches of the Same Tree," which earned a Grammy nomination for Best Reggae Album of the Year in 2016. And Beats of Zion 2019. Kahlil also performs and recorded on the latest album of Jazz icon Kamasi Washintom "Heaven and Earth" 2018. Kahlil is an endorsed artist of Latin Percussion Company(LP) and Istanbul Cymbals. Kahlil's latest musical project, Extra Ancestral, the album his due later this year.

Kahlil is a board member of the Levitt Pavilion Foundation.

In 2021 Kahlil has performed at the MTV Movie Awards as well as The Voice show, Grand Performances, Hollywood Bowl, and Newport Jazz Festival.

Jowy Curameng; CA

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Jowy-Jhan Curameng (He/Him/His) is a multi-disciplinary Bay Area-born and raised Artist (Shoutout 415, 209, and 650) primarily focused on music, improvisation, and writing currently. He is signed by Model's Inc for commercial work and releases/performs music under the obviously clever and very well-thought-out rap pseudonym, J.O.W.Y. By combining his communities within Bindlestiff Studios (the epicenter for Filipino-American and Pilipino Theatre) and Endgames Improv (not too bad of a spot), he developed and teaches an 8 week FREE workshop primarily focused on reaching those traditionally priced out of the Improv and Arts scene. He also has experience with grants administration through working as a Program Associate with the Community Investments and Street Vendor teams in the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Jessica Cusick; Ventura

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Jessica Cusick has over 30 years of experience developing successful cultural initiatives of all kinds, both as a consultant as well in her capacity as staff for local arts agencies. Over the course of her career, she has collaborated with a diverse array of partners to design and implement policy initiatives, grant programs, cultural events, and public art programs, each of which has been tailored to the context and goals of the commissioning entity.

Ms. Cusick has developed cultural plans, public art masterplans and other public policy documents for cities throughout the country. Clients include the cities of Fort Worth, Pasadena, and Ventura; the California Arts Council; the County of Los Angeles; the Houston Midtown Redevelopment Authority; and the Seattle Public Library, among others. She was the cultural affairs manager for the City of Santa Monica from 2005 through 2015, where she oversaw significant expansion in the City's support for artists and the creative sector, including the establishment of an artist fellowship program. As part of her work, she developed Glow, a unique, all-night art event that drew over 200,000 visitors in its first year.

Michelle Dahl; loomis

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Michelle Dahl (b. 1983) is a life-long Sacramento region artist. After a disabling back injury in 2013, she looked to art as a full-time practice and returned to Sierra Community College, where she graduated with honors with an A.S. in Studio Arts from Sierra College in 2019. Her work has been published in Local editorials such as ShoutoutLA and MoosicEntertainment, as well as the UK's Aurum Journal. She participated in numerous group exhibitions including Sac Open Studios, Big Names Little Art, as well as her solo show Incandescent Umbra. She served as Board member for Willapa Heritage Foundation, was a resident artist at The Art Studios, curator for numerous small galleries, and founded the organization Career Creatives. Michelle also teaches oil painting and drawing skills through regular workshops throughout the Sacramento region.

Roberta Dalois; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Roberta D'Alois is a writer and performer and is the former Artistic Director of Jump! Theatre, whose mission was to present theater based on authentic stories of mental illness.

She currently produces an online storytelling project dedicated to diverse voices including work written and performed by disabled artists. Roberta has a B.A. with honors in Theatre from Brandeis and an M.F.A in Playwriting from San Francisco State, where she also teaches. Her work has been featured at the Exit, Impact Theatre, and at the Kennedy Center in DC.

As an artist-activist, Roberta was chosen as a Yerba Buena Center Fellow, where she worked with 30 other artists and change makers to investigate the concept of citizenship. Her citizenship project, an public inquiry into the definitions of citizenship created through interviews and writing by undocumented community members has been shown throughout California.

Cameron Daly; Albany***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Cameron Daly, originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, is an emerging arts administration professional with a passion for classical music and a dedication to maintaining environments in which artists have the ingredients to thrive creatively and organizations have the tools needed to sustain themselves and the communities they serve.

After graduating from the Frost School of Music, Cameron began his career in Staunton, Virginia with the Heifetz International Music Institute--a small organization devoted to providing the next generation of gifted string musicians with instruction from world renowned teachers--as an Accounts & Logistics Manager, building operational infrastructures and protocols along with maintaining the organization's finances and facilitating compliance with government agencies and independent auditors.

Cameron now works for San Francisco Opera as a Music Operations Associate, a role in which he administers CBAs with the company's resident ensembles and assists in managing several of the organization's budget centers.

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

I am an artist who makes large scale improvisational quilts for the wall. I exhibit my art by participating in juried calls for entry throughout the country, and in January 2024 I had a solo exhibit in the Road to California exhibit.

My arts education includes the Graphic Design certificate program through the Rhode Island School of Design - I am 2/3 through the program. And I have spent 18 full time weeks over the last 5 years studying with master quilter Nancy Crow.

My professional experience has been 20+ years in cybersecurity as Chief Information Security Officer and as a consultant with Accenture. My education is a BS in Chemical Engineering from Cornell and MBA from USC.

I have been a board member of two non-profits - The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation and the Orange County Bicycle Coalition which advocates for safer pedestrian and bicycle facilities. I have also been a Girl Scout Leader and Service Unit Manager and the president or chairman of many non-profit committees and organizations.

So I understand art, technology, financials, fund raising, and community building, and look forward to supporting the California Arts Council through this grant review role.

Jonathan Darr; Alameda

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have worked with artists and arts organizations for more than 20 years as a volunteer, board member, director and strategist. As a management and fundraising consultant, I've helped collaborators establish relationships with and secure funding from more than 50 funding bodies, and built teams, strategies, and projects across many arts disciplines. I've directed local and regional arts organizations in the SF Bay Area and Washington, DC and worked on projects in multiple states and countries. My most significant and long term experience has been with community organizations and message-driven public art programs. I am especially invested in the vital intersectional nature of building cultural and educational work that reflects our diverse creative communities.

In recent years, my work has mostly focused on serving as a senior advisor to arts, youth, and philanthropy organizations in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Hawaii and abroad. I also contract on writing projects for arts, culture, and social justice clients.

Ami Davis; Santa Cruz

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My life's work is to make art accessible and meaningful to everyone, and to cultivate unexpected relationships between art, museums, and the community. For nearly 25 years, my work in museums and other arts organizations has given me the tools to successfully fundraise, manage programs, work with emerging professionals, and take on a broad institutional vision.

I have worked in museums as a museum professional and consultant since 1998, with a focus on art history, exhibitions, education, leadership, fundraising, and community partnerships. I hold an M.A. in Art History from California State University, San Jose, and a B.A. in Art History from the University of California, Santa Cruz. I have served institutions such as the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Monterey Museum of Art, the Orange County Museum of Art, San Jose Museum of Art, and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. I have also served as an instructor for courses in contemporary art at UCLA Extension and have been a panelist and presenter at numerous national museum conferences. I live in Santa Cruz, California with my family, where I hike, run, paint, and draw.

Bruce Davis; Mountain View

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Former Executive Director of the Taiko Community Alliance; former Executive of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival; Former Executive Director of the Arts Council Silicon Valley, the State Local Partner of the CAC and Santa Clara County

Deserai Davis; San Jacinto

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been teaching art for over 25 years now in different communities in Los Angeles County and now San Bernardino County. I pride myself on introducing artforms and artists that are a representation of my students coming from Latin and African American backgrounds. I am currently a Secondary Art Teacher at Eisenhower High School in Rialto, Ca. As an artist, I am a painter that shares narratives of the African American experience and explore the human emotions we all share. My art has showcased in many local galleries and recently at the Ontario Museum of Art. I am also a volunteer curator in the Pomona, Ca community at the Alliance Cultural Community Center, which I get the pleasure of meeting and featuring a diverse group of artists from surrounding areas. I enjoy volunteering as the community center's curator because the artists and art brings people into our center from all walks of life.

Paula Davis; Newbury Park

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Paula D. Davis is a recently retired artist/educator who specializes 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 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 LATTC, a BFA in Costume Design from CalArts, and an MFA in Scenography from ASU. She is currently a docent-in-training at the Getty Villa and is designing costumes for the upcoming production of Aristotle/Alexander, a new play being workshopped at the Getty Villa written and directed by Alex Lyras.

Therese Davis; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

These is a freelance vocalist, curator, social practice artist, administrator, creative and life coach, social media specialist, event planner and marketer based in the SF Bay Area. She is the founder of the San Francisco Songbird Festival and co-founder Arts.Co.Lab. Therese is an Emerging Artist Professional Fellowship Cohort 9 Alumni, and Cohort 10 Mentor. She is lifelong activist and artist whose earliest memories involve advocating for voting equality and civil rights.

She is invested in healing-centered practices, restorative justice, culture- and diversity-affirming activities, and training for community. Therese supports leveling up, so artists and

change makers can become part of the conversation moving justice forward. Her political focus is centered in human rights, fair housing, food and social justice. As an activist she explores the troubling persistence of the prison-industrial complex and its impact on communities of color.

Michael Dawson; Lafayette

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an amateur photographer who has won several awards, including first and second place at the Berkeley Labs photowalk. I enjoy taking photographs, especially lately time-lapse photographs of birds in flight. In addition to taking photographs, I am co-founder of the environmental 501(3)(c) non-profit Save Lafayette Trees. Through my work, I have found for the preservation of iconic heritage oak trees in the East Bay while promoting better gas pipeline safety by working with our utility, municipalities, and general public. Previously, I worked in the high tech industry in business and product capacities, most recently at Google.

Raúl de la Torre; Santa Monica

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Born in Barcelona - Spain in 1964. Studied Economics in UB Barcelona and London School of Economics, and art at ESCOLA MASSANA, well know. Art school in Barcelona .

Moved to Los Angeles in 2004 after 12 years jumping constantly from London to LA, NY, and Barcelona for working reasons.

Before deciding to be a full time artist, I was designing logos and clothes for surf and skate brands based in Spain.

During my first years in LA, I had a tour company, where we helped Spanish, and Italian tourist to navigate our city.

I'm married, father of a 17 year old.

Lori de Leon; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

I have been a lifelong community activist primarily in the farm workers movement and now with the Dolores Huerta Foundation. Art and music have always played a major activist role in the movement. As a teenager to young adult, I was a member of El Teatro Campesina performing throughout the country spreading the striking farm workers of the Great Delano Grape Strike.

Graphic art was also a major influence in

Michael de Vries; Sonora

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As a formerly incarcerated person who has benefitted from my exposure to the arts in the prison setting, and an Artist Instructor who has been welcomed back into to prisons in this State, I believe I have a good idea as to what "works" in terms of arts programming as a cure for societal ills.

Megan Debin; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Dr. Megan Lorraine Debin is Professor of Art History at Fullerton College, host of the YouTube series Art Trippin, and travel guide. She earned a PhD in Art History, with a major in Latin American art and a minor in Ancient Indigenous arts, from the University of California, Los Angeles. She also holds an MA in Latin American Studies and a BA in Art History and Italian. 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 contemporary Mexican art. Dr Debin's dissertation "Body Traces: Contemporary Art against Violence in Mexico (1968-2012)" benefitted from the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and UC Mexus.

Lorne Dechtenberg; Santa Cruz

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

Dr. Lorne Dechtenberg is currently Managing Director of Santa Cruz Shakespeare, a position to which he brings more than fifteen years of arts management experience in venues ranging from theatres and concert halls to recording studios and film sets. He is a prolific composer, music director, producer, and performer who has been on thousands of stages over the last 30 years, and who was featured in the PBS documentary "Composer at Work." Before moving to Santa Cruz, he served as Executive & Artistic Director of Bluegrass Opera & Music Theatre, where he produced dozens of challenging works, including the second staging of Broadway's "LoveMusik" (in collaboration with the Hal Prince Organization) and the world premiere of "Illyria" (a Gilbert-and-Sullivan-style adaptation of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" that drew audiences from around the globe). Dechtenberg holds DMA and MM degrees from the University of Kentucky, as well as a second MM from the University of Houston.

Monika Demmler; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Dr Monika Demmler (PhD) is a Los Angeles based award-winning (2 REMI, Global Music Award) pioneering composer, multi-instrumentalist, djane, and speaker, who channels her research in Solfeggio frequencies into her musical artworks, blending genres in a new and captivating way: Her latest releases (2022) are Zucker (avant-garde techno-deep house) with Holzkopfkind and Princess - a feline mix of krautrock, shoegaze, punk. Currently, she is working on her third album Love Bomb as an antidote to the prevalent global political/social situation.

Linda Denton; Santa Maria

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I started my career as an Art Teacher immediately after the passage of Prop. 13. A time when Art classes were being eliminated. I taught in grades 7-12. While in that position I wrote a grant to implement an Animation class. As a school administrator. I worked in grades K-12. As a site principal we embraced the Arts and developed a budget to train staff on how to teach Theatre, Dance, and Visual Arts. As a 9-12 Principal I implemented 'Summer Theatre', this

had never been done before. For the Summer Theatre program I was responsible for hiring the Director, Music Director, Choreographer, Costumer, etc. I was both a challenge and a learning experience. For the programs success we networked with the local Community College for funding and also for the students to earn units. The program was open to 3rd grade to adults. As an Asst. Superintendent I wrote several grants including High School Tech, After-School programs grant, Reading First grant, to name a few. I was also responsible for curriculum, instruction, and Categorical Programs. I am now the president for Central Coast Watercolor Society.

Fisher Derderian; Costa Mesa

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Fisher Derderian, raised in California's San Joaquin Valley within the Armenian Diaspora, blended his rural roots with urban artistry as a musician in New York City while studying the liberal arts. His journey led to a Master's Degree in Philosophy in the United Kingdom, focusing on the importance of art in society. Derderian then founded an international nonprofit, spearheading culturally enriching programs including undergraduate seminars at the University of Oxford and academic conferences at the University of Cambridge. His work, from staging operas to collaborating with global artists, highlights his commitment to integrating art into community life. Currently, he enriches Costa Mesa's social fabric through the Arts Commission, advocating for a creative and inclusive economy.

Lauren Deutsch; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have been a grants review panelist for LA County and LA City Cultural/Arts departments and have worked for/served on boards of other community foundations. Since 1993 I have written proposals and/or managed successful grants from CAC (and ACTA), as well as NEA, CA Humanities and other public, private and corp. foundations for clients ranging from arts and media to youth, environment and social welfare NPOs. I am formally trained in current DEI practices. My clients have come from throughout CA, primarily the performing arts. I produced a nationally distributed public radio theatrical series funded by CAC and also was publicity coordinator for the 1990 Los Angeles Arts Festival. I am a docent at LACMA, with direct expertise in East Asian cultures (Japanese tea ceremony instructor). I play guitar and piano since I was a child.

Dharby Dillon; Arcata

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an art enthusiast and practitioner, that loves sharing art with others. After receiving a Bachelor's in Studio Art, I have continued to practice art in my daily life. I often volunteer at local museums and galleries to stay connected to my community. This last year I have started receiving my teaching credential to teach art in schools. I care deeply about art and its involvement in our lives, especially for the youth.

Deborah Dinter; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Studied American Academy of Arts in L.A.,

Graduate AA/BA Liberal, Performance, Art and Science, Health Sciences. Received at 46 yrs old, went back to school during, after, and before much adversaries in my life and world.

I'm now and always hv been a supportive of all the Arts and Science, whether in conversation, prayer, walk in life and especially with children.

I'm currently working(curating)on 2 Novels, Multiple Poem collections, multiple children stories, series on immigration, morals and bring back American Patriotism . Share our culture not forget. I am also an American citizen born in Australia. I love our country!

I've also worked in Property management,

Medical advocate , and child of faith.

Tory DiPietro; Venice

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

(b. Los Angeles, CA, lives and works in Venice, CA) is a self-taught artist who began working with her main medium, neon in 2017. Her work quickly gained traction and attention. While she has always worked creatively and with various mediums, neon - often presented on handcrafted mounts made of what most would consider detritus and other inventive surfaces - is the multi-sensory conduit into dimensions where the past, present, and future exist together in a physical space. Her artwork bends the laws of physics. It allows others to understand their existence, reciprocate human relationships, and find peace in light. She's been featured in solo and group exhibitions, film and video; she is also a recipient of support and sponsorship from large art organizations, including East Side Artist Initiative, La Plaza De Cultura y Artes, The City of Los Angeles, The County of Los Angeles, NOW art LA and more. She has created custom works for corporate campaigns, licensed her own art in world wide merchandise collaborations, created the new cultural landmark "Light at The End of The Tunnel - Heart of Los Angeles" & her original works can be found in private collections around the world.

Shane Dixon; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Leah Shane Dixon (Shane, they/he) is an artist in multiple media, whose diverse body of work explores fusion of oppositional polarities, transcendental themes, and humankind's unique role within the natural world. A graduate of Pratt Institute and the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, Shane draws from their bi-coastal life experience, informed by the rich tapestry of artistic, historic, and cultural trends of both Los Angeles and New York City. In addition to his studio art practice at Angels Gate Cultural Center (AGCC) in San Pedro, CA, he also serves as Studio Artist Representative on the AGCC Board of Directors. Shane also works an art coach at Long Beach Polytechnic High School and curates group art shows in Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Avila Do Espirito Santo; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I am a drummer, composer and artist from Los Angeles, California. My practice exists at the

intersections of music, film, movement, fashion, writing and visual art. I am invested in creative world building, as a means to address diasporic existence.

Joan Dobkowski; Palm Springs

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Joan Lazarus — Executive Director: Oakland Ballet, Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School & Camp (Steamboat Springs, CO), WestWave Dance (annual dance festival in San Francisco); General Manager, Cowell Theater at Fort Mason. Capital campaign consultant for ODC/San Francisco's expansion project in SF's Mission District, former President Dance Bay Area, Steering Committee of Bay Area National Dance Week. Joan performed with, or in the works of, Alonzo King, Cliff Keuter, Ellen Bromberg, Victoria Morgan, Krissy Keefer, Frank Shawl, Toni Pimble, Sarah Bush, and Alan Ptashek. Full-time faculty in Dance at University of Oregon and Mills College, and taught at San Francisco Ballet, Dance Circle of Boston, The Princeton Ballet, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center. Co-author "Dance Curriculum Guide" adopted by San Francisco Unified School District, choreographer for Embarcadero redesign in the wake of the Loma Prieta earthquake 1989. B.A. Psycholinguistics, M.A. Dance, M.A. Arts Administration. 2006: Bay Area National Dance Week's Contribution to the Field of Dance Award; 2012: Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Sustained Achievement; 2011: "Dance MVP" by The San Francisco Chronicle.

Robin Dolan; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I am Co-Managing Director at the Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley CA, where I also served as Business Mgr & Senior Audience Services Mgr. I am responsible for oversight and strategic decision making for the company's administrative, development, marketing, and front-of-house activities. Previously I worked as Box Office Mgr at the California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda, & Box Office Associate at the San Francisco Ballet.

I have sung in the Oakland Symphony Chorus, & the SF Choral Society. I directed the Music for the Spiral Dance, an annual 800-1500 person Halloween event 6 years. I have memberships to the SF Fine Arts Museums, OMCA, & KQED. I have BA degrees in both music and theatre. At SFSU, I learned about the importance of art advocacy, while arts programs were being cut everywhere in education.

I organized contingents for the SF LGBT Pride Parade. I taught workshops on Bisexuality & identity in public schools, & organized educational workshops for SF Bi-Friendly group.

I am passionate about the arts & creating inclusive & diverse opportunities in our Bay Area communities.

Jeffrey Dominguez; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My name is Jeffrey Dominguez. I am a traditional sign painting artist based out of the City of Los Angeles, and a project manager working in a sign manufacturing company that builds advertisements for franchises.

I grew up in Mid City Los Angeles, attended West Adams high school and was able to graduate with a bachelor's degree from Cal State Northridge. I have focused many years of my life to arts, and the utilization of mediums to persuade and captivate the attention of consumers and businesses. I took a very diverse approach into gaining expertise in art that included being a chalk artist for a grocery store, an apprentice at a neon studio, a painter at a custom bike shop and finally the founder of my own sign painting company, Jeffrey Signs.

I am currently a Delegate for LA Arts and a volunteer with the office of Council District 1. I have taken up different mentorship roles along my path. I connect with the businesses of my city through my work of painting their facade to captivate people walking by. I continue to grow and learn but I am ready to mentor and give back the same opportunities that were given to me.

Pamela Donohoo; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Pamela is an international performing artist: aerialist, dancer, gymnast and choreographer. She has worked with performing arts organizations throughout the US and internationally. She has done commercials, award shows, large-scale events and spectacular acrobatic shows like Le Reve by Franco Dragone.

Pamela received her degree in Cultural and Social Anthropology from Stanford University. Her research interests include: social justice, peacebuilding, sustainability and the environment, folklore, culture, and history.

Pamela choreographs ground and aerial pieces for events and theaters. Her choreography is dynamic and high energy yet thought provoking and widely accessible. Although Pamela creates for a wide range of audiences and venues, she specializes in creating socially relevant and globally engaged acrobatic performances. Her vision is to generate art that inspires people to think critically and contribute positively to their world.

Carol Dorf; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Carol Dorf is a Zoeglossia fellow, and also a Center for Independent Living fellow. Their books include "Theory-Headed Dragon." Their writing appears on the Poetry Foundation website, and in the journals that include "Pleiades," "About Place," "Cutthroat," "The Museum of Americana," "Exposition Review," "Unlikely Stories," "The Journal of Humanistic Mathematics," "Scientific American," and "Maintenant." They are founding poetry editor of Talking Writing, and taught math in Berkeley.

Jim Douglas; Livermore

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I started my company in 1986 after attending San Diego State University. I've worked literally thousands events in that time and a few highlights are listed here:

-Super Bowl 50 - Various Artists

- Wente Concerts in the Vineyards - Tony Bennett, Josh Groban, Styx, Chicago, Diana Krall, etc.

- 1st Bone Bash at San Francisco's legendary Cow Palace - The Scorpions with the San Jose Symphony, Night Ranger, etc.
- Great America Redwood Amphitheatre - Chainsmokers, Charlie Puth, Magic!, etc.
- Lake Tahoe Music Festival - Michael McDonald, Kenny Loggins, Dave Koz, Natalie Cole, America, etc.
- Grand National Rodeo - Toby Keith and other artists.
- Salinas Rodeo - Lynyrd Skynyrd, Dwight Yoakam, etc.
- State Theatre of Modesto - Joe Bonnamassa, Mat Kearney, Matt Nathanson, etc.
- Grand Theatre Center for the Arts Tracy - Dave Koz, Robert Cray, 38 Special, ConFunkShun, etc.
- Marshall Texas Civic Center - The Four Tops, LeAnn Rimes, Oak Ridge Boys, Charlie Daniels, etc.

There are many other events and programs of note that we've worked on over the years.

Carolyn Doyle; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

As a performer, CAROLYN DOYLE has worked with Marin Theatre Co., Encore Theatre Co., San Jose Rep, Theatre Rhino, Signal Theatre, Kaliyuga Arts, Eastenders Rep, Western Stage, Shotgun Players, Woman's Will, Cal Shakes, Rough and Tumble and Boxcar Theatre (where she was nominated for a BATCC for A Lie of The Mind). As a solo performer, her "Confessions of a Refrigerator Mother" enjoyed a highly successful 4-week run at The Marsh, playing to sold-out crowds. Carolyn has served on several Theatre Bay Area CA\$H panels and served as a moderator for several cycles of TBA CA\$H DANCE panels.

Amy Draizen; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I have always been an educator. I've had rich and rewarding experiences, including teaching immigrant students and their families (HaywardUSD), founding a school in Ghana for girls who would otherwise be denied opportunities (PROFESA), and as an Educational Therapist, ensuring that students with learning challenges get the services they need and deserve to be successful.

Equally, I have always been a student! My academic experiences focus on Education: Harvard University (Master's of Education), Holy Names (Ed Therapy), NYU (Deaf Ed), UC Berkeley (ESL), and Tufts (Child Study). I continue to learn through travel, volunteer work, and community service. I know I will be a lifelong learner.

My passion for dance and music began at a young age. I have worked with dance companies from the Caribbean and its diaspora and produced dance and music shows for the community. I have participated in salsa companies, gospel choirs, and jazz recitals. The arts are essential

to my being and reflective of the values of a culture. Currently, as the President of the Board for CubaCaribe, I am lucky to combine my skills as educator, leader, and champion of the arts.

Madeleine Drake; San Pedro

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I have been an actress since I was a child. I have a Masters of Fine Arts in acting from UCLA. I have served on the board of Shakespeare by the Sea, Little Fish Theatre, Long Beach Playhouse and the San Pedro Arts District, fundraising for all. I have directed more than 50 plays throughout my career and acted in more than 100. As a volunteer I have directed 11 local children's plays for after school programs. As a parent I have organized the formation of a dance troop and found musical instruments for the local school bands.

John Drew; Laguna Niguel

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an oil painter who is a member of the California Art Club. I have served as a grant writer for a number non-profits including the Black Cooperative Impact Fund, Folds of Honor, Theatre West, Opera Pacific, Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Israel Film Festival, JohnC Art Ballet, Musical Theatre West, Laguna Art Affair, and Laity Institute of the Arts. In many of these roles, I was not only a grant writer but a management consultant.

Jennifer Drolet; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been involved in the arts for many years, having worked at the Getty Museum for nearly 15 years, then working in the for-profit sector consulting with museums on fundraising, membership, events, museum operations, and visitor experience. I have worked on both sides of the nonprofit world, as both a client and a consultant. With Arts Council I am highly involved with our artist grantee programs, public art projects, and fundraising. I have a tech background and am passionate about supporting local arts. I also volunteer with Worldwide Walls and Art Renzei for an annual mural and art festival, and I network with local and international artists.

Melanie DuBose DuBose; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have a BA and MFA in theatre/film from UCSC and UCLA and I am a published writer. I have multiple teaching credentials. I have taught theatre and film/media and creative writing. I was a LAUSD teacher of the year. I taught adults ways to build community and facilitate language learning through theatre. I have worked with Career Tech Education teaching adults ways to help students use media to connect with others but to help them develop their voice and ideas so that they can change the world for the better. I have worked in partnership with many arts organization including the Huntington, NBC Universal, and Warner Brother, and the LA Film Commission.. I taught creative writing and songwriting and introduced students to various unions including ASCAP. I helped students get internships in the arts in Los Angeles. I found every opportunity available to students so that they could create and present their poetry, films, performances before a live audience or panel of experts.

Heidi Duckler; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

As the Founder and Artistic Director of Heidi Duckler Dance for 38 years, I have created over 500 original performances at historic and iconic sites throughout Southern California. I have been recognized by the California Arts Council, the National Endowment of the Arts, Dance/USA, Music/USA, California Humanities and the James Irvine Foundation, and have won many awards for my dance films. In addition to managing a dance company, I am also a professor of screen dance at the University of California Santa Barbara and guest lecturer at UCLA, UCIrvine, the University of Oregon, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Sci-Arc.

Fran Dukehart Rebuck; San Luis Obispo***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Fran Dukehart, created a silent storytelling character, Daisy the Mime who performed with the Central Coast Children's Theatre, the San Luis Obispo Little Theater and as an Artist-in-Residence in the schools, CMC Men's Colony, The Paso Robles Boys School and the Gifted and Talented Programs in County School from 1980 -2000. Making theater accessible to young people through out the rural communities was possible through the local Arts Council and the City of San Luis Obispo Cultural Arts Grants. Fran's professional performance includes touring as an aerial ballerina, chorus line dancer and elephant rider with the Greatest Show on Earth, Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus, 1974-75 where she met Marcel Marceau and discovered her passion for the art of mime, pantomime and mask theatre.

Kendall Dunaway; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

After traveling the world with the USAF for 10 years as a flying medic, I landed in Sacramento, 1992 where I worked for Sutter Health, with a brief break in service to run Production Management for a Web Design firm and then returned to Sutter until retirement in 2019. During my 25+ years tenure at Sutter I was able to hold key Project Management roles within Risk Management and the IT Departments. I have worked on large system-wide projects like Y2K. I was one of 3 in charge of implementing the first system-wide application focusing on Finance, Procurement and Human Resources. This program technologically united all the individual 27 Hospitals and ancillary services within the Sutter System as one..

I volunteer at The Broad Room and also serve as a Board Member to this organisation. The Broad Room is a Sacramento based nonprofit arts organization which supports historically underrepresented artists through two primary programs: the Free Art Supply Closet and affordable artist studio space.

I began training as a backup photographer and dark room assistant at age 9 with my father. I am currently a photographer, painter, mosaic tile, mixed media and street artist.

Paulette Dunn Sanders; Long Beach***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

As a young girl I grew up walking to school in a city where the sidewalks are covered with years of unattended clumps of filth, germs, blood stains and chewed smashed gum. Looking

around and see peeled paint covering your local mom and pop stores as I watched stray animals crossing the streets and smelling the dried stings of human urine fill my nostrils as I pass the alley ways right before reaching a candle-light memorial of a families loved one to finally look up to see a beautiful mural with beautiful bright colors brings a sense of hope to one's imagination.

Melissa Dutra; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Hello, I'm Melissa Dutra, a San Jose native deeply immersed in our city's vibrant artistic scene. My artistic journey, sparked by a simple box of Crayolas, took a profound turn a few years ago when, amidst homelessness, I found solace near Citadel Art Studios in my RV. Invited by Al Preciado to showcase in exhibitions like "Human Not Homeless" and "The Citadel Collection," my passion for art blossomed, leading me to embark on a journey into art therapy at De Anza College.

As an emerging artist with limited accolades, my ambition is to impact public art, sculptures, murals, and outreach. My goal is to leverage art as a potent instrument to illuminate injustices and champion positive change, especially for the marginalized. Through my creations, I aim to highlight the deep link between art and healing, inspiring individuals to uncover and express their unique narratives.

Excited to contribute to this panel, I aspire to bring meaningful insights and decisions. I wholeheartedly believe in the transformative potential of art and eagerly anticipate the chance to foster positive change through my contributions.

Xavier Dzielski; Larkspur

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have a multi-disciplinary professional background, and hold a Bachelor's degree in Cinema Studies (NYU Tisch School of the Arts, 2019), which is a foundational element in my critical engagement with artistic work. My research focused on the intersection of public subsidy and national/political expression in the arts, as well as other modes such as fine art, theater, literature, and dance. I most recently worked at Irish Arts Center (4 years), a multidisciplinary presenting house in New York City, as Grants & External Engagement Coordinator, managing/executing grant applications and reports for numerous municipal, state, national and international governments, and foundations. This has given me a robust fluency in grant-making processes. Currently, I support A.C.T.'s executive leadership and Board of Trustees through high level strategic planning and governance operations, expanding my understanding of the current challenges facing the performing arts industry and all nonprofits. Additionally, I have a years-long background as a competitive Irish step dancer and performer, which affords me a unique perspective as both administrator and creative.

Rachael Dzikonski; Riverside

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Rachael Dzikonski is the Executive Director of the Riverside Arts Council and adjunct faculty in

the Art History department for Riverside Community College District. Through RCCD, Rachael teaches Art Appreciation at Moreno Valley and Norco Colleges. Through Norco's Dual Enrollment programs she has had the opportunity to teach high school students as well as incarcerated individuals at the California Rehabilitation Center. She began as the ED for RAC in 2022 after 13 years as the Program Director. She is also a multi-media visual artist, working in mediums from photography, woodworking and furniture design, ceramics and drawing in various media including oil pastel. As the Executive Director of the RAC, Rachael has made it her goal to unite the community through the arts to make the city and county strong, vibrant, healthy and creative.

Patricia Eagan; Truckee

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Patricia Eagan is a writer, editor, and creative consultant based in Northern California. An appointed Arts Advocate of the Public Art Commission of Truckee, Patricia serves to engage all communities in the arts as well as host art salons at her life-work residence. the Truckee Artist Lofts. Her current clients include Truckee nonprofits as well as independent scholars and memoirists. Patricia holds a MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the University of Pittsburgh and is working on a nonfiction book about affordable housing communities.

Mary Eastham; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

In 2023, everything I sent out was published or received an award or special notice. Yippee. I am working on my fourth book, working title, 100 Stories and the Music That Inspired Them which will incorporate my tandem love of writing and singing. For the past 8 years I've been the Flash Fiction Judge for the Soul-Making Keats literary competition I'll end with what Editor Ginger Mayerson of Wapshott Press wrote about me in my third book - Three Soul-Makers: Poems That Bring Us Together: Mary Eastham's work is darkly beautiful, erotic, lyrical and haunting. She carefully crafts a world of runaways, mystical goddesses, happy strippers and Marilyn Monroe returned to us to comment on her life being auctioned away. The poet's words nag at us the way only a great seduction can...like liquid pearls falling from the sky above/as soft and easy as a fortune teller's dreams/We are beautiful alone with ourselves/they seem to say/evening snowflakes floating beneath a faint moon/like fingertips about to touch/a new piano/each sound, each song/a miracle.

Vernelle Edwards; Port Hueneme

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

A graduate of College of Charleston and Southwestern University School of Law, Ms. Edwards worked as an entertainment attorney, founded Isis Management, representing musicians, producers, and artists, including James Brown, Miriam "Mama Africa" Makeba, Salaelo Maredi, and many others.

She later founded SiSi Records, releasing a collection of works, including Motown legend Sylvia Moy's hit "Love's Inside" on the "Universal Love" album. Moy wrote and produced Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie Amor."

In 1990, Ms. Edwards wrote the musical "Amandla Ka Mandela," which was staged at Henry Street Settlement Theatre in Manhattan, New York, and was followed by her historical fiction book "Missionary."

In 2013, she released her debut album "Smile" under the stage name "Aria Elan" as well as 3 other albums. Her latest single and animated video is "Be Brave."

She has spoken and performed at women's conferences, legal conferences, colleges, etc. and has received certificates of appreciation and awards from the California Youth Authority, College of Charleston, County of Maui, NAACP, Ventura Self Help Clinic, Watts Legal Aid, US Navy, and numerous others..

Ensley Eikenburg; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Ensley Eikenburg is former book editor and publishing executive with experience at St. Martin's Press, Random House, and John Wiley & Sons. She volunteers her time by promoting the visual and literary arts. She served as an educational volunteer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she researched, produced, and led art tours for the public for 11 years. Her knowledge of the Met's collection ranges from ancient and Oceanic art to European old masters to modern art. When she moved to Seattle in 2012, she became involved in organizing LitQuake, an annual literary festival of local Seattle authors. She wants to bring what she's learned as an educator, editor, and business administrator to Sacramento by founding a nonprofit devoted to making the literary arts accessible and representative of our city and creating a fresh, enriching dialogue between writers and our communities.

Antavius Ellison; North Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Antavius Ellison is a Georgia native, creative and performing artist, choreographer, youth leader and educator. His work includes regional theater, television/film, commercials, music videos, as well as live stage performances. He has had the pleasure of working with Sza, Jason Mraz, Interpol, Hozier, Aluna and DIXSON, as well as reputable influencers such as Tony award-winning director Kenny Leon and world renowned choreographer Chucky Kaplow. His work expands beyond his dance capabilities, as he's worked as choreographer and creative director for indie artists and personal productions. His work can also be seen within youth communities around the world, specifically communities of color, as he has been an educator in public and charter schools, dance studios, virtual online learning and teaching artist workshops. Antavius's dance background incorporates an array of dance genres and acting-based expressive arts methods, building a new and approachable visceral movement language, using his art to empower people, communities and societies altogether.

Cornelia Emerson; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Cornelia Emerson has worked in many arts, cultural heritage and higher education institutions in Southern California, including Art Center College of Design and Otis College of Art and Design. She spent seventeen years (1992-2009) as Development Officer at UCLA Film & Television Archive. From 2010-15, she was Development Director for Musical Theatre Guild--with other consulting clients including the school curriculum (Out)Laws and Justice and LA Center of Photography. From 2016-17, she provided technical assistance to West Hollywood Arts Commission's grantee Saturday Night Bath. A member of Yale Nonprofit Alliance (YANA), she was connected with a group co-founded by another alumna--LA River Arts Project, where she helped re-build a Covid-decimated budget and enabled hiring its first Executive Director. A current client is Prism Comics, an LGBTQ+ literary and visual art organization. Since 2020, she has been a Board Member of Look What SHE Did, a nonprofit media group that creates short films highlighting women's achievements.

She holds B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale-- later studying organizational development at UCLA's Anderson School of Management.

Mica England; Union City

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Mica England is a queer artist and writer from the San Francisco Bay Area (she/her and they/them). Mica graduated from Academy of Art University in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and is now pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Upon graduating from AAU, Mica worked at stARTup Art Fair as their Digital Content Curator and General Admin, jurying three of their fairs and publishing articles and interviews thru stARTup's blog.

Mica's artistic practice is a mixture of photography, collage, poetry, and book arts, while their written practice includes poetry, creative nonfiction, and cross-genre works. Their visual work has been featured in AAU's 2017 Spring Show in both Fine Art Book Arts and Photography, twice at the Gallery of Broken Hearts in San Francisco, 2019's Julia Margaret Cameron Awards, and at the Midwest Center for Photography, among others. Mica's written works have been published with Persephone's Daughters and Over/Exposed Lit. Mica was an artist in residence at In-Cahoots Residency in November 2019 and March 2021. They made the Lucie Foundation's Emerging Scholarship shortlist in 2017 and 2018.

Kim Enriquez-Ramirez; Cardiff By The Sea

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a multifaceted dedicated educational professional with a rich background in both creative and special education fields. Currently serving as a program specialist for an enrichment program for San Diego County. In my time as an educator I have demonstrated my creativity and passion for art by incorporating it into daily lessons, using art not only as a tool for personal identity exploration but also as a mental health resource. This approach showcases my ability to merge educational assistance with creative expression, tailoring my methods to meet the individual needs of students.

A passionate advocate for positive change, I leverage my diverse skillset and photography to empower my community in Lemon Grove. Recognized for capturing powerful narratives through visual storytelling, I am a vocal champion for minority voices and a strong believer in the transformative power of modern art. I am positive that serving on your panel will not only benefit the community but also contribute to a more inclusive and impactful art history.

Morey Epstein; Van Nuys

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

As an arts management professional, my focus has been external relations, including public relations, fundraising, and community relations. I have worked with nonprofit music, visual arts, and primarily theatres. In these positions, I have worked with artists, production and technical staff, and arts managers, endeavoring to bring their work to broad and diverse audiences, to engage arts philanthropists and foundations to support this work, and to broaden and diversify the sources of philanthropic support.

Since moving to Los Angeles in 2020, I have served as a consultant to arts organizations and assisted individual artists.

Marina Erfle; Monrovia

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am originally from Latvia and moved to California 10 years ago. I have 20 years of experience in the cultural sector. In the past, I worked at auction houses, art fairs (including Frieze Art Fair), and art galleries in London, New York, and Los Angeles. Recently, I moved on to the non-profit sector of Los Angeles: I was employed by an emerging Museum of Humanity in Los Angeles (MOHLA) and, currently, I work at Descanso Gardens as a Campaign and Foundation Relations Manager. I have a BA (Hons) and MA degree in Arts Management.

I have been actively involved in the development of exhibitions and engagement programs at MOHLA and Descanso Gardens by establishing curatorial committees with outside experts, developing the criteria for open calls for exhibition proposals, and managing the project selection process. As a result of this work, I developed skills in how to assess received applications in relation to the organization's mission and goals and how to select the projects that would be the right fit. I am passionate about the work of foundations supporting arts and culture and would love to contribute my expertise as a grant review panelist.

Alyssa Erickson; Palo Alto

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Alyssa Erickson directs SVCCreates' arts organization grant programs and capacity-building activities. Since joining SVCCreates in 2018, Alyssa has managed the Poetry Out Loud program in Santa Clara County, the Content Emerging Artist awards, and supports the Santa Clara County Poet Laureate. She has been instrumental in the evolution of SVCCreates Peer Roundtable program to meet the needs of grantees and the redesign of SVCCreates operating grant guidelines to advance more equitable access to financial resources. Prior to joining SVCCreates, she spent many years as an arts educator and program coordinator, she has a background in visual arts, with an MFA from San Jose State University.

Amy Erickson; Angels Camp***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I grew up right outside of Chicago-- a city rich with art and culture- from world-renowned museums, ornate theaters, and giant performance halls to tiny black box stages, blues clubs, and incredible architecture. I was lucky enough to be exposed to many of these elements from an early age.

I trained seriously in ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary, and character dance from an early age.

I graduated from Butler University, after studies in Chile, Nicaragua, Spain, and South Korea, with a BA in International Studies and Spanish.

I joined Risk Dance Company in Sonoma County, CA for six years and was able to display my own choreography, and perform the creative works of others.

I have always experimented with visual forms of artistic expression. I paint with acrylics and watercolor, as well as on silk with dye and gutta resist. I delved into the world of black and white, as well as manipulated macro-photography.

I have shown my work in a few galleries, sold it in person at shows or online, and taught it in classes to both children and adults.

I am now starting to run arts and cultural enrichment lessons, workshops and events in Calaveras County at the barn on my property.

Michelle Ervin; Rancho Cucamonga***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I Have a degree in fashion

Design and merchandising my youth non profit focuses on building and growing our youths artistic presence in the community! I also teach 2 Ayso soccer teams and believe it's very important to give back to our youth so they can continue to give back

Martha Escandon; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

I was a self taught graphic designer whom helped created the first website for the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks (Exposition Park Rose Garden) as a student at California State University of Los Angeles in 2000. It was back then that my love for computers and my hidden artistic talent met. Upon graduation, I became the marketing consultant for Expo Center and designed marketing materials.

Eventually, I returned to school to obtain a masters degree in entrepreneurship which I called "social Entrepreneurship" as my focus was always in the non profit sector. I have always had a passion and love to serve people, and I wanted to combine that with my offerings.

Unfortunately, my husband lost his job and I had to leave my business and obtain stable full-time employment. It was then that I became an executive director of a youth center in East

Los Angeles. I excelled in many areas but mostly in helping youth find their true talents. I also helped their families connect the dots to higher educational and projects to immerse their love and talents in after school activities. I created a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) program.

Daniel Escobar; Santa Ana

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I was raised in East LA, went to school in Long Beach. I have my Bachelor's of Music degree from Bob Cole Conservatory, and began teaching music afterschool as part of a local nonprofit right after college. I also taught at an arts school in East LA, and then made the jump to arts nonprofit management. I was Coordinator of Community Engagement at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Orange County, Education Coordinator at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, Development Manager at Dairy Arts Center in Boulder, CO, Corporate Partnerships Manager at Denver Center for Performing Arts, and finally Manager of Governing Members at Pacific Symphony in Irvine, CA. I also was on the Board for Oxnard Performing Arts Center and was Chair of the Young Professional Committee at Oxnard Chamber of Commerce.

I have lived in many different diverse areas in Southern California and Colorado and have worked closely with other NPO's in the community, specifically cultural organizations to help them achieve their goals.

Anna Lisa Escobedo; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Anna Lisa Escobedo is a multifaceted creative professional, visual artist, muralist, activist, event producer, cultural worker, and networker. She has contributed to various art projects and community-based organizations in the Bay Area. From the restoration of the Womens Building "MaestraPeace" and in 2019, "Alto Al Fuego" . Anna Lisa is passionately committed to creating pathways to inclusivity, safety, excitement, and storytelling, all while nurturing a profound sense of belonging.

Angel Esparza; Calexico

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Angel Esparza is a community-driven multi-media artist from Calexico. As the founder of Mi Calexico, his mission is to inform, inspire, and connect the community. Since 2009, Angel has been fostering connections among the residents of Calexico through various mediums, including photography, videos, a printed magazine, and events such as the Art Walk on the Border, which has brought together hundreds of artists from the region.

Mi Calexico has emerged as one of the most engaging platforms in the area, thanks to the heartfelt dedication that Angel and his team pour into his campaigns and events. He ran for city council in 2016, displaying his passion for civic engagement.

Additionally, Angel has served on the Calexico Chamber of Commerce board and played an integral role in the Mariachi Festival Committee.

Nicole Esparza; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have been a professor of nonprofit management at USC for about 10 years. During those years, I have worked with several arts and cultural programs in LA including Inner City Arts, Grand Performances, LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, Jazz Hands for Autism, and LA Opera. I have supervised many MA student capstone projects in arts management and have learned so much from each project. I can't say that I'm artist myself but I have been a participant and taken classes at all the art programs that I've supervised.

Aireene Espiritu; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Aireene Espiritu's songs are a mix of stompin', swayin' and timeless Americana reminiscent of front porch storytelling, of ghosts and the living, times of laughter and tears. Aireene was a soloist with the Glide Ensemble in San Francisco, toured nationwide and internationally, and in 2016, was added to the roster of artists under non-profit label, Little Village Foundation. She created A Color-Coded Symphony project, 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. Her latest project is, The Sampaguitas, singing Filipino folk songs and originals in three-part harmonies.

"A rare breed of artist, soul singer, folk troubadour, a skiffle tear-stained street singer with a heart as big as the history of the music that drives her...a storyteller without borders or cultural limitations." - No Depression

Jessica Evanjelista; Watsonville***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My name is Jessica Carmen (Evanjelista) and I have been an illustrator and muralist, professionally, since 2015. My partner and I created our joint venture "The Jams" in 2018 and have been averaging 15-20 public art projects per year, as well as public art events. Since 2015, I have consistently applied for individual artist and events grants for our work. I have also been a freelance grant writer since 2022. Both personally and professionally, I have an 80% approval rate for grants. In my "day job," I work for the Arts Council Santa Cruz County. I was previously the Development Manager but have since reverted back to my passion in Arts Education as the Arts Education Associate; Where I budget, plan, and implement after school arts education programming throughout our county. My role is a joint role and so I also am the VAPA coordinator for the local school district's after school program. I am also an ACSCC grant reviewer and assist with data and storytelling for our Arts Education grant writing.

Martin Evans; Fountain Valley***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am a freelance grant writer who has served many arts organizations including Laguna College of Art + Design, Pacific Symphony, Backhaus Dance, Chuck Jones Center for Creativity, Hope University, and the Orange County Master Chorale. I feel I am well versed in arts organization needs and qualified to evaluate programs to gauge their effectiveness in deliver and execution.

Jess Everts; Tehachapi***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

My love of music started when I began taking private violin lessons at the age of 6 in Milwaukee, WI. As I got better, I had opportunities to learn in the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, and in a school setting daily. These opportunities gave me my first insights into non-profit arts management, and I haven't looked back.

After high school, I went to Bradley University in Peoria, IL. I studied Music Business and International studies. I kept up my violin playing, and eventually became the principal violist (yup, violist) in the orchestra. I went on to win our concerto competition and perform with our orchestra in March of 2020 just before graduating in May of 2020. I started at Shenandoah University in June of 2020.

I've worked in organizations solely funded by community members without paid staff members, and I've worked for organizations as large as the Aspen Summer Music Festival and school.

While I currently work in Mojave, CA for Scaled Composites in their Flight Operations department, I keep up my passion for the arts on the side by volunteering as a player and board member for our local community orchestra, the Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra.

Cheryl Fabio; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Cheryl Fabio, Executive Director Sarah Webster Fabio Center for Social Justice (SWFCenter) for 20 years. She led SWFCenter into becoming a documentary film producer. Cheryl is adept at leading cross-functional creative teams and she's a skilled administrator. Fabio's film process is community oriented and dynamic. She curates public events, she has deep respect for timelines, deadlines, and budgets. Fabio works from a transdisciplinary practice that includes academics, lived experience, and Life-long learning. She was the COORDINATING WRITER for Oakland's "Better Neighborhoods: Same Neighbors" TCC proposal, that won East Oakland \$28 million. She contributes to nonprofits like RJOY, Communities for a Better Environment, Parent Voices Oakland, Oakland Rise, EB PREC-Displacement Avoidance Project, and the Brotherhood of Elders, Bese Saka. Her prior experience was as OPERATIONS MANAGER, at KTOP TV 10, Oakland's Government TV and the highlight of her career was as Program Director for the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, Inc.(1980's). Her production credits include Evolutionary Blues... West Oakland's Music Legacy, and A Rising Tide.

Melinda Farrell; Studio City***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Melinda Ann Farrell has served as Executive Director & Curator for Center for the Arts Eagle Rock (CFAER) since 2014. She works collaboratively with artists and arts administrators to provide unfettered access to the arts for people of all abilities, backgrounds and identities throughout Northeast Los Angeles. She is the Founder of Sustainable Media Studio (SMS), a student-led media arts studio where students and professional artists produced documentary shorts and creative campaigns for J. Paul Getty Trust, Getty Multicultural Undergraduate

Internship Program, Getty Foundation, Otis College of Art and Design, California Film Commission and LACCD. Melinda's background in development and production includes senior roles at Universal, Paramount and Disney as well as Deputy Director of the California Film Commission. Her curatorial work includes The Art of Food: A Recipe for Community for Current: LA Food; Little Masters youth exhibition series; Three Questions/Tres Preguntas mural project with Ismael de Anda III; Looking Closely Together: Joan Agajanian Quinn Portraits on Paper; and curatorial contributions to the LAPS shows SWEET EARTH, BITTER EARTH; WORLD ON FIRE; and WILD LIFE.

Alain Fastre; Mountain View

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Born in a small village in the East of Belgium, I am a real European having found my happiness in sunny California.

With a career as a Business Executive, my jobs sent me on frequent travels that gave me the opportunity to come back home with profound and long lasting impressions of our beautiful planet Earth.

One day, while in university, I decided to make my artist dream a reality. I drove to an art supplies shop in central Brussels, bought Winsor & Newton watercolors, Kolinsky sable brushes, Arches paper, chose a subject (Lake in the fall, resting boat) and got started. The finished painting was better than I expected so, I was on my way to something exciting!

Throughout the years, alternating times of low tide and no ideas with high tide when full inspiration keeps me awake for non-stop day & night creation, I have continued my painting inspired by unforgettable images that caught my eyes, captured my heart and enlightened my life.

Watercolors are what I feel best, with its immediate and spontaneous approach of a moment in time. Water, indispensable to our living, is present in all my work, continuously flowing, quietly, happily as does our life.

Cassandra Fawcett; Dana Point

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I grew up on a small family farm in Missouri and moved to California six years ago to pursue my passions. I am currently doing everything I love which includes working in the medical imaging space as their Marketing Director, running a small pet business and working at a children's art studio. I am very diverse and have worked in many different industries.

Setayesh Feizi; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I, Setayesh Feizi, am a UCSB graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and a minor in the History of Art and Architecture. My journey includes a year as a Gallery Assistant at the UCSB ADA Museum, where I gained hands-on experience collaborating with artists and overseeing art direction and gallery security. Additionally, as a Proctor for the Disabled Students Program at UCSB, I had the privilege of working with underserved communities of

disabled individuals. Currently, I am a Grants Writer at the Timken Museum of Art in Balboa Park, blending academic knowledge with practical experience to contribute meaningfully to the cultural sector.

Carrie Fender; Grass Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

While I could tote that I have a Masters Degree in the Art of Education, and even graduated Magna Cum Laude, honestly, I would just love to be a part of the CAC panel simply because I recognize the human value of artistic expression. I was a 5th grade teacher for almost two decades. During that time, I came to realize that some souls NEED an artistic outlet. There were children that only related to (and survived) the educational system through art classes. It is so amazing that there is this outlet & validation for artists. I would love to be a part of that team for them. I am not an art professor or run in elite artistic circles, but I would love to be part of recognizing artistic dreams. Also, having been a teacher, I take no issue with hours of hard work and little pay, if it means helping forward someone's dreams!

Pennie Fien; Redondo Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been involved in the arts in many capacities and fields: fine arts, theatre, film, education and management. Currently I am a mixed media artist/painter and serve on the Collage Artists of America board as exhibits chair.

In 2020 I retired from my 20-yr teaching career. I started as a P/T "art on a cart" teacher of Kinder to 5th at an elementary school in suburban Chatsworth. After 2 years, LAUSD recruited me to teach at Banning, a Title 1 high school in urban Wilmington. I taught Drawing, Painting, Design and AP Studio Art for 6 yrs. I then moved to Culver City High, considered one of the most diverse in CA. My students varied culturally, ethnically, socioeconomically and academically.

Prior to teaching, I had spent 15 years doing costumes/props after having earned my MFA in Design from NYU's Tisch School of The Arts. Experiences included everything from low budget film and non-profit theatre to big studio films and Broadway. I also worked on operas, dance festivals, etc. Additionally, I have had some experience with arts management and advertising, as my first jobs were in those fields after I earned my BFA from Temple University's Tyler College of Art.

Carlos Fierro-Zarate; Oxnard

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I was born in Mexico and arrived in the US when I was 1 year old. My parents always supported me in my creative endeavors, which led me to choose a creative career. Today, I work in printing and graphic design in my "hometown" of Oxnard, CA. I speak Spanish fluently and took college courses to better my primary language; Spanish. I also studied other languages at a young age, including French, and later, Japanese and Italian. I love anything creative and fun and feel I would make a great candidate for this position today :)

Steph FigPope; Marina del Rey***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My art meets at the intersection of nostalgia and memory-making, using knowledge gleaned from my psychology degree from Columbia University. I've always been fascinated with how malleable memory can be, and constantly aware of the future nostalgia I'd have for the present moment.

I've held a pop-up adult carnival with a group camping twist at Bonnaroo and an impromptu symposium in a muddy desert storm at Burning Man. I have had my art featured in exhibitions in art galleries in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Greece, Brazil, and the US. I've also been running a fun postcard project passively for years, where anyone can request a heartfelt message during an adventure written on the relevant location postcard, ever since I bought too many postcards at a national park and came up with the concept.

kiki Finley; Sherman Oaks***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Currently, kiki is a captivating public speaker, a proud member of the Recording Academy (Los Angeles Chapter), Guild of Music Supervisors, Women in Film and Women in Music. As Point Blank Management's Principal Music Publisher, she manages the catalog for some of the music industry's most amazing award-winning female film composers of this time, publish soundtracks and manage producers across the globe. She challenges the norm with a mission to make a footprint in such a male dominated industry. She also encourages her talent to hold firm to ownership and stomp through doors as opposed to waiting on someone to open them. With an academic background in Philosophy of Law (Pre-Law concentrating on Music & Sports) at Arizona State University, she has been able to guide her talent in the direction to create an experience for their audience to remember for years to come.

Ilena Finocchi; Stockton***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

As a celebrated multi-disciplinary artist, my art work has been exhibited nationally, including Art Basil Miami, SoFA Chicago, and the Museum of Art & Design, NY. I have been an artist-in-residence at the Archie Bray Foundation, MT and the McKnight Residency, MN. I was awarded the Stockton Art Commission grant which featured a community inclusive 20'x30' mural and flip book animation workshop series throughout the Fair Oaks Community. My stop motion animation *Creatures in My House*, toured the film festival circuit internationally and won several first time film maker awards. Most notably showing the self-created animated short film at Newport Beach Film Festival, New Film Makers LA, and LA animated film festival. I hold a BFA in fine arts from Youngstown State University and an MFA in ceramic sculpture from Rochester Institute of Technology. I have worked professionally for 30 years as a designer, illustrator, artist, curator, arts educator and public artist.

Jonathan Fisher; East Palo Alto

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

MFA

Conservation, preservation, restoration of antiques, art, artifacts for over twenty years in the San Francisco Bay Area

Bob Flanagan; Belmont

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am a retired academic economist who has played wind instruments for over 70 years. I have also written a book entitled "The Perilous Life of Symphony Orchestras"

Maxine Flasher-Duzgunes; Mill Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş is Turkish-American poet, dance artist, and filmmaker based in Northern California. She has served as resident artist at Djerassi Resident Artist Program, Stapleton School for the Performing Arts, SAFEhouse Arts, and The Center at Eagle Hill, and has been commissioned for World Stage Design (Canada), 92NY's Future Dance Festival (New York), and FACT/SF Summer Dance Festival (San Francisco). Her choreographic poetry platform, strikethrough-score.org, has been presented nationwide at Noori/TWIG Media Lab (Salt Lake City), Museum of Wild and Newfangled Art (New York), and Mark Foehringer Dance Project (San Francisco). Maxine received a B.F.A. in Dance (magna cum laude) from NYU Tisch and an M.A. in Dance Philosophy (with distinction) from University of Roehampton London as a US-UK Fulbright Finalist. She currently dances with MovingGround, writes for Dance Art Journal, teaches in the California Poets in the Schools program, and directs the youth-modern company, BodyLanguage at Roco Dance. This year she founded Marin County's first Youth Poet Laureate Program to support arts leadership in younger generations of poets.

Celenaq Flippen; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I have spent the bulk of my time, since middle school, participating and supporting the arts community. It started with my acceptance into Denver School of the Arts for Theatre Arts. During my six years there I participated in shows as a cast member and production team, I volunteered for Theatre summer camps, and would be a student teacher at our arts camp. Being on a show production team, acquainted me with my interest in the background work behind creating a final project. The skills I gained range from administrative duties to research to marketing curation. Volunteering at summer camps, gave me the opportunity to make costumes and sets out of random available materials so I was exposed to using a lack of resources to my benefit. Working at the arts camp, I was able to really connect with my community given we provided this camp only to underserved Black and Brown children. These past opportunities have led to the fact that I have a personal connection to the arts community making my place on the panel something I would hold close to my heart. Plus, I am resourceful

and can spot an artist that intends to allocate funds and use available resources to their benefit.

David Flores; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I am originally from Shelby, North Carolina, but have been living in California since 2009. Growing up I moved around a lot and had the opportunity to live in both Mexico and Canada. Because of this I feel that I have a unique perspective on not only being Latinx in the United States, but being an immigrant in other countries.

My video production career began in 2010 when I was a Public Affairs Specialist with the United States Coast Guard, which I did until 2018. At the same time that I was doing that I was going to college to learn Digital Video Production here in Berkeley. During this time I was always on the lookout for opportunities to broaden my understanding of the video production process, but also where the community was coming together to tell their stories. That eventually brought me to Berkeley Community Media (BCM).

BCM is Berkeley's public access television station and community media center. I started out there in 2013 as an inter and eventually got hired there in 2015. Since working here I have had to opportunity to work with non-profits, governmental agencies and everything in between, producing television programming.

Gretchen Ford; Pacific Palisades

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a Deputy D.A. and a classically trained portrait artist. In the last 10 years, I have collaborated on public and commercial murals with taggers and other street artists from all over LA. I have painted 12-16' tall murals in many schools throughout Watts and Compton for LAUSD. I have provided portraits of fallen officers to their departments for LAPD, LASD and police departments in other states. I am currently teaching Veterans to sharpen their artistic skills at a series of classes at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in DTLA under the theory that artistic development will combat the effects of PTSD.

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. She worked extensively with producer, Les July, an eclectic artist in his own right who has attracted the attention of artists like Joni Mitchell and k.d. lang. 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 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.

Dawn Forsyth; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a third-generation Angelino living and working as an object-maker advocate in DTLA. I earned a BFA from Otis Art Institute and an MFA from San Francisco State University. I am highly energetic and determined and with exceptional analytical, problem-solving, and project-management skills.

My work as an educator focuses on design, art, aesthetics, creative thinking, and process courses. I have been a professor and an administrator at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising for thirty years. I have also taught at Santa Monica City College, Brooks College, and American College. I've volunteered with non-profits like Peace Over Violence, the American Heart Association, and St Vincent de Paul. I served as a Design Mentor for organizations offering competitions and scholarships to young designers.

At DAFOMA Studios, I am a change agent for collaborative creative projects. I use a mixed-media process to create thought-provoking art and designs that explore identity-centered concepts related to culture, society, and gender. As an exhibiting artist my work includes drawing, collage, painting, sculpture, and conceptual installations that embrace human struggles.

Patricia Fortlage; Monrovia***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Patricia Fortlage is an award-winning documentary and fine art photographer. From her core belief that if you invest in women and girls, entire communities will be raised, Patricia has focused much of her career doing just that.

From her powerful piece covering the female-led Othakarhaka Foundation in Southern Malawi to the stereotype breaking, female empowering Wonder, girl! Project, to a project on the often life-long after-effects of sexual assault on women, Patricia has promoted female empowerment one project at a time. She has documented conditions and shared stories of struggle and success, helped to promote tourism in the poorest of nations, and overall, devoted her artistic work to furthering community development.

Patricia's hope is for the viewer to have an immediate emotional reaction to her work, as opposed to an intellectual reaction, one that will move the viewer and inspire them in how they themselves move in the world. She hopes to sometimes educate and inspire with her work, sometimes shock and surprise. At its most poignant, she strives to inspire positive change.

Can Foster; Weed***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Can Foster (she/her), a Ohlone land transplant who lives in the mountains on Karuk Land, now known as Weed, California. Can has an A.S. Degree in Human Development with a focus on Early Childhood Education, as well as a minor in Ethnic Studies. She is a proud mother of 6.

She is a Youth Program Director and a dedicated community organizer at Sol Collective—an inspiring community based organization that fosters art, culture, and activism. Can finds joy in engaging in meaningful conversations about Social Justice and equitable practices within her community, gardening, cooking, crafting, reading zines, and hanging out with her loved ones.

J. K. Fowler; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

J. K. Fowler founded Nomadic Press, a national-award-winning community-embedded non-profit publisher that was in operation from 2011–2023 and headquartered in Oakland, California. He is the current owner of Bundo in Xalapa, Mexico, and in 2023 he launched the Huerto de Osos Perezosos retreat space in Mexico for creative souls. In 2023, he also launched the Public Planter Publishing Podcast and Consultancy and Nomadic Foundation, which builds off of the legacy work of Nomadic Press and financially supports marginalized writers and administers biannual literary awards in partnership with San Francisco Foundation.

He believes deeply in the transformational power of self-determination, mycelial curiosity and inquiry, justice, and the act of intentionally weaving (and tending to) community. For three years, he has been working on a book titled Making Space, which is a wide-ranging nuts-and-bolts "how to publish" creative nonfiction text paired with the aesthetic philosophy of literally and figuratively making space on the page and stage.

One day, he will finish.

Larnie Fox; Benicia

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Larnie Fox is a visual and sound artist known for monumental bamboo sculpture, kinetic sculpture, sound installations, performance and painting. He began his artistic career as a street portrait artist. After earning an MFA in painting from the University of Utah, he taught for Weber State College in Ogden Utah, and went on to direct Children's programs for the Palo Alto Art Center. He was Executive Director of Arts Benicia, Benicia California from 2010 through 2015.

His work has been shown in numerous exhibitions and performances in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally. He created and led the Crank Ensemble who performed on hand-cranked instruments he built. He currently is inventing instruments, composing and performing with the new-music group the Contraption Quartet, a sound art collaboration that explores sound and visual performance using low-tech handmade instruments and sound sculpture. Recent collaborations with his wife Bodil Fox include a two-person show of interactive sound sculptures at Pro Arts Gallery, Oakland CA, with performances, and a similar program for NY2CA Gallery in Benicia. They live and work in an old house near the water in Benicia, California.

Renée Fox; Inglewood

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I received my BFA at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles (02) where I currently teach drawing & painting. Since 2014, I have completed nine public murals, commissions for local galleries and a commission for the Museum of Art and History in Lancaster's permanent collection. My public work represents diverse communities in locations including West LA College, LAX International airport and LA County's Olive View Restorative Care Village. My paintings and drawings have been exhibited regularly in galleries and museums since 2004 and are held by both public and private collections including Saks Fifth Avenue Collection, Miami, Fl, Harvard Westlake School, LA, CA Goldman Sachs, and Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture. I am founder/ President of the non profit, Inglewood Open Studios, whose mission is to support local artists and art activities by building a diverse, inclusive and resilient community. Inglewood, CA has been my home since 2006, and I briefly served as Arts Commissioner for District 2 in 2019.

Amy Frances; Santa Barbara

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Amy Frances is a Jewish author using themes of eco-activism, anti-tech, warnings of terror, war, toxins, biowar, 5G, tyranny, peace, prayers, in a prose novel series with hundreds of proverbs, currently being compiled. Invited to Dairy Hollow Writer Colony residency. Supported by CA Arts Council; Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Arts Councils; Sweet Relief; and Actors Fund.

Prior music director in elementary schools, Girls Inc., and Children's Creative Project for eight years. Vocalist, dancer, violin, drum set, bass, percussion, songwriter, spoken word, producer. Female drum set player since 1988; drum circle leader; tabla; studied at Los Angeles Music Academy under Ralph Humphrey (of Zappa). Performed in orchestras, musicals, bands, and Indian music. Recorded drum set with spoken word and songs. In 2003, received Santa Barbara Jazz Society Award, and was a Dow Creativity Award Finalist.

Giant broom 'one-stroke' painter, solo and group shows, interdisciplinary performance; photographer of nature, and homeless photos.

B.A. in Music Therapy, University of Wisconsin, worked with special education classes. Disability advocate.

Ben Frandzel; Pacifica

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

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 and growth 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.

Heather Frank; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Heather Frank is a dedicated advocate for the arts and cultural communities, with a deep commitment to fostering creativity and inclusion. As a board member at Kern Dance Alliance, they play a pivotal role in supporting and promoting dance in Kern County, California. Their work with Kern Dance Alliance is informed by a passion for cultural enrichment and a belief in the transformative power of the arts.

In addition to her board responsibilities, Heather is actively involved in the ADAPTdance program, a partnership with the League of Dreams. This program provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the joy and benefits of dance. Heather's annual volunteering efforts with ADAPTdance highlight their dedication to inclusivity and accessibility in the arts, ensuring that everyone has the chance to participate and thrive.

Through her work with Kern Dance Alliance and the ADAPTdance program, Heather demonstrates a deep-seated commitment to the arts and cultural communities. Their advocacy and volunteerism embody the belief that the arts have the power to inspire, unite, and uplift individuals from all walks of life.

Angela Franklin; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Angela M. Franklin is an essayist, poet, teacher, visual artist, and documentarian. She holds an MFA from Antioch University Los Angeles, and is a past participant of the following residencies and workshops: Anaphora Arts, the Community of Writers Workshop; Cave Canem; Voices of Our Nation and the Hurston/Wright Summer Workshop. She has taught poetry writing to high school students and incarcerated teens. She has also conducted community workshops on writing through trauma. Excerpts from her memoir and poetry are published in anthologies with her most recent work in Transformation, A Women Who Submit anthology 2024, and Cholla Needles Literary Journal due out in April 2024.

Lehia Franklin Acox; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

Lehia Franklin Acox is a public relations and marketing professional with a strong track record of delivering communications campaigns that inspire action.

In her current role as Marketing and Development Manager at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture in San Francisco, she manages the center's social media presence and marketing

activities, including publicizing its contemporary arts programming and successfully launching FORT MASON FLIX, the city's first waterfront drive-in movie theater pop-up.

Prior to joining FMCAC, Lehia headed communications consultancy LFA PR, where she garnered top-tier media mentions, expanded audiences, and increased revenues for arts, cultural, philanthropic, social action, and small business entities throughout the United States. Before that, she worked in communications for several non-profit, corporate, and small business organizations.

Lehia earned a master's of science with honors in integrated marketing communications from Roosevelt University and a bachelor's of arts in history from the University of Notre Dame. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and of Leadership San Francisco's 2024 class.

Voress Franklin-Swinton; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

50 years of working in the Sacramento arts community. Serving on the board of directors for Celebration Arts for over twenty years. Working as an artist, playwright, directors and author.

Fatima Jamil Franks; Irvine

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Fatima Jamil is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in California, USA. She earned a her B.F.A. in 1997 from Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Pakistan and received her M.F.A. at the California State University, Fullerton in 2010. She has served a panel reviewer for California Arts Council.

Jamil's works are in the permanent collection at the University of Wyoming Art Museum and at the University of Michigan Museum of Art.

Tahnee Freda; Burbank

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Tahnee Freda is a writer, instructor and arts administrator whose passion for the arts and their impact on society and self has been a driving force since childhood. In her tenure as a development professional and instructor, Tahnee has raised millions of dollars in institutional support, and has taught hundreds of young students in drama, playwriting and dance.

She started in the non profit sector at the 52nd Street Project in New York City's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, a non profit dedicated to uplifting underserved youth through original dramatic works, as a Development and Management Associate. Tahnee now serves as Executive Director at the Los Angeles Music and Art School, and as Ojai Playwrights Conference's Managing Director.

Tahnee's from the Imperial Valley and resides in Los Angeles. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Dramatic Arts and holds a BA in Visual and Performing Arts Studies with a concentration in Playwriting. She received her certification in Nonprofit Management from CNM in 2023 and has served on grant panels for CAC and LA County. She's a member of the Teaching Artists Guild's National Advisory Committee.

Christiana Frye; McKinleyville***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I hold a degree in Cultural Anthropology. I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras from 1997-1999 working with female farmers to increase income streams through the development of coffee and flower crops. After returning from Honduras I worked for the YWCA as a program coordinator working with a diverse population of women through the domestic violence shelter, health and arts programs. I have 25 years experience working with ceramics and pottery. Throughout college I worked as the ceramics studio assistant running the ceramics lab by mixing glazes and firing kilns. After college I continued working with ceramics and volunteered teaching classes and participated in ceramics classes and workshops. I served on the board of directors for the Upper Council for Catskill Arts. After serving as the Associate Executive Director as the YMCA Norwich, NY, I moved to Humboldt County and started working at Cal Poly Humboldt as an international student program coordinator. I have always infused my work with my love and value for the arts. I currently work for Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs with a portfolio of over 100 grants and awards.

Terra Fuller; San Carlos***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Terra Fuller is Executive Director of Art Bias/Redwood City Art Center in San Carlos, CA. She was born in rural Indiana, spent formative years in Southern Louisiana, and currently lives in San Francisco, California. Terra has an MFA from Yale University and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her multidisciplinary art has been influenced by extensive time living with indigenous cultures around the world. When living in Morocco and Namibia for almost 5 years, Terra was heavily influenced by local women artisans. Her work honored her mentors by incorporating their traditional craft like carpet weaving and basket weaving that involved processes such as shearing sheep, collecting camel wool from nomads, spinning and dying wool, and gathering palm fronds to create objects that embody the residue of her experiences. Terra is currently making quilts with an Amish master quilter and mentor from her hometown in Indiana.

Gordon Fung; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Gordon Fung (b. 1988, San Francisco) is a transdisciplinary artist who works with multi-/new media performances, installations, noise music, experimental film/video, media archaeology, and large-scale curatorial/collaborative practices. His works highlight unconventional executions like equipment misuse, noises, lo-fi presentations, and glitches. Such aesthetics confront the viewers' understanding, perspective, and point of view on reality through a more philosophical, if not esoteric, investigation.

Informed by his multivalent approach, he forms and directs the experimental time-based arts collective //sense to showcase experimental theater performances, exhibitions, and screenings. Counteracting the marginalization of time-based arts, he curates and fosters a collaborative common ground for sound/video/performance/media artists to create gesamtkunstwerk through synergy. As a firm believer in collectivism, his large-scale curation

encourages two maxims: “making good communities better” and “finding arts in all things.” Referencing Fluxus and Happenings, he creates brave spaces for participants to unleash their imagination in artmaking through deskilling and unlearning.

Sonia Gaiind-Krishnan; San Carlos

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Sonia Gaiind-Krishnan is an Assistant Professor of Practice (ethnomusicology) in the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific, where she teaches courses on global music. Her main areas of research include listening practices among Sufis in North India; the philosophy of the New Materialism; and pan-cultural thought systems related to sound and medicine. She has an abiding interest in language and writing style and has worked for a number of years as a writing consultant and editor with both academic and creative clients. She is the current editor of the SEM Newsletter, and co-editor of the forthcoming edited volume *Beyond Medical Ethnomusicology*.

Carman Gaines; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Carman Tyra J. Gaines (she/they), born and raised in San José, has a deep passion for supporting the arts in her hometown with six years of arts nonprofit experience. They currently serve as the Deputy Director of Local Color.

They are an alum of the 2018-19 Ninth Emerging Arts Professional and the 2021-22 SVMindshare Cohorts, which instilled in her a mindful work practice and an understanding of equity frameworks. In 2023, Carman was nominated to participate in the Young American Leadership program at the Harvard School of Business, further enhancing her leadership skills and knowledge of coalition work. She studied Art History and Studio Arts, concentrating on Photography, and received their Bachelor of Arts from San Francisco State University and an Associate Degree of Arts from De Anza College.

Tony Andre Gaines; Anaheim

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I was born in Chicago but grew up in Las Vegas—what a pedigree!!! With this type of background it was mandatory for me to learn the art of swagger and ultra coolness. Although I come from a long line of artists, I’m actually a late bloomer. I didn’t begin my relationship with the camera until I was in college at the University of Iowa where I earned a B.A. in Fine Arts. I’ve been involved in many types of photographic projects—fine arts, commercial, portrait, fashion, even crime scene photography. In the Art world cinematography, My art style is wide and varied from classic to cutting edge. Most importantly, I’m a professional and an artist, and I pride myself on creating and delivering images that are both aesthetically pleasing and thought-provoking. I currently reside in Anaheim, CA where I run my photography business and volunteer as a videographer and lead creative art installations to students part-time.

Steve Galindo; West Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Steve Galindo at THESTYLEGUYDE is an emerging, multi-media Los Angeles-based activist, artist and curator. Galindo has a background in art and fashion, and graduated from the West Hollywood Artist Bootcamp 2020. In 2022, they received the Transgender Arts Initiative grant from The City of West Hollywood which began their relationship with the newly opened Connie Norman Transgender Empowerment Center and their relationship with all the artists in this program.

THESTYLEGUYDE Gallery stands to “Unite Communities through the Language of Art Photography, Mixed Media Manipulation, Painting and Sculpture in hopes of driving conversation of change for marginal communities including the BIPOC and LGBTQAI+ Communities in Los Angeles. Steve’s goal in their curatorial work is to build out conversations of the intersections of our joint struggles to build better more inclusive communities. They have spent the last seven years learning from prominent artists, curators, community organizers and gallerists formulating an artistic philosophy steeped in a desire to express unifying truths about the human experience.

Emily Gallagher; North Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Emily Gallagher is a soprano community based artist working in the United States and Austria. As a 2022-23 Fulbright Grantee in Vienna, she worked with the multimedia production company TaleSpin—Musical Tales for Big and Small to produce an original children’s concert series and picture book available in four languages. This season she has been seen performing Shattered Storybook, an original solo concert at Balance Arts Center in NYC, Angelina (cover) in Trial By Jury and Gretel in Hansel and Gretel with Pacific Opera Project, and in concert in Savannah, Georgia, USA; Vienna, Austria; and Valletta, Malta.

She has stage and music directed numerous musicals for youth theater, and this season she is the Assistant Director and Tour Manager for Opera Modesto’s world premiere production of Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant. Upcoming Engagements Stage/Music Director for You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown at San Rafael Elementary School in Los Angeles, CA, USA and Adele (cover) in Die Fledermaus with Pacific Opera Project. In June of 2024, she will be performing her solo show Enchanted Melodies—An Interactive Fairytale Concert with City Lyric Opera in New York City.

Jill Gambaro; Santa Ana

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Jill Gambaro has won more than a dozen awards as a screenwriter and film producer. She's produced 7 films including the documentary Imagine a School ... Summerhill starring Rebecca DeMornay, Jake Weber, Tom Conti, Orson Bean and Peter Coyote. And the narrative film Letting Go starring Christopher Knight, Eliza Roberts, Peter Scolari, and legendary music producer David Foster, in his debut performance.

Jill Gambaro is also the author of *The Truth About Carpal Tunnel Syndrome* that describes her ongoing recovery from this catastrophic medical condition as well as her work with other disabled persons.

Before starting her own company, Jill spent 7 years in development under the studio system, working with The Badham/Cohen Group, Miller/Boyett Motion Pictures, producer Gregg Fienberg (*True Blood*), producer Ken Aguado (*The Salton Sea*), and TriMark Pictures. During that time, she developed a keen eye for material that appeals to audiences and critics alike.

Jeffrey Gan; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

I am a California Indo, a descendant of Indonesian refugees who fled to California in the early 1960s; my family was settled in South Sacramento. I have been a student and practitioner of Indonesian performance for the past seven years through my graduate work in the Performance as Public Practice program at the University of Texas at Austin (MA/PhD). My dissertation explores how racism and assimilative pressures have shaped cultural performance among Indo refugee populations in San Diego and Riverside. I lived with Indo activists and organizers in San Diego, conducting ethnographic and oral history interviews with artists and community elders in English, Dutch, and Indonesian. I supported this research through extensive grant writing.

I am currently a company member with Gamelan Sekar Jaya, a Balinese dance and music ensemble in South Berkeley. Sekar Jaya is a recipient of CAC funds through the Artists in Schools programs. I have volunteered with our AIS-supported school residencies for two years, assisting our master artists in teaching Balinese music and dance to students, as well as collected program data and prepared interim reports on AIS grant-supported activities.

Carly Ganley; Pacific Grove

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

After working in the legal profession almost 20 years as a court photographer and lead paralegal I have devoted my life to art and advocacy. Since relocating here I have maintained a studio where I paint 5 days a week and photographing Monterey County daily which I share on social media platforms like I Love Pacific Grove and The Crowd, where I have served as Moderator for the past 2 years. Without grants and my income being Social Security Disability I have maintained a studio through The Arts Council of Monterey since 2020. I have saved and acquired a new Leica camera, a new printer and recently an Ipad without assistance. I believe in supporting local agencies and am a member of CCAA, The Carmel Foundation, The Monterey Plein Air Association and The Carmel Art Association. Currently my art is shown at The MOW of MP and have sold 3 paintings which benefits this amazing organization.

Martin Gantman; West Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Martin Gantman is a Los Angeles based artist and writer who has exhibited internationally in such venues as AC Direct Gallery and the Alternative Museum, New York; A.R.C. Gallery,

Chicago; Kristi Engle Gallery, HAUS, POST, in Los Angeles; Werkstatt Berlin, Galerie Merkel, Whylen, Germany; Artetica, Rome and Viareggio, Italy; and La Coruna, Spain.

His published work includes, "Black Box: Decoding the Art Work of Martin Gantman, and "See you when we get home." a project for Art Journal magazine. Other published writings include: "The Irresolute Potential in the Unimagined Possibility," "Swingin' in the Slammer," "The Word Was Charm," "DuSable Park: An archeology," "Notes on the Oddness of Things," and "Mapping the Lost Idea." He also co-edited "Benjamin's Blind Spot: Walter Benjamin and the Premature Death of Aura" for the Institute of Cultural Inquiry.

His project, "The Odalisque Suite," was presented at the College Art Association annual conference in New York; and, at the 2012 conference in Los Angeles, he chaired a panel session entitled: Tracking the Movement of Investigatory Art. He also served on the West Hollywood Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission from 2017 to 2023.

Erica Garber; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Erica Garber is the Vice President of Development and Public Programs for CatchLight, a visual media nonprofit that leverages the power of visuals to inform, connect, and transform communities. She has worked in the arts for nearly twenty years in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York, organizing exhibitions and public programs at the Museum of the African Diaspora, as a curator with private collections, and most recently building funding streams to sustain photographers and grow visual programming at CatchLight. In 2011, she was awarded a OYASAF Fellowship to study contemporary art in Lagos, Nigeria. She earned a BFA in Art Education at the University of Arizona and a MA in Modern Art History: Critical and Curatorial Studies at Columbia University.

Andi Garcia; Santa Barbara

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As an art activist culture bearer born and raised in Santa Barbara County, Andi Garcia was involved with walkouts, student councils, Santa Barbara's Ortega Park Mural Projects as a youth. She is one of the original youth of La Casa de La Raza Youth Center in the early 1980s. She was the creative director of an artist resource business of and for artists, The Artillerist Artist Network, that represented over 50 artists globally, curated over 100 art exhibits in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas, and maintained an art gallery for two years in downtown Los Angeles before ending in 2016. Identifying as a Chicana with a grassroots approach, Andi created a youth arts fund where donations were made to local high school science classes needing art supplies. She has created and led youth art workshops in the spirit of "Art Saves Lives" as a way for mental health wellness as well as bridging communications between students facing interpersonal conflicts. Her current career path has her working in grants and government grants administration, community engagement and development work.

Betsie Garcia; Oxnard***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

With my diverse background in digital media, marketing, and film production, I bring a unique perspective to the role of a grant reviewer for the California Council of the Arts. My experience in branding, promotional marketing, and event planning demonstrates my ability to effectively communicate and engage with audiences. Additionally, my involvement in social media production and cultural programming showcases my passion for arts and culture. As a certified NON-UNION COVID-19 Compliance Officer for Film, TV, and Music Video Production, I am well-versed in industry standards and can ensure a fair and equitable review process. With my dedication to social justice and creating meaningful connections between the arts and communities, I am confident in my ability to contribute to the panel's mission of supporting diverse artistic practices and cultural development.

Hugo Garcia; San José***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Hugo joined the San José Jazz team in August 2017 as the Progressions Program Director. He received his BA in Music from University of California, Davis and his MM in Music Education from San José State University. He has performed and conducted with various groups including the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, the San José State 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.

Hugo is a local musician, music educator, and arts education advocate. 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. Through this and other important networks like the San José Youth Empowerment Alliance, local education agencies, and other community partners, he strives to highlight and advocate for music in education and the various music traditions, styles, and cultures that make up the rich music community of the Silicon Valley.

Maria Garcia; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

My work has been predominantly with homeless individuals for the last 5 years. I also am a writer, designer, and musician. My band is called Special Interest and through that lens I have been able to remain creative while working in the social services field. Through being in that band I have travelled extensively and also been granted awareness of countries whose government takes an active roll in funding the arts (we often play festivals that have government funding).

Rudy Garcia; Union City***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

His expansive career has been formed through his experience as a member of various San Francisco Bay Area performing art groups: BF de Stanford, Flor de la Esperanza, Los

Lupeños, Xochipilli de SJ and Jubilee American Dance Theater. He has served as Artistic Director for Alegria de San Jose and Los Lupeños. In his spare time, Rudy is a research scientist in the semi-conductor industry.

As an avid researcher of Mexican folk culture and history, he has established a vast network of information resources and has served as a consultant to groups throughout the state. His book, "Folklorico Handbook" is currently in use at the collegiate level in Folklorico programs throughout the state. He is a contributing author of Dancing Across Borders, published by the University of Illinois Press.

He is a NEA Folk Arts grant recipient and has served as a CAC Dance Panelist. In 1990, he directed the international dance conference for the ANGF in SJ. He is a former board member of WAW, which produced the SF Ethnic Dance Festival. He has served as an instructor for the Danzantes Unidos Festival (DUF) for over 20 years. Maestro Garcia currently serves as Treasurer for the statewide organization, DUF.

Bree Garcia; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Educator & advocate with over 20 years of service to many non-profit arts & cultural organizations whose missions are anchored in social justice, equity, and cultural practice & tradition. I've sat on Grant Funding panels for the NEA, California Arts Council, Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture, The San Francisco Arts Commission and has extensive experience in the grant writing process.

Dave Gardner; Oxnard

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I currently run the annual Artwalk at the Shores in the community of Mandalay Shores Oxnard. I started the event eight years ago as a way to bring the community together during the summer. This last year we drew approximately 4 to 5000 of the neighbors and we had 55 artists showing . It has been a huge success for the community and neighbors. Tell me that they look forward to it every year. While I was employed at the City of West Hollywood, I wrote several grants to get money for our department, and I think that would be an asset in being able to go through Grant applications to see if they meet the criteria. Well at the City of West Hollywood, I worked closely with the public arts Director, and installing public art throughout the city.

I previously sang with the Gay Men's chorus of Los Angeles for 12 years and was on their Board of Directors for many years

Chris Garza; Santa Clarita

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Having graduated from SVA in NYC, I later became a logo designer for various designers and Graphic Camera Operator at Petersen Publishing, LA. I then moved on to McCann-Erickson Advertising as a Production Mgr for Hilton Hotels, and then on to JWRobinson's as their senior designer for Special Projects.

After 9 years, I created and ran an afterschool creative children's program for 11 years, receiving the first award given for my creative work with children in Los Angeles.

My next step was a relocation back to NY, developing a decorated cookie business for 14 years, creating special designs for RLPolo, Prada, Plaza Hotel, W Hotel, The James Beard Foundation, Neiman Marcus, Dylan's Candy, Dean & DeLuca, etc .

In 2019, I relocated back to Los Angeles area and am now semi-retired as an author/ illustrator of children's books and specialty books.

Natasia Rio Gascon; Palm Springs

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Natasía Gascón is an award-winning journalist, documentary filmmaker and museum administrator based in Palm Springs. Gascón has over 15 years of experience in video journalism covering current events and hyper-local, community-centric stories, and over a decade's worth of experience in managing the front line operations of various cultural institutions, ranging from small non-profits to large private foundations. She currently works as the Art and Culture beat reporter for the City of El Segundo, and is the Visitor Services Coordinator for the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, the official museum of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in Palm Springs.

Jon Gentry; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Jon Gentry resides in Los Angeles by way of Houston, Boston and San Francisco. A native Houstonian, he received his BA in English from Harvard University where he was an integral member of BlackCAST (Community and Student Theater), serving as President during his junior year.

He holds his MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theater. As a teaching artist, he co-directed an original high school production of "Child Life" in collaboration with the UCSF Children's Hospital and led a series of acting workshops with community centers throughout the Bay Area. He is currently in his fifth year on the acting faculty at the Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory where he specializes in teaching the Michael Chekhov Acting Technique.

He has performed at numerous regional theaters throughout California (Mark Taper Forum, American Conservatory Theater, CASA 0101, Art of Acting Studio, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Aurora Theater Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA, and more) and was a guest artist in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Culture Fest. Most infamously, he voiced Fallout 4's 'Preston Garvey,' going viral for iconic lines and winning the hearts of fans worldwide.

Caroline Gharis; North Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Hello! My name is Caroline (they/them), and I am the creator of caroLINES & DOTS. Currently I work creating maximalist decor with a queer and autistic focus. My work emphasizes

textures; I utilize a wide range of materials including beads, disco tiles, paint, wire, and wood to achieve my design concepts.

After graduating with a BFA in theatrical set design, I moved to Los Angeles to further pursue my artistic career. I've worked professionally within art departments as a production assistant to production designers, art directors, and artisans for feature films, network television, and streaming platforms on projects such as The Adam Project, The AfterParty, APBio, Gaslit, Super Pumped, and more.

My business, caroLINES & DOTS, has developed from discovering my own neurodivergence. I create works to see more neurodivergent and individualized queer representation (as opposed to generic rainbow). I'm involved in the local LA pop up scene through groups like The Queer Mercado, Manic Pixie Dream Market, The Good Gays, and more. I'm developing my own neurodivergent pop up group — NeuroPop LA — to create an accessible party shopping space for neurodivergent peoples.

Darla Gifford; Fairfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Since retirement from nursing my husband and I have traveled to many top world museums in the pursuit of viewing history and art. I have always been an artist but took up my brush seriously and joined Vacaville Art league and gallery. I was able to take lessons from an eminent local Artist to further my understanding of the art comm. I have been selected several different years to hang on the walls also I was very honored to be able to win a place several different years in local annual Jury show with The Vacaville Art League and Gallery

Post pandemic I was a showing Artist in the 23 Annual Vacaville Art, Wine and brew stroll. After which I started my small start up for Darla Gifford Acrylics.

Additional I am currently learning to be a stained glass artist from a master who offers class in San Francisco along with preparing paintings to show. My love of all Art is my life purpose

Lisa Giglio; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I may be qualified based on my lifelong learning and work in the arts and cultural communities. I have an understanding of the journey from the point of view of an artist, a hiring organization, a funder, an excited audience member, and a possible community member.

I was born in NYC and arrived in San Francisco for 5th grade. I attended SFUSD. I graduated from SFSU with a BA in Theatre. Yes, I have worked in several restaurants in SF.

My work in the arts focused on directing and includes work as a performer; devising pieces; as a co. and tour manager; and in stage and production management for several companies, organizations, and institutions. I earned an MFA in Directing in London while working as a nanny and teaching. Through my MFA, I studied in Moscow and Madrid. I directed in England and brought a show to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. I have held positions in arts orgs. and on committees prioritizing artists.

Working in the arts in the US has unique obstacles in attaining the status and funding required for sustained learning and making. I would like to be of service supporting artists on their journey to share, be seen, and embrace community making the arts ignite.

Patricia Gillespie; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a practicing artist and owner of Sharpstick Studio in Oakland. I have worked in Oakland's vibrant arts community for over 20 years in many capacities- business owner, gallery member, events space manager, event planning and designing, and as an exhibiting artist. I bring an expertise not only in producing art, but also in art direction and project management. I have long wanted to participate in our arts community more extensively not just as a practitioner, but as an organizer behind the scenes.

Caitlin Gleason; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have worked and participated in the arts for over a decade, specializing in public programming and communications in mid-sized non-profit presenting spaces, working with artists making cross-disciplinary work ranging from visual art, to dance, to music, to theater. I served as the Education and Media Manager at The Kitchen for eight years, developing youth programming, member events, and running communications. After that, I accepted a Director of Communication role at Roulette Intermedium, New York's premiere experimental music space. In both these roles, I had the opportunity to work one on one with artists directly, helping to secure funding, develop a narrative around their work, and broaden their audience. I have served on the interdisciplinary and visual arts panel for the Brooklyn Arts Council before moving to California.

Joanna Glum; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Joanna Glum is a writer, filmmaker, & theatremaker whose work has been published, recognized, or supported by The Brooklyn Review, Roxane Gay's The Audacity, The American Zoetrope Screenplay Competition, The Philadelphia & Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival & Palm Springs ShortsFest, residencies with Vermont Studio Center & Yefe Nof, and grants from The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation.

From UC Berkeley to Tony Award-winning TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Joanna has forged a parallel career in arts education, presenting on the intersection of genre & gender in the American Theater at the annual MLA Convention and developing internationally-published guides to contemporary & classic literature. Her practice is inspired by her time developing ensemble-created documentary theater with some of the finest students (and artists) in Sacramento.

A proud scholarship student, Joanna holds, with honors, a BA from University of Pennsylvania and Masters in Playwriting from University of Edinburgh. She is currently at work developing projects about caregiving, geriatrics, & shifting Northern California landscapes.

Kate Goldstein; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Kate Goldstein is a freelance writer and consultant, with more than a decade of experience in nonprofit arts development, institutional giving strategy, and grant writing for independent artists and organizations of all sizes. Most recently the Associate Director of Institutional Giving for SFJAZZ, Kate has also held positions with American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), Brava! for Women in the Arts, and Creede Repertory Theatre in Colorado. Kate has received the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of America's Residency Grant, participated in the Emerging Arts Professionals/San Francisco Bay Area Fellowship, and served as a panelist for the San Francisco Arts Commission. She is also an active musician and plays violin, accordion, percussion, and sings with world folk groups. Kate holds a BFA in Dramaturgy from Carnegie Mellon University.

Manuel Gomez; Whittier***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Manuel Gomez, a distinguished public speaker and advocate, has turned his unique experiences into powerful advocacy for justice-involved veterans. His journey from serving in the Navy to enduring incarceration, and his subsequent rise to prominence, is a testament to resilience and transformation. Garnering multiple congressional awards for his advocacy, Manuel is set to complete his Master's in Social Work in May before starting his doctoral studies in September. His incarceration story adds depth to his advocacy, making his public speaking engagements not only an art form but a vehicle for profound societal impact.

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 the academic realm, my primary field of study was on race and gender, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ethnic and Women's Studies at Cal Poly, Pomona in 2012. In 2016 I continued this path and earned a Masters of the Arts degree in Chicana/o Studies at CSU Northridge. In 2018, I brought critical race and organizing lens to her work at Tia Chucha's to build, coordinate, 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 been part of organizing amongst a coalition of organizations to create a new youth development model in LA County.

Jesse Gonzalez; Chula Vista***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a born and raised San Diegan and have lived in cities all over the county and am familiar with the populations within them. I was involved in the arts as young as 12 years old when I joined a defunct magnet schools drama program that opened up the world and its opportunities for me. I went to a performing arts high school SDSCPA in the South Bay where I majored in

choral music and video journalism. I have volunteered, interned and have done contract work with Pacific Arts Movement who put together the San Diego Asian Film Festival where I further determined I wanted to be involved in the work an organization like that does. I spent the next few years gaining skills at the New Children's Museum in Downtown San Diego where I worked in visitor services and decided I wanted to get into Development. I later began gaining leadership positions coordinator and managerial roles with Dreams for Change who assisted people experiencing homelessness with housing and safe sleeping sites. I worked with refugees with the Nile Sisters Development Initiative in City Heights when the opportunity to finally join a Development team came across my way with the California Center for the Arts.

Roots Gonzalez; Lynwood

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a multi-faceted creator, known by my artistic moniker, Royal Roots. Born as Rebecca Gonzalez in Los Angeles, but migrated to the Central Valley very young. Raised surrounded by mountains and rivers, I felt such a profound connection with nature.

Though I didn't go to art school, I have taken my self education seriously, completing various in person and virtual classes and workshops. Art is a passion I've had for as long as I remember, I just didn't know that being a paid artist was an option. In 2019, I joined IPR Artz, a Central American inspired, grassroots organization. They inspired me to share my art with the community. Although I wasn't very confident, I pushed past the doubt and submitted my art to several open calls. I realized I have a gift and it's my duty to master it. My art is created through the lens of a Mesoamerican woman raised disconnected from her Indigenous roots. It has flourished into a dance of surrealism, romanticism and contemporary art. I use acrylic to create portraits incorporating different aspects of nature. Giving a visual to the profound relationship between mankind and the natural world.

Nikolas Goodich; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I attended RISD, BSMFA, and SAIC, earning my BFA from VCU Arts in 2019. I've worked as a preparator at galleries and museums across the USA, and ran cooperative galleries in major US cities championing curatorial diversity. In 2011, after a decade of drug addiction, I became homeless, eventually forced to live on the streets of LA for a year. I got into rehab in 2014 and I can now celebrate ten years of sobriety. This traumatic experience informs my art practice. My luminous layered glass works explore healing from toxic behaviors, identity, portraiture, critical theory, linguistics, neuroscience, consciousness studies, and physics. In November 2022 I gave a TED talk for TEDx Boston's inaugural Planetary Stewardship event at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab. In November 2023 I gave an extended version of my talk at Richmond, Virginia's Institute of Contemporary Art museum for the VCUarts Lecture Series. I was the first alumni of the VCU School of the Arts ever chosen for that honor.

Barbara Goodson; Auburn

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

My life has been centered on performing in and promoting the arts, particularly in California.

My Bachelor of Arts in Music was earned at UC Berkeley; my Master of Arts in Music was earned at SF State. As a union cellist and later volunteer performer, the Executive Director and principal cello of the Peninsula Symphony, Director of Development for the School of Music at the University of Oregon, Director of Development for Student Musical Activities at UC Berkeley, Major Gifts Officer for the Arts at Mills College, and Fund Development Manager at Auburn State Theatre, I've led and collaborated with thought leaders in all these fields. At this time I have also served as a director of the University of California Marching Band at Cal for 15 years.

Elizabeth Gorcey; Marina Del Rey

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Elizabeth has extensive experience working in the cinematic field as an actress, director, and producer, making films that shed light on the stories of the unnoticed, the unheard. Advocating for individuals and communities the world had pushed aside.

As a collaborative venture, Elizabeth and her daughter wrote the award-winning children's book series, Liv on Life. Aimed to cultivate a child's sense of confidence and kindness, this mother daughter duo was able to write from the perspective of parents and children, encouraging families to embrace authenticity in every relationship.

Compelled by her love of visual arts, Elizabeth became a painter when she was a little girl. Winning an award at the age of 10 for her watercolor "Chinese Tea Pot", which was displayed in the New Jersey State Museum.

Her dedication has allowed Elizabeth to discover and pursue her own creativity and talents while inspiring others to do the same. The passion of this committed actress, director, producer, painter, and author urges each of us to express ourselves as authentically as she does. Put simply by Elizabeth herself, "Creating is nourishment for my soul."

Danielle Gorodenzik; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Danielle Gorodenzik is a Los Angeles-born and raised Curator focused on feminism, photography, and artist books. She is currently a fellow at AllPapers at the Benton Museum of Art, Pomona College. She participated in the Activate Protege Arts for LA Arts Advocacy Leadership Program 2023. Danielle is the Director of In Print Art Book Fair, Jerusalem, and was the former Director of Collections at the Africa First Collection. She holds a B.A. in Communication Design from Parsons School of Design and an M.A. in Curatorial Studies from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design.

Joseph Graham; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

BIO: Joseph Graham has written, produced, and directed several experimental & narrative short films, animated commercials, music videos, and two feature-length films, 'Strapped' and 'Beautiful Something', starring Colman Domingo. Graham has acted in, stage managed, lit, and directed more than two dozen theatrical productions in San Francisco, and his collaborations with Oakland-based writer/performer Dan Carbone have won two Critics Circle Awards.

Graham studied filmmaking with the legendary George Kuchar at the San Francisco Art Institute and acting and directing with Jean Shelton at the Shelton Actors Lab. He is a member of the Film Collaborative San Francisco and the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship. On January 21st, 2017, he disengaged from social media, and remains a conscientious objector to its damaging influence on our society.

Sarah Anne Graham Graham; Sonora

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Sarah Anne Graham has a BFA in Painting and Printmaking from Oregon State, certification in Community Development from Penn State, and a Masters of Education from Cal State Stan – in Art Education. An Appalachian native, she works at the intersection of arts education, studio art and socioeconomic issues within rural communities.

She has worked in a variety of communities and with all ages; from pre K through high school, adults (such as Prison Arts Project), outdoor school, and public workshops. In 2021 she was recognized as a National Art Leader by the NAEA for her work with public school students and PAP in developing a program on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Arts integrated curriculum, in partnership with a non-profit focused on arts for human service agencies. In collaboration with local community networks, she provided training to educators on ways to integrate the Arts and SEL into instruction. Her masters project titled: Project Rebound Community Voices and Arts Programming Research with Post Incarcerated Students was completed in December of 2023.

Kiernan Graves; Santa Paula

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Kiernan Graves began her career as a Wall Painting Conservator by obtaining a master's degree from the Courtauld Institute of Art in 2007. Though she had always been interested in art and understanding culture and history through this visual lens, she focused on the artist's interpretation of society and material techniques by studying a combination of art history, science, anthropology, and studio arts. As wall paintings are usually site-specific and created for a community rather than for an individual patron, she was drawn to this medium. While much of her education and fieldwork for the first part of her career was more archaeologically focused, she studied community-based exterior murals in Los Angeles for her master's thesis and is particularly drawn to modern murals and mosaics. From its inception, she has organized her private practice to prioritize working with a diverse group of interns, pre-program conservators, graduate-level students, conservation technicians, and artists. Believing that the most significant positive impact on the future of the conservation discipline is to support a wide range of voices and perspectives in the study and care of cultural heritage.

Liz Greco; Garden Grove

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been a lead player behind the logistics of planning and organizing our local creative art show. I have helped to guide our disabled veterans through the proper categories to be submitted for their categories of competition. It is a year long process from beginning to finish. The competitors compete against each other at their local VA. The winners are elevated to the next level of competition now competing against other competitors from across the Nation.

More winners are selected and it then becomes a proud time when these local veterans get gold medals and can represent our local VA.

Miriam Greenberg; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Miriam Bird Greenberg is a poet and occasional essayist with a fieldwork-derived practice. The author of "In the Volcano's Mouth" (Pitt 2016), winner of the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize, Miriam's poetry has appeared in Granta, Poetry, and the Kenyon Review. Miriam has 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, Miriam has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the Fine Arts Work Center, as well as a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University. Miriam's limited-edition letterpress artist book "The Other World," designed by master printer Keith Graham, was published in 2019 by the Center for Book Arts. Also the author of "All night in the new country" and "Pact-Blood, Fevergrass," Miriam teaches writing across the genres at UC Berkeley.

Kat Greenblatt; Thousand Oaks

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Kat Green is an artist with 25+ years of experience in the film and music industries. She has Executive Produced for the Hallmark Channel as well as directed the festival award winning short film The Big Swim (Amazon Prime). Currently she's written screenplays that are optioned at major studios and is the Director of a documentary to be filmed in 2024. Specializing in international co-productions, Kat has a satellite company in Ireland to maximize their rebates and crew.

As a music producer and VP at Universal Publishing, Kat oversaw thousands of tracks that have been licensed in TV & film, worked with major artists such as Stewart Copeland, Chuck D (Public Enemy), Slipknot and Backstreet Boys. She co-composed the score for Disney's animated series "American Dragon" and as a former actress, she was the first to play Alicia Masters in "The Fantastic Four" (1994).

But, Kat's soul is singing. Performing with the Angel City Chorale, London's Royal Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, recording in Abbey Road, Capitol Records, and was a semi finalist on America's Got Talent. Kat is a volunteer teacher for the Angel City Youth Chorale as one of the many ways she gives back to the community.

Page Greene; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have exhibited my work around the world in galleries such as Peres Projects, Stuart Shave Modern Art, and Deitch Projects, as well as institutions such as LAXART, the Hammer Museum, the New Museum, DESTE Foundation, and Kunsthalle Vien. My work has been reviewed in the New York Times, Artforum, Frieze, The Believer, LA Weekly, Artillery, and Art in America. I have put on performance based work at the Hammer Museum, 2220 Arts, Human resources, The Broad, LA LGBT Center and Glasslands. I have taught drawing and painting at

UCLA as well as privately in my studio and at Art by DTLA Proud. I am currently preparing a solo painting show at Noon Projects and a one-person performance at Highways Performance Space

Amanda Grieshop; San Luis Obispo

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I hold two BA degrees, one in Art Education and another in Photography. I have taught in public schools and in community led programming across the country over the years.

I owned and operated a small photography business in Lansing, MI for 12 years working with clients who were seeking an art therapy/empowerment approach to portraiture. I photographed many breast cancer survivors and sexual assault survivors.

In 2014-2015 I photographed and produced, "The Women We Are", a year-long nude, photo documentary project exploring 8 women and their relationships with their bodies.

In 2017, I was one of three producers on a large collaborative documentary project called, Refuge Lansing. I was also one of eleven photographers working alongside the 12 writers, 4 resettling agencies and local organizations. We told the resettling stories of 12 refugees in the Lansing area using beautifully written stories alongside powerful color photos. The exhibit traveled statewide.

I Co-Founded and was the Educational Coordinator for Community Darkroom 517, a community-based film photography darkroom space and educational program designed to bring together multigenerational interaction and learning.

J.R. Griffin; Point Richmond

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Owned and operated IAI networking group in San Diego. Promoted and presented local concerts and cultural events such as: Art exhibits, jazz, rock, classical, alternative concerts and events, local theater productions, youth plays, and owned and operated I on jazz Recording studios . A 1800 sq ft facility in San Diego. With 2 live rooms, a isolated percussion room and climate controlled, Iso booth and control room. I was fortunate to collaborated with the department head with the development of a state of the art recording studio for the arts department at SWCC in Chula Vista Ca.

Worked with KSDS radio financing and promoting local jazz educational events in the early 2000s. Managed local artist in the SF bay area. Worked with visual artist in various medium.

Paints, sculptures, metals and wood working. I am a guitar maker in my spare time.

Whew. I don't talk about myself much, but to actually see it written out. Makes me appreciate myself a bit.. LOL..

Chante Griffin; Creston

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Chanté Griffin is a journalist and natural hair advocate who writes about race, culture, and faith. Based in Los Angeles and the Central Coast, she freelances as a contributing writer for

The Washington Post, Faithfully Magazine, and others. She is also a former contributor for The Root and LA Weekly.

As a 2022-2023 Rosalynn Carter Fellow for Mental Health Journalism, Chanté partnered with Vogue.com to report on the mental health of Black women diagnosed with alopecia. Chanté's 2021-2022 California Arts Council Fellowship supported her forthcoming book, "Loving Your Black Neighbor As Yourself: A Guide to Closing the Space Between Us."

Michael Gros; Arroyo Grande

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Over a 40+ year commitment to theatre, theatre education, arts education, presenting, and arts advocacy I have held many positions directly related to meeting the qualifications to serve on CAC grant panels. I have served on City (Fremont) and County (Alameda) Arts Commissions and served on grants panels for Kansas. I have been the artistic director of a professional theatre company (PCPA), Dean of Fine, Performing, and Language Arts, coordinator of a graduate program in arts administration, co-taught multiple Management Academy workshops for the United States Institute for Theatre Technology and served on their Board. I currently serve on the Board of the Clark Center Association in Arroyo Grande, a presenting and community arts center. I have been directly involved in annual and capital funding campaigns, written grant proposals for various arts organizations, and directed marketing for a multi-block city arts festival in Torrance. I have partnered with the Santa Barbara Library to present development readings of new plays and master classes in playwriting for teens and young adults. I have made many arts advocacy presentations to civic organizations in multiple states.

Aj Gryder; San Leandro

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

My background is in music performance. I grew up in a family of professional musicians in Oakland, CA. I went to public schools, where I participated in various art, dance, and music programs, and played in local youth orchestras. I earned a Bachelor's degree in music performance from UC Davis and then a Master's degree in music performance at SF State. After graduating, I worked as a freelance musician, music teacher, and teaching artist for several years. Then I transitioned into working in an office setting, first as a recruiter and then as a fundraising professional for several nonprofit and performing arts organizations. I still perform and teach music occasionally but I've gotten busy since becoming the primary caregiver for my child two years ago.

Wendoly Guerrero; Tustin

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Wendoly Guerrero has a degree in Urban Planning from Cal Poly Pomona. Her classes were focused on the environment, sustainability, and health. Working as a forester in the greater LA region, she recently became a Certified Arborist. She is studying for her Certified Arborist Utility Specialist Exam and has the goal of helping her team attain their Certified Arborist Certification. While an undergrad and after graduation, she volunteered as an intern at a local community garden where she used her knowledge of Southern California's native plant species to create lesson plans for students to practice sustainable gardening practices and

provide a space for artistic expression. She currently works with a nonprofit, Growing Roots, whose mission is to provide therapeutic, nature-based learning that allows individuals to live meaningful, and satisfying lives. She assists in grant writing and researching new funding opportunities, and has been doing so since 2020. She has been involved in her community through various means (including fundraising events, tree-planting events, and tutoring) and will continue to positively contribute to the health and knowledge of her community.

Duygu Gün; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Duygu Gün is a Turkish-American arts professional, creative producer, musician, artist, filmmaker, and curator based in San Francisco since 2012. She is passionate about supporting the local music scene and the preservation of folk culture. Leveraging 15 years of corporate expertise and an MBA, she has built and executed corporate partnership programs at SFJAZZ and San Francisco Opera. In 2019, as a Curatorial Resident at SOMArts, she curated the 'Sounds Like Home: Longing and Comfort Through Lullabies' exhibition that explores the connection between lullabies across languages and cultures. In 2023, she received an SFAC grant as the creative producer of the Balkancisco documentary. In 2022, she co-founded Anatolian Arts Institute to introduce the diverse cultural heritage of Anatolia through participatory workshops, performances, research, and educational activities. Awarded TOYP-Turkey's 10 Outstanding Young Persons' Cultural Achievement in 2022, Duygu is dedicated to supporting the local music scene in the Bay Area.

Lemon Guo; Stanford

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Lemon Guo is an interdisciplinary artist, composer, and vocalist from the southeastern coast of China. With a background in Chinese folk music and social psychology, Lemon holds an MFA in Sound Art from Columbia University, BA in composition from the University of Virginia, and is currently a DMA candidate in composition at Stanford University. She has performed and exhibited her works internationally, in places such as Rubin Museum of Art, Sundance Film Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival (US), BBC Radio 3 (UK), IDFA (NL), Siggraph (CA) and ICMC. Lemon created music for director Yi Tang's short film All the Crows in the World, which won Palme d'Or at Festival de Cannes 2021. Lemon is also half of an experimental music duo Southeast of Rain with composer/pipa-player Sophia Shen and had released their debut album 42 Days in 2021 to critical acclaim. Lemon is a voting member of the Recording Academy (Grammy), and has served as a juror for the Webby Awards, Telly Awards, Social Impact Media Awards, International Computer Music Conference, The Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States amongst others.

Jessica Gutierrez; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Jessica Gutierrez is an artist, educator, and community connector. She seeks to provide opportunities for creative expression and build bridges across communities through engagement, curation, workshops, and collaborations with other local creatives.

Jessica retained her B.A. in Design Studies, Secondary Education Art Teaching Credential, and M.A. in Social Justice and Wellness in Art Education from San Jose State University. She is currently in the San Francisco State Ethnic Studies Certificate Program. While she is a full-time high school art teacher, she also facilitates community art workshops.

For the last five years, Jessica has engaged in community organizing from serving as an Arts Community Manager at the non-profit Be the Change Yoga & Wellness to founding the collective Martha Street Art Night. Additional experience includes: UC Berkeley Empowering Women of Color Conference art committee lead; SJ Sharks x Zoom Mural Project advisory board member; Hammer Theater selection committee member; California Arts Advocacy Day representative; Martha Gardens Art District representative; L.E.A.D. Filipino cohort member; Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute cohort member.

Melissa Gutierrez; Livermore

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I graduated with my MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona in 2013, and worked in several nonprofits in Sacramento between 2013 and 2020, including an urban forest umbrella nonprofit where I managed pass-through grants to California's statewide urban forest nonprofit network. I also volunteered with several local arts organizations like 916 Ink and Under the Gum Tree. In 2016 I began volunteering for an art therapy program in Sacramento called Children's Bereavement Art Group, which inspired me to go back to school in the community college system to get pre-requisites to apply to art therapy masters' programs. I have since completed my art therapy training and am now working as an art therapist and clinical therapist, and now view the role of arts in our communities as more crucial than ever for mental health and general social well-being. I am excited to have free time now that I am done with school and looking for ways to get more involved and contribute to the California arts community as both a mental health professional and an arts professional.

Wendy Gwyn; Palo Alto

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

After graduating from Stanford University with a BA in International Relations, I moved to Sydney, Australia. I subsequently received a law degree (LLB) from the University of New South Wales, where I was editor of the UNSW Law Journal. I later became the first editor of the Australian Indigenous Law Reporter, a publication of the Aboriginal Law Centre. I practiced corporate law in Australia for close to 20 years. During that time, I worked on several pro bono cases, including work for the Australian indigenous community. More recently, I obtained a Masters in Coaching Psychology and a PhD in Educational Psychology. My thesis is entitled "Giving Disadvantaged Adolescents Skills to Flourish: Random-Control-Trial Intervention Integrating Developmental Coaching with Outdoor Adventure Education." For the past seven years, I have worked with The Art of Yoga Project as a yoga teacher and Site Director, bringing yoga, mindfulness, music and art therapy to youth in juvenile detention and across other sites that support marginalized youth. I have also volunteered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, supporting students through the college and scholarship application process.

Kimberly Habi; Lancaster***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

A native of Philadelphia, PA, Kimberly Habi is a compassionate advocate and strategic partner liaison for Hummingbird Haven. She relocated to Los Angeles in 2014 with her husband, Dedoceo Habi, a Marine Veteran with PTSD.

Kimberly has an impressive Administration, Event Planning, and Social Services background. She serves as an ambassador at the Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce and has dedicated over two decades to various roles in the non-profit sector. These diverse experiences honed her skills in case management and her ability to build impactful, life-changing relationships.

Having contracted with numerous non-profit organizations to assist in laying their foundations and identifying lasting strategic partnerships, Kimberly's expertise extends beyond direct service provision. She's instrumental in strengthening the organizational structure of non-profit institutions, contributing significantly to their success and reach.

With her compassion, emotional empathy, and an unwavering belief in her ability to support others, Kimberly is well-poised to help communities live a life free from negative energy and thoughts.

Carolyn Hadin; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My Mother was a fine artist. I have explored many art media, but because my mother owned a ceramic shop my entire life, I have only mastered ceramics. I started an art studio in North Sacramento in 2006, which currently includes home school art enrichment, an After-school art program, art classes for all ages and adults, and Art events, including birthday parties on the weekends. I enjoy using art to help people heal, and I work with people with special needs through Alta Regional.

Dee Hale; Redding***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

I'm a senior and single, former Pre-School Teacher/Director who now writes for Children. I miss the classroom and connection with kids. I just recently self-published my first Children's story and have plans to market it to Libraries, schools and local bookstores. Because of the economy, my expenses ended up being more than expected so I've been looking for Grant funds to help me with the first print run.

Tammy Hall; Seaside***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

For more than forty years, Tammy Lynne Hall has remained devoted to music and its calling. She started playing the piano at age four and received formal lessons in second grade through graduation from the Hockey School in 1979. Accepting a four year scholarship to Mills College in Oakland, Tammy left Dallas, TX and never looked back. From Dallas to Oakland to San Francisco to Mexico, Europe, South America and Japan, music has taken Tammy to many places in the world. Inspired and spurred on by the legacies of Mary Lou Williams, Nina

Simone, Dorothy Donegan and Hazel Scott, Tammy has gone on to be a well recognized name and face in the Bay Area Jazz scene, as well as throughout the Women's Music community. Performance venues include the Sala Filharmonica in Trento, ITALY, Carnegie Hall, Jazz At Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, SFJAZZ Center, clubs and auditoriums in Germany, Belgium and Holland, Tokyo. Instrumentalists and vocalists include Marcus Shelby, Kim Nalley, Denise Perrier, Etta Jones, Houston Person, Regina Carter, Melba Moore, Darlene Love, Nicolas Bearde, Linda Tillery, Mads Tolling, Laurie Anderson, Holly Near, Vicki Randle, Cris Williamson, Emma's Revolution.

Tanisha Hall; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Tanisha Hall is a music educator and founder of White Hall Arts Academy (WHAA), a performing arts organization and facility located in South Los Angeles, CA. Tanisha and her team have helped thousands of students worldwide reach their goals in music including some who have appeared on The Voice, American Idol, Broadway productions as well as winning Grammy Awards. WHAA is a two time Infusion Award recipient of the coveted Accelerator Awards from The Lewis Prize for Music. In addition to her work with WHAA, Tanisha is a foster parent and music minister. She was featured as a "Rad Human" on the Kelly Clarkson Show and recognized as an LA Clippers Community Hero.

Megan Hamill; Sebastopol

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I have been the Executive Director of California Poets in the Schools since 2018. In this role I lead a diverse, professional network of 75+ Poet-Teachers throughout the state of California. I develop strategy, policy and pathways for poets to gain a certification that allows them to teach poetry reading, creation and performance in community institutions. I develop lessons and stay at the forefront of the literary arts education field, as it pertains to impact, equity and excellence. My role requires significant grant-writing and I am proud to have written and received grants from the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets, the California Arts Council, and dozens of other funders. Prior to my role as Executive Director, I worked as a Poet-Teacher and Sonoma County area coordinator with California Poets in the Schools for 12 years, engaging thousands of youth at dozens of Sonoma County K-12 schools. I have published two volumes of poetry and am currently working on a third manuscript. I received my MFA in poetry from Mills College in 2005, and a BA in Languages & Literature in 2001.

Kelly Hargraves; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Kelly Hargraves is a Canadian California-based dance film creator and curator. She is the current Executive/Artistic Director of Dance Camera West, after co-founding the Los Angeles festival of dance film 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 independently in Montréal and New York and was

a member of PoMo CoMo artist/scientist collective. Kelly's dance films that are shown internationally and she often travels as a guest lecturer, panel speaker and jury member.

Hargraves has worked for many U.S. indie film distributors such as First Run Features, Film Movement, Icarus Film, and represented a diversity of independent filmmakers (Michael Apted, Lizzie Borden, Cheryl Dunye, Barbara Kopple, Ross McElwee, Monika Truet, Robert Rosenberg, Wayne Wang, et al.) She was a dance reviewer for Dance Insider, Ballet–Tanz International, Dance on Camera News, Danceonline.com, Campus Circle Magazine, Cover Magazine, and Dance Connection Magazine.

Nailah Harper-Malveaux; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Nailah is a queer multiracial theater director and artistic producer focused on transformative new work that creates space for radical community imagination. She is a member of the groundbreaking Shared Leadership Team at Crowded Fire and serves as their Leader of Artistic Curation and Producing. Directing highlights include: the West Coast premiere of *Edit Annie* by Mary Glen Fredrick (co-directed with Leigh Rondon-Davis), the world premiere of *Getting There* by Dipika Guha, and *The Light* by Loy A. Webb. She is passionate about experimenting with and implementing new models of collaboration in order to create a more sustainable and abundant theatre ecology. Through the Artistic Caucus and the HIVE Project, she was an integral part of the construction of two inter-theater, multi-year programs designed to systematically change their respective practices in audience engagement and new work curation. She has worked as a freelance artist at Woolly Mammoth, Pasadena Playhouse, Williamstown Theater Festival, Berkeley Rep, Baltimore Center Stage, Z Space, and American Conservatory Theater. She received her B.A. in American Studies and Theatre Studies from Yale University.

Allison Harris; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Allison is an events and communications veteran with personal passion and involvement in the arts, community building, and philanthropy. She is an award-winning executive and has produced thousands of marketing campaigns and events worldwide. Prior to her launch of Harris-Turk Consulting, Allison served as Senior Vice President at LPL Financial where she built and led diverse teams to design and deliver innovative and immersive experiences. Allison is also a founding Board Member of the Invest in Others Charitable Foundation where she helped direct critical funding to vulnerable nonprofits through grants and awards. While Allison's employment history speaks to her business background, her volunteerism and social activism highlights her hands-on dedication to communities near and far. She is particularly proud of "Learning in the Time of Corona", her digital platform that connected thousands of parents and teachers with meaningful ways to support each other and underrepresented youth during the pandemic. Most recently, she was appointed to San Diego Junior Theatre's (the oldest youth theatre program in the country) Board of Trustees to further their MarCom and outreach endeavors.

Jenna Harris; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

MA in Curatorial Practice - California College of the Arts

BA in Art History + Minor in Arts Management - Sonoma State University

Jenna has been working in Yolo County since 2017 supporting Arts Programming in Schools, Shelters, Juvenile Detention Facility, Libraries, and other community spaces through grant funded programs. This work has allowed her to collaborate with Artists, local organizations, and county agencies.

She has experience with grant research, writing successful applications, running award winning programs, has served on grant review panels, and as a grant advisor for organizations including the California Arts Council, and City of Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture.

Del Harrison; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Her standup is hilarious. Her hosting is God sent. As a headliner, you get both! Voted One of the Top 35+ Funniest Black Female Comedians in America 3 years in a row, Del keeps audiences laughing and coming back for more. She might even sing! Del's year began with her debuting on BETPlus in the movie Sisters, then headed over to Tubi to star in the movie Lesbian Homie 2: Bounce Back and her hilarious comedy special, From the Mouth of a Black Woman, currently airing on Amazon Prime Video and SiriusXM.

Her viral sketches has been viewed by millions through her collaborations with top influencers and this year, caught the eye of Verizon Small Business Digital Ready who featured Del on their site. Del steals the show every time. In fact, Del began her sketch career by creating her own web series, "Another Sketch Comedy Show" and spoofed Queen of Comedy, Mo'Nique's then late night talk show. Mo'Nique thought it was so funny, she called Del and invited her to be on the show. Del was tapped as host of Let's Talk Hair on FOX Soul & Up Late with Sha & Del on iHeartRadio and SiriusXM. We can go on and on about Del but Paul Mooney said it best, "Del Harrison has the IT FACTOR!"

Liz Harvey; Alameda***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Liz Harvey is a queer artist who makes textiles, sculpture, collages, and performance projects in order to disorient viewers and envision speculative liberatory interspecies futures. She uses craft processes to shed light on historical erasures of plant stories and queer history. In addition to collaborating on performance projects with choreographers and scientists, she generates imagery from discarded materials and textile surplus to create banners, sculptures, collages, and garments. Recently, her work has been featured at the Museum of Craft and Design in San Francisco and Round Weather Gallery in Oakland. She is a founding member of Mending Collective, an artists' collective dedicated to creating space for people to engage with the metaphorical and practical potential of mending, in part to counter consumer consumption. She is also a member of Earth Creative, an artists' collective that uses the power of the arts to raise awareness about climate change to advance climate justice for all. She is also an

educator working with teacher leaders to center the arts in K-8 schools as a coach and professional development facilitator.

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.

Aaron Heinrich; Roseville

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have been a writer my entire adult life. This includes two self-published books available on Amazon, several published poems, a BA in Journalism from Arizona State University, and a MFA in Screenwriting from USC's film school.

As the Director of Marketing for ABC10, I helped drive the station's involvement with the Sacramento city-wide mural project in 2022. The result was a two-walled mural that involved significant community input in the design, as well as a station-organized community paint day that was attended by over 300 community residents, a dozen different community groups, and multiple vendors.

Additionally, I continue to pursue other art forms, including mask making, painting and playing the guitar.

Brien Henderson; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Bay Area composer Brien Henderson (b. 1977) has been involved with the communities of classical music and new music in San Francisco since 2007, when he volunteered with Classical Revolution to write promotional articles and sometimes speak at special events. He has been a member of the Center for New Music, where he developed and executed the program Unaccompanied in 2014. He served as the president of the Music Graduate Student Association at University at Buffalo, where he spearheaded their 2019 Graduate Conference in Music. He currently serves on the board of directors at Earplay, an ensemble devoted to the performance of new chamber music. Most recently, he performed on and produced a 2023

album of his composition Noche Oscura and is now initiating several collaborations with Bay Area musicians and ensembles.

A California native, Henderson earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music at San Francisco State University (2010, 2013 respectively) and went on to earn a PhD in music composition from the University at Buffalo in New York (2019).

Mireya Hepner; Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Mireya (Murry) Hepner founded In Other People's Shoes Productions in 2021, with the mission of telling imaginative, impactful and artistic stories for young people and families from all walks of life. She 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. From its inception in 2005 until it became a casualty of the pandemic, she served as Artistic Producer for The City of Rancho Cucamonga's MainStreet Theatre Company, producing over 40 innovative shows specifically for children and family audiences. Prior to MainStreet, she spent 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 currently serves on the board of TYA/USA, the national service organization for Theatre for Young Audiences.

Margaret Hernandez; Carson

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I am retired from the Port of Los Angeles where my primary role was administrative management and community outreach. After retiring in 2010, I served as Executive Director of the YWCA in San Pedro for several years. I have been a Rotarian since 1989, working on various community activities and events as a volunteer. Currently, I am president of the Friends of Banning's Landing, which is a cultural and community facility on the Wilmington waterfront. Over the years I have organized events for youth development, cultural arts programs and community development, in addition to serving on the board of various community organizations. Currently, I serve on the boards of a mariachi academy, the Wilmington YMCA, a veterans organization and as an officer of my Rotary club.

Jessica Hernandez Hernandez; Pico Rivera

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Most of my career profession is related to social practice as follows: 2 years of Americorps, 4.5 years of community college counseling at Los Angeles Community College District, 12 years of public child welfare service at Los Angeles Dept. Of Children and Family Services, 1 year as an entrepreneur providing cultural parenting groups for families with children 0-6 years old who reside in Los Angeles County. And a personal appreciation of spoken word, Chicana art, reader of multi-cultural authors.

Flor Hernandez Zarate; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a Zapotec writer, organizer, and creative based in San Diego. I graduated from UC San

Diego with degrees in Literature/Writing and Political Science with an emphasis in Public Law. My art takes several forms through poetry, prose, zines, and collage. Through the past few years, I have facilitated workshops across an array of different coalitions and groups talking about the role of art in social justice movements. I have contributed poetry to Changing Womxn's Collective as well as self-publishing my zines. I showcased a mixed media piece at the Climate Summit for the Climate Science Alliance in San Diego last year. My work focuses on the collective memory of my family and my pueblo. I seek to address Indigenous resistance, feminism, and futurity in hopes of creating a world that is safe for all Indigenous peoples.

Ana Herrera; Chula Vista

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Drawing inspiration from my upbringing between Tijuana and San Diego, my work as a trans-border artist reflects a deep engagement with diverse communities. Through various mediums, I explore themes of identity and culture, aiming to create meaningful work that resonates with its community. As an art teacher, I prioritize fostering creativity, collaboration, and confidence in my students.

My experience includes teaching at Saint John's Episcopal School and collaborating on community engagement projects with organizations such as by The Guggenheim Museum Children's Program, the Southeastern Live Well Center and CECUT. Exhibitions, such as the Latinx Resource Center and the Trienal de Tijuana, Showcase my dedication to community and cultural preservation.

Through collaboration with organizations like Casa Familiar in San Ysidro, and InSite97 I've been involved in transformative community projects, from street beautification to large-scale murals. My approach to art education and community engagement aims to leave a lasting and meaningful impact in its community.

Juan Herrera Mujica; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I'm Juan Herrera, a bilingual/bicultural Venezuelan-American artist based in LA. I bring a unique perspective as an immigrant artist who recently became a citizen. Alongside my work as an artist, I am currently teaching at the high school level and pursuing my Teaching Certificate to teach Spanish and Art, further enriching my engagement with diverse communities. With MA degrees in Spanish from UIowa and Visual Studies from SAIC, and an MFA in Photography + Media, I specialize in exploring queer and cultural identity through performance, video, photography, and installation. As a 2019-2020 Media Fellow for Arts in a Changing America, I've passionately advocated for culturally underrepresented voices in the arts. My extensive academic background and professional experience uniquely position me to contribute meaningfully to the grant review process. I'm deeply committed to social justice and cultural development, and I'm eager to bring my expertise to support diverse arts communities in California.

Trinity Hester; Laguna Niguel

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a Visual Artist with experience in fire performance, dance, circus arts, burlesque, comedy improv, voice/character acting, singing and public speaking. I spent the first ten years of my career working behind-the-scenes as a hairstylist for fashion shows and magazine photoshoots. Then, I transitioned into a Zoological Career for eight years as an animal keeper, tour guide, public educator and animal handler/presenter. During that time I picked up circus arts as a hobby and loved it so much that I eventually turned Fire Performance into my main profession and am completing a Bachelors in Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance. Because artistic expression has helped me through the most rocky parts of my life, I am passionate about connecting with friends and audiences in a memorable way that inspires them to explore their own creativity.

Kat High; Topanga

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Kat High is a non-enrolled Native Californian of Hupa descent. She is the past Chair of the American Indian Scholarship Fund of Southern California and served as the Director and Program Coordinator for the Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center for over 15 years. Kat is an advisor to the Satwiwa American Indian Cultural Center, The Autry National Center, and the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. Kat is a member of Neshkinukat, the California Indian artists network. Neshkinukat includes visual, performance, traditional and media artists.

Kat presents workshops at LA City Libraries, Environmental Centers, and schools and is a member of the California Indian Storytelling Association, and has done storytelling at libraries, schools, and other locations in Southern California. She is also active with the Sacred Places Institute.

Kat is the founder of Giveaway Song Productions, and produced several award-winning documentaries, and over 200 public access TV programs on Indigenous culture., as well as four albums of Native American music.

Dawn Hightree; Seaside

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

My Journey: From Musician to Business Owner to Climate Advocate

My journey has been a tapestry of family struggles overcoming abuse, to passion in the arts and pursuits, woven together by a relentless drive for success and a profound commitment to making a positive impact on the world towards sustainability. My drive for music led me to the dark side of the music business that frayed my being that struggled to overcome family abuse. Although I gave up my music career pursuits early on, I became dedicated to helping the world become more aware regarding environmental challenges. I have wanted to "Heal the World" from the age of 19. Since then, I have pursued my education, published a self-help book, and finally established Usolec Company, a sustainability consulting and management business in December 2022. I plan to graduate in May 2024 from CSUMB with a Collaborative Health and Human Services BA and a Nonprofit Management concentration. I have been

fortunate to be an intern with the CSUMB Institute for Innovation and Economic Development for 3 semesters.

Cyn Hilaire; North Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Born in Ft Lauderdale, FL to Haitian Immigrants, I moved to the state of California years ago with a goal of collaborating and contributing to the rich history of creators and filmmakers. With a Theatre degree from the University of Florida, I have since honed my skills as a performer and Haitian Kreyól speaker, adding a unique cultural dimension to my work in TV and Film, broadening the spectrum of narratives I can contribute to. Beyond performing, my passion extends to creation. I've been an advocate for amplifying the voices of underrepresented groups, particularly black women and those with first-generation experiences. This can be seen in my projects "A Sit Down with Cyn: Monologues For Black Girls" and "Makeup & Medicine". Through those creative projects, I've leveraged my skills to tell stories that resonate with the diverse and complex experiences of my community. I am not just a performer; I am a storyteller dedicated to bringing forth the rich tapestry of cultural experiences, ensuring that the arts landscape is inclusive and reflective of the diverse voices that make up our society.

Carl Hild; Santa Cruz

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

PhD in Organizational Systems, MS in Management, Apprenticed Master Taxidermist, Stone sculptor for 28 years. Instructed in Business Administration and Arctic Health Research. Lived in Alaska for 50 years before moving to Santa Cruz. Volunteered at the International Gallery of Contemporary Art in Anchorage, Alaska. My sculptures have been in six international juried shows. I have worked with people with disabilities and have seen what art expression can do for them. I have worked with numerous non-profit entities.

Victoria Hinshaw; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I have spent my career supporting artists. After starting my career working for arts organizations in Portland, Memphis, and San Francisco, I spent five years at YR Media, an Oakland arts nonprofit serving low-income youth. I was hired as a Development Associate and by the time I left I was running fundraising and impact evaluation for the \$8M organization. I learned so much about nonprofit management and creative youth development, and I remain passionate about supporting artists from historically underrepresented communities.

In 2020, I moved to LA and am now leading fundraising for Jewish Story Partners, a documentary film fund. I have helped build up this young organization, and in the process have immersed myself in the film world and the grantmaking process. When the time comes, I hope to move on to a grantmaking position in the arts.

I love to be involved in the arts outside of work too. I trained in ballet growing up, and still regularly take class. Earlier in my career, I was an assistant editor of a magazine called Radio

Silence that celebrated literature and music –a valuable creative outlet for me. I frequently visit museums, theaters, and studios all over LA.

Natasha Hoehn; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Natasha Hoehn is a seasoned leader in the social sector with a deep commitment to fostering creativity and equity in California's artistic and cultural communities. Most recently serving as a Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, she spearheaded initiatives to empower educators and enhance student success, demonstrating a keen understanding of the challenges facing diverse communities. Natasha's dedication to the arts extends to her work as a choral conductor, arts curator, and professional singer, performing with prestigious organizations such as Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale. As the Founder of the North Street Collective, she has created a vibrant cultural space promoting creative problem-solving and celebrating local artistic traditions.

Leslie Hogan; Santa Barbara

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Composer/pianist Leslie A. Hogan received her principal training at the University of Kansas and the University of Michigan. Her music often manifests her longtime fascination with other art forms and with the potential of music to reflect or respond to visual stimuli from the natural world. As a pianist, she has performed with UC Santa Barbara's Ensemble for Contemporary Music and was a co-founder and frequent performer for the Current Sounds concert series in Santa Barbara.. She was on the board of the Chamber Music Society of Santa Barbara for over a decade and is currently president of the Santa Barbara Music Club Board. She has received awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (Charles Ives Fellowship, 2002; Charles Ives Scholarship, 1993), the Rapido Composition Contest, the American Music Center, ASCAP, and the Chicago Civic Orchestra, among others. She has adjudicated composition competitions for MTNA and the Society of Composers, Inc. and evaluated grant proposals for the Unit 18 Professional Development Fund at UCSB. Dr. Hogan has taught music composition in the College of Creative Studies at the University of California-Santa Barbara since 1995.

Rachel Hooper; Hanford

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I was named poet of the month in Westwood, CA in 1999, and was active in both poetry circles and community bands. I went on to pursue a degree in Multimedia design at Lane Community College, Eugene OR in 2010. I moved to Portland OR in 2016 to become active in the vibrant art community there. I moved to Vancouver WA in 2018 and joined a tahitian dance troupe there in 2021. I moved to Hanford, CA in 2022 and have been active in the local arts community here since.

DeeAnn Hopings; Cathedral City

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Originally from Toledo, OH, I earned a BS degree in mechanical engineering, have 2 patents and held a PE License for 30+ years. California is the 4th state where I have lived plus 6 years as an ex-pat in Taiwan. I have had the experience of working with people from 17 different countries. I didn't have the experience of working with non-profits and civic organizations until I retired 8 years ago and relocated to California. I was a member of the Cathedral City Public Arts Commission for 3 years and served as Chair for 2 years. In those 2 years we completed the 2nd most expensive art installation in the 43 year history of the city. In that time, I consider myself fortunate to have worked with a number of VERY talented artists and they have expanded my understanding as to how artists look at the world.

Anna Hopkins Gamboa; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Anna Hopkins Gamboa is a dynamic leader with a passion for enhancing communities through arts and cultural initiatives.

As a key figure in the North Park Street beautification project, Anna played a pivotal role in transforming the area into a vibrant and inviting space for residents and visitors alike. Her work with the San Diego Downtown Partnership and the Historic Gaslamp Quarter further solidified her reputation as a catalyst for positive change in the region's urban landscape.

In addition to her urban beautification efforts, Anna is deeply involved in advocacy and community engagement. Serving as the Communications Chair for the NAACP CA/HI, she is committed to advancing social justice and equity initiatives. Anna's leadership on the Executive Committee of the NAACP demonstrates her dedication to amplifying marginalized voices and driving systemic change.

Anna's passion for design and communication extends beyond her professional endeavors. As a member of the AIGA San Diego/Tijuana Board and Communications Committee, she leverages her creative expertise to promote design excellence and foster collaboration within the artistic community.

Patrick Horn; Pescadero

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Patrick Horn D.Div is a co-producer of the Peace Sundays sacred activism broadcast, credentialed diplomat with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC) through the United Religions Initiative (a non-governmental organization), and alumni fellow of the USC Institute for Digital Civic Culture. He is a contributor to American Vedantist and Reading Religion, a publication of the American Academy of Religion, and an award-winning, critically-acclaimed singer-songwriter and Radio Indie Alliance certified #1 artist with the Pacific Coast Band. He is a 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.

Yavette Horne; Palmdale

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I currently serve on the committee for the Community Arts gallery, helping to showcase up and coming Artist in the area and give the community a free place to come support their local artist and experience cultural. I served on two non-profit boards and was involved on the team for deciding and writing grants for the non-profit.

Berniz House; Salinas

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Berniz House, Development & Community Outreach Director, brings over a decade of expertise in arts administration, community engagement, and marketing. Fluent in Spanish, she has played pivotal roles in organizations like the Arts Council for Monterey County, Greenfield Triqui Community, and Estampas de las Américas. Berniz's past leadership extends to the Nonprofit Alliance of Monterey County and Cannery Row Rotary, showcasing her commitment to the arts and cultural communities. Formerly a dance teaching artist, she infuses her work with a passion for inclusivity, accessibility, and program expansion, contributing significantly to the cultural richness of the Central Coast community.

Marcie Hronis; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Marcie has 19 years of classical ballet training with the Royal Academy of Dance where she passed her Advanced II examination with distinction. Marcie also enjoyed modern dance where her training syllabus was influenced by contemporary styles, and the techniques of Lester Horton and Martha Graham.

Marcie is the owner of Marcie Hronis Communications. She is an award-winning interview coach with clients across the country.

She is also a published author of a vegan cookbook, "Believe it or Not".

Marcie is the President of Kern Dance Alliance; she succeeded Andrea Hansen in 2023. Marcie is a founding board member for KDA and has proudly served for the last 8 years. Marcie is one of the creators of ADAPTIdance: DANCE + DISABILITY Kern County's ONLY adaptive dance program with the League of Dreams.

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 poetry has been featured in prints and online nationwide and internationally. She's Ephemera's June 2023 Poet. Huang is producing a limited short film series Ann Huang Presents. Huang is also the Traveling Show Manager for the Marin Poetry Center and is nominated and selected as the new Board member of Directors of Society for Photographic Education starting January 2024.

Brad Huff; Fresno

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Brad Huff – Biography for California Arts Council

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY

Master of Arts in Teaching, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA

MS and PhD in Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Experience in the Arts and Arts Education

Community Theater, Geneseo, NY

Choral Director, The Pingry School, Elizabeth, NJ, choir director for several churches

Fresno State Opera Workshop: Gilbert & Sullivan, Trial by Jury actor

California State Director, Odyssey of the Mind,, creative, problem-solving competition

Consultant to the Fresno Metropolitan Museum

Board Member – Valley Cultural Coalition

Project Director – Valley Arts & Science Academy charter elementary school

Founding Head of School, University High School, CSU Fresno campus

Chair, Western Association of Schools and Colleges Visiting Committees

Reviewer – California Arts Council

Sylvia Hughes-Gonzales; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Sylvia Hughes-Gonzales works in sculpture and social actions to address themes of celebration and destruction and the ways they intersect. She makes objects, installation and utilizes procession in urban spaces to explore invisibility, hospitality, loss, and the power of collective grief.

Sylvia has spent most of her life in New Orleans, Louisiana and is presently based in Northern California. She studied photography at the Instituto Allende in Mexico and received her BFA from Tulane University in New Orleans in 2007. She completed a printmaking apprenticeship at Warren Editions in Cape Town, South Africa in 2010. She has worked as a freelance printmaker at Hoopskirt Press in New Orleans and for David Krut Projects in Johannesburg South Africa. She received her MFA from Mills College in Oakland Ca in 2021 and was awarded the Graduate Fellowship at Headlands Center for the Arts from 2021-2022. She recently completed residencies at Winslow House and Kala Art Institute and has shown at Southern Exposure, Kala, Right Window Gallery and ICA in San Francisco.

Samantha Hull; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

For over a decade, I have utilized my skills as an administrator, editor, researcher, and project manager to produce meaningful programs, publications, and community outreach initiatives. I have held previous roles in administration, curatorial, education, and exhibitions at the de Saisset Museum at Santa Clara University, the San Jose Museum of Art, the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon.

In addition to my work as an arts administrator, I served as the Publication Project Manager and Research Assistant to museum scholar Gail Anderson, "Mission Matters: Relevance and Museums in the 21st Century" and "Reinventing the Museum: Relevance, Inclusion, and Global Responsibilities." As a committed arts advocate in San Jose, I was the Board Vice President of Local Color SJ from August 2020 to December 2023. Nationally, I serve on the Museum Committee for the College Art Association and the Editorial Advisory Committee at the American Alliance of Museums. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Arts Administration from the University of Oregon and a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from John F. Kennedy University.

Maureen Hurley; Lagunitas

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I've taught artist-in-schools residencies in rural & urban schools in California since 1979. I've implemented arts programming, trained poets & artists in rural Sonoma Co. & urban Alameda Co. Clients include inmates at Napa State Hospital, elders, preschoolers. I've had 7 individual CACAIR grants in Sonoma & Napa counties & grants from the Montana Arts Council.

I've administered/taught in CAC multi-artist residencies including Poetry Flash (current), a PBS/KQED AIR grant, & two Oakland Cultural Arts Council grants. 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 & won prizes, fellowships & awards for my work. I was a photojournalist for alternative newspapers, writing arts & feature stories. From 1980 to 1997, I produced 100s of literary events in Sonoma Co., for Russian River Writers' Guild, Sonoma State University, Johnny Otis Club & other venues. I was staff photographer/ workshop leader for Napa Valley Poetry /Bahamas conferences. My photos will be featured in an upcoming Julia Vinograd film.

Barbara Ige; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Dr. Ige has been a faculty member at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, Pitzer College, UCLA, and Los Angeles Valley College. With extensive experience as a Graduate Division administrator at UCLA as the NSF AGEP Program Director and UCSB Director, she played a pivotal role in shaping academic programs that endure and flourish. Dr. Ige also mentored first-generation, underrepresented students through UCLA's Academic Advancement Program, nurturing their journey toward graduate and professional success. Her dedication to educational equity and excellence resonates throughout her career. Driven by her commitment to serving underserved students, she has dedicated her life to empowering individuals to achieve their aspirations, uplift their families, and forge the futures they deserve.

Kenneth Ingraham; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Ken Ingraham brings more than 40 years of experience in arts administration to his current work as Organizational Development Consultant in the Arts. A graduate of Harvard University (where he co-founded The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College); Ken has held senior level positions with the internationally acclaimed Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Museum of the African Diaspora and the Oakland Symphony. He also has experience in corporate giving as Program Associate with the Kaiser Regional Contributions Program and Senior Community Relations Specialist with Mervyn's.

In 2006, Ken was awarded Harvard University's distinguished W.E.B. Du Bois Medal by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The Du Bois Medal is Harvard's highest honor in the field of African and African American Studies, awarded to individuals in the U.S. and internationally in recognition of their contributions to African and African American culture. Ken has served on grant review panels of the National Endowment for the Arts and Michigan Count for the Arts. Recent clients have included the Oakland Theater Project and Oakland Public Conservatory of Music.

Gayle Isa; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Gayle Isa (she/her) is a cultural worker and organizational consultant who provides strategic and administrative support to a range of cultural and community groups. She is the founder and former executive director of Asian Arts Initiative in Philadelphia, where for 25 years she led the creation of projects such as the In/flux exhibitions of site-specific installations responding to and shaping community dynamics; the Artists Exchange peer-led workshops and commissions of new work in response to current social themes; and the organization's Social Practice Lab, which embedded artists-in-residence throughout the socio-economically and racially diverse neighborhood of Chinatown North. She has served on boards for the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists, and the National Performance Network. Since moving back home to Los Angeles in 2018, she has been a grant panelist for entities including the California Arts Council and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

Ada' Isoke; Benicia***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

During my upbringing in the Bay Area, California, our home was filled with a wide variety of artistry visual cultural expressions around the world as well as musical sorcery . At 16 years of age, I had the opportunity to see Frida Kahlo's work of art in person on a school field trip. I remember being deeply moved by her work, "Two Frida's, 1939." Even today, I am still deeply moved and inspired by Frida, who conveyed raw emotion through a single canvas. Other artists that inspire me are Kehinde Wiley and Georgia O'Keeffe, as well as Thomas Kinkade,

whom I had the opportunity to meet. When I was 19, I visited the Louvre, located in Paris, France. This experience allowed me the opportunity to see the art of the old masters, such as Leonardo DaVinci, Vermeer, Michael Angelo and others. I have learned that art can grant us all a renewed appreciation of life. Art continues to transcend the human condition and creates a space of harmony within us. Art has been like a magical elixir that renews my spirit and allows me to spread my wings. It lifts me up and allows me to fly over the sticks and stones that present themselves before me.

Stephanie Jacinto; Santa Clarita

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Stephanie Jacinto is the Art Exhibition Assistant for the City of Santa Clarita in California, and the founding Assistant Director of Strata Gallery, a nonprofit gallery in Santa Fe offering opportunities to emerging artists.

Jacinto is a candidate for an MA in the Art History at the University of New Mexico. Her primary research interests include the representation and reception of identity-based politics in U.S. visual culture. Her thesis, "Spectral Lines: Mapping the Emergence of Black Lesbian Visual Artists," is an investigation of the underrepresented contributions of Black lesbian visual artists in the United States during the 1970s.

Stephanie Jacinto's academic journey is complemented by professional experiences in art administration, exhibition coordination, and community engagement. Her dedication to diversity and inclusion in the arts drives her ambition to contribute to the California Arts Council's mission, ensuring equitable representation and support for artists across California's vibrant cultural landscape.

Alvin Jackson; Pittsburg

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a first-gen college graduate living in eastern contra costa county. My background in the arts started in 2019 when I got a marketing internship at SFMOMA. Once that ended, the pandemic came and the opportunity to return to the institution had gone away. I also needed a job post college. So, I created Black Art Review and things have been great. Finding work as a writer is challenging but not impossible. I get the privilege to document the create practices of Black people across the diaspora. I wouldn't have known a career in the arts was my life's purpose unless i took the chance at something new. Now im here applying to make it better in california one grant at a time.

Angeline Jackson; Glendale

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am an international expert in LGBTQ+ education, a Lambda Literary Finalist, and the former Executive Director and co-founder of Quality of Citizenship Jamaica. I have worked in LGBTQ+ and HIV/AIDS human rights advocacy for over 18 years.

I am the author of Funny Gyal: My Fight Against Homophobia in Jamaica; my writing has appeared in The Advocate, Time Magazine, and The Jamaica Gleaner.

I am a Unitarian Universalist Minister and am growing an entrepreneurial ministry called sUUstenance.LGBT. I have served as a judge for a literary award and am an expert witness for LGBTQ asylum seekers.

Rick Jackson; Garden Grove

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Education:

2001 Irvine Valley College - Course in Web Design for the Mac

1992 University of California Irvine - Course in QuarkXpress

1991 Irvine Valley College - Completed course in Photography & Illustrator

1985-1987 Art Center College of Design - BFA Graphic Design/Packaging

1969-1970 California State University - Fine Arts Major

Professional Experience:

1975 Don Weller, Los Angeles - Designed logo for McCulloch Corporation

1975-1976 Milton Glaser, Inc., New York - Designed Children's Magazine & World Trade Center Exhibit

1977 Arnold Saks, New York - Prepared dummies of annual reports

1986 Art Center College of Design - Implemented new identity program under Design Director, Vance Studley

1987-1989 Bass/Yeager & Associates, Los Angeles

Awards/Exhibits:

Los Angeles Center for Digital Art - Participated in exhibits 2013 until closed

Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design - 1988 Printmaking Workshop Exhibit

Alpha Graphix Poster Exhibit - 1988 First Place/student division

Modern Museum of Art, Santa Ana, California - 1987 Auction One Exhibit

Rizzoli International Bookstore, Los Angeles - 1985/1986 Photography Exhibit

Robert Jackson; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Robert Jackson is deeply immersed in art, academia, and community advocacy. As CEO/Co-Founder of TORCH, he nurtures cultural expression and community development, promoting marginalized voices. He also supports artists, cultural bearers, and creatives in Los Angeles, California through entrepreneurship training and coaching for emerging and mid-career artists.

He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at Johns Hopkins University, where he studies creative entrepreneurship in communities of color, aiming to empower through academia and advocacy. With a commitment to social justice and cultural preservation, Robert fosters inclusivity and empowers voices through his work and creative practice.

Michelle Jader; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Born and raised in a depressed area of Northern Minnesota, I pursued my passion for the arts against the odds. After earning a BA in Communication and Arts, I delved into marketing, spending 15 years collaborating with Ad Agencies and design firms. In 2011, I achieved an MFA from the Academy of Arts University, specializing in Figurative Painting. Since then, my artwork has been represented by galleries across the nation and acquired by major collections and museums. I've been privileged to feature in esteemed publications like Fine Art Connoisseur, Juxtapose, and Beautiful Bizarre. Alongside my artistic pursuits, I co-founded and managed a vibrant music venue in San Francisco in 2009 & 2010. Having moved to California in 2006, I'm deeply committed to its revitalization post-COVID. My journey, from modest beginnings to national recognition, fuels my dedication to fostering artistic excellence. With extensive experience in managing art programs and navigating call for entries, I eagerly anticipate contributing my diverse expertise to the California Arts Commission's grant review panels, ensuring an equitable, honest, and thorough evaluation process for our vibrant arts community.

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, overseeing network operations, communications, and programming. 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 provides support in evaluation design and data analysis. Her research focuses on arts assessment and evaluation, inclusion, racial and cultural equity in the arts, and cultural policy. She is a San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition board member, serving as Secretary. She is the Chair Emeritus of Rising Arts Leaders San Diego. She is also a committee member of the Arts, Culture, and Design Committee for the Port of San Diego.

Janice Tanaka Janice Tanaka; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Janice Tanaka studied music composition at the Conservatorio Internacional de Musica, fine art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, performed with the Allegro American Ballet

Company, and Jim Hetzer's Japanese Spectacular. Traveling as a performer she discovered a sad but beautiful world reflected in man's inventive cultural variety, while simultaneously acknowledging humankind's destructive cruelty. Influenced by these observations her work incorporates philosophical inquiry, cultural, social, and political observations, as it attempts to unravel the complexities of human nature by reflecting on the social implications of cultural doctrines expressed through manipulated imagery created. As a media artist she began experimenting with image processing as a narrative form, experimenting with narrative linear and nonlinear structures, which she further explored as a creative artist she continues to play, the inter-relationship between art and technology incorporating mixed media collage of live action, and manipulated imagery. A recipient of numerous awards and grants; her work is screened nationally and internationally in museums, galleries, internet, cable and broadcast.

Matt Beurois Janot; Yucca Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Matt Beurois is a multi-award winning director and scriptwriter with a background in Modern Letter in French High School, and a degree in Advertisement Communication and Marketing. He directed "The Barn", a feature film released in 2018, "Fancy Like walker Hayes" a feature documentary to be released in 2024, and a second feature film "American Game", currently in post-production.

He is the creator and director of the Yucca Valley Film Festival.

He also is the founder of The Talent Factory, an independent boutique serving filmmakers from all over the world to help them connect with the film industry, through festivals, events, networking. He is the programmer of the Paris Art and Movie Awards, the leading international festival in Paris for indie filmmakers, and a skilled panelist moderator.

Before he moved to California, Matt run the Cultural Center of Saint-Germain des Pres, in Paris, France. He also worked a head of marketing and communications for the French's Government ministry in charge of the national Student affairs (grants, scholarships, student housing and restaurants...)

Anthony Jefferson; Pleasanton

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Anthony Michael Jefferson (AJ) is from Hermosa Beach, Ca. Growing up surfed, sailed, dove, and fished. Graduating from Mira Costa high school in Manhattan Beach in 82' AJ, lettered in debate, football, baseball, volleyball, and captained the surf team. His parents played a role in shaping his philosophies, " act local, think global." His senior year he traveled to Oahu, the big island, Maui. The culture forever changed his outlook and his surfing. Trips to Mexico and France were paid for by his skills as a line cook. The dream to play big time college football was cut short when he walked onto the University of Oregon's spring practice field. Half way through the practice he was knocked out cold. Coach Brooks, said, "you've got heart, guts, but you don't have the size at this level. "

The local speakeasy had an open mic event entering it on a dare. AJ won 200.00 and a trip down to Ashland Oregon to watch a Shakespeare festival. Yet, another life changing event.

A horrific tragedy happened in 92' AJ was convicted and sentenced by a jury of his peers to 25 years to life in the California penal system. After 23 years served he earned his parole in 2015.

Vina Jefferson; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I am a lifetime resident of Bakersfield, California. I am currently a caregiver and a crossing guard. I have also traveled with a musical stage production for over three years. I have experience in theater among other areas and am pretty much interested and have experienced in some form, or another many cultures and experiences.

Jainai Jeffries; Los angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Born and raised in Los Angeles, i just moved back after spending 7 years in Vancouver, WA, where I opened my private tattooing studio. For 14+ years, I've been a full time freelance artist: creating illustrations, comics, character design, and fashion design for individuals. I added tattooing just 4 years ago, and became an LLC in 2017. My mission is to explore the unexplored through every piece I create!

Raina Jia; Foothill Ranch

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My name is Raina and I am an illustrator/designer with a BFA from ArtCenter College of Design, currently based in Orange County, California. Prior to ArtCenter I was trained in graphic design, however I decided to switch to illustration because I was always drawn to images, how they are both personal and universal, and how color, shape, composition can build tension and emotion. I have been exhibited in many galleries and have worked many art&design jobs. I was recognized in major art competitions. I love reading, traveling and exploring different art techniques, these activities have shaped my artistic style as well as who I am as a person. I have in depth knowledge of different art styles, movements, and artists from art history, experienced with finding beauty in all kinds of art styles. I believe an art community is a must for artists to grow and cheer each other on along the art journey. Becoming a panel reviewer will offer community building and shared experience, will offer diversity and inclusion, and give new and emerging artists a platform to be seen and cherished.

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 served as Creative Ambassador of the San José Office of Cultural Affairs, received a Cultura Power Mini-Grant from MACLA, completed a Fellowship from Root Division, and received a Commendation from the City of San José. In 2023, Elizabeth was awarded the prestigious Creative Corps Initiative grant by the California Arts

Council and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Her artwork has received Honorable Mentions from the Santa Clara Cultural Commission and Triton Museum of Art, and is currently in the collection of the City and County of San Francisco. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Poetry Center San José, as well as Director and Editor of La Raíz Magazine.

Lou Jimenez; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Maria Jimenez in San Jose, CA, holds a BA in Art History from San Jose State University, recognized as a President Scholar and Cum Laude Honors recipient (2020-22). She co-authored "Graffiti Abatement" in "Upper Left: A Cultural Atlas of San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle" (Sasquatch Book, 2021). As Executive Director at 1Culture Art Gallery, she managed 60+ artists, led fundable projects, and facilitated 40+ murals. Teaching at James Boys Ranch and Hillbrook School reflects her commitment to transformative learning for at-risk youth. As an Associate Management Analyst at Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations, she enhances program procedures, advocating for immigrant narratives. Serving as a Public Art as Resistance Lead Tour Guide at San Jose State University, Maria exhibits profound knowledge of the city's art scene. Her diverse experiences underscore her passion for arts and commitment to positive community impact.

Gregory Johnson; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Greg Johnson is a well known media marketing executive, arts advocate, event producer, radio broadcaster and global thinker. After serving in the United States Marine Corp,

Greg's commitment to community is underscored through his service on the Board of Directors for the West Angeles Community Development Corporation as Recording Secretary and the Arts Council for Long Beach as Board President.

At the Arts Council, Greg is leading the way alongside the Executive Director as the renowned California Creative Corps rolls out in its inaugural iteration.

Greg has been named among the 100 most influential African Americans in LA 4 consecutive times. He has a keen understanding of how the business of arts and culture works and centers his arts advocacy world view on performing arts while gaining a strong comprehension on other arts disciplines. This coupled with his deep experience in civic and community engagement makes him a strong multi faceted leader in arts and culture.

Alison Johnson; Hermosa Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

MA CSULB Watercolor: Figure Painting: "Backgrounds" studies of 10 friends at home in favorite seats: what surrounds them reflects their inner character.

Artist in Residence Long Beach Rec Dept: children's classes and Tile Mural: "Time and Tide, or The Whole is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts." Mural of 196 separate tiles, china-painted watercolor, of the high and low tides daily for nearly a year. Full and New Moons show their

pattern through the contrast of high and low, greater than other times. Tiles were fired in as many as seven layers to replicate the original watercolor paintings.

Exhibited in First Women's Caucus for the Arts at Otis Art Institute

Then to Taiwan for 10 years: Exhibit at The American Cultural Center,

"Face" or "Mien" Billboards, restaurant menu signs, people everywhere: Surfaces, faces, honor. Urban Landscapes. Followed by Major Exhibit at The National Museum of History there. The R.O.C. sponsored me to take that exhibit to their cultural centers in L.A. and N.Y.C. Then I scaled back the exhibits and painted along a series called "Endangered Species:" the beautiful old brick farmhouses ..

Back to CA U of Redlands Adjunct life drawing, drawing, design.

Shaina Johnson; El Cerrito

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Since 2001, I have danced at private, corporate, and festival venues across the US and overseas. Some of my credits include Huis Ten Bosch in Kyushu, Japan; the Harbor Nights Festival in Hamilton, Bermuda; the Sonoma International Film Festival in Napa Valley, CA, and the Great American Music Hall, and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, CA. From 2004-2019, I was the Founder/Artistic Director of the Copper Lantern Fire Theater, a company that provided opportunities for adults who came into performance later in life to practice stagecraft and choreography. I am also a writer, sculptor, and musician. Since 2003, I have worked with The Crucible, appearing at open houses, galas, and festival events. I joined the faculty in 2012, becoming Department Head in 2014. In 2020, I joined the Development Department securing grants from foundations, corporations, and government funders to support our mission to make arts education accessible to all, relaunched our public art program which pairs BIPOC fabricators ages 18-35 with paid portfolio-building opportunities, and workforce development programs that support artists to launch careers or businesses in the creative economy.

Stephanie Johnson; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

My experience as a founding faculty member in the Visual and Public Art program at CSU, Monterey Bay has been a valuable asset. I have been a lighting designer for 50 years working with local, national, and international theatre companies. In earlier years, I was a lighting tech in films with Alice Walker, Robert Townsend, and Pratibha Parmar. I have had two one-person shows in S.F. My mixed media and projection-based work has been commissioned by the City of Oakland, The Atlanta Arts Festival, The DeYoung Museum. I have exhibited locally and nationally. In recent years my work was in the Lake Merritt Autumn Lights Festival and The Art of the African Diaspora in Richmond.

In addition to my role as a CAC reviewer in the past, I have served on panels and commissions for The City Of Berkeley, The S.F. Civic Arts Commission, The Berkeley Civic Arts Commission, and Bayer Pharmaceutical Community Grants. My educational qualifications include a B.F.A. in

Theatre (Emerson College, Boston), and M.A. in Interdisciplinary Art (S.F. State University), an M.F.A. in Art (U.C. Berkeley), and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies/Public Policy (Union Institute & University, Cincinnati).

Jana Jones; Redondo Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

A storyteller at heart, Jana Jones created The Anansi Project, a creative writing program that elevates marginalized voices, in 2014. The Anansi Project partnered with Covenant House – Los Angeles as well as the Inglewood Public Library. A literary magazine, Anansi's Web, was published in 2015. While working with District of Columbia Public Schools as an Out-of-School Time Manager, Jana created the Hurston-Kahlo society, an art appreciation program where students learned about BIPOC artists throughout history as they created their own unique art pieces. In 2021, she published her debut novel, Vivid. A multigenerational family story inspired by the controversial history of lead paint exposure in low-income communities which occurred in her hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. Jana has also served as a volunteer with the Maryland Film Festival, the Los Angeles Film Festival, and the PROOF (Proof of Concept) Film Festival.

Tracy Jones; Sausalito

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Tracy Jones is a Thai-American poet, cultural curator, multidisciplinary artist, and producer who hails from a lineage of Buddhist rice paddy farmers. Her poems have been published in juried anthologies and the Amethyst Review. She has received fellowships from the San Francisco Writers Grotto Rooted and Written Program and the ARTogether Mentorship Hub for Literary Artists.

Tracy is a literary citizen who has over a decade of experience serving on boards including two terms on the board of directors for the Marin Poetry Center and U.N. Women USA SF. She was a county judge for Poetry Out Loud and is currently a judge for the inaugural Marin County Youth Poet Laureate program.

In her capacity as a multidisciplinary artist, Tracy explores filmmaking, performance, and public art. She is a South By Southwest Creator Economy Mentor and a TEDx Producer and Curator. She has also served as Film Selection Co-Chair for the Global Voices Film Festival, as well as Filmmaker Liaison for the Mill Valley Film Festival.

When she is not writing, collaborating, or giving life to her creative sparks, Tracy indulges in dance, comedy, and is an avid seaweed collector.

NiQueen Jones; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

NiQueen Jones is an Oakland-based multidisciplinary artist and educator who intersects the concepts of social justice, youth empowerment, and mindfulness. She has been investing in the well being of her community since 1999 at Marcus Garvey School, Oakland Terminal Art

Gallery, Oakland Freedom School, Pear Tree Community School, The People's Conservatory, AfroKids Culture Camp, Mission Language and Vocational School, and The East Oakland Black Cultural Zone.

In 2024, NiQueen is a candidate for an MA in Arts Management and Entrepreneurship. She is also a Design, Technology, and Lighting Fellow in AfroUrban Society's Lit From the Black Fellowship. In 2023, she received the Emerging Artist Grant from YouthSpeaks. In 2022, She received an award from the Abolitionist Teachers Network to continue her work. In 2021, She served her city as a "Black Culture Keeper" and in the capacity of a "Neighborhood Messenger" for East Oakland's Black Cultural Zone. In 2019, NiQueen was on a team that created a mobile "Living" Black History Museum with Spearitwurx.

Jonathan Jose; Menifee

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As an artist who started painting and drawing in 2021, specializing on acrylic, oil and watercolor, I have been lucky enough to be able to join two (2) exhibits since; The Riverside Arts Council Veterans Artist of November 2023 and the Summer/Fall Artscape from March to August 2024. I have over 9 years of experience as Aviation Security personnel in Department of Homeland security and 14 years of US Army as an Analyst and IT Specialist. I have always understood the importance of self enhancement through education and Arts. such as postgraduate studies on Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance this April 2024. Since starting to incline myself with arts two years ago, I have been fortunate to participate in various arts exhibits. I also leverage social media as a form to bring out my artistry to the general public. I have published or more specifically, posted at least up to 3,500 drawings in a span of two years. I continue to paint using oil, acrylic and watercolor however, my fulltime job as an IT specialist and military reservist and as a husband and father takes much of my time.

Virginia Jourdan; Richmond

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an independent artist, instructor with a non-profit organization called Art With Elders. I teach art to Elders in health care facilities. I have also taught junior high and high school students for two years. I do art work shops for the Juvenile Justice Center in San Leandro. I am the secretary for the Art Of The African Diaspora group's steering committee. I have also been newly appointed to the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission. I have a BFA in Illustration from the Art Academy University in San Francisco. I studied sculpture, print making, painting and graphic arts at City College of San Francisco and painting at the University of Washington in Seattle. I have also illustrated a children's book and authored and illustrated an adult coloring book. This year I was selected for the deYoung Open exhibit at the deYoung Museum in San Francisco.

Paula Junn; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Paula Junn, MFA is an interdisciplinary artist based in the Bay Area, who works with stories, photography, and jewelry. She is a passionate community builder interested in fostering belonging in and among people and organizations. With a history in the education management and program administration industry, her experience includes event planning, social media, storytelling, and photography. She is currently learning grant proposal writing for the Queer Choir, and is excited learn more about the process.

Antoine Justin; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Not only was I a ward of the court/at risk youth. I was taken away from my parents at 6 years old. Since then I've had a non stop journey through the system. I've been to group homes, juvenile hall, cya, county jail, prison. For the past 10 years I've been completely dedicated to fixing our communities. I work with Jack Jaqua ,Omega Boys Club, as well as several nonprofit organizations in our city and beyond. I have a AA in audio Production from SAE Expressions College. I am 100% dedicated to the youth and there Futures.

Carrie Kahn; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Carrie Kahn currently works as a Development Associate at the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA). In her spare time, she's also a film critic who reviews films and serves as the film editor of the Bay Area entertainment website Spinning Platters. A member of the San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle (SFBAFCC), she has covered film festivals including San Francisco, Mill Valley, SFJFF, and Sundance. A former corporate librarian, she also fills in as a librarian on occasional weekends at branches of the Berkeley Public Library. For the past three years she's volunteered as a juror for the Writopia Lab-Scholastic youth writing program, judging dramatic writing, short and flash fiction, and poetry for 7th through 12th graders. Carrie holds a BA in Rhetoric & Communication from UC Davis, an MA in English from the University of New Mexico, and an MLIS from San Jose State University. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Carrie is a longtime Berkeley resident, and an avid cinephile, theater-goer, and reader.

Mihran Kalaydjian; Chatsworth

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Playing the piano has always been one of Mihran Kalaydjian's greatest passions. During his childhood, while being influenced by other Master of Music, pianists and composers, Mihran started teaching himself to play, developing his own style over a span of 25 years. His technique and touch combine his inner emotions to various genres.

"I quit my classical piano training at age seven, seeking a more glamorous life as a professional athlete. I still hear my father's words ringing clearly in my head, "someday you'll thank me," referring to the childhood piano training I so gladly abandoned.

Genevieve Kaplan; La Verne

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Genevieve Kaplan is the author of (aviary) (Veliz Books, 2020); In the ice house (Red Hen Press, 2011), winner of the A Room of Her Own Foundation's poetry publication prize; and five chapbooks: Felines, which sounds like feelings (above/ground, 2022), I exit the hallway and turn right (above/ground, 2020), In an aviary (Grey Book, 2016), travelogue (Dancing Girl, 2016), and settings for these scenes (Convulsive Editions, 2013). Her poems can be found in Third Coast, Puerto del Sol, Denver Quarterly, South Dakota Review, Poetry, and other journals.

A poet, scholar, and book-maker, Genevieve earned her MFA in Poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and her PhD in Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. She co-edited Et Al.: New Voices in Arts Management (IOPN, 2022), 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, which became an imprint of Veliz Books in 2021, publishing contemporary translations of poetry and prose. Genevieve lives in southern California.

Tobey Kaplan; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Tobey Kaplan, a poet from New York City, with degrees from Syracuse and San Francisco State Universities, has been teaching in the San Francisco Bay Area for over forty years. An active member of Associated Writing Programs, Ms. Kaplan has given readings, workshops and presentations throughout the country regarding creative process, literacy and social change. Ms. Kaplan has received grants from the California Arts Council to serve as poet in residence at community mental health centers, school residencies and county jail education programs. Her numerous honors include: Affiliate Artist at the Headlands Center for the Arts, and Bay Area Award .

Recently retired, Ms. Kaplan has taught literature, arts and humanities, creative writing and college composition at several East Bay community colleges, and had previously assisted families of the Native American community in Alameda County with navigating education opportunities. A long-time mentor for California Poets in the Schools, she remains committed to the primacy of imaginative language and the resilience embedded in story, developing collaborative partnerships between artists, organizations and public schools.

Jerold Kappel; Irvine

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Jerold Kappel is a nonprofit executive with expertise in executive management, organizational development, external affairs, board development, project direction and financial management. Kappel directed external affairs for four major nonprofit arts and culture organizations, supervising fundraising, marketing, and public and government affairs. He raised funds from international organizations for a hemispheric cultural policy summit and directed that

conference. Kappel served as interim CEO for four organizations, receiving the honor of Interim Executive of the year. He currently serves as CEO for the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation.

Kappel served on the Nonprofit Accountability Committee at the Urban Institute and advised the IRS on Form 990, nonprofit financial accounting, the Uniform Chart of Accounts, and other nonprofit financial concerns. He was the liaison to the Financial Accounting Standards Board. He has advised wealth management clients on their philanthropic goals.

Adam Karelin; Riverside

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Adam Karelin is an arts leader, conductor, and composer dedicated to empowering people through music. He currently serves as the Executive and Artistic Director of the Riverside Arts Academy.

At RAA, Karelin has overseen the expansion of programs to provide music education to over 500 students, the vast majority of whom come from low-income families and receive full scholarships. Under his leadership, RAA has strengthened its flagship Mariachi program and is administering a National Endowment for the Arts research program.

During his tenure as the Music Director of the Student Symphony Orchestra of USC, Karelin fostered collaborations with animators, choreographers, and composers from around the world. He was also a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival.

Karelin passionately explores his Ukrainian-Jewish heritage. He's the Founding Artistic Director of the Slava Festival, a cultural celebration and humanitarian relief project that debuted in April 2023 with the USC Thornton Edge ensemble.

Karelin holds an M.S. in Arts Leadership and a B.M. in composition with a minor in linguistics from the University of Southern California, where he was named his class's valedictorian.

Damneet Kaur; Stockton

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Since 2014, I have passionately embraced my identity as a poet, actively shaping poetry spaces by collaborating with organizations like Spoken Poetry Expressed by All Kinds at SFSU and curating my own shows. With a commitment to inclusivity, I founded "Decolonize Your Body," a poetry platform specifically designed to center the voices of femme-identifying and non-binary individuals. Beyond organizing events, I've hosted open mics and poetry workshops dedicated to supporting women of color in their healing journeys through the transformative power of writing.

Scott Kaz; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

B.A., Art, California State University Northridge 1992, M.A., Art, California State University Northridge, 1995. Sculpture and painting "Minor" in Derrida and deconstructionism. Work experience in public service, advertising, and clerical support. Bright and attentive to detail and the bigger picture.

Elizabeth Kegley; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Elizabeth Kegley is the Director of Institutional Giving for Geffen Playhouse, where she partners with corporate, foundation, and government funders. She previously worked as Director of Development at BroadStage and Institutional Giving Manager at Cal Performances on the West Coast, was Executive Director of Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell, MA and served as Managing Director of Kitchen Dog Theater in Dallas, TX. Elizabeth received her MBA from SMU's Cox School of Business and her MA in Arts Management from Meadows School of the Arts, where she worked with The Dallas Opera, Dallas Business Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. An AEA stage manager for 10 years, Elizabeth worked with theaters around the country, including The Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival, American Repertory Theater, and Dallas Theater Center. She graduated cum laude from Macalester College with a B.A. in Theater Arts. When not fundraising for the arts, Elizabeth is a core team member of Angel City Pit Bulls animal rescue in South LA, supporting their outreach and fundraising efforts.

Nicole Kelner; San Leandro

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

My bio is I love art, dance, theatre, and culture. I took dance classes all of my life since I was a young girl and currently participate in dance programs in Oakland. What I bring to the table will be my professional skills with operations, project management, compliance, writing, marketing, and stakeholder engagement. I have experience with grant applications, non-profit organizations, and I support open studios. I have degrees in law and business and certifications in sustainability and energy. I see art and culture as essential to the growth, vitality and beauty of communities.

Andrew Kenefick; Visalia

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am a 39 year old lifelong musician with interest in photography, painting, and cinema. I attended Concordia University in Montreal as a photography major before returning to my hometown in NY to attain a BA in Music Theory and Composition from SUNY Albany. I began teaching guitar in 2008, moved to California in 2012, and opened a music school (Grace Note Music Studio) here in Visalia in 2014. We currently employ over 20 music educators and are active participants in our local community. I have led a very active band (Bigfoot And The Moon) for the past 5 years, and I perform regularly in a guitar/violin duo (Andrew and Sarai). I regularly organize events to provide musical performance opportunities for folks of all ages and experience levels.

Christina Kent; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Christina Kent (b. 1993, The Woodlands, Texas) is a figurative painter working primarily in oils.

A former PhD economist, Kent's transition to painting was catalyzed by a realization that the rational economic lens was insufficient to capture the profound complexity inherent in human experience. Through her paintings she reflects on the subtle nuances hidden in mundane moments of everyday life. Kent has exhibited at Studio Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Arc Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Inclusions Gallery, San Francisco, CA; and Pence Gallery, Davis, CA; among others. In 2023, Kent was awarded the Emerging Artist Award from Pence Gallery, where she exhibited her first solo show in 2024. Also in 2024, she was selected to be an artist in residence at Chalk Hill and at Pouch Cove. As an economist, Kent researched factors impacting housing stability and homelessness for individuals and families across the United States. Kent currently lives and works in San Francisco, California.

Jenifer Kent; Montague

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I hold a BFA in Fine Arts from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, NJ and an MFA in Fine Arts from Mills College, CA. I have been a professional practicing artist most of my life and am represented in galleries in San Francisco and New York. My work has been exhibited around the country, and I have a solo museum show scheduled for summer of 2025.

I am also an arts educator with over 20 year of experience teaching diverse students of all ages. I have extensive experience in governance committee work, DEI education, and mentorship. I have lived in Siskiyou County since 2021.

Alison Kerr; Del Rey Oaks

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I bring a mix of experiences and an eye for the arts. Recently, as mayor of a small central coast city, I focused on bringing residents into the decision-making process. One of the first activities was to create an Arts & Culture advisory committee to highlight the artists in our town. We had a successful showcase prior to the pandemic. We also established a sustainability group.

My partner and I established the first improv troupe in our area, starting with a women's group. Who says women can't be funny?! The Women of Whimsy also donated a portion of proceeds to a local non-profit.

Many years ago I helped create documentaries for the Tibet Freedom Movement,. I traveled the globe distributing pieces featuring the plight of the Panchen Lama, an ethnomusicologist and the UN Declaration for Human Rights.

Susan Key; Napa

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Susan Key is a public musicologist, combining roles in academe and performing arts. Most recently she was based at Chapman University, where she taught in the honors program and coordinated a partnership with the Pacific Symphony. She also works on projects for the Star Spangled Music Foundation and baritone Thomas Hampson's Song of America initiative. Formerly she was Special Projects Director at the San Francisco Symphony, where she worked on a variety of projects in media and education.

Dr. Key earned a doctorate in historical musicology and has taught at the University of Maryland, the College of William and Mary, Stanford University, and Chapman University. She has published on Stephen Foster, on John Cage, and on arts education. She has developed public programs for the San Francisco Symphony, the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Philharmonic and has served on the boards of Music in the Vineyards, the Society for American Music, the Los Angeles Public Library, and the chamber music organization Pacific Serenades.

Melissa Keyzer; El Dorado Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

When my oldest child was in kindergarten I began volunteering at his school, and have been a daily volunteer for the past 10 years, coordinating and implementing programs. I coordinate our school's volunteer art program and have been in charge of overseeing classroom art volunteers for the past 8 years. This year I established a STEAM Lab at our elementary school (20 years ago I ran a NASA educator resource center, and I have always had a passion for art so this was a natural fit for me) and I volunteer to run a weekly program for every grade-level that ties art to science and engineering projects.

5 years ago I became president of the Buckeye Education Foundation serving our school district. I introduced an annual district-wide art and poetry showcases, judged by local artists and poets. We also offer mini grants to fund teacher projects. I have thus been in the position of asking others to review grant applications, but have not been a reviewer myself. I'm excited to take part in a review process from the inside.

I am also a member of the El Dorado Hills Arts Association and was in charge of our Scholarship Committee this year, overseeing the awards review process.

Caryl Kientz; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Caryl Kientz is a queer writer, performer, theater practitioner, and visual artist living in Oakland CA. Her practice includes performance, installations, puppetry, art direction and props for film. Caryl has collaborated with many artists and groups. She has worked primarily with ShadowLight Productions in San Francisco since 2008 on multiple productions as ensemble member, assistant director, shadow designer, teaching artist and consultant and for the past 6 years as the Managing Director.

As managing director of ShadowLight she produces live performances, films, workshops (local, national and international), public events, and educational programs in CA public schools and partner organizations on shadow theater process and techniques for students K-12 through ShadowLight's Education Program. Caryl also offers administrative support as a fiscal sponsor to artists and theater practitioners looking to expand their practice or incorporate shadow theater. She provides letters of support and consults on grants, budgets, productions and films.

Caryl received a BA from UC Berkeley in Rhetoric with a focus on Narrative and Image.

vora Kim; Monterey Park***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

VORA is an interdisciplinary storyteller born and raised in the San Gabriel Valley, Los Angeles. Through music, art direction and photography, VORA creates images that capture complex emotional experiences as a queer, asian american femme. Her work explores themes of embodied grief, ancestral traditions and cycle breaking.

In 2023 she launched her own 501c3 project Angel House, a summer residency program which provided micro-grants in the performing arts and electronic music scene. Raising funds from partners in Los Angeles like Creative Futures and Snapchat Philanthropy, the program brought together artists across various disciplines: painting, sculpture, performance, dance, installation, fashion, photography, and music to create an experience around the theme VISCERA. The program culminated in a month-long art gallery and live show featuring 10 different musical and visual artists.

Ruth Kingcade; Escondido***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

My whole life I grew up with art all around me. I know that art is an extreme form expression. I myself always had a passion for art, but I never became an artist. My bachelor's degree is in Psychology. I feel that degree has helped me where I am today. I was part of the restoration, development, and marketing at the Ritz Theater in Escondido. When working with the city, I knew that there a gab. That is when I decided to work for the chamber of commerce. While I was there, I was able to help small businesses with moving forward towards their goal of opening their business. I was able to rezone several areas throughout the city that really made no sense why business could not exists. I landed back in the arts at the California Center of the Arts. I am in the Philanthropy department which I love. The CEO and the center employees have one vision that I am in love with, that art is for everyone.

Lara Kirby Pardo; Concord***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Lara Kirby Pardo is an artist, anthropologist, and designer. Kirby Pardo earned a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Michigan, and a BA in Ethnic Studies and Art from the University of Colorado. Her research and writing on migration and contemporary art has been published in Transition Magazine and the book, Transatlantic Feminisms: Women and Gender Studies in Africa and the Diaspora. Her work has been garnered awards from institutions including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the University of Miami, and Brown University, and she has given talks and keynote addresses at Harvard University, University of Miami, and California State University-Fullerton. Kirby Pardo has over a decade of experience in research, art, education, and nonprofit work focused on migration and placemaking. Her photography, video, and performance artwork has been exhibited in London, Miami, New York, and Washington, D.C. Kirby Pardo is the Executive Director of Blackbird Arts and Research, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to expanding the connection between arts and research in diverse communities.

Roger Klein; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

My professional career of working within the arts spans over three decades and a diverse background in curating culturally significant contemporary visual fine art exhibitions, managing art collections, and collaborating with world-renowned artists, I believe I bring a unique perspective and set of qualifications to this role.

My experience and expertise in both the visual fine arts and the music industry. As a renowned major record label A&R executive, I have successfully navigated the complexities of the entertainment world, collaborating with visual and musical artists, curating groundbreaking exhibitions, and shaping the cultural landscape globally.

What sets me apart is my holistic understanding of the arts, from creation to curation, and from marketing to execution.

Jeanette T. Knight Knight; Cathedral City***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Jeanette Knight is an award-winning actor, director, choreographer, playwright, producer and educator. As a member of SAG/AFTRA and Actors Equity Association, she has portrayed over twenty stage roles, portraying a wide variety of characters. She began her stage career as a dancer, garnering adjectives like “superb” from Variety. She has been teaching acting, directing, improvisation and tap dancing at the Idyllwild Arts Academy since 2006, where she has also directed several productions. Previously, she was the Education Program Director for the McCallum Theater, supervising a faculty of fourteen teaching artists, working as a master teaching artist, and developing the Aesthetic Education Program partnering with New York’s Lincoln Center Institute. During that same period, she served as the Executive Director for the Beaumont Actors Studio. While she was the Artistic Coordinator for the Indio Performing Arts Center, she conceived of and produced the first ever Coachella Valley Improv/Comedy Festival, which ran successfully for five years. She Jeanette has served on the grant review panel for the Nevada Arts Council.

Leeane Knighton; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a California credentialed school counselor who works with families and students in Los Angeles County. I received her BA in Women’s Studies from the University of California in Irvine and two Masters of Arts in Education from Concordia University in Irvine. I am in the process to obtain a Doctorate in Education, investigating school enrollment and attendance. Motivated by the understanding that schools have historically been a source of trauma for many Native and Indigenous people, I strive to re-introduce local education systems as agents of change, whose staff will be equipped with the training that they need to engage youth and families in loving and empowering ways. I am a descendent of the Tongva people who lived on the San Gabriel Mission. Their suffering, creativity and resilience informed the very same family dynamics demonstrated by my mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great

grandmother. As a personal outlet and hobby, I pursue creative writing and poetry, allowing me the time and space to listen to forgotten voices.

Jilly Kodama; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

A third generation San Diego native, I joined the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership in Fall 2021 to pursue a career that advocates for knowledge, inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility to all. As the Operations Coordinator, I assist with the day-to-day operations of BPCP. In this position I am able to implement what I consider being a "Jill(y)-of-all-Trades." Working closely with Arts+Culture:San Diego and California Cultural Districts Coalition, I familiar with the multitude of arts + culture organizations in the Golden State (that need funding!!). I received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, in Politics and Government and specializing in United States Racial Ethics-CRT. I am a dedicated member to the Padres' Friar Faithful, a full-time viewer to all programs from the Bravo Network, and a lifelong Shiba Inu owner.

Megan Koester; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media 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?).

Francine Kohn; Calistoga

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Francine Kohn showcases a deep passion for life through her art & art experiences. Her story is a powerful example of the healing potential of creative expression to impact outcomes in our lives.

Her childhood of Long Beach instilled in her a love for vivid hues & dynamic energy. She studied classical violin & played in the local orchestra, duets, & quartets.

In her 20's she studied Hindustani vocal with the renowned Dr. Ali Akbar Khan. In her 30's, College of Marin & privately with internationally collected color-field painter Art Holman.

Exhibited & collected nationally. Francine's work focuses on perception & universal human experiences.. Her art creates dynamic environments of power & rhythm designed to awe the viewer.

Interviews The award-winning, "The Bug Girl Show".

Teaching & Lectures on painting and viewing art Pre-K to 5, 6 - 18 year olds (peace camp), at-risk subteens, teachers at Los Medanos, & seniors Yountville.

She has a growing list of admirers & collectors including John Hersey, Computer Illustrator, Belinda Farrell. Huna healer/author & Jim Craik, retired software executive, & Dr. Zita Latona.

Julie Koo; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a nonprofit consultant and specialize in working with arts organizations that are by/for/about BIPOC artists and communities. From 1994 to 2000, I was the managing editor at Kaya Press, a nonprofit Asian diasporic publishing company located in Los Angeles, and currently serve on the Press's board. In 2006, I received a Masters in Business Administration from Yale University with a concentration in nonprofit management. Since 2008, I have been a consultant at TDC, a nonprofit organization that offers management consulting and research services to the nonprofit sector. I have worked with many arts organizations and funders in my time at TDC, including the Arts for LA, BAMS Fest, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center/Pao Arts Center, Castle of Our Skins, Community Music Center of Boston, Community Music School of Springfield, Dance/NYC, Detroit Institute of Arts, Enrich Chicago, Front Porch Arts Collective, Houston Endowment, Knight Foundation, LA Arts Recovery Fund, National Book Foundation, Project STEP, San Diego Symphony, and William Penn Foundation.

George Kornievsky; Rcho Sta Marg

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Age, 70.

Graduated Magna Magna Cum Laude, University of Santa Clara, 1975

Graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 1978

Admitted to the State Bar, 1978

Retired December 31, 2005

I have been an art collector since my first year in college (1971) I have traveled to over 60 countries and visited the great art museums of the world. I have a keen eye and my art collection is extensive.

After I retired, I took up ceramics as a hobby and became quite proficient. I have displayed pieces and various shows, including the Orange County Fair. Back in 2005, I was billing out my time at \$450/hour. Given the amount of time I spend creating pieces, I have never and will never sell any, despite handsome offers I have received,

As a trial lawyer, I had to read/digest/triage massive amounts of documents in order to identify and prioritize potential witnesses in terms of how the case could help the case versus hurt the case at hand. I believe that my work history and life experiences more than fulfill your requirements regarding "independently assess the strengths and weaknesses" under the grant program's published review criteria.

Laura Kramer; Anaheim

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Art is part of who I am. I have an MFA and a MA in Art History and Visual Culture. I have been teaching in higher education for over 15 years and continue to enjoy sharing my passions with others. Additionally, I am a practicing artists. I create, show and sell work at different galleries and museums. Art appreciation and having art be part of the community is important to what I am and who I am.

Liza Krassner; Irvine

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Liza Krassner, MPA has over 35 years of professional and administrative experience at UCI (ret). She presently serves as an advisory board member of KJAZZ 88.1 FM, the Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board, and was recently appointed to the Public Arts Committee for the City of Irvine. Past board service experience includes serving at the Regional Center of Orange County, Association of Regional Center Agencies, Irvine Barclay Theatre, the Center Club of Orange County, and was a Family Partner of UCI's Center of Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center as part of the Autism Care Network. Krassner previously partnered with local and international groups and families producing short film projects in support of the workforce development of persons with disabilities.

Ally Kraus; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I'm a practicing textile artist and aspiring arts administrator and educator. I weave on hand looms, piece and sew cloth, dye yarn and fabric, and grow my own dye plants.

In my prior career, I worked as an instructional designer and technical writer and I'm hoping to apply those skills to the arts sector. I own a small business called Fiber Curious Club. I design and sell tools and materials for textile makers, host community events that foster community in craft, and am beginning to teach workshops in the fiber arts.

Since leaving my corporate career at the end of 2022, I've immersed myself in the local arts scene and broader textile community. I'm on the Executive Steering Committee for genARTS Silicon Valley, on the board of the Black Sheep Handweavers Guild, and serve as the Administrative Editor for the Complex Weavers Journal. I've joined the newly formed Workshop Committee at FabMo, an organization who's mission is to divert textile waste from landfills, and have volunteered with Silicon Valley Visual Artists and the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles.

Meg Kruszewska; Santa Barbara

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Currently Executive Artistic Director: MORE Theater/SB and Events Curator and Ticketing Manager: Ensemble Theatre Company. I worked in professional and non-profit theater in Los Angeles and New York City for more than 30 years. I was an actor, director and worked in

various production capacity with such companies as Mabou Mines, BAM, En Garde Arts, and LATC.

My degrees include BA(Theater/UCLA) and 2MAs (Women's Studies; Asian Comparative Studies). I taught in the US and abroad, working with diverse communities of undergraduate and graduate students, since 2006. Most recently, I completed a 4-year contract with Nazarbayev University/Kazakhstan (NU) as faculty in the Department of Sciences and Humanities/ Writing Center Studies Program. From 2012-2014, I held the position of Director of the Writing Center and International Fellows Program and was an Assistant Professor in Asian Studies at Asian University for Women (AUW) in Bangladesh. My experience working with international students and faculty also includes Central European University (Budapest) and Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Junior College (California).

Jennifer Kuo; Alhambra

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

My career journey spans from my experiences working at corporations, public sectors, and non-profit organizations. For the past 3 years, I have managed social emotional arts programs for adults at the Arts & Healing Initiative as a programs manager. Currently, I'm also a research associate working on data analysis for the Center for Arts in Medicine at the University of Florida. At the California State University, Northridge, I facilitated virtual and in-person workshops to educate students on mindfulness tools to manage stress and promote wellness using art-based activities.

As a former Kindermusik® Educator, I conducted music and movement classes with the goal of fostering the social, emotional, and cognitive well-being of children. I also served in the development department for a Boys & Girls Club and as a lifelong learner, I completed a grant writing and administration certificate program. I am grateful for the transferable analytical and creative skills I gained in all my roles which I continue to apply in my professional endeavors.

Su-Fei Kuok; Davis

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I was born and raised in Malaysia until my teens. Because Malaysia is a multicultural country, my childhood was steeped in the rich cultural heritages of the Malays, Muslims and Chinese. For example, there are about nineteen public holidays in Malaysia, most of which are associated with religious or cultural festivals e.g., Vesak Day, Deepavali, Hari Raya. Experiencing these communities through all five senses with their distinct traditions, music, architecture, handicrafts, clothing and cuisine was a normal part of daily life growing up.

Fast forward to the present, I currently serve as the Financial Director at Peregrine School, a non-profit project-based elementary and preschool in Davis. I have been with Peregrine for almost 10 years and one of the things I love about Peregrine is the diversity of the staff. You

hear it in the languages spoken in the hallways, the activities in the classrooms and the on-campus cultural celebrations. It's awesome!

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 and previously served as a Faculty Member at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI). 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 including James Franco and 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. Many of these productions have been official selections at top festivals such as South by Southwest (SXSW) and have won major awards including a BANFF World Media Festival Rockie Award.

Keana Labra; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Keana Aguila Labra (they/them/she/her) is a queer Cebuana Tagalog Filipinx genre- and genderfluid/non-binary poet, editor, and writer in diaspora residing on stolen Ohlone Tamyen land. She works to provide a safe literary space for underserved and underrepresented communities as co-Editor-in-Chief of literary magazine, *Marías* at Sampaguitas and co-Founder of the BIPOC/LGBTQIA+ focused independent publishing house, Sampaguita Press. Outside of MAS & SAM, they are the co-Director of the Santa Clara County Youth Poet Laureate Program alongside Janice Lobo Sapigao and Karla Reyes-Santiago. She served as one of the Honorary Santa Clara County Poets Laureate in Oct. '21 alongside Lorenz Mazon Dumuk. Her poetry was nominated for Best of Net in 2019 and 2020. They worked to bring jazz education to the students of the Franklin-McKinley District with nonprofit San José Jazz for the 2022-2023 school year. Currently, they work as an employment specialist supporting people with disabilities They are the current SVCcreates SVLaureate & Content Emerging Artist for 2023. She is a proud recipient of the Lucas Artists Residency Program Fellowship through Montalvo Arts Center.

Mechelle Lachaux; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have been an artist since birth, as a student in the Oakland Public Schools we were fortunate enough to have Arts and music throughout those 12 years. Being raised by an educator also helped me. My love of theater started in church performing under my mother's tutelage with our church theater group. My love of music is a natural gift and studying music even after graduation from high school was a joy. At the age of twelve years old I won the Oakland citywide talent show one hundred dollars for solo artist and decided then and there my life would be in music and the arts. Working with the best the Bay Area had to offer was a given

and I have traveled nationally and internationally performing in theater productions and singing all genres of music including Jazz, Blues, Gospel and Country with large and small bands and ensembles. I love the arts and still practice my art forms to this day!

Angela Laflen; Elk Grove

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Angela Laflen is currently an Associate Professor of English at California State University, Sacramento. She holds a Ph.D. in English from Purdue University and has over 20 years of experience in teaching writing and literature at the college level. Her interest in the arts is informed by both her background in literary studies and her expertise in composition studies. She has published on cultivating students' information literacies using graphic narratives assignments and multimedia research projects. She is author of *Confronting Visuality in Multi-Ethnic Women's Literature* (Palgrave Macmillan; 2014) and co-editor of *Gender Scripts in Medicine and Narrative* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing; 2010). She has also been active in supporting the local community, including through involvement with the Sacramento Public Library and the Sacramento Youth Symphony.

Jason Lam; Elk Grove

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I am a recent graduate of UC Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science in Society and Environment with a minor in sustainable business. Currently, I work at Leonardo/ISAST as a Program Coordinator, working across the organization to manage and implement our arts, science, and technology programming. One of the highlights has been working with our CripTech Incubator as an individual with hearing loss; being able to amplify disabled creatives within their work, culminating in our recent exhibition *Experiments in Art, Access, and Technology*, has been an honor. In the past, I have served in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice roles at organizations and institutions such as the Exploratorium, National Geographic Society, UC Berkeley Office of Sustainability, and EDGE in Tech at the University of California, amongst others, with a keen focus on amplifying voices within historically marginalized institutions. I also bring my experiences within education, teaching two full-for-credit courses at UC Berkeley titled "20th Century United States Queer History" and "Exploration of Inclusive Pathways into the Tech Industry."

Alma Landeta; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I'm a trans and mixed-race visual artist and educator who centers queer joy as liberation through drawings, paintings, site-specific installations, and public programming. My work reflects my lived experiences while celebrating the communities that have held space for me to live authentically. My background as an educator has taught me how to incorporate culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate frameworks for facilitating social practice art—whether that's through a collaborative framework for individual portraits, interactive installations, or community workshops.

I received a Masters of Arts in Art Education from the Maryland Institute College of Art. My work has been exhibited through solo shows, group shows, and artist residencies. I was a recipient of the Artists' Adaptability Grant (2021-2022), the Homebody Fellowship at Ma's House & BIPOC Art Studio (2022), and the Latinx Teaching Artist Fellowship (LTAF) at Root Division (2020-2022). In addition to my role as LTAF, I also sat on the Board at Root Division from 2021-2023 as a Studio Artist Representative, advocating for the needs of a diverse group of artists within the organization.

Emily LaSalle; Seal Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Emily LaSalle, MPA (she/her), is a Southern California native dedicated to championing the arts in her community and beyond. She has built a robust and diverse skillset supporting institutions such as CSU Long Beach, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, and Tonality. As a musician and arts administration professional, she thrives in community and relationship-building work. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, she created and ran a unique virtual music education program, providing over 1500 hours of service to music educators across California, free of charge. She recently completed her Master of Public Administration, specializing in Arts Leadership. She recently joined the Tonality team as their first-ever Choral Education Program Manager, fostering new relationships with schools across Los Angeles County and engaging high school students in an immersive education program of her creation, the Tonality Scholars. Emily is a fierce advocate for the arts and believes in their transformational impact on local, regional, and national communities.

Janelle Lassalle; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Janelle Lassalle is an author, artist and content creator based in Los Angeles County, CA. You can find her creative works featured in a number of top-tier publications including Forbes, VICE and Rolling Stone. Her first book, The Ketamine Handbook, was published last summer; her next book, a gothic thriller, is expected to debut later this year.

William Laster; Morgan Hill

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

CAC Brief Resume / William Harold Laster

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.

Charles Lawrence; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Father, Educator, Writer, Poet, Spokenword Artist & Host. He is a graduate of UCLA with a B.A. in History.

This gentle giant has a special gift for creating haiku and short stories accented with his wit and humble personality. AKoldPiece has traveled as far as the motherland "Afraka" to share his artistry.

Inspired by the legacy of his father and the future for his son, AKP, which he is called by many, continues to embrace the unknown, where he finds solace in knowing that the unknown and uncomfortable is where true growth resides.

Growing up, AKP stuttered tremendously and was uncomfortable communicating because of it. This caught the attention of his father who told him "to write down what he wanted to say" because when he was reading, his father noticed he did not stutter. In that moment, AKP became a writer.

Since, AKP has written a wealth of poems, short stories and Haiku. He is also a published author of the book called "The Weather Report." A book of haiku and what he calls myku. He has also become a well-respected host for his ability to weave his friendly demeanor and humor into his stage time.

Dennis Lawrence; Torrance

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am a former US Marine, Electronics engineer (BSEE) and have been performing over the last 35 years or more. I don't know if I can contribute to

Charla Lawson; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Charla Jeanne Lawson has spent her career in the arts, primarily focused on Opera production and Community Engagement work.

Currently, she is the Director of Operations and Community Engagement at the Sacramento Philharmoni & Opera. Previously, she worked at Opera Saratoga, Opera Modesto, West Edge Opera, and Modesto Symphony Orchestra.

When not working Charla spends her time with her dog- Luna, cats- Circe and Lae'zel, and her husband.

Denise Laxen Di-Zazzo; Sunnyvale

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am originally from Sweden where my career started within mental health, alcohol abuse, and dementia. I took the step over to the arts still being interested in working with health. After pursuing a Bachelor's degree within Culture Production I added Arts Education and Art History to my studies and started working in museums and art centers, specializing in arts education with children, youth and people with dementia. I worked as an Arts Educator, Curator, Art Center & Public Art Program Manager during my years in Sweden. I love the bridge between arts and mental health, and how art can promote both mental and physical health. After emigrating with my husband to the US, I pursued a Master's degree in Art History with a focus on Public Art and evaluation, wanting to dig deeper into Public Art. During my 10 years here in California I have worked in the Education team at the Palo Alto Art Center, and after that I switched over to the Palo Alto Public Art Program where I currently coordinate a juried Artist Studio Program and handle all communications for both programs, coordinate programming. My satisfaction comes from creating artist opportunities and bringing communities together.

Loan Le; Fresno

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

As a new artist, art has given me the freedoms to express myself and share in the vast nuances of what it feels like to be a practicing artist. It's a community of shared values and goals that the medium of any art form should be appreciated. I'm grateful to be able to get a grant from the state of California for supporting my art business through the California Dream Fund. I have also applied to the California Arts Council under the Individual Artist fund but was unsuccessful. It's reading and understanding what it takes to get a grant and being measured up to everyone else, who is also applying that you understand how much funding is effecting you as an artist and you have to be so humble at each application to understand how the process of what it takes. I believe, I would be more adapt to being a good arts reviewer

because I have gotten and lost grants. So, it's a perspective very few understand but are grateful for the opportunity.

Terri Le; El Cerrito

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Since 2010, Terri has been dedicated to the non-profit sector, focusing on promoting arts, culture, and humanities as catalysts for change. Her versatile experience encompasses roles as a museum educator, summer field trip curriculum developer, public program/events manager, communications and social media coordinator, grant writer, and development/fundraising director. Terri holds a B.A. in Art History and History from the University of Maryland, College Park (2010), and she furthered her education by earning an M.A. in Museum Studies and an M.B.A. from John F. Kennedy University in 2016. Currently, Terri serves as the Institutional Giving Manager at the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA).

Christine Leahey; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Christine Leahey joined Brilliant Corners in 2019 as Strategic Partnerships Manager of Fund Development to advance the organization's mission to provide supportive housing for people who need it. Leading a team of five fundraising professionals, she secured and manages a \$137.6 million portfolio comprising philanthropic support and public funds from foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individual donors. Ms. Leahey previously led institutional giving at Otis College of Art and Design as Director of Strategic Partnerships. She was poised for this leadership role following successful tenures at the American Film Institute, Library Foundation of Los Angeles, and Santa Monica Museum of Art. A passionate disability advocate, Ms. Leahey champions the full economic and social inclusion of people who are partially sighted and blind, especially concerning participation in the visual arts and access to physically accessible and affordable housing. She holds a Bachelor of Arts with High Honors in Art History and Education from Swarthmore College.

Pamela Lechtman; Cathedral City

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I am a retired art teacher from having

Re

Wendy Ledger; Twain Harte

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I have worked as an indy writer for the past seven years. For my day job, I work as an editor and I work with students re: marketing and writing at Author Ad School. I have an MA in Creative Writing from SF State and worked as a lecturer there. I also worked with students in Santa Cruz with the Young Writers Program. I also worked with students at Sonora High School. I taught a guided writing class for adults in Felton, California.

Erica Lee; Blythe***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Hi there, I'm Erica Lee! Originally from New Jersey, I now call California home. I am a writing student at UCLA and a licensed psychiatric technician at the California Department of Corrections. I am also a former mentee in the startwith8hollywood program and have Circle of Confusion as one of my mentors. My education includes psychology, anthropology, criminal justice, human development, and forensic science. I am currently finishing my studies in television writing and have completed 14 courses in script and feature film writing, script doctoring, and television production. I recently received a production certification from Sundance and have additional certificates in forensic science from Dr. Henry Lee and the Henry Lee Institute of Forensic Science. I am also working towards a Behavioral Health Certification at UCLA. My previous work experience includes being a social worker, child support officer, and behavioral health specialist. My passion for children and families, along with my experience at UCLA Santa Monica's Mattel Children's Hospital and maternity ward, inspired my writing for children. Thank you for getting to know me!

Kimberly Lee; Woodland Hills***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I left the practice of law some years ago to focus on motherhood, community work, and creative pursuits. A graduate of Stanford University and UC Davis School of Law, I am an Amherst Writers & Artists facilitator and serve on its board of directors. I am also trained and certified by The Center for Journal Therapy, The Center for Intentional Creativity, The Path Meditation, and SoulCollage®. A teaching artist with Hugo House, The Writing Salon, Women On Writing, and The Loft Literary Center, I have led workshops at numerous retreats and conferences. A former editor and regular contributor at Literary Mama, I have also served on the staffs of Carve and F(r)iction magazines. I hold a certificate in copyediting from UC San Diego Extension and am a member of the Editorial Freelancers Association and ACES: The Society for Editing. My stories and essays have appeared in numerous publications and anthologies, and I am currently a writer of bedtime stories for the acclaimed Better Sleep app. My manuscript was a semi-finalist in Simon and Schuster's Books Like Us First Novel contest. I live in Southern California with my husband and three children.

Kyung Lee; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Kyung Lee is a filmmaker/editor based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is a Japanese native of Korean descent. She made her directorial debut with TELOS: the Fantastic World of Eugene Tssui (Newport Beach FF, Arizona Int'l FF, San Diego Asian FF, 2014), a portrait of a visionary Bay Area architect. The film has been screened at film festivals worldwide and is currently being broadcast nationally on PBS. She is in the pre-production stage of her next documentary film, My Landlord (working title), concerning the housing crisis in the Bay Area. She produced a short film series on homelessness, We R Here in 2023.

Kyung is also currently editing multiple documentary films for other filmmakers. These films include: Our Mr. Matsura, a portrait of Japanese American photographer, Frank Matsura (directed by Beth Harrington), ¡Quba!, Cuba's LGBTQ community fight for equality in the post-Fidel era (directed by Kim Anno); and Mr. Immortal Jellyfish Man, a Japanese scientist seeks immortality through the secrets of a rejuvenating jellyfish (directed by Dicky Dahl).

Linda Lee; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

From 2009 to date, our theater group has entertained, enlightened and uplifted Los Angeles community members. My personal contribution include administrative as well as performance efforts. My educational attainments include a BFA from Lawrence University as well as an MS from Pepperdine University in educational technology.

Sonia Lee; Canyon Country

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

My name is Sonia Lee. I am 40 years old and grew up in Boyle Heights, a community just 5 minutes East of Downtown Los Angeles. Growing up there we frequently stopped by our public libraries and Casa 101, the playhouse on 1st Street across the street from the post office. I love the arts and I think of myself as an artist. I use to own a small business that never made much money but I made stickers, wax melts, candles, pins, bookmarks I sold along with "blind date with a book" (mystery books,) and so much more. I am disabled and do not leave my home much these days, which opens me up to participate in this event.

Elizabeth Lenthall; Woodland Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

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.

May Leong Lysaght; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am the former Interim Executive Director of the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco.

As a former Executive Director for a number of nonprofits (including one that was over 145 years old) I understand the importance of strategic and financial planning. I have also engaged

in key stakeholder relationship building, which is always needed for growing effective services. My favorite part of any project includes focus on developing organizational capacity to successfully implement programs that align with and further an organization's mission.

After earning my MA in English from San Francisco State University, I taught English as a Second Language at college and university programs in the SF Bay area, Seattle, and Japan.

Claudia Leung; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Claudia Leung (she/they) is a queer, disabled, mixed-race second-generation Chinese American born and raised in the Bay Area. Throughout her career, Claudia has consistently focused on centering marginalized communities to effect intersectional cultural and social change. She currently serves as the Director of Programs with New Breath Foundation. Previously, Claudia has served as a grantmaker with Just Beginnings Collaborative, and with the San Francisco Arts Commission's nationally-recognized cultural equity funding program. She's been a fellow with Emerging Arts Professionals—Bay Area. Claudia's career spans more than a decade in the arts, education, and racial justice fields, including work with California Humanities, the Oakland Museum of California, the Center for Asian American Media, and the Science Museum of Minnesota. She has an emerging artistic practice in printmaking, collage, and zines, and holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Humanities, Media, and Cultural Studies from Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Muriel Leung; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Muriel Leung is the author of the forthcoming novel-in-stories *How to Fall in Love in a Time of Unnamable Disaster* (W.W. Norton & Company) and several collections that include *Imagine Us*, *The Swarm* (Nightboat Books), *Bone Confetti* (Noemi Press), and *Images Seen to Images Felt* (Antenna) in collaboration with artist Kristine Thompson. A Pushcart Prize nominated writer, her writing can be found in *The Baffler*, *Cream City Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Collagist*, *Fairy Tale Review*, and others.

She is a recipient of fellowships to Kundiman, VONA/Voices Workshop, Community of Writers, Mendocino Coast Writers' Conference, among others. She is on the Board of Directors for *Apogee Journal*.

She received her PhD in Creative Writing and Literature from University of Southern California. Currently, she serves as faculty at the California Institute of the Arts.

Allison Lewis; Pinole

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Allison Lewis is a cultural heritage and art conservation professional based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has worked as an objects conservator in local museums for 15 years. At UC Berkeley's Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology and the Oakland Museum of California, Allison has worked with diverse collections and communities on the front lines of collections care and exhibit development.

In addition to her extensive museum experience, Allison also brings insight into the intersection of business, communications and the arts, based on her tenure as a conservation liaison at the cultural heritage start-up Conserv. Allison's professional interests include cultural heritage communications, sustainability in the arts, and preservation technology. She holds an M.A. in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage from the University of California, Los Angeles and a B.A. from Stanford University. She is also a lifelong recreational dancer, mover, and appreciator of movement arts!

Denise Lewis; Conoga Park

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am an artist that Vasques in the love of music and recording. I would like to express my since of love of the arts by sharing it with the locals of the suburban neighborhoods..

Sylvia Lewis; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a middle-class Black American housewife who makes Arthouse movies in my livingroom. I develop script, character and production design using performance art and Method Acting techniques. Selected pecial recognition: Outstanding Achievement, Calcutta International Cult FF; Special Mention, Athens International Monthly Art FF; Best Women's Film, L'Age d'Or International Arthouse FF; Senses of Cinema Top Films of 2019; Best Animated Feature Film, Hazel Eye Film Festival (2019)

I was a professionally represented sculptor from 1985-2010, regularly exhibiting and selling work to private collectors.

I was a self-represented theater artist focusing on solo performance (as "Nena St. Louis") from 1991-2007. Bookings included: Afro Solo Festival, Cultural Odyssey, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, San Francisco, The Wagon Train Project, Lincoln Children's Theater, Brava for Women in the Arts, The Marsh. I was a Resident Artist in the Artist Residency in Diversity Program at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln, 1998-2003. I was a Frierson Playwright Fellow at Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 1992-1993. I was the founding Artistic Director of Jump! Theatre in San Francisco, 2005-1010.

Carolyn Li; Sunnyvale

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As a child, I was drawn to art making and beauty in nature, which became my place of sanctuary and healing and now defines my artistic practice. My art invites individuals to find enchantment and solace in nature's beauty, inspire inner reflection and healing, and foster commitment to environmental and cultural stewardship. I quickly discovered my love for watercolor landscape painting and earned my BA with honors in Studio Art and Illustration from Seattle Pacific University. I now reside in Sunnyvale, CA, where I grew up. My artwork has been profiled in several publications and exhibited throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since I often feature light, I use Sumi brushes (drawing from my Asian heritage) to achieve light, translucent watercolor washes. I gravitate toward wild, dramatic landscapes and have painted many of our beloved national parks and monuments, which also contain and protect

indigenous tribes' sacred cultural sites and California's endangered habitats and species. In seeing my artwork, my audience is challenged and inspired to recognize beauty, nature, and cultural heritage as vital to humanity and take action to protect them.

Dale Liang; Roseville

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am a great guy and my heart is in the right place ask anyone that knows me.

Craig Liebelt; Cathedral City

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Currently Vice Chair of Cathedral City Public Arts Commission (2 years)

Judge at La Quinta Arts Celebration multiple categories

Art consultant for the Chuck Jones Gallery Palm Desert (on going)

Art Consultant for Melissa Morgan gallery Palm Desert (3 years)

Gallery Director/ Curator Tadu Gallery Santa Fe, NM (3 years)

Board member Aspen/Santa Fe Ballet (6 years)

Talyia Liebig; Stockton

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I'm a chronically ill young adult, an aspiring writer, and a health care worker, who's trying to make a difference within my community and town as a whole. I've been serving my city's most disenfranchised residents as a in home care provider and now respite worker for 3 years now, and have previously served as a panelist for CAC and found it incredibly rewarding, and I'd love to have the opportunity again.

John Lightfoot; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

John Lightfoot is a documentary filmmaker and Director of Media & Journalism Programs at California Humanities. He manages the California Documentary Project (CDP), a competitive grant program that supports experienced and emerging mediamakers working in documentary film, audio, or interactive media. In 2018, he helped launch CDP NextGen to support media literacy among youth ages 18 and under and the statewide Emerging Journalist Fellowship program in partnership with California community colleges. Previously John produced and directed documentary films, both as an independent and for PBS, and taught filmmaking in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has an MFA in Cinema from SFSU and an MA in American Studies from Brown University.

Amirah Limayo; North Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Amirah May Limayo, MPA

Amirah has more than 20 years of nonprofit and government experience providing administrative support to a wide range of health, education, arts, and cultural projects. She

also has an extensive background in grant proposal writing and has written and contributed to successful grants funded by the California Arts Council, Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, family foundations, corporations and others. Other professional experience includes special projects related to historic preservation, fundraising, event planning and board governance. Amirah is a current member of the Grant Professionals Association (GPA) – National and Los Angeles Chapter. She also serves as a Board Director for the NoHo (North Hollywood) Neighborhood Council for Los Angeles Council District 2. Amirah has a Master of Public Administration (MPA) with a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Sector Management and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English and Asian American Studies with a minor in Creative Writing from California State University, Northridge. She lives in Los Angeles, California with her husband Miko and two cats, Tucker and Rocket.

Debbie Y.J. Lin; Rowland Heights

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Debbie Y.J. Lin 林晏如 (she/they) is an East Asian Californian interdisciplinary artist interested in site-specific work focused on the architecture of human sound and languages. In a bilingual household, she began piano at four, and grew up observing her grandparents' design and photography. 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 and holds a Masters in Media Studies from The New School for Public Engagement and Berklee College of Music. She is the founder and co-curator of V i d e o S o u n d A r c h i v e, a working archive dedicated to video and sound works that reconsiders the current restructures and parameters. The hope is to build a network to foster connections, and create a place for works to exist in a broader conversation -- a pure art exchange to experiment and express without buzz words, vanity metrics and artspeak. As an advocate for equitable creative expressions, she is happy to be a member of SAG-AFTRA, W.A.G.E., and Arts for LA to keep fair artist compensation in all the conversations.

MJ Lindo-Lawyer; Santa Rosa

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have lived in Sonoma County for over 20 years, after moving to California from Nicaragua. Since I was a little girl, art has made me feel home no matter where "home" was in that moment. I have been doing art professionally for over a decade but always had a 9-5 to compensate. I fell into mural work in 2019 and I fell in love with the craft and quickly realized the impact public art has in communities. After a couple of years diving into full time mural work, my husband and I realized there was a major void in Sonoma County when it came to artistic voice. We didn't feel we had a voice in our own community and realized we had to make a major impact in order to change this. We decided to partake on building a non-profit simultaneously while building our personal mural business. It has been a major challenge to do both at the same time but truly fulfilling. Our goal is to allow artists to create work they are truly passionate about. In our travels we have learned that the cities that allow artists to create work they are obsessed with have to most impactful, inspiring pieces.

Lori Lipsman; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

After graduating with an MFA degree from CCAC in 1983, supporting my art practice through selling and teaching was not attainable. This led to various jobs, including construction company co-owner, interior designer, and visual merchandiser.

The climate crisis and art as commerce catalyzed the FREE ART Project, giving away 500+ original works, and engaging with people, since 2011. FREE ART events take place at community centers & events, neighborhood libraries, government buildings, transit stations, and my front yard. The project provides art ownership opportunities to those lacking access or affordability. Art in one's home brings joy, helps stretch the imagination, and benefits mental health.

I've co-organized fundraising projects for Surfrider and EarthLab San Diego and often donate work to fundraisers for not-for-profit organizations. As a founding member of the Electrification, Equity & Efficiency project, we promote dialogue, interaction, and education related to local electrification and energy efficiency. Last year, the Noah Purifoy Foundation accepted into its Tribute Art Archive, a series I created based on images taken at the Joshua Tree Outdoor Museum.

Gefei Liu; Santa Clarita

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Gefei Liu is a creative producer, production manager, playwright, and theatermaker from China, and is currently residing in Los Angeles. She is drawn to themes including feminism, censorship, diaspora, and individual experiences - subjects that ignite curiosity and foster meaningful debates – through imaginative and impactful storytelling.

Her works have been shown locally and internationally, including producing, playwriting, and production management works at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, REDCAT, The Walt Disney Modular Theater (MOD Theater) at CalArts, Wuzhen Theatre Festival, Edinburgh Fringe, etc.

As a playwright, her full-length play *Birds and the Curiosity* premiered at Hollywood Fringe 2023. The short play *Two Goldfish (Who Become Heroes)*, premiered in Seattle Dec 2022. She has also independently produced works ranging from a site-specific one-woman show on a rooftop (*Rooftop Somnambulism*) to a verbatim theater piece with Wuhan community members on Zoom

Currently pursuing her MFA in Producing at CalArts, Gefei is set to graduate in May 2024. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Shanghai International Studies University.

Heather Llewellyn; Grass Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

In partnership with Michael Llewellyn, Heather Llewellyn is the co-owner of Llewellyn Studio in Grass Valley, CA. Their practice spans various disciplines, including photography and arts-based public engagement projects.

Inspired by the Bauhaus philosophy of art in service to ideas, they are recognized for their ability to collaborate with fellow artists and non-profit, tribal and governmental organizations, employing a unique creative vision to craft immersive projects eliciting profound emotional responses to narrative.

Recent projects focus on issues that require collective action. Of these, the California Arts Council awarded seed funding to FOREST⇌FIRE, Picture This and Image Nation.

Their public exhibits have garnered critical recognition and serve as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and action, encouraging individuals to confront complex issues from a place of shared responsibility.

The Llewellyn's commitment to societal transformation has elevated how art is perceived and partnered with, in their region. Their work serves as a bridge between art and activism, inspiring collective action on critical issues to create a more equitable and compassionate society.

Emily Loen; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Emily Loen (she/her/hers) is an innovative creator with a focus on reproductive justice. With a BFA in Illustration from SF's Academy of Art,

Emily works across many disciplines of visual art, including calligraphy, murals, childrens book illustration, graphic design and face painting. She has merged her passions for visual design and social justice for the past 10 years.

With fellow ciswomen of color, she launched Abortion Access Hackathon. AAH put on weekend long events that partnered professionals in tech with under resourced abortion providers. Teams collaborated to build tools that have expanded abortion access. Tools included Abortion Policy API, ExposeFakeClinics.com, and 20+ tools for clinics, funds and advocacy groups state and nationwide, impacting millions of people of reproductive age annually.

As the Community Engagement Manager of Sacramento's pilot program, Community Murals Sacramento, Emily worked with local artists, City Council, dedicated community groups and area businesses, to plan and produce Community Mural Paint Day Festivals.

Emily continues to advocate for health equity, racial and reproductive justice through community building and art.

Andrea Lopez; Sylmar

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Andrea Lopez (she/her/hers) is a Northeast San Fernando Valley native and has been connected to Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural & Bookstore since 2012. She is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz where she received her BA in Psychology with a minor study in Education. Prior to joining Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural, Andrea participated in social psychology research, multiliteracy and arts education mentoring, and was a youth art instructor for another local nonprofit in the Northeast San Fernando Valley called Youth Speak

Collective. In 2018, Andrea joined the Tia Chucha's team as a Program Coordinator, helping develop Tia Chucha's arts education classes and events. In 2019, Andrea led Tia Chucha's Great Streets Challenge Project, an initiative by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti focused on building transformative street infrastructure and community engagement. Now as Tia Chucha's Communications Coordinator, Andrea is involved with the Development team in editing and writing grants, and social media content curation. During her free time Andrea enjoys making visual art and music.

Gema Lopez; Fresno

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My Grandfather, a muralist in Central Mexico introduced me to the world of painting and drawing. I can still remember watching him paint my brother's and I favorite Walt Disney characters, which he was painting for us as gifts, and thinking to myself "I want to do that!" From that point on I loved to paint and draw.

After 30 years of working in the Graphic Design field in the San Francisco Bay Area, I'm back in the city I was raised in and focusing on that first love of painting.

My media is oil, pastels and occasionally graphite and my subject is primarily still life. I've shown my work in galleries, taught workshops in the San Francisco Bay Area and at the Mendocino Arts Center.

About six years ago I started working for the Fresno Arts Council as a Teaching Artist in the Arts in Corrections Program. I taught oil painting at Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP). During the pandemic I taught, via distance learning, drawing, graphic design and a colored pencil class. Post pandemic I returned to teaching oil painting in-person at both PVSP and Avenal State Prison. I also teach at Corcoran State Prison for the Arts Council of Kern.

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. Nina currently works as a Program Manager at Women's Foundation California where she helps manage the Culture Change Fund - a fund that supports artists, cultural strategists, and community organizations in using culture change strategies to advance gender, racial, and economic justice. Nina also completed the ACTIVATE Delegates Program with Arts for LA and served as a grant reviewer for the Youth Power Fund at Northern California Grantmakers.

Sheila Lopez; Chino

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

With eighteen years of experience in non-profit organizations management, programs

developments, assessing the efficiency of Helping Hands Society of Los Angeles practices and strategic design improvements to company procedures; guide the company culture and direct communication to reinforce Helping Hands Society of LA's mission and motivate the team to carry it.

- Identify, recruit, train and develop a talented team of employees who can lead critical departments and manage strategic business functions.
- Monitor company operations and ensure employees and business practices comply with.
- Develop the organizational culture and promote transparency and collaboration throughout the organization.
- Develop partnerships with company stakeholders, shareholders, industry regulators, collaborators, and relevant parties.
- Identify potential risks and opportunities within the organization and its environment to protect business interests.
- Identify potential sources of investment and organize fundraising efforts.

Represent the company at social and corporate events in ways that strengthen the brand and communicate the company's message.

Stablish programs for underrepresented communities.

Cynthia Lou; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

After several years of working at a local art gallery, I opened Sparrow Gallery in Midtown Sacramento in 2014. I have a strong interest in representing women artists. In 2013, I had to close my physical location and started an online representation. Along with Sparrow Gallery, I am a contracted curator for Twisted Track Gallery (TTG) in Sacramento. TTG is an up and coming gallery located in the heart of Downtown Sacramento. TTG is under a larger umbrella called Roc&Sol, an entity that focuses an all arts and entertainment.

In my over 10 years experience, I have represented artists of all backgrounds, having created one of the more diverse commercial galleries in Sacramento.

Pamela Low; Hayward

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Pamela M. Low (she/her) is a K-12 Policy Analyst at the Education Trust—West (ETW), where she works to improve education equity, access, and outcomes through policy. Part of the TK-16 Education Policy team, Pamela brings experience as an art educator, a community partner with California school districts, and a social justice organizer.

As an art educator, Pamela began working with students at her local Parks and Recreation Center, where she learned from and worked with classroom teachers from the San Francisco Bay Area. After graduating from college, she joined the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, where she developed, executed, and evaluated school and teacher programs. A large part of

her role was to support teachers with arts integration in the classroom, social-emotional learning strategies, and California's Ethnic Studies requirement. Seeking to create a more significant impact, she hopes to continue this important work of educating the whole child through policy at ETW.

Andrew Lowe; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

A California Young Playwrights Project finalist in 1994, Andy started his career with a production of his play, "The Cultural Hyphen" presented at the Old Globe. He cofounded the SDAsian American Repertory Theater Serving as Producing Artistic Director for ten seasons and over forty productions. A freelance Director, Performer and Producer, he was the inaugural coordinator of the "Theatre-In-Residence Program" at the La Jolla Playhouse 2007-2012 and served on various community boards such as the local chapter of OCA-SD, and the San Diego Alliance for Asian Pacific Islander Americans working on various initiatives receiving two official mayoral commendations from the City of San Diego and was recognized in 2001's "Top 30 most influential Asian Americans Under the age of 30" by Political Circus Magazine.

As a Freelance Artist, he has directed, produced, choreographed many productions, including R&D projects for Walt Disney Imagineering. Andy left San Diego for Los Angeles in 2013, where he currently serves as Director of Production and Casting for the East West Players.

Luke Lucas; Oroville

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As owner and director of the Mt. Lassen Art Center we (local artists) worked directly in local communities in a variety of projects in a variety of settings. Paint Free Be Free in 158 events provided opportunity for Paint on 3'X 4' paper to over ninety thousand people from all walks of life at salmon, mountain music and other community events. We received Best of the Fest awards at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. We instigated the Homeless Art Project, HAP, with the Shasta County Art Council in Redding. Other projects include Paint From the Heart, Small group instruction, Redding Summer programs for children affiliated with the North Valley Art League. Currently PAINT FREE BE FREE events are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Chico after services.

As a public education classroom teacher art was integrated into the curriculum. Classroom and outside the classroom experiences including making murals and other artwork. As a Resource Specialist RSP, teacher team up with regular classroom teaching which included special education students in regular education classrooms making murals, the art work and presentations .

Judge Luckey; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Since 2009, Judge Luckey has served as the Managing Artistic Director of The Palo Alto Children's Theatre, California's oldest theatre for young audiences. A mission-driven organizational leader with a deep love for youth and family programming, Luckey has

developed, designed and implemented arts in education programs, classes and camps for elementary, high school and collegiate aged students. His experience as an arts educator and administrator spans more than thirty years including six years as theatre department chair for the Georgia Governor's Honors Program and seven years as an Actors Equity regional representative for the southeastern United States.

Enrique Luna; Hollister

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a retired full-time faculty from Gavilan College. During my time at Gavilan I had the pleasure of teaching history and art history. Art and culture were central to all the classes I taught. This included art in the western tradition as well as ancient Americas.

Beyond the boundaries of the traditional college, I taught courses in location such as Taos Pueblo in New Mexico. As well as organizing art shows at the college galleries.

I have also worked with local service groups such as the Youth Alliance (YA), to develop culturally sensitive curriculum, and provide student internships. The YA program allowed for vertical connections, where elementary school students interact with community college students who implemented the curriculum. I hold a doctorate in International and Multicultural Studies from the University of San Francisco (USF). Moreover, the social justice orientation of the university was a natural fit for the type of education I practiced. More recently, I served as a fellow and mentor in the Stanford Human Rights Education Initiative (SHREI). Much of the work at SHREI focused on designing and implementing culturally sensitive curriculum.

Lynlee Lyckberg; Nevada City

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a California based artist/educator, and an Expressive Arts Therapist who maintains a studio practice in the foothills of Northern California. I have lived in the foothills since 2003.

I earned my B.A. in Studio Art//Art History from CSU East BAY, and my MFA in ARts and Consciousness Studies (Painting) from John F. Kennedy. In 2016 I earned my doctorate in Mythological Studies from Pacifica Graduate Institute and studied Traditional Chinese Arts and healing at the University of Hangzhou, China.

I am currently becoming a licensed expressive arts therapist through CIIS, and know first hand how art can transform communities! I am excited to have the opportunity to witness the immense diversity in creativity that California artists are bringing forward right now!

My philosophy is that a creative practice is one of the best ways to enhance problem solving skills, and can connect one to deeper ways of knowing and being in the world. Core elements of my own creative practice include the use of dreamwork, myth, and the symbolic image.

Liz Lydic; El Segundo

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Previous arts administrator with experience nationwide and at the Los Angeles-Long Beach

regional level. Worked in live theatre administration for several years, including as an interim Executive Director of a community theatre. Currently run a free online website resource for community theatres in California, which provides networking, conferences, and communication about legislation and trends that impact small theatres in California. Have served for many years for California Educational Theatre Association as an adjudicator for theatre festivals.

Tiona Lyons-King; Chula Vista

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

Tiona is the Community Engagement Manager at the California Association of Museums (CAM), where she offers various professional development opportunities to underserved museum professionals across California. A staunch advocate for museums and culture, she is deeply passionate about their societal significance. With seven years of experience in the field, Tiona has devoted her career to championing diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion within the museum sector. She earned her BA in Anthropology from Sacramento State University and obtained a Museum Studies Certification from Northwestern University. When she's not working, Tiona spends her time reading fiction novels (to escape real life), hanging out with her husband, or flipping furniture.

Aubrey Mamaid; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Aubrey "Siga" 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 as a member of Versa-Style Legacy.

Currently, Aubrey is an arts administrator and teaching artist. Her work as the Assistant Director of the UCLA Hip Hop/Street Dance Summer Program and the Co-Manager for Versa-Style Dance Company's youth program, Versa-Style Next Generation has allowed her to connect and advocate for the Black and Brown Youth. She aims to bring Hip Hop to LAUSD classrooms, with current residencies at Van Nuys High School and Cortines High School. Most recently, Aubrey began teaching at juvenile halls at LAC Dorothy Kirby Center.

SRINIVASA MANAPRAGADA; San Ramon

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As a respected figure in arts and culture, I've garnered prestigious awards and set Guinness World Records, demonstrating my commitment to creativity and community. I've organized diverse events, managed healthcare ventures, and contributed to architectural endeavors, showcasing a broad skill set in community development. Through initiatives like Tiger Awards, I've worked to preserve cultural heritage and promote community cohesion. With a strong

dedication to service and cultural enrichment, I am poised to make meaningful contributions as a CAC Grants Panel Reviewer.

Eoin Manering; Pacifica

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I work for the City and County of San Francisco at the San Francisco International Airport for 25 years. I'm a co-lead of the LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group for the last 5 years. I've been involved in organizing many group events including San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade, and Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Benjamin Mann; Escondido

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I started in the Visual and Performing Arts in Highschool by taking Stage Craft my Freshman year. I quickly fell in love with it and spent the majority of school career building scenery & props, lighting design, and audio engineering. Outside of high school I applied for a workforce development program at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido as a Stage Technician Intern. I completed the program and joined IATSE 122 prior to being hired back on as the Assistant Audio Engineer for the CCAE. I held that title for several years before being promoted to Head Audio Engineer. In my time as a technician I worked on productions of all shapes and colors, cultures, and budgets. All of them were worth while and an education experience for me. I began to develop stronger relationships with the various arts organizations and decided I wanted to work with them in a greater capacity. I accepted a role as the Technical Production Supervisor and was quickly promoted to Technical Production Manager, now leading the very internship that I had graduated. From there I was named Associate Technical Director, and then Director of Event Operations, taking on a larger role for the organization.

Samantha Alexis Manuel; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Samantha Alexis Manuel (she/her/siya) is a Queer, Filipinx, First-Gen student, and recent UCLA graduate with a degree in Communications, Art History, & Digital Humanities. As a cultural worker, arts administrator, and budding curator, she desires to forge connections between the arts, technology, equity, and advocacy. Her capstone project, a VR exhibition called "In Discrete Fashion: Garment Workers of LA" considers garment workers' vulnerabilities within the industry. Her project was the first VR exhibition chosen and presented at UCLA Undergraduate Research Week 2023.

Her commitment to these values is evident in the exhibitions/admin positions at LACMA, LACE, CSPG, 11:11 Projects, and the Getty where she coordinated and planned the launch of "Our Voices, Our Getty: Reflecting on Drawings," the inaugural exhibition that featured personal interpretations written by the 2022 cohort of interns.

Currently, as the Executive Assistant at Arts for LA and an Arts Associate at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, under the City of Los Angeles' Department of Cultural Affairs Community

Arts Division, she supports curatorial work, exhibition planning, programming, and arts advocacy.

Jesse Marchese; Poway

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Jesse Marchese is Director of Development & Resident Dramaturg at the nation's third oldest LGBTQIA+ theater, Diversionary Theater. He is a queer theater administrator, writer, scholar, historian, director, and dramaturg. Previously, Jesse served as Executive Director of Astoria Performing Arts Center in Queens, where he produced acclaimed productions of Follies and Caroline, or Change, and premiere productions of Queen and Veil'd. Prior to APAC, Jesse served as Associate Director of Off-Broadway's award-winning Mint Theater Company where he helped to produce nearly fifteen productions, two of which he also directed: The Lucky One and The Fatal Weakness (nominated for two 2015 Drama Desk Awards). His work has also been seen in San Diego at UC San Diego and in New York City at The Civilians, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York City Children's Theater, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, York Theatre Company, New World Stages, Theater for the New City, Gallery Players, Village Light Opera Group, and Marymount Manhattan College. He received his BA in Theatre Arts at Marymount Manhattan College and his MA in Theatre at CUNY Hunter College.

Nikki Marinari; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have always been involved in the arts starting with theater, fashion, poetry, and in recent years I have gotten involved in painting.

After working at numerous art galleries over these past few years I have recently opened my own art gallery/studio. I am finally able to spend my days painting and preparing for my art exhibit.

Deirdre Marlowe; Toluca Lake

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a Teaching Artist -- leading musical theatre show writing residencies at secondary schools. I was a decades long librettist member of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop. I collaborated on six shows -- three of which were produced. I taught drama and rhetoric in primary and secondary schools. I have written two novels. I developed a six-year hands-on art history and appreciation program which has been in use for 30 years. I am experienced at giving creators Wows and Wonders.

Alvaro Marquez; Alhambra

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Alvaro D. Marquez (they/them/theirs) is a seasoned arts administrator, advocate, and educator with over 20 years of experience in the sector. Originally from the working-class immigrant community of East Salinas, located in California's central coast, they have lived and worked in Los Angeles County for over 15 years. They hold a BA in American History from Brown University, an MA in American Studies and Ethnicity from the University of Southern California,

and an MFA in Printmaking from CSU Long Beach. As a child of working-class Mexican immigrants, their work as a Program Officer for the Arts at the California Community Foundation centers racial and cultural equity as a North start in their grantmaking and community work. Aside from my work in philanthropy, I am also a part-time professor of printmaking at the University of Southern California.

Diane Kirsten Martin Martin; Graton

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

DIANE K. MARTIN (Graton, CA) was born in The Bronx and spent the early part of her life back east. She earned a BA English, University of Rochester, and moved to California in her late twenties, where she earned a Master of English with a Concentration in Creative Writing from San Francisco State. Her work has been published in American Poetry Review, diode, Field, Harvard Review, New England Review, Kenyon Review, Plume, Narrative, River Styx, Tin House, ZYZZYVA, and many other journals and anthologies. One of her poems won a prize from Smartish Pace, another placed second in Nimrod's Pablo Neruda Competition, and another received a Pushcart Special Mention. Diane K. Martin's first collection, *Conjugated Visits*, was a National Poetry Series finalist and was published by Dream Horse Press. Her second collection, *Hue & Cry*, debuted in March 2020 from MadHat Press.

Lauren Martin; Sylmar

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I received my undergraduate degree in Theatrical Arts with an emphasis on Acting and Musical Theater, and later pivoted to a technical theater role, and ultimately, an arts administrator role after receiving my graduate degree in Arts Management. I currently work as a business manager for an improvisational and sketch comedy school and theater in Hollywood, CA. I have also worked in nonprofit development at a contemporary arts museum and in film production. I have experience volunteering for numerous arts and cultural activities and organizations throughout Los Angeles, Kansas City, and New York.

Leye Martin; Mariposa

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Fely Tchaco used to sneak out to sing with her hometown bands to cope with her childhood traumas. Eventually joining music bands. She covered Edith Piaff, Nana Mouskouri, Mirielle Mathieux, and other French chanson artists. Fely's repertoire incorporated traditional West African, Afro-Cuban, and Afro-Columbian sounds. Latin rhythms resonated with her and helped her succeed early on. Fely released her debut independent album, *Amour Perdu*, in 1996. Her second album, released in 1998, began her international career with her breakthrough song "Mon Espoir" (My Hope), which won best music video, topped the chart for three months and aired on national TV. The video starred Tiny Lister, best known for playing "Deebo" in Ice Cube's Friday movies. Fely's "Goba" from *Maturite* won a 2012 Independent Music Award for World Beat. She is a founding member of the San Francisco African American Arts and

Cultural District and, the founder of the African Art Academy, realizing her lifelong dream to establish an institution that makes African arts more accessible to all residents of San Francisco. Billboard nominee.

Amelia Martinez; Petaluma

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

In the 5 years since completing a MA in Museum Studies, I have studied and developed a critical understanding of the histories, challenges and methodologies related to museums as complex public service organizations, within a social justice framework. I have worked, interned, and volunteered at several cultural organizations in the Bay Area, helped care for their collections and archives, researched and produced exhibitions, and designed graphics and press releases; while managing interdepartmental workflow on short- and long-term projects while working collaboratively with other staff. My own passion for the museum field stems from the belief that the arts continue to provide unique insight toward a more progressive society as artist's work often address critical issues and acts as a catalyst for social change; as well as offering inspiration and healing through creative expression.

Luisa Martinez; Chula Vista

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Luisa is a cultural organizer, artist, and educator from the border region of Tijuana-San Diego. She looks to understand and question borders beyond the constraints of geographical parameters, exploring tensions of belonging as elements of solidarity and world building. She is currently the Communications Specialist at Outside The Lens, a media arts youth-centered nonprofit. Luisa co-founded Tijuana Zine Fest, a cross-border arts festival that promotes self-publishing as a form of collaboration, and has build dozens of artists spaces and opportunities in the Tijuana-San Diego region. She was one of Otros Dreams en Acción's (ODA) inaugural Artists in Residence in 2019, and continued to collaborate with ODA as Program Director for Florecer Aquí y Allá—a two year program that centers migrant-led community narrative change and creativity across borders—and leading their inaugural Florecer Fellowship. She was the 2021 California Arts Council Administrators of Color Fellow for the region of San Diego. And in 2023 she co-facilitated Transnational Border Lab with faculty at The New School and was a guest speaker at The Hemispheric Institute in New York.

Moon Martinez; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I'm a guitarist/musician, story creator, social service advocate and work with system impacted youth/adults.

Belinda Martinez; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

•Artist (Photographer) since 2015

- 2015 Founder of MyCityMyDreamsLA (Art based organization; Art based events organizer, Art Curator, Marketing, Event Photography, Community outreach, Management. Currently working on officially becoming a 501c3 nonprofit organization.
- 2021 Founded the 1st City Terrace Art Walk; which has successfully occurred for 3years. Yearly event that creates platforms and opportunities for Artist and entrepreneurs. The mission is to heal through Art.
- Multiple Los Angeles County Recognitions.
- 2022 Los Angeles Planning Association Grassroots initiative award recipient.
- Current student at East Los Angeles College (Public Health Major with an emphasis in Art).

Sam Martinez - Tran; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Sam is a a queer and trans person of color from the Bay Area. Who was raised in a mixed documentation household by a single father. Sam's art background comes from being classically trained on the clarinet, is a digital artist who has created logos for business and non profits, and is an educator in the arts. As they have taught system impacted and violence impacted youth in Oakland using theater of the oppressed to transform violence seen in their community.

Serena Martinez-Coleman; Monterey

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Art is my first love with something other than a human being. I first began to love art when I realized that I could create my own world with a pencil and a piece of paper in elementary school. My spare minutes were consumed with drawing and sketching still life objects. In high school and college, I took every art class I could take. I almost majored in studio art, but I didn't have enough confidence to make it as an artist, and instead became an elementary school teacher- and eventually an art teacher. During my time teaching, I saw images in students' works that concerned me. After research, I decided to go back to school and I became an art therapist. I received my Masters and PhD in Art Therapy. I believe art can be used in multiple ways to express emotions and personal experiences. I have been fortunate to use the arts as experiential, therapeutic, and academically throughout my life. Although I am not practicing art with clients at this time, I am creating my own art and try to stay creative with family. I have volunteered in the school system to encourage young students to submit their artwork and curated student exhibit that last 2 years. Culturally, please see below.

Justina Martino; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Justina Martino holds BAs in Art History and Studio Art from Rhode Island College and an MA in Art History from the University of California, Davis. She has 10+ years of experience in the arts, including art project management, arts administration, grant writing, fundraising, community outreach, and education.

Through Art Tonic, she has worked with international, national, and local artists and organizations including London-based social practice artist, Joshua Sofaer, Rhode Island-based painter, Richard Whitten, the Sacramento Alliance for Regional Arts, and the City of Sacramento's Office of Arts and Culture. With Justina's support, her clients have completed successful public art projects and have won prestigious grants from funders including the California Arts Council and the Pollock Krasner Foundation.

Justina is also a practicing artist who explores her personal history and mental health journey through painting, drawing, ceramics, writing, and community art projects.

Shawn -Nicole Marzette; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am an artist / writer. I sing and dance which was my concentration in college. The arts . Everything I do , is rooted within the arts . From Culinary Arts to language arts , I have discipline in various areas so I am looking for a way to pour my expertise out into the community, building from within . I am not from los Angeles. I'm from Central California and this is what I have been trained in ; community service outreach and , my programs are to aid me in my approach and presentation to our future leaders abroad.

Wonoh Massaquoi; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Wonoh Massaquoi is a filmmaker of Sierra Leonean descent who grew up in Houston, Texas and currently resides in Los Angeles, California. She began her creative career at age ten with her short story, "Where The Sky Ends", a contest submission that won her the honor of being a Houston Rockets ball girl. [L][L][L][L][SEP][SEP]After graduating from Prairie View A&M University, a Historically Black University in Texas, Wonoh taught 8th-12th grade English and Writing to "at-risk" inner-city youth in Houston. In 2009, she graduated with an MFA in Film Producing from the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California and then worked as a freelance short film producer and writer before going to Sierra Leone in 2019, and establishing a five acre cacao farm and community development program in the village where her mother was born. [L][L][L][L][SEP][SEP]Wonoh's writing portfolio consists of screenplays, children's books, poetry, songs and commercials. She has directed short films and commercials and is a Freetown Film Lab Alumni, a member of the Organization of Black Screenwriters and USC Women in Cinematic Arts. She is also a Wheel of Fortune winner. [L][SEP]In her free time, she enjoys dance, yoga and meditation.

Les Mayers; Santa Monica

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Les Mayers is an established artist and designer who lives and works in Southern California. His interests in art and photography began while he was attending elementary and high school, and continued through college and his independent studies in traditional oil painting, photography, and sculpture.

After college, Les held executive positions in marketing, product development and corporate management with various private and public companies and started several of his own companies. For the past 20 plus years he has been pursuing contemporary art.

Mayers' ongoing exploration of advances in computer technology allow him to pioneer new types of media and presentations. The experiences he gleaned from presentations on full-sized digital outdoor billboards and large digital screens led to presentation concepts such as THE MAYERS | CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM and other progressive concepts, that re-define the role of contemporary art in our society. Examples include incorporating art to help fund charitable support programs that address the mitigation of homelessness and the development of new immersive family entertainment art experiences.

Ilaan Mazzini; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Ilaan Egeland Mazzini is the Director of Programs and Activations, a role that was reimagined and re-titled in March 2021. Previously, she held the role of Director of Education & Community Programs for five years, from 2017-2021. Ms. Mazzini is part of the BroadStage curatorial team, developing public programs and initiatives at BroadStage, including programs for students at Santa Monica College and Santa Monica High School. She manages community partnerships with cultural and educational organizations to promote programs locally in Santa Monica and throughout Los Angeles. Before joining BroadStage in 2017, Mazzini served in various roles managing programs at John Anson Ford Theatre and Skirball Cultural Center. Ms. Mazzini holds a BFA in Dance from the California Institute of the Arts, and an MFA in Dance from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Culture, which enabled her to have a professional dance career performing at venues like UCLA's Royce Hall and Highways Performance Space in Los Angeles, and P.S. 122 and Brooklyn Academy of Arts in New York.

Dr. Tristaca McCray; Escondido

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As the CEO/Founder of a global non-profit committed to improving the lives of those impacted by behavioral health challenges, I bring a wealth of experience to the arts and cultural communities. My dedication extends to cultural peacekeeping, creative placemaking, and fostering cultural development and social justice. In my role, I've successfully integrated youth advocacy, arts programming, and community building, particularly for individuals with disabilities among youth, teens, young adults, and veterans.

My initiatives have earned recognition, featured in Forbes, and received acknowledgment from the White House on two occasions. Locally, I've been honored with two proclamations in San Diego for the positive impact of my programs, both locally and globally. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the organization's mission, leveraging my diverse experiences to promote wellness, recovery, and resilience in a community-centered approach.

Morgan McCray; Oceanside

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am a North County, San Diego Native. I'm a Digital Creator, Musician, Pianist, Music

Producer, Music Teacher, Violinist, Music Event Owner, Pro Tennis Player/Coach, Sag-Aftra Member, 2022 Oceanside City Council Candidate, YouTuber and Instagram Influencer.

I also love learning new languages, I speak some Spanish and am learning Korean. I am very proficient in the use of today's technology including Apple systems, social media and music recording equipment. I received my Associates' Degree in Liberal Arts & Humanities from MiraCosta College. I appreciate and am a lover of music and the arts.

Gina Teichert; Pope Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Gina Teichert is an artist and culture writer based in rural Napa County, California. Her 15 year multidisciplinary art practice had tackled tough issues like healthcare, homelessness, wildfire and environmental issues in the rural west. Teichert gained a robust understanding of artmaking materials and love for public art while studying at City College of San Francisco and the Academy of Art University.

During her years as a studio assistant for San Francisco artist Stephanie Mufson, Teichert helped complete and transport large scale installations for public and private art events. Her role included fabrication of two and three dimensional artworks, shipping and installation logistics, internal project management, and an occasional hiring of a semi truck or closing of a bridge.

Until early 2020, Teichert volunteered in the education department at SFMOMA, leading youth visitors in discussion and art activities at the museum and visiting Bay Area schools. She writes for multiple fine art publications with a focus on surfacing richer stories of life in the west. Teichert's 2018 work Outerlands was acquired by Alaska Airlines and is on view at SFO.

Bunny McFadden; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Bunny McFadden is a writer who has gained recognition for her unique style of storytelling. After completing her doctorate, Bunny began her career as a freelance writer, contributing to various publications and websites including Fodor's Travel, The Guardian, and BirdNote.

Her work has been praised for its vivid imagery, relatable characters, and thought-provoking themes. Bunny's writing often explores the complexities of familial relationships, the struggles of motherhood, and the joy of life.

In addition to her writing, Bunny is also a passionate advocate for literacy and education. She has worked with several organizations to promote reading and writing skills among young people and has conducted writing workshops for aspiring writers. Bunny served as the Programs Director at 826 Valencia, a youth writing nonprofit in San Francisco. Bunny is also the Community Workforce Development Director at Friends of the Urban Forest, where she applied her background to supporting youth and transitional-aged youth in developing the writing and practical skills needed to enter the green collar industry.

Sandee McGee; Simi Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Sandee McGee is an Artist and Curator. She 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.

Kirk McGregor; Davis

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I've actually had a long arts career in California, starting out with elementary school art competitions (Yolo), musical theater and stage performance (e.g., River City Theater Company under Ron Cisneros in Sacramento), concert piano (regional), professional photography (e.g., Youth Art Collective), festival organization (e.g., Whole Earth Festival in Davis), university arts councils (e.g., UCD Arts Council), furniture design in San Diego (under Jennifer Anderson), speaking and presentation arts (e.g., Barbara Sanfilippo's High Definition People), and more recently grantwriting for NEA placemaking applicants and an assortment of other art grants.

Reginald Edmund McKamie Jr; Glendale

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Reginald Edmund is the Co-Founder and Managing Curating Producer for Black Lives, Black Words International Project. Inspired by #blacklivesmatter, this project gives voice to some of the most contemporary political black writers from both the US, Canada and the UK, asking them to explore the question, "Do black lives matter today?" In addition, he was a Resident Playwright at Tamasha Theatre in London, England and an Alumni Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists Theatre, an Artistic Associate at Pegasus Theatre-Chicago and an Artistic Patriot at Merrimack Repertory Theatre; he was also a 2010-11 Many Voice Fellow with the Playwrights' Center. His nine-play series titled The City of the Bayou Collection, include Southbridge, Juneteenth Street, The Last Cadillac and All the Dying Voices were developed at esteemed theaters including Pegasus Theatre-Chicago, Deluxe Theatre, Actors Theatre of Charlotte, Bush Theatre (UK), Theatre @ Boston Court, The Landing Theatre, Playwrights' Center and The National Theatre (UK). Reginald Edmund received his BFA in Theatre-Performance from Texas Southern University and his MFA in Playwriting from Ohio University.

Connie Mckenney; Sutter Creek

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

I joined the Amador Arts Council in 2023, intending to add my voice to the work being done by the AAC. From 1998 to 2013, I worked for a series of civil governments, in education, community service and workforce development; I worked for Mission Resource Conservation District in Fallbrook, San Diego State University, the City of San Diego, and the County of Orange. My work included grant writing, managing RFPs and RFQs for community services, and managing federal and State grant contracts as they pass through to education and training institutions. From 2013 to present, I have been focusing on my children born with disabilities,

advocating for their education and their rights. After I joined the AAC, I immediately launched a council-sponsored project where I visited third-grade classrooms in Amador County, to teach the children about Chinese New Year, sharing my stories and bringing them hands-on Chinese art projects. This project was so successful that the teachers have already asked me to return next year, which, with the support of the council, I fully intend to continue.

Faith McKinnie; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Faith J. McKinnie, a curator on Nisenan land, prioritizes artists outside mainstream art history. She explores post-colonialism, feminist theories, and personal narratives in visual culture. Awards include Sacramento Bee + Nehemiah's Top 25 Black Change Maker (2022) and NEA + City of Sacramento's Seeding Creativity (2022). She lectures on curatorial activism and mentors for Sacramento's Emerging Curator's Program. Founder of Sacramento Curatorial Collective, she chairs DEIA at Capital Creative Alliance and is a founding member of Sacramento Alliance for Regional Art.

Tegan McLane; Pleasanton

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have more than 25 years of professional experience in the arts and have served on grant review panels at both state and local level. I currently oversee arts programming, including public art, in the City of Milpitas. I have done similar work for two other Bay Area cities - Dublin and Sunnyvale. Before becoming a municipal arts administrator, I worked for two arts nonprofits. I was a resident playwright and marketing and programs director at Children's Musical Theater San Jose. Before that, I was community relations manager, production manager, and assistant to the executive director of San Jose Cleveland Ballet. I have close family who are members of underrepresented communities (LGBTQ+, disabled).

Catherine McLean; Santa Maria

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I have always since a child been inspired by the Arts.

Singing in church gave myself the confidence to further study in the musical vocal theater production.

When I was about 12 years old visiting my Grandmother for the summer reading the daily local newspaper for something to do , I was immediately attracted to the front page heading holding auditions for children 12 & up seeking talent for our " Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts at Allan Hancock College " where I achieved my first Summer Season performing in Shakespeare's Midsummer's Nightdream.

That oppurtunity open doors for me to continue in theater study which can be costly and being the oldest of 3 girls , raised by a single mother with no child support help from my father ; still I perused my chance.

I was able to study with The Young American Conservatory of Theater for a few years and continued to perform leading roles in middle school , Highschool and College.

To this day age 61 still perform any chance I can mostly vocals.

Madeleine McManus; Carlsbad

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have a good amount of experience with non-profit management, including over 8 years working in the industry and a relevant Master's Degree. I currently live in San Diego and have worked in individual giving for just over the past four years, and previous to that I worked in general management and operations, still in the non-profit industry and primarily in arts organizations. I have a Master's degree in non-profit management from the University of London, Birkbeck, and have international experience as well as local to the US and California.

Julia McMichael; Petaluma

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Previously served on a reviewing panel. Was previously a Commissioner of Arts and History for the City of West Sacramento. Four years with the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, transitioning it from a staid "Dixieland" celebration to a more inclusive and broader audience. An entire career working and counseling non profits in marketing and fund raising. Successfully writing grants and finding funding. As a book reviewer, I am able to read and assess materials quickly and make judgements about their merit. Was employed by the Crocker Art Museum, working to build resources during their capital campaign. I am sensitive to communities who have been overlooked in mainstream arts organizations. I know the struggles to compete for resources and awareness. I am facile in reviewing budgets and budget projections. I hold an MBA.

Sheila McMullin; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Sheila McMullin has over 15 years of experience working with underserved communities and youth mentorship. A poet and papermaker, in 2020, she became an Arts for Los Angeles Arts Delegate and continues to advocate at the intersection of civic participation and local Artist resources. With both programmatic and fundraising experience, Sheila held the position of City Hearts Program Manager before transitioning into the Grants Manager & Editor position and supervises all written copy and content for the organization. She is the author of daughterrarium, selected by Daniel Borzutzky for Cleveland State University Poetry Center. As a youth organizer and story coach for Shout Mouse Press, she co-edited The Day Tajon Got Shot, the Black Lives Matter novel-in-stories written by middle school writers, as well as Humans of Ballou, the non-fiction collection of high school students living in Anacostia. She is a Board Member of the Contemporary Irish Arts Center of Los Angeles. She holds her M.F.A. from George Mason University and is based in Los Angeles on the traditional lands of the Chumash, Kizh, and Tongva Nations.

Shirley McNichols; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

As a first grade student I was privileged to be introduced to instrumental music. I played cello, violin and continue to play guitar today. I moved to vocal music in middle and high school as my secondary schools did not offer string music.

In high school, college and later the community, I was involved in performing including directing, technical work and theater makeup.

Music and performing arts have been a great interest of mine my entire life. I became a theater and visual arts teacher and district arts coordinator for the Center Unified School District and I have also written and published about a dozen plays which are still performed all over the US.

Christina McPhee; Atascadero

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Christina's work across video, drawing, photomontage and painting has shown in museum exhibitions at the American University Museum and Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden. Her museum collections include the Whitney Museum of American Art, International Center for Photography, and Rhizome Artbase, New York and Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City. Solo exhibitions include Left Field Gallery, Irenic Projects, Cerritos College Art Gallery, and Jessica Silverman galleries in California; Sara Tecchia Roma New York; Center for Visual Music at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and commissioned for the Thresholds New Media Collection, Scotland. She was a participating artist editor with the Documenta 12 Magazine Project. Her artist's writing on media arts theory and culture appear in books published by CTheory and Intellect Books. She is a recipient, together with Pamela Z, of a MAP Fund award to support the creation of Carbon Song Cycle, a multi-channel video and chamber music work, which premiered at Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive. It was in revival at the Exploratorium, San Francisco in August 2023. She will participate as an artist in the 2024-5 PST Art/Science initiative.

Camille McPherson; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Camille McPherson has worked in the nonprofit performing arts sector for over 11 years. After years of serious ballet training, she earned a position as a professional dancer with San Diego Ballet, where she originated numerous featured roles in a broad array of repertoire.

During the latter years of her performing career, McPherson developed an interest in arts administration. She served as Education Outreach Coordinator for San Diego Ballet for one year before being promoted to Grants and Programs Manager, where she wrote and managed grants and oversaw the company's varied educational programs.

After a 10-year performing career, McPherson retired from the stage and pivoted to a full-time career in arts administration. She landed a position as Development Coordinator at La Jolla Music Society, and after six months, was promoted to Individual Giving and Grants Officer. Presently, McPherson writes and manages grants, solicitation campaigns, support cases, and thank you letters in addition to managing a portfolio of individual donors. In her spare time,

McPherson serves on the Board of Directors for The Rosin Box Project and teaches ballet at Lynch Dance Institute.

Juanita McWilliams; Palmdale

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Juanita has worked as a Fine Artist for 20+yrs. I believe in "each one teach one" I teach painting and drawing to adults and children together believing that each senior or each child can share what they know, help the world better understand one another. Being a creative will help other creatives learn how to share their creative gifts and train those that think they are not able to be creative. I am participating with the CAC so I will understand the grant process when I apply for grants of for Arts.

Connie Meek; Yreka

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I am involved in the arts in Yreka. I am on the board of Liberty Arts, Yreka Preservation and the Siskiyou Performing Arts Center. I taught at Grenada Elementary for 20 years. During this time I was involved with the Northern California Arts Project. I received \$25,000 a year for 3 years from the State for my school, to institute a dance, music, drama and visual arts program. I was responsible for all manner of details for the project. I also read grant projects in Sacramento. I am a retired educator. I am very familiar with the California Art Standards. I am a performing artist that dabbles in visual arts.

Jocelyn Meggait; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Jocelyn Meggait is an artist living and working in Oakland, CA. After graduating from Mills College in 2012 with an MFA in Visual Art and Social Practice, she has taken her thesis project, Free Utopian Projects, to many art galleries and museums including YBCA and SFMOMA. Now permanently settled since 2014 as Free Oakland UP she hosts Artists In Residence who are focused on creative reuse of discarded materials.

Sonia Mehrmand; Visalia

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Sonia Mehrmand is a creative producer whose projects focus on community building.

She has produced projects including the StoryCorps' One Small Step project in the Central Valley, Australia's first-ever Screen Diversity Showcase, and Diversity Arts Australia's StoryCasters media training hub.

Sonia received her Master's degree in Public History and Museum Studies from UCR, where she worked on oral history projects in Riverside's Eastside and LA's Chavez Ravine.

In 2016, Sonia moved to Sydney and worked as Assistant Executive Director at Diversity Arts Australia, a nonprofit arts advocacy organization.

Active in the local arts sector, Sonia has served as a panelist for the CAC's Individual Artist Fellowship, was a member of the Arts for LA Activate Delegates cohort, and served on the Creative Corps panel for the Central Valley region. She is on the leadership team for Inhabit Arts Collaborative, a Fresno-based artist residency program.

Sonia resides in the Central Valley and is a nonprofit consultant and creative producer. She works on projects grounded in collaboration, mentorship, and capacity building.

Ampelio Mejia Perez; Visalia

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I was born in Mexico and grew up in a traditional Mexican home, with my father working farm labor jobs and my mother working as a housewife. Art was always part of my home because my father's father was a musician and my mother's father was a limestone carver and architect. My family immigrated to the United States when I was only five years old, and so I am bilingual and I feel truly bicultural.

I was fortunate to learn various art forms in high school continued honing my art skills in singing, ceramics, drawing, acting, and design in Jr. College. I did intensive studies in painting, printmaking, and sculpture at CSU, Chico; then graduated with a B.A. in Art Studio in 2008.

After University, I was able to travel the United States on a shoestring budget to explore the creative communities in the Dallas area of Texas for 3 months, the Williamsburg area of Massachusetts for 6 months, and the Tucson area in Arizona for a year and a half.

I returned to my hometown of Porterville to be close to my family, and to support the arts in a community that has seen a steep decline in arts education in the past years. My current position has allowed me to do just that and much more.

Anne Merino; Rocklin

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

A former professional ballerina, I am now a master teacher and choreographer. I have been the artistic director of the Arlington Youth Ballet in VA, interim artistic director of Placer Theatre Ballet and ran my own ballet company in Los Angeles for 25 years. I am also a writer with a traditionally published novel - Hawkesmoor - available everywhere books are sold and my screenplays have won numerous film festivals. My screenplay, A Season for Wolves, is currently in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science's Nicholl Fellowship.

David Meza; El cajon

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Since I am currently on the board I feel my qualifications remain the same. Artist seeking all new art, emphasis on underground and or unknown

Art educator in and around the San Diego area

..

My biography I feel is my keen eye for being sensitive to artist. Especially those we often do not have a chance to be recognized . I've been an artist got 5 decades. My art. This soul.. it is Art

Jean Miao; Rancho Palos Verdes

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Jean Miao works as an independent consultant advising nonprofit organizations and foundations in strategy and program design to achieve meaningful change and impact to their constituents. She is also adjunct professor at the Master's Degree program in Arts Management at Claremont Graduate University. With more than 20 years of experience in the nonprofit arts and social service sectors, she has served as a consultant to organizations such as the Music Center, the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the Dunhuang Foundation, LA Arts Recovery Fund, and the Hemera Foundation Previously, as director of operations and programs for the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Links to an external site. where she oversaw its international grantmaking and youth education programs in visual and performing arts internationally. Prior to that, Jean served as program officer for The California Endowment and program manager for the Getty Foundation. She has worked at the Craft & Folk Art Museum, as well as a dance festival dedicated to African American choreography.

Lisa Michell Sisneroz; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I have planned and executed four public events that encourage opening up and embracing wounds that so many generations have been taught to tuck away. With these we've partnered with other vendors, musicians, artists, small business owners, youth, family and community members who engaged and felt a sense of relief and hope after attending and being shared a space of safety and acceptance. Prior to this I published a poetry/Rap collection with an independent publishing company in Sacramento which has made its way to Barnes and noble, Amazon, and Therabooks. Sharing these at workshops for middle school students and public has elevated the drive to continue bringing more of my work, thoughts and ideas to expand and help cultivate hope in my community.

Helena Michelson; Fremont

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Born in Moscow, Russia and raised in Riga, Latvia, Helena Michelson is a composer based in the San Francisco-Bay Area. First trained as a pianist, she attended San Francisco Conservatory Pre-College and completed her studies in Music at the University of California, Berkeley (BA), California State University, East Bay (MA), and University of California, Davis (PhD). Michelson has been a fellow at Composers Conference, June in Buffalo, Domaine Forget (Quebec, Canada) and a participating composer in Music by Women Festival and New Music at the Bayou. She has also been a fellow at numerous composers' festivals such as Operation Opera/Four Corners Ensemble, Opera from Scratch in Halifax, Canada, Really Spicy Opera Aria Institute series of workshops, Source Song Festival, N.E.O. Voice Festival, and PREMIERE|Project Festival 2022 (Choral Arts Initiative). She is a distinguished member of

the judging panel for The American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts.

Zoe Michelson; Orinda

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am the owner and operator of Zoe Blake and Co Instruction which is a music school based in Oakland, Ca. We provide private music lessons to students in the East Bay and surrounding areas including San Francisco. Since starting my business 7 years ago, my primary aim and passion has been to provide a well rounded arts education to elementary aged students. I offer sliding scale pricing so that more families are able to access the education and experiences we can provide. I believe that my experience in running this business with the goal that I have shows that I am connected to the arts community in an intentional and thoughtful way. My experience has a previous panelist also allows me to come in with a background in how to think about grant applications.

Lafonzo MilesJoubert; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I have work alone assigned the music industry for good while now growing up around body count. I have worked inside the prison with music would give a bee. I have also worked with street poets with go on inside school. Teaching the youth music and also have my own non profit which is starting to teach the youth the music and understanding of.

Dance Doyle Miller; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Dance Doyle is an Oakland-based artist. Born and bred there during the '80s and '90s. Dance's background was filled with years of ceramic sculpture. When Dance was attending San Francisco State University in 2005, they took a textiles class and learned how to dress a loom. After graduation as a Textiles major, Dance became self-taught at woven tapestry and envisioned it as a better way to journal in a painterly way with hand-dyed natural fibers.

From 2018 to 2020, Dance finished three artist-in-resident programs at the Textile Arts Center in Brooklyn, NY, the Museum of Arts and Design in NYC, and at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, NE. Dance has served as vice president of Tapestry Weavers West, and is a member of both the American Tapestry Alliance and Textile Arts Council at the De Young Museum in San Francisco, CA. Their work has been published in several national and international publications.

This summer, they were an Open Studio Resident at Haystack in Maine, and a Meantime artist-in-resident at the Institute for Contemporary Arts in San Francisco, CA. Dance is currently a Graduate Fellow at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, CA.

Gabrielle Mills; Clovis

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a 38 year old native American women, who has worked in the native American

communities, and have been reviewing grants for ANA for the past 3 years. I am currently working as a work force development coordinator and was a family wellness coordinator writing grants and proposals for my tribe.

Ben Miyaji; Pittsburg

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I have over 30 years of experience in the non-profit sector in various positions including board member, staff positions and executive director. I have served on numerous grants panels for small, medium and large size organizations. I have a unique perspective as a funder and grantee. I believe my experiences would be a benefit as a California Arts Council Grants Panelist.

- 7/1992 – 6/1996, 7/1999-6/2007, 7/2010-2/2015: City of San Jose Arts Commission (Chair 2003-2006). Served on numerous grants panels. Chair San Jose Mineta International Airport Public Art Steering Committee.
- 1/2004 – 6/2006: Founding member South Bay Arts Forum: First Voice, South Bay Arts Forum, builds opportunities for artists and arts organizations by providing a forum for multicultural arts communities to address issues of policy and equity through advocacy. Organized candidate forums for mayoral candidates.
- 6/2013 – Present: City of Palo Alto Public Art Commission. Past Chair
- 12/2020 – 01/2021: Arts Commission of Contra Costa County. Past Chair.
- 1/1/2024 – Present: Lead Advisor, Arts Contra Costa County (County Arts Council)

Mina Moe; Alhambra

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I started my life in the United States as a minority university student studying Economics at UCLA. During my undergraduate years, I volunteered at UCLA Community Programs Office and helped support fellow students from all backgrounds. After graduation, the experience has allowed me to serve as a researcher and reviewer at non-profit Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers where I work with researchers from underrepresented communities and advocate for research that explores the intersectionality of culture and innovation. In addition, I have been serving as the Director of Marketing at Project Management Institute Orange County for four years where I collaborate with organizations such as Orange County Food Bank, Toys for Tots, Minority and Women-owned enterprises to continuously support the chapter's appreciation for diversity and inclusivity. I am grateful for the opportunity to apply and would like to dedicate my passion for arts with a track record of awards, global and Art Basel Miami exhibitions to serve colorful California arts society.

Shahed Mohseni Zonoozi; 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.

Liv Monahan; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Olivia Monahan, aka Liv Styler, is a Chicana journalist with a focus on telling stories at the intersection of culture and social sciences. She fights for radical joy, BAMN. She feels the world is her oyster, but ironically, is allergic to shrimp. She's never met a cup of coffee she didn't like. She is an Ida B. Wells Investigative Journalism Fellow Finalist and sits on the board for the Institute of Independent Journalists. Her groundbreaking work in Sacramento led her to the editor-at-large position of the Tipping Point, a community-based, community-written section of the Sacramento Bee she helped found. She has bylines in *Stacker*, *MSN*, *The Miami-Herald*, *Alta Journal*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *HotNewHipHop*, *TheAmericano*, *Nuestro Stories*, *Submerge Magazine*, *Independent Tribune*, and others. As an educator, she teaches a program entitled "Writing is a Superpower: With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility," which empowers writers of all ages to think about their skills as a unique ability that can create change in the world.

Laura Monarque; Ojai

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Laura Carbonell Monarque is the newly appointed Director of Development at Santa Barbara's Ensemble Theatre Company. She joins ETC after 20 years at Working Theater, New York City's only off-Broadway company dedicated to creating and producing new plays for, about, and with working people. As Managing Director she procured funding and partnerships to support programs such as Five Boroughs/One City, a community-based theater development & production initiative, and Theaterworks!, which teaches playwriting and performance skills to working adults. Named Producing Artistic Director in 2021, Laura reinvigorated community ties and established new artistic partnerships and a collaborative staff structure. She instituted the company's first open-access Theaterworks! class, and oversaw the first three years of the Mark Plesent Commission Fund, which supports new playwrights who identify as working people. As a performer, Laura has worked nationally at institutions including Portland Center Stage, Arena Stage, and Cleveland Play House. She and her husband produce independent film, theater, and music with their company MonaVision Films. Laura holds a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Marcela Montalvan; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Marcela is a Latinx artist based in Los Angeles. Their work is deeply rooted in issues of social justice, women's health, and climate change. They seek to raise awareness on the urgent need for ecosystem and biodiversity preservation, particularly in communities that are most vulnerable to environmental degradation. Their work is informed by their personal experiences growing up in a community that was disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and the lack of access to healthcare. Their art ranges from paintings, sculpture and mixed media. They often use found objects and natural biodegradable materials incorporated with earthy tones and a range of textures to create artwork. They recently exhibited their work at the 2024 Border Biennial at the El Paso Museum of Art and received the Individual Artist Fellowship in 2023.

Jerry Montoya; Carmichael***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I am Executive Producer of the B Street Theatre and the Sofia Center for the Arts and have worked in professional theatre as a playwright, director and producer for over thirty years. I am a native of the Coachella Valley in California where my father's family has deep roots as well as a son of an undocumented immigrant in my mother, which has a tremendous influence on who i am as an artist. During the pandemic my play about my multi-generational family, Nosotros La Gente, was commissioned and produced by American Stage in St. Petersburg, Florida as part of their re-imagine series. My play Love And Baseball which received its world premiere at B Street in 2016 and produced again in 2022 at the Sofia, is now a feature film streaming on HBO/Max and published by Broadway Publishing. I have written over fifteen plays that have been produced professionally for both children and adults.

Qori Moorehaul Moore; Oxnard***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a trans nonbinary painter, currently residing in Ventura County. In 2010 an opportunity led to picking up a paint brush, and it was never set back down. I showed my art for the first time in 2013 in a cafe in Philadelphia. I have done solo and group shows all around the US and throughout Taiwan. In 2014, I started teaching painting, worked on my first two murals, and started directing art shows. This led to curating shows in Philly, New York City, and right here in Oxnard and Ventura. In 2023 I curated a show for Trans Day of Visibility in Ventura and a PRIDE FEST in Oxnard at Casa Agria Brewery. I held an artist residency in 2021 in HUalien City Taiwan. I changed styles and studied a new medium; watercolors. In 2022 I was appointed a position on the Ventura Arts and Culture Commission. Through this position I have sat on two committees as a juror. I recently awarded a mosaic project artist and helped select the final artists for the Ventura WaterPure Art Project.

Arianna Morales; Richmond***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Arianna Morales is a Bay Area-based consultant with over 10 years of expertise shepherding equity-focused education and workforce initiatives through positions at the Oakland Technology and Education Center (AfroComicCon) and the Marcus Foster Education Institute. To accomplish her work, she draws on tools and principles of community collaboration, improvement science and mutual accountability. As a 3rd generation Chicana, a daughter of artists and a lifelong dancer, these cultural inheritances have informed her lens towards racial and economic justice and artistic expression. Arianna has taught visual arts to children, 3rd-5th grade, and has taught ballet, contemporary and latin dances to children aged 3 to 15. She has studied ballet and completed exams under the Royal Academy of Dance curriculum through RDA grade 8. From 2012-2017 she danced with the Kathy Mata Ballet and Blue Scorpion Dance Theater. Arianna holds a Masters of Arts from the Graduate School of Education at UC Berkeley and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Vassar College.

Jessa Moreno; Pinole***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

With over two decades of arts, culture and educational leadership in California, I have a track record for advancing equity and justice through the arts. The child of a visual artist, I grew up on the floors of galleries, museums and community arts spaces across Northern California, immersed in a life of artistic culture. My decades of experience as a professional Bay Area theater actor and director has meant I have collaborated with most California Bay Area regional and local performing arts leaders and organizations. As a scholar and researcher, I have served as MFA faculty teaching Performance Studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies and in the Theatre Dept. at SJSU. As the Co-Founder of Studio Pathways, over the past five years I have collaborated on internal organizational transformations as a thought partner and strategic consultant with leading arts and culture institutions nationwide, including The Kennedy Center, Turnaround Arts, and NAEA. Locally I have supported arts organizations in facilitation for change, developing and leading advisory space and communities of practice across arts and education sectors, working at the board, leader, and staff levels.

Lorena Moreno; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Lorena Moreno (she/ella) has over a decade of advocacy and administrative experience across academic, nonprofit, and government settings. Moreno is the Systems and Grants Manager for the Center for Cultural Innovation, a California 501c3 nonprofit that supports individuals in the arts—artists, culture bearers, and creative entrepreneurs—to realize greater self-determination. Before joining CCI, she served as the Operations Manager, Domestic Violence Liaison, and Translator at the San Francisco Arts Commission where one of her major accomplishments was streamlining the grants administration processes by developing policies and procedures using data-driven research and community feedback with a deep focus on racial equity and accessibility.

Born and raised in Fresno, CA, Moreno is a first-generation Chicana currently based in Oakland, CA. As an artist, Moreno utilizes painting to express her experience living within two cultures and humanizing challenging realities. She has shown in cities throughout California. Moreno received her B.A. in Art and B.A. in Chicano and Latin American Studies from California State University, Fresno.

Ken Morrie; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Former member of the Lula Washington Dance Theater where I served as Performer, Instructor, Mentor, fundraiser. I worked with the companies JazzAntiqua Dance Company, Brockus Project Dance Company where I currently service as a Board Member. My own project-based dance company Ken Morris Project have presented choreographic works imy own company as well as Lula Washington Dance Theater, International Association Black in Dance (iABD), Los Angeles Dance Fesetival (LADF).

Michael Mortilla; Burbank

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I have worked professionally in music & performance for 50 years. My early professional work was in theater. In 1979, Martha Graham hired me as companty pianist. I was the last composer to collaborate with her. In 1986 I was hired to teach at UC Santa Barbara in theater and dance, which I did for 14 years. I've guest lectured several times at CALARTS, in music and sound for film and animation.

After a near 9-hour, non-stop musical performance at LACMA in 2015, I was inspired to formerly study visual art with classes there, as well as at the Huntington and the Getty. I started selling my work within 6 months of my first drawing and have been in several art shows. For me, the creative process in visual art is no different than the process of musical composition - each informs the other.

Much of my work has been in scoring restored silent films the Academy of Motion Pictures, Library of Congress, TCM, 1996 Olympics, Chicago Symphony, and others. I serve as "entertainment curator" for the Catalina Island Museum for History and Art, as well as working as their composer.

I maintain an active career in dance, film, theater, and the concert hall.

Iris Muckenhirn; Woodland Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Iris is an LA based artist, muralist, sculptor and designer. Iris celebrates the integration of street art, graffiti, fine art, advertising, iconography and cultural criticism in her artwork. She first gained recognition for her creative installation work in Las Vegas, California and around the US designing trade show events in 1996. Her works are often large, colorful, optimistic and joyful.

Iris studied graphic design in Vancouver, BC and began her professional art career as creative director in the telecommunications, entertainment and gaming industries in the 1990's. Iris earned her AA at Pierce College and BFA at CSUN where she explored multiple mediums and discovered her passion for public art, collaboration and community engagement.

Melissa Muganzo; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Melissa Muganzo is the Founder of Muganzo Entertainment and Owner of Mindy's Kitchen of California. Muganzo is a cultural bearer, entertainer, activist, philanthropist and humanitarian who believes in the power of Black ingenuity being the global catalyst to historically and presently advance global technology, engineering, entertainment, and cultural trends.

She has gone on to accomplish many community and career achievements such as starring on the cover of the Sacramento Business Journal and Outword Magazine and being the inaugural Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies alumna face of HWY 50/F65 corridor billboard. Today, Muganzo continues to work as an actress, emcee, activist, and humanitarian for and on behalf of Black/African marginalized communities in a variety of forms, with every project she pursues.

Her life motto is "do it afraid first, and then with confidence" and sees herself as a living legend in real time. And, on any given day, you can find Melissa laughing at social media memes, binging "Abbot Elementary", "HARLEM", "MARTIN" or falling asleep to classic 90's Black sitcoms.

Dawan Muhammad; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Arts Administrator specializing in grassroots cross-cultural education and enrichment. Participated with the following community groups: Kuumbwa Jazz Center and co-founder of Creative Art Therapy Center, Santa Cruz; Executive Director San Francisco Bay Area Jazz Foundation; San Francisco Carnival and Music By The Bay; cultural program coordinator, Santa Clara Black Caucus, co-organizer of San Jose Juneteenth' celebration committee; President Oakland Community Music Center; Manager World Stage Performance Gallery (Los Angeles); Production Consultant Watts Towers Drum Festival (Los Angeles); music director Black American Cinema Society (Los Angeles). More recent years, Artistic Director Fillmore Jazz Festival (San Francisco), Resident Artist Bayview Opera House (San Francisco), Development Director, Center for African and African American Art & Culture (San Francisco) Clinician San Francisco Jazz, Stanford Jazz, San Jose Jazz, Monterey Jazz Festival, Producer/Curator, Mexican Heritage Plaza, San Jose, Lifeforcejazz.com, International Jazz Week, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Joyner/Payne Community Services and JaZzLine INSTITUTE.

Jorge Mujica; Hazard

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

My artistic journey is a testament to disciplined inquiry, melding automatic gestures with

choreographed spatial mappings to breathe life into two-dimensional surfaces, transforming them into dynamic three-dimensional entities.

Grounded in a rigorous academic background, I navigate the ever-evolving landscape of contemporary art with finesse, treating the flat surface as both a gateway to illusionistic realms and a sculptural entity in its own right, crafting narratives that rupture the boundaries of conventional perception.

Notably, my solo project with the Museum of Latin American Art culminated in the creation of 'Long Beach High Five, a captivating public sculpture adorning Robert E. Gumbiner Park, Long Beach, CA, in 2019.

As Director of the CACtTUS, my role has enabled 75 project collaborations with over 100 artists in national and international venues.

My academic credentials include an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University ('12), an 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).

Colleen Mullins; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Colleen Mullins is a photographer and book artist. She has garnered numerous grants and fellowships, including two McKnight Fellowships, four Minnesota State Arts Board Grants, and in 2020, she was a nominee for the Leica Oskar Barnack Award, and recently had a 2023 Project Space Residency at the Visual Studies Workshop. Her publications include Photo District News (PDN), The Oxford American Eyes on the South, The New York Times Lens Blog, and numerous textbooks. Recent exhibitions include Chung 24 Gallery, Griffin Museum of Photography, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, The Georgia Center for the Book, and Tilt Institute for the Contemporary Image with the Rolls & Tubes Collective.

She served as gallery director in college art galleries and non-profits in Minnesota for over a decade. She has authored articles for Afterimage and PDNedu.

She lives and works in San Francisco.

Rose Muralikrishnan; Riverside

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Dr. Rose Muralikrishnan received her advanced vocal training from the late Dr. MLV, a legendary vocalist of Carnatic music. She has performed and conducted musical ensembles at many international music festivals at some of the finest music venues around the world, including the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and others.

Rose received her BA degree from Queen Mary's College, India. Her master's degree from the University of Madras and earned her Honorary Doctorate for her Music Services in 2018.

She was an adjunct professor of South Indian music at San Diego State University in 1991, she lectured at several universities including UCSD, UCLA, UCSB, and USC. She served as

principal at the Santhome Communication Center and was a music instructor at the famous Rishi Valley School in 1980s.

Dr. Muralikrishnan is a founder, CEO of Spring Nectar Foundation for Indian Music and Heritage, Riverside, CA. She is one of the very few women composers and music directors in the field of Carnatic Music.

Becky Murdoch; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Becky Murdoch hails from Detroit, Michigan. During college, she dove head-first into a decade-long career in music which brought her to Nashville, and ultimately Los Angeles. It was there that she attended her first film festival which prompted her transition into film producing and volunteering/working at festivals in the Los Angeles area. Meanwhile, while acting as the Director of Events for Epiphany Space in Hollywood, Becky single-handedly pioneered their live-events productions branch, creating hundreds of opportunities for artists of all kinds to showcase their work while bringing a personal touch to what can be a very impersonal city. Her background in music, film, and live events coalesced when she co-founded Salute Your Shorts Film Festival in Hollywood, CA where she served as Festival Director for five years. She currently serves as the Membership & Development Director at Epiphany Space & as the Executive Assistant at The Hollywood Partnership.

Kathryn Murdock; Half Moon Bay

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Thirty year educator with the arts always included example, [class about papyrus students wrote, produced and performed play]. Former dancer, actor. ballet teacher. Playwright [2 performed. Photographer at Smithsonian at multicultural summer event [in archives]. Wrote and directed video [Ruins of the Coastside]. YA book on Kindle. Currently writing fiction book. Very amateur painter.

Nanzi Muro; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am an interdisciplinary activist from the borderlands who advocates for and speaks out against the daily abuses taking place at the U.S.-Mexico border. Through my art and activism, I aim to address these failures and protect the rights of those who are voiceless. I was born in the U.S. but was raised in Mexico until the age of 16. As a result, I have experienced both nations' injustices caused by the border. Since then, I have frequently crossed the border for education, work, and to visit my second home. These experiences have made me interested in activism and social practice. My goal is to use my platform to shed light on the atrocities that occur at the border and positively impact the lives of those affected. As a brown interdisciplinary fronteriza activist, I have always believed that to truly comprehend border art and artists' work around the border, one must experience it firsthand by crossing it.

Brian Murphy; Escondido***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

In 2015 he was awarded the Escondido City Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts. He was awarded by the California State Senate a Special Certificate of Recognition from Joel Anderson in 2016. In 2020 he was awarded by the California State Assembly a Certificate of Recognition by Marie Waldron of the 75th District. He has been recognized in numerous magazines and has been featured on the cover of a new book by Taunton Press.

He is presently the past Chairman for the Escondido Chamber of Commerce, which he joined in 2004 and served as Chairman in 2012 2013. Past Chair of the Escondido Arts Partnership, which he joined in 2004 and served as chairman from 2011 until 2020. Past Chairman of the Escondido Public Art Commission, which he served from 2002 and was Chairman from 2014 until 2019.

Diana Murphy; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Diana K. Murphy (she/they) is a San Francisco-based writer, editor, and content strategist who excels in creating accessible and data-driven products for cultural organizations, aiming for enduring impact. A collaborative and culturally sensitive team player, she loves approaching challenges with creative and holistic thinking to effectively engage diverse audiences. With an M.A. in Museum Studies from Marist College / Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici and a B.A. in the History of Art and Visual Culture from the University of California, Santa Cruz, she combines academic expertise with practical skills. Beyond her professional pursuits, Diana is a board member of CounterPulse, a Tenderloin-based experimental art performance nonprofit, where she contributes to fostering emerging artists and cultural innovators. An avid dancer and choreographer, she actively participates in competitions, driven by her unwavering belief in the transformative power of art across mediums. Their commitment to advancing the discourse in contemporary art, digital humanities, and museology is evident through her research presentations at universities and museums in the United States and abroad.

Peri Murray; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I graduated from Cal Poly Humboldt with a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art in August 2017 to May 2022. One significant highlight of my career was my involvement in Trippie Redd's 'Tripp at Knight Tour' in October 2021. During this time, I played a key role in the development of exclusive merchandise designs. Even though the project fell through, the experience gained was very helpful. In September 2023, I took a significant step in establishing my creative enterprise by founding PMoney Art LLC. Securing a wholesale license enabled me to sell artistic merchandise, marking a milestone in my entrepreneurial journey. I had the honor of showcasing my artwork at the prestigious Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery in December 2023. Furthermore, my artistic contributions extend beyond personal projects. In August 2017, I crafted the logo for House of Mosaic Candles, a distinguished company specializing in homemade candles and other home accessories. Lastly, in August 2017, I crafted the logo for

House of Mosaic Candles, a distinguished company specializing in homemade candles and other home accessories.

Debra Muzikar; Fallbrook

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Debra Muzikar (formerly Debra Hosseini) is the author of two books "Artism: The Art of Autism" and "The Art of Autism: Shifting Perceptions" which are compilation art and poetry books featuring over 50 autistic artists and poets. Debra also co-founded The Art of Autism nonprofit whose mission is to empower autistic people and their families through participation in the Arts.

Debra has curated museum exhibits at the California State Museum and the Oceanside Museum of Art and has curated over 3 dozen gallery exhibits in California and many other states. She currently has exhibits at the California Performing Arts theater in Escondido for the San Diego premier of "The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night Time." Debra has forged partnerships with art organizations in many different countries and was extensively involved with an art-video project out of the University of Exeter in England.

Debra created the website for The Art of Autism which has garnered much recognition in the disability and arts community for its relevant blogging by autistic people which keeps her up-to-date. (Note: autistic person is the preferred terminology over person with autism)

Madoka Nadahara; La Jolla

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I have been an avid supporter of music and art in my community. I am a proud parent of a musician that is in his first year at UCLA as a cello performance major. I sat through each rehearsals, performances and volunteered every year before being asked to be on the board of the organization. I am completely bilingual in English and in Japanese and bicultural as I was born in Japan but was raised here in California since I was 8 years old. I know firsthand, how music has helped me through my own life as I learned to navigate through life by finding a common language that does not require same spoken language or same background. I know firsthand, the positive impact a music and the arts make in a person, especially young children. This is the reason that I am passionate about having music readily accessible for all that want to be involved. I can share the struggles of learning a new language in a new culture. In a way, music may seem that way to many that have never had the opportunity to try. I hope to play a small part in helping identify wonderful organizations that are doing great work in our communities.

Amber Nagle; Santa Clarita

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Amber Valley Evangelista, a devoted mother and creative photographer, is passionate about documenting the vibrant stories of families of color. Her affinity for vintage film cameras lends a unique warmth to her photos, evident in her venture, Valley in Film. Amber uses this platform to make film photography accessible, teaching techniques through social media, studio classes, and mentorship programs. Her ability to collaborate with a diverse range of artists has earned her partnerships with companies like Cinestill Film and Topa Topa Brewery, allowing her to host

free community events and exhibitions. Her "Legacy Archives" series showcases her commitment to preserving family heritages and reinforcing cultural identity. In all this, Amber's love for her community shines through, and her mission is to share the rich tapestry of shared histories and diverse narratives with the world.

Kauna Nambandja; Windhoek

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I have been a dancer for many years now, and I would like to take this to opportunity to come and pursue my career in Theatre Arts Performance bachelor degree and seeking additional sponsorship for my studies for the next four years full-time

Sibylla Nash; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Sibylla Nash is a Los Angeles-based writer. Her work has appeared in various publications, including Midnight & Indigo, Parents, Lit Hub, Essence magazine, and Vibe. 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. Her upcoming children's book will be published with Simon & Schuster in '25. She has also worked and volunteered for a number of non-profits. She was the treasurer of the Maplewood Arts Council, a group that was responsible for planning and funding arts projects for the town of Maplewood, NJ. She was a Big Sister as part of the Big Sisters Los Angeles organization. She sat on PTA boards and volunteered with the West Hollywood Book festival. She has been involved with enough non-profits to understand the lifeline grants offer.

Natalie Johnson; Stockton

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Natalie is a cultural producer, educator, tech advisor, and a Web3/ emergent technology pioneer.

She co-founded #CultureFix, a global network of artists, activists, and entrepreneurs who use arts & culture to create meaningful social impact. Natalie has co-developed creative initiatives such as the Metaverse Music Festival, a global music festival rooted in emergent technology, Co-produces Huellas Festival in Spain. and co-steers the Corner Store Co-Op at the National Public Housing Museum. Natalie has also produced and curated numerous events, youth art workshops, creative placemaking initiatives and initiatives that aim to foster civic engagement, spark dialogue, and amplify communities including co-produces the Global Empowerment and Cultural Summit (GECS) and was a social producer on the groundbreaking, Emmy-nominated and IAWTV winner Comedy Gives Back: Laugh Aid which featured Adam Sandler, Roy Wood Jr., Bill Burr, Jimmy Fallon, the late Bob Saget, etc.

In 2022, She founded Web3 Uncut -- a dynamic tech lab that is focused on building creative micro funding and incubation experiments via emerging technology to support artists, creators and scale the global creator economy.

Tony Natsoulas; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

After receiving his Masters of Fine Art at the University of California at Davis in 1985, Tony has been working as a professional artist in ceramic sculpture. His main interest has been in large scale humorous figurative ceramic sculpture. In undergraduate and graduate school he was fortunate to have studied at the University of California, Davis' TB9 ceramic studio with the artist that put figurative ceramic sculpture on the map, Robert Arneson. Since then he has been showing in galleries and museums around the world and has been commissioned to do several public and private sculptures in bronze, fiberglass and ceramic. Tony maintains a studio in Sacramento, CA.

Diane Navarro; Whittier

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Diane Navarro is a dedicated advocate for the arts and cultural communities, boasting a wealth of experience. With a degree in Art and a background spanning Cultural Arts, Arts Education, and Contemporary Arts organizations, Diane's lifelong passion for creativity began at home, inspired by her talented mother and sisters. This passion led her to a career in the arts.

Throughout her journey, Diane has refined her skills and knowledge through various roles. From interning at the Bowers Museum to teaching children of diverse backgrounds, she's been deeply involved in arts education. Her experience extends to the classroom, where she taught Cultural and Contemporary art to TK-8th graders, and to OCMA, where she delved into contemporary art.

Currently working for the City of Santa Ana's community gardens, Diane develops workshops for locals. In 2024, she founded Santa Ana Lifelong-Learning Trust (SALT), a non-profit offering skill development opportunities for residents. Diane's commitment to community betterment stems from her desire to provide the opportunities she craved in her youth. Though hesitant to take center stage, her impact is evident in those she's touched.

Lenore Naxon; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

A lifelong arts administrator I've created programs that inspire media and community visibility, inspired a cadre of devoted funders, and built repeat audiences. Currently counseling emerging artists and non profit arts organizations, I facilitating their road to success via providing tools and guidance. I've worked in opera, theatre, music, visual arts, presenting and educational programs for both children and mature adults as well as community centered arts projects.

Car Nazzal; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Car Nazzal (she/they) is a California-based ceramic sculptor, whose subject matter actively explores the convergence between the human animal body and the earth clay body.

This work is motivated by the idea that humans are a part of the earth. We are all connected. Nazzal's foundations for creating are based on their educational background in psychology and practices uncovering the shadow through sensuality, mischief, and the creative process.

Informed by their personal experience being queer, neurodivergent, and mixed-race to tell stories that are often silenced or taboo.

It is her artistic desire for her art to be the catalyst for conversations around the viewers own personal experiences. Nazzal's methods for creating follow two pathways: either spontaneous evolution through play, or strategic careful execution. Nazzal's work is handmade using a combination of sculpting, hand building, and handmade molds.

Nazzal has a permanent collection inside San Francisco gallery: Queer Arts Featured and is presented in Los Angeles gallery: The Pot Shop. Showing until September 2024 is "Temper" at AMOCA in the Fahrenheit exhibition.

Briyana Negrette; Forest falls

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Briyana Negrette is a Chicana multi disciplinary artist from Southern California, who studied art and arts management at UC Irvine and Cal State University Long Beach.

She currently works as a museum preparator and collection technician, where she ensures the integrity of Cultural artifacts and preparation of objects for exhibition.

In the community she has worked with grass roots artist groups to beautify the city through murals and is a volunteer curator for Santa Ana Community College where she focuses on exhibitions based around culture and social justice issues.

As an artist her work explores a vast range of concepts such as nostalgia , mysticism and forms of identity, where she uses techniques such as assemblage in conceptual layers creating immersive experiences. Pulling viewers out of the common world to escape reality.

Katherine Nestved; Simi Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Katherine Nestved was born and raised in California, She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts from California State University, Bakersfield, and received her Master of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Past employment includes serving as Gallery Director for Studio Channel Islands Art Center and Gallery Assistant for Gagosian. Katherine has been a guest speaker at the Americans for the Arts Conference and the LA Art Show. She was awarded an Arts Star Award from the Ventura County Arts Council and the Business Champion from Ventura High School District. Currently, Katherine is the Arts Coordinator for the City of Santa Clarita and is co-chair of the Public Art Coalition of Southern California.

Jen Neville; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media 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 recently concluded volunteer service in a K-6 reading program at Urban Ventures in South Minneapolis.

Aambr Newsome; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Bio:

Aambr Newsome is an Oakland based visual artist, illustrator, and muralist from Sacramento, California. Her work specializes in reshaping and curating a new African American experience by exploring and shifting Black History through the lense of art as a tool for social impact.

She began her journey to inspiring revolutionary change by joining Political Gridlock, and the True Colors Mural Project. With both organizations, she created iconic public art that focused on creating socio-political and economic change, she was also invited to learn how to restore public art vis her mentor Juana Alicia.

Her political posters have been exhibited at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Political Gridlock has curated several interactive installations with performances by The Coup, a socially conscious rap group from Oakland.

Ginny Nichols; Bodega Bay

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Visual Artist Ginny Nichols has a studio practice that includes painting, drawing,

pastels, and works in clay. She also creates and executes designs for public murals on commission.

Beyond her studio practice Ginny enjoys sharing her expertise with students and adults alike in teaching artist residencies. She has played an enthusiastic role in several visual teaching artist programs for pre-K through grade 12 students. Her rich hands-on experience on collaborative mural making, book design and individual art making projects reinforced her drive to make a difference in the lives of students of all ages. Over the years she has been on the teaching artist roster of the San Francisco Opera Teaching Artist program. the Silicon Valley Arts Council, the NJ State Council on the Arts and the NH State Council on the Arts.

Ginny enjoys being a grant review panelist to stay informed on the wide range of art disciplines and groups through out the state.

Jessica Niello; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am artist, teacher and writer. As a native Californian who was trained in painting and sculpture in New York and New Mexico, I'm interested in engaging with and serving the

California arts community in a deeper way, which I believe this work will allow me to do. I'm curious, have an open mind, love to read and write critically.

Jami Joelle Nielsen; Goleta

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Jami Joelle Nielsen is a visual artist with an Environmental Science degree. She's influenced by her passions, including past work as an Outdoor Art & Science K-6 educator at Isla Vista Elementary, a naturalist, writer & advocate for the disabled community. As a disabled artist, she spends her days in bed- using recycled materials- to imagineer worlds of wonder. Operating in the intersection of art, science, community & social change, she strives to develop works that encourage thought, dialogue, education, collaboration & inclusivity through mixed media, assemblage & paintings. She's shown art nationally & abroad in 80+ exhibits since moving to Santa Barbara in 2007, including VOICE & Sullivan Goss Gallery in Santa Barbara, & has art on permanent display at UCSB's Environmental Studies Dept. She served as mentor for "Youth Interactive" in Santa Barbara & completed a Residency at Marin Co.'s Youth In Arts, developing Art & Environmental Science lessons for disabled students. Her artwork is featured in Women's & Non-binary Print Issue #34 of Create! Magazine published Feb. 2023. She serves on the Outreach Committee of the Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative at Community Arts Workshop

Mellie Nolen; North Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I have been a practicing artist in the Los Angeles area since 2016, as well as a volunteer with organizations focused on servicing unhoused and housing-insecure community members (la community fridge network, food cycle, noho home alliance, selah, lgbt center) my background is in the theatre and comedy world.

Monica Nouwens; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Education

California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, Film and Art 1994 Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Art Media Studies 1991-93 Willem de Kooning Academy Photography and Video 1986-91

Select Solo Exhibitions

This One Is For You Serra, Nederlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam, current

Gary Let Her Have Her Own Life, Rainbow in Spanish, Los Angeles, 2020-21

In Los Angeles, the city becomes electric when it gets dark, Helms Bakery District, 2021

Look at me and tell me if you have known me before, Photography Museum Amsterdam, 2013

Select Group Exhibitions

Visions of Transcendence: Creating Space in East and West, Wende Museum, 2023-24 Long Beach Art Walk, 2024

Shadow City, 515 Bendix, 2022

Photo Flux: Unshuttering LA, J. Paul Getty Museum, 2021

Guestroom by Oluremi Onabanjo, Der Greif, 2021

Reimagine Public Art, Department of Cultural Affairs, 2021

Women's Work, Quotidian Gallery, Los Angeles, 2019

Lori Nozick; Palm Springs

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Lori Nozick was born in the northeast US, lived in New York for 25 years, and Miami Beach with a studio in the Fountainhead Residency for eleven years. She recently relocated to Los Angeles and Palm Springs, CA.

The artist has exhibited her work in galleries and museums, awarded public art commissions, and received international, national, state, foundation grants and fellowships for her work, including the Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant, NYFA Rauchenberg Artist Grant, The Adolf and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, and others.

Recently completed is a premier public art commission at the new Monroe County Courthouse in Islamorada FL, reflecting luscious environmental elements. The patinaed steel panels hang in the atrium lobby.

Ms. Nozick was honored in 2006 for "Luce Et Vita Universae", selected as one of the Best Public Art Projects of the Year by the Americans For the Art Public Art Review, commissioned by the NYC % For Art, Public Art In Public School/SITES Program, and the School Construction Authority.

Jonathan Nussman; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Dr. Jonathan Nussman is a singer, voice teacher, and arts administrator. His varied performance interests include opera, theater, improvisation, and chamber music, with a special emphasis on works from the 20th and 21st centuries. He frequently premieres his own compositions as well as pieces by composers from around the world.

Jonathan is Associate Director at Project [BLANK], a San Diego-based nonprofit that produces immersive, interdisciplinary events and performances, including chamber music concerts, art exhibitions, and contemporary operas. His work with this groundbreaking organization includes grant writing and production support.

Jonathan holds a Doctoral Degree in Contemporary Vocal Performance from UC San Diego, and a Masters Degree from the Boston Conservatory. As a performer he has appeared with San Diego Opera, Opera Boston, Bodhi Tree Concerts, the La Jolla Symphony, among others.

His students have made appearances at The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Moonlight, and Cygnet Theatre, and have won awards at competitions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Natalie Obando; Torrance

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

For nearly two decades Natalie Obando has worked in the world of books as a literary publicist. She is the founder of Do Good Public Relations Group, a literary PR firm that helps authors and publishers connect with their perfect reader through strategic social good based campaigns. The current national president of the Women's National Book Association, she oversees all chapters across the nation as well as national programs that help authors and publishers promote their work and drive equity in publishing.

Marianne O'Barr; Mission Viejo

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Marianne O'Barr is a sculptor and public artist whose work has been acknowledged and praised by artists such as Claire Falkenstein, curators including Thelma Golden (Whitney) and author Charlotte Streifer Rubinstein. Her work has been included in local and international exhibits and has been selected for public collections.

She is a Visual Arts Professor teaching courses in Drawing, Painting, Sculpture and Design and has taught at several two and four year college programs. She has juried exhibitions. In 2008 O'Barr was selected as a presenter at the International Women's Conference held at the University in Zhengzhou City, China.

Patsee Ober; Laguna Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Currently exhibitor at the Laguna Beach Sawdust Festival. I was on the BOD for the last four years and also wrote several grants for that arts organization. Prior to pursuing my career as an underwater photographer I was the Vice President of Development at Laguna College of Art & Design, and submitted several grants while serving the college. I have traveled to Washington, DC to serve as a grant reader for many federal grants. I was an employee of Orange Coast College and my title was Grant Writer which included every department at the college. I have an MPA and an undergraduate degree in English.

Toti O'Brien; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Toti O'Brien is an artist, performer and writer, professionally active in Los Angeles since 1994. Her mixed medias were steadily exhibited locally and internationally. She has curated and organized group exhibitions throughout Southern California. As a vocalist and accordion player—active in the fields of both classical and popular music—she has sung for most Opera Companies and Symphonies in the Greater Los Angeles area, also performing in community projects, such as Urban Voices. In 2004 she has transitioned from contemporary to folk dance, which she has performed throughout California and beyond, also teaching it through Art Prototypes for LAUSD. She has taught dance, music and visual arts through a number of

organizations, such as Park and Recreations departments. She has published 4 collections of poetry and 3 of prose in the English language, plus collaborations with other artists and authors. She is active on the L.A. literary scene as a feature, and as an organizer of readings, panels, and interdisciplinary events. She contributes articles, interviews and reviews about artists, poets, musicians and performers to local, national, and international platforms.

Lingaire Ofosuhene; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Lingaire Ofosuhene is a recent college graduate with a double major in international relations and narrative studies from the University of Southern California. Hailing from a dual-country African immigrant household, her artwork is particularly interested in exploring the universality and evolution of storytelling from a cross-cultural perspective. She has been working in both the mediums of poetry and visual art for the past five years. Her previous exhibition at the Grammy Museum: Clive Davis Theatre involved a multi-media performance of her own poetry grappling with the flawed nature of motherhood, womanism, and sexuality. Last year, she received a grant from the Arts & Climate Collective to investigate the interplay between art and sustainability. Through a three-part painting series, she put elements of fantasy and environmental degradation in conversation with each other, implementing a coloring book aesthetic to elicit feelings of nostalgia and childhood. This artwork was showcased in collaboration with the Fisher Museum in spring 2023.

Melanie Ogunwale; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a research and writing professional currently working as a grant manager and researcher with a background in arts education and arts administration. I have worked in non-profits, government, and educational institutions where I specialized in teaching and advancing visual arts programming to school aged children in public settings. I thrived working with people who are disabled, immigrants, and unhoused to cultivate their best selves through programming centered on visual and performing arts. I began a lifelong passion for the arts at an early age and specialized my work in mixed media, painting, and photography. Graduating from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education. I have taught for San Francisco Unified and San Francisco Parks and Recreation as an art teacher for over ten years. I later added to my education with online coursework in design research, non-profit management, and grant writing with certificates from Gale Learning and DesignLab.

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.

Mojo O'keefe; Sutter Creek

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

meghan joy "mojo" o'keefe (they/them/theirs) is Executive Director of Amador County Arts Council and is an interdisciplinary performance artist and teaching artist who is devoted to forging freedom of expression in rural spaces. o'keefe holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from Oberlin College (Ohio) and is a graduate in Performance Studies from Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (Santa Maria, California). As Executive Director, o'keefe has grown the arts council budget by over 300% and has pivoted the strategic focus onto rural folks who are historically disinvested, especially youth of color and 2SLGBTQAI+ youth. As a Singer/Actor/Poet, o'keefe pulls on heart strings with distinct vocal acumen, adorably clunky comic timing, and high stakes energy that might be kinda creepy sometimes. o'keefe is a nonbinary queer woman with learning disabilities who is a survivor of childhood sexual violence, religious brainwashing, and domestic abuse. Hobbies: funky fashion & habitat gardens—yay bugs!

- Rural Advocates for Racial Equity founder-facilitator, January 2020 to present
- Cali Catalyst Grantee 2022 for leadership under scrutiny from the Amador County Board of Supervisors.

Isabella O'Keefe; Visalia

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Isabella O'Keefe is an emerging arts leader. She is currently pursuing a MFA in Acting and MEd in Education Administration at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is currently the Chair of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region 8 Student Advisory Board, ASPIRE/LORT Arts Leadership Chair, and serves on the National Student Leadership Committee. Isabella has been a panelist for the California Arts Council, MAP Fund grant reviewer, LimeArts development manager, film intern for KatchU, workshop host at Theatre Communications Group and International Thespians Festival, and a literary reader for the San Diego Latinx Fringe Festival. She is currently the Election Committee Chair for the Graduate Student Organization, Casting Director for Late Night Theatre Company, and a representative for the TADA at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is the national recipient of the Arts Impact Award from the College of the Fellows of American Theatre. Isabella transferred from College of the Sequoias and received her BA in Theatre from California State University, Fresno and served on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee.

Carmencita Oliva; Stockton

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I grew up in the Philippines and art has and still is an integral part of my life. I've worked professionally as a background painter for Fil-Cartoons a subsidiary of Hanna-Barbera. I did paint backgrounds for the animation studio. Saturday morning cartoons such as Flinstones, Jetsons, Captain Planet and the Planeteers, Tom and Jerry, Addams Family, Fish Police among others.

Currently, thru Art Expressions, I teach children every summer beginning acrylic painting in cooperation with our local libraries in the Stockton area.

I also did private and public mural work, I've worked with Grupe for a couple of murals located at the University Park at the Magnolia district, and will be doing another one for the Marina Marketplace this coming March.

Adrienne Oliver; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Dr. Adrienne Danyelle Oliver is a poet-educator, hip-hop scholar from Little Rock, AR currently living in the SF Bay Area. She enjoys writing about intergenerational healing. She is a Pushcart Prize Nominee with two published chapbooks, the body has memories and collective madness, which was nominated for the Maya Angelou Book Award. Part poetry, part memoir, part dream, these chapbooks are the beginning of a liberation she hopes to witness among all bodies harboring historical trauma. Some of Adrienne's favorite authors include Maya Angelou and Toni Morrison. When she is not writing, Adrienne leads well-being writing circles for Black writers and curates Black Gold Storytellers, an award-winning intergenerational storytelling circle that features elders who have migrated from the South to California.

Ezequiel Olvera; South Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Ezequiel Olvera, an LA-based artist and curator, is the visionary behind Court Space, an initiative leveraging public courts for art exhibitions, thereby enhancing community engagement and challenging traditional curatorial practices. His experience includes serving as a grant panelist and holding positions at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Department of Cultural Affairs. Ezequiel's work, marked by guerrilla-style adaptability, reflects his commitment to elevating the narratives of black and brown artists through intellectual discourse and site-specific art. His writings have been featured in prominent publications, contributing to the critical dialogue within contemporary art. Passionate about the intersection of art and public life, Ezequiel's practice embodies the transformative power of art in everyday spaces.

Jalen O'Neal O'Neal; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Oakland born and raised traveling photographer and grip. Started out in tech and gaming field before found the love of camera work and lights. Was honored to work for Oakland family justice center as a camp counselor pre-quarentine and go to youth radio as an intern.

Chisolm Onyejekwe; Cerritos***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Chisolm Onyejekwe is a Recording Artist and Brand Strategist across several industries, such as music, advertising, tech, and entertainment. She has managed several brand campaigns and worked with Def Jam, Combs Enterprises, and UMG subsidiaries. Serving as a viBe Leadership Circle Member at viBe Theater Experience NY, she has facilitated a collaborative learning environment for the young womxn of viBe's Leadership Institute to share ideas, challenges, and solutions. As an artist and facilitator of live music community events for underrepresented artists and communities, she advocates for social innovation, entrepreneurship, and community engagement in both her music and the broader Los Angeles region. Chisolm is a powerful force and uses her enthusiasm for serving others and tireless energy to consistently be of service. Chisolm is inspired daily by her faith and love for people.

J Ordaz; San Diego, CA***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

J is a queer Mexican designer and artist based in San Diego, CA. Their work is heavily influenced by their identity as a transmasculine individual and aims to educate and inform communities on how to shape their communities and futures. With a deep interest in visibility and visual storytelling, J utilizes a diverse mix of disciplines to approach their practice with intention. They have extensive experience working at arts nonprofits and urban planning firms where underrepresented, low-income communities are always at the forefront.

Vero Orozco; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a San Francisco Nicaraguan artist, illustrator, and art administrator. My mission is to serve as a catalyst for reflective conversations and provide spaces for collaborative understanding within the art community. With a Master's degree in Art Administration & Cultural Policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BFA in Printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute, I bring over a decade of experience in the non-profit sector, particularly in the realm of cultural engagement in youth programs. Organizations I worked for include: RYSE Youth Center, Jamestown Community Center, Loco Bloco and now Community Rejuvenation Project.

Nkeiruka Oruche; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

Nkeiruka Oruche is a multimedia creative, cultural organizer, and producer. She is a key player ushering Afro culture to the global stage, via Editor-in-Chief of Nigerian Entertainment, founder of Afro Urban Society, a hub for Pan African arts and culture, and co-founder of BoomShake, a social justice and gender liberation music organization.

In 2022, she created and directed 'Mixtape of the Dead & Gone #1' - Ahamefula' dance-theater piece about life, death, and what the fuck comes next. In 2023, she was on the creative team of 'Nollywood Dreams' at San Francisco Playhouse's. As guest editor for 'In Dance' magazine, she created 'Home is Where The Dance Is' a riveting issue featuring Pan-African reflections on

our intimate and informal connections to dance. She is the co-creator of BBC-featured 'Notable & Notorious Nigerian Women Coloring Book'.

Currently, Nkeiruka is working on 'Obi gbawara'm//My Heart Shattered or What happens after I die?', a cultural documentation & multimedia project exploring the art and performance of death in Igbo traditions, while parenting Orachi, the next-generation of cultural creatives.

L Owiti; Fontana

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a multi/trans-disciplinary artist from Nairobi, Kenya currently living and working in San Bernardino county. I received my formal education at UCLA and while slowly building my art practice, I have been receiving informal education through workshops and collaborative projects. My practice is informed by ancestral and personal memory work/research, intuitive movement, mask-making and masquerades as well as poetry, film and new media. I create and exhibit my work primarily in San Bernardino and Riverside while occasionally venturing out to the mountains or desert areas like Crestline and Joshua Tree. As an immigrant artist, I am also engaged with artist communities in Nairobi and the U.K.

Since August 2021 I have been developing mutually supportive relationships with artists and administrators working out of the Garcia Arts Center in San Bernardino and have been learning how to apply for grants, secure funding and submit data reports on funded projects and activities. I have directly benefited from funding from CAC in the form of micro-grants for my independent practice and am currently serving on the committee for a grant-funded film festival to be held this spring.

Massimo Pacchione; San Anselmo

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Massimo Pacchione, MFA, EdM, is Founder and Principal of Vision Field. With over two decades of experience in art-making, arts education, non-profit management, and higher education, Massimo's experience offers students, parents, and organizations a unique and informed ally in the arts.

Massimo has an EdM in Arts in Education from Harvard University, as well as an MFA in New Genres from the San Francisco Art Institute. Massimo is a former studio artist at Root Division, a Fellow at the National Gallery of Art, and an Artist In Residence at Harvard University's Project Zero.

He has served as Director of Arts & Design at UC Berkeley, Associate Director of Admissions at the San Francisco Art Institute, as well as Director of Museum Experience at the Bay Area Discovery Museum. He has served on the Board of Directors of numerous community and county-wide arts organizations.

Jane Pace; Bishop

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I received my art degree in 1997 from Chapman University. I have been teaching art and working in and around the arts ever since. I spent from 1983-2019 living in Orange County. I

moved back to my home town of Bishop Ca in 2019 and have happily found my place at ICA. I have a true understanding of rural living as well as city life. My appreciation for a wide variety of art and the process.

Lee Painter-Kim; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Lee Painter-Kim (they/them) is a nonbinary masc, biracial 1.75 generation Korean American. They serve as a programming committee member of GYOPO since 2019, a core member of Stop DiscriminAsian since 2021, founder of the LA Chapter for Blasian March in 2022, are a steering committee 4 and leadership caucus member of KQTx since 2023, co-chair of the Cedars-Sinai Trans Research Advisory Council in 2024, co-founder of the trans legislation research group Gender Heist, and NAVEL LA Keyholder from 2024-25. In 2024, they served as a panelist for the Community Impact Arts Grant Program with the LA County Department of Arts and Culture. Their research analyzes gendered labor from below in the commercial art industry. They have published chapters by Routledge and Dio Press, and articles in Frieze Magazine, Monument Lab, Women's Studies: An inter-disciplinary journal, among others. Future publications include a Duke University Press publication chapter on their experiences and decolonial Korea, and an artist book by Jen Delos Reyes.

Gaby Palmadessa; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have worked in the nonprofit world for over ten years, nine of which have been in Los Angeles. I am currently working at P.S. ARTS, and have been there almost seven years, where my focus as the Development Manager is fundraising and donor relations. As an organization it's important to us that we do everything through an equitable and DEIB centered lens. Additionally, I have a BA in Art History and an AA in Art, and have truly committed my career to supporting the arts world in Los Angeles and the greater California area. I have previously served as a grant panelist for both CAC and LACDAC. Throughout my time studying at UCLA I worked and interned at the Hammer museum, I've also volunteered as a K-12 Docent at the Getty, as well as a foster home for cats through Best Friends Society, Los Angeles. I'm always looking for ways to contribute to my community and learn more about other organizations!

Suzanne Pamphile; Antioch

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. Violinist from 1980 - present. Childhood involvement in Diablo Valley Youth Orchestra. Vanguard University of Southern California Orchestra. Gospel choir member - Alto. Actress in Local Community Theatre group Madd Hatters. Sunday School Teacher, and by trade I am a Veterinary Tech/Nurse.

Kihan Park; Buena Park

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

FAA Airline Transport Pilot with EMB-145 type rating, Certified Flight Instructor; Instrument & Multi Airplane FAA Private Rotorcraft-Helicopter Pilot, Bachelor of Economics and International Trade. Management as officer in the Republic of Korea army for ten

years. From Oct 2018-Present, California Baptist University (Riverside, CA) as a CFI, Check pilot, assistance chief flight instructor for Part 141, 61 Private, Instrument Rating, Commercial single, Part 61 Commercial multi-Training.

From Jan 2014-Present for Non-profit organization Daroo Korean Performing Arts and Culture (Los Angeles, CA) as COO, CFO. I Organized the Roar Cultural Festival 10/27-10/29/2023 and will be organizing the Roar Cultural Festival for this year.

Marnie Parker; Los Osos

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Hello my name is Marnie Parker and reside in the Central Coast in Los Osos, CA. I pursued my passion for literature, culture as a returning student. This led me to pursue a BA English and TESOL at Cal Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. I was the AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator for ARTS Obispo 2010. I planned, trained volunteers, organized fundraising events. I was an English instructor to a culturally diverse group of high school students from Spain, Denmark, Italy for the EF international summer program 2019.

I came back to Cuesta College to pursue my interest in Art History in 2019. I also completed the Library Science and Technology Certificate Spring 2022. I finished my Paraeducator Foundation Certificate to learn about approaches, strategies and a deeper understanding of diverse populations in the K-12 school system. Currently, I'm an ESL Embedded tutor since 2019, student worker at H J Miossi Art Gallery at Cuesta College. I am also a substitute paraeducator, library media technician K-12 at SLCUSD.

When I'm not working and taking classes I enjoy writing poetry. A handful of my poems have been published locally, Santa Barbara, Norfolk Virginia, Tanta Egypt.

Samuel Parker; Inglewood

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I discovered dancing, near the turn of my 50th birthday. Now, 16+ years into the experience, I have learned a dance, offer dance education (classes, workshops, etc.) promote dance events (monthly and annual dances) and developed an interest in sharing the benefits of the dance with others in dance performances and other platforms. I participate in an urban dance community in Los Angeles that practices partnered dances (i.e. Steppin', Urban Ballroom, etc.) and am a recent recipient of the first grant supporting our dance programs focused on Senior/older people.

Brigid Parsons; Oceanside

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Brigid Parsons (she/her/hers, Oceanside) studied Civil Engineering in her native Pennsylvania, designed and built roads and bridges in rural Georgia for a few years and then moved to San Diego where she worked in IT for over a dozen years before deciding to change course, to the Arts. She has worked with nonprofits and on arts projects in San Diego County over the past 17 years, including with the Oceanside Museum of Art (OMA), Oceanside Friends of the Arts, the North County Arts Network, and the San Diego County Confab. She is currently the chair of the City of Oceanside Arts Commission, is on the Design Committee for MainStreet Oceanside

which produces community-focused murals, and on the Oceanside Cultural District Steering Committee. She has served on grant panels for the California Arts Council, City of San Diego and City of Carlsbad as well as worked for the City of Encinitas as an Arts Assistant. Brigid has had her photography appear in local shows, and has certifications in Green Design (LEED AP) and Feng Shui as well as degrees in Digital Photography (AA, MiraCosta College), Civil Engineering (BS, Carnegie Mellon) and Technology Management (MBA, U of Phoenix).

Dana Patterson; Hayward

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

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.

In addition, I am a national grants trainer through Grant Writing USA and conduct 2-day workshops for those looking to strengthen their grant work. At these sessions, small arts organizations learn how to hone their grant skills.

Nikki Patterson; Santa Cruz

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a passionate and experienced community builder with a demonstrated history supporting nonprofit art and education organization through community engagement, fundraising development, programming, and marketing communications. A current Board Trustee for the Santa Cruz Downtown Association and Ecology Action, plus Board Advisor for the Santa Cruz History Forum and the Santa Cruz County Diversity Center. Also a current Santa Cruz City Arts Commissioner. I have a BA in International Studies and a minor in Art History. Former Director of Development & Communications for the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. Examples of my art and cultural work include the collaborative production of

- Various City Arts project management via my Art Commissioner role
- Santa Cruz Juneteenth 2022, 2023, & 2024 (in development)
- Santa Cruz Pride partner, 2022 & 2023
- Buffalo Soldier History Talk in partnership with County Park Friends, 2022
- Santa Cruz Earth Day Partner, 2023

- Downtown Santa Cruz Kids Day Partner, 2022 and 2023
- Santa Cruz AAPI Heritage Festival Partner, 2022
- Santa Cruz Nowruz Celebration Partner, 2022
- Santa Cruz County History Fair, 2022

Connie Patton; Fresno

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a poet/spoken word artist residing in Fresno, California. I graduated from CSU Stanislaus with a degree in English. My work has been published in Black Fire This Time, Volume I, African Voices, and the Fresno City College Review.

In 2020 my poem "Lie to Me" was featured on Heard/Word Galleyway, an online audio series. To hear my work in spoken word listen on Soundcloud at Kaanee.

In June 2022, I participated in the virtual reading "Black Fire-This Time, The Literary Candle Has Been Lit" hosted by the Sims Library of Poetry featuring renowned poets Ishmael Reed and Sonia Sanchez.

Each month I meet with a group of writers to workshop our respective projects. I have also been a member of the Akoma Women's Creative Wellness Support Group in Fresno, CA for several years.

Victor Payan; Santa Ana

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Victor Payan is an award-winning artist, arts administrator and consultant who organizes public events that promote tolerance, understanding and community empowerment. He is Founding Director of Media Arts Santa Ana (MASA) and MASARTE Gallery in Santa Ana, and Co-Founder of the OC Film Fiesta multicultural film festival. Mr. Payan is recipient of the 2019 Creative Capital Award for his Dreamocracy in America project, the 2023 California Arts Council California Creative Corps Artist Fellowship and the 2023 California Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship.

He has served as a grant panelist for the California Arts Council, Cal Humanities, L.A. County Arts Commission, the City of Los Angeles DCA and San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. He has also served as a consultant on the Arts Master Plans for Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, Moorpark, Brea and Contra Costa County

An accomplished arts administrator, Mr. Payan served as Director of Programs for the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC). He also served as Co-Chair of the Media Arts Committee for Luminaria, San Antonio's citywide arts festival.

Debra Payne; Rancho Cordova

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

In my work experience, I worked for the First 5 Sacramento Commission as a Program Planner rolling out RFPs to fund program for children aged 0 to 5 and their families. My area of focus

was all health and dental gaps in services and funding direct service agencies to provide services. For instance, when rolling out the RFP for children's dental clinics, I required the applicant to provide "child-Friendly" environments to include culturally competent murals and art in the lobby and exam rooms. First 5 Sacramento funded 6 children's dental clinics throughout Sacramento County. Each clinic designed murals to capture the population of the area; Native American, Black, Hispanic, and Asian.

Another RFP roll out that I managed was to build 23 "Tot Lots" for children age 0 to 5 to include shade shelters, a butterfly or veggie garden and reflect the cultural community in the location of the build out.

In addition, I am committed to supporting live theater productions such as Musical Mayhem Productions (MMP), in Elk Grove. My two grandsons have participated in their performances for nearly 10 years.

Maria Pazos; Mountain View

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been an artist in one way or another all my life. I graduated from San Jose State with a BA in Graphic Design with a concentration in Illustration. A few years later, was able to take some classes at the S. F. Academy of Art.

I am a member of the Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society, and, as a member, her work is can be seen regularly at Gallery 9, a co-op gallery in Los Altos, CA.

As a member of Gallery 9 I have been involved in a joint program with the Los Altos History Museum for a historical exhibition for the gallery's 50th anniversary.

Apart from art, I have had other cultural involvements while a member of Arte Flamenco where we produced shows and fairs promoting the Flamenco culture.

Donna R. Peacher-Hall; Van Nuys

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I am a retired German and French teacher of 45 years with experience in the public and private sector of education. My interests have turned to artistic endeavors and also working with the California legislature to have bills passed in order that actors and artists will be treated fairly and paid at least a minimum wage. I have been on the production staff for several play productions. I also have worked on several film productions and learned many important things about artistic endeavors. I serve as a youth coordinator for training interns for small theatres. I have worked as

a reader and dramaturg. This experience would be an asset to this group and I hope to be considered for this position.

Cynthia Pearson; Altadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am an arts advocate. I serve on the board of Los Angeles Music & Arts School (LAMusArt), an organization committed to providing affordable and accessible arts education to students in

Los Angeles, primarily in East LA. I have also served on boards/advisory boards for Theatre of Hearts/Youth First, Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, and Emerging Arts Leaders/Los Angeles (now a project of Arts for LA). I am on the attorney panel for California Lawyers for the Arts and am a clinic volunteer and presenter for Center for Art Law (NY), and I have advised fledgling arts nonprofits on legal and practical matters. I have degrees in Art History/English (BA), Museum Studies (MA), and law (JD), worked in curatorial and exhibition program positions at The Museum of Contemporary Art, and have experience with galleries and auction houses.

Tiffany Pech; Stockton

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Tiffany Pech (she, her, they) is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Stockton, California. She earned an AA in studio art at San Joaquin Delta College and a BFA of mixed emphasis at CSU Stanislaus. She predominantly works in sculpture and printmaking media. She currently works with The Table Community Foundation to teach book making and printmaking to after school program students. She teaches workshops at Tuleburg Press, a book arts, literacy and publishing center located in downtown Stockton. She is Residency Coordinator, Shop Generalist, and Rage Cage host at HATCH Workshop, a maker-space and community hub in downtown Stockton.

Tomas Peire-Serrate; Santa Monica

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Tomàs Peire Serrate, a Barcelona-born composer currently residing in Los Angeles, has garnered international recognition for his musical compositions, showcased in renowned festivals and concert series across Europe, America, and Asia. His music has received numerous international awards. Beyond his concert works, Tomàs has composed music for fiction and documentary feature films, as well as virtual reality (VR) experiences, and theater plays. He holds a Master of Music from NYU and a Ph.D. in Music Composition from the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. He has been invited to teach composition, orchestration, and related musical topics in different universities in Europe and the US. Likewise, he has been guest speaker to conferences and workshops, as well as chair international composition competitions. In addition to his academic pursuits, Tomàs has been the Associate Artistic Director for the Du Vert a L'infini Music Festival in Besançon, France, since its inception in 2019.

Diego Pena; Perris

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

A first-generation Mexican-American in California's rural heart, Diego Peña isn't just a teacher, but a bridge. In Spanish-laced English, he ignites young minds with stories from both cultures, vibrant cuentos (stories) intertwining with American classics. Patience blooms on his face as he untangled the knot of unfamiliar words, his own struggle with English fueling his empathy. Each lesson isn't just about knowledge, it is an act of reciprocity, a gift of heritage passed on, ensuring the vibrant tapestry of his culture. His classroom, adorned with student-drawn clay pots and papel picado banners, became a beacon. Parents, hesitant at first, found themselves drawn in, captivated by the pride beaming in their children's eyes. Mr. Peña's legacy isn't just

measured in test scores, but in the seeds he sows. Inspiring students, some even his own nieces and nephews, become the next generation's teachers, artists, and storytellers. They carried the torch, ensuring the rich tapestry of his community, woven with threads of resilience and cultural pride, would forever brighten California's rural landscape.

Leonor Perez; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

I was born and raised in East Los Angeles. I joined the LAUSD's first school-based mariachi program that served as a catalyst for many other opportunities. I achieved a PhD from UCLA in Education Research & Evaluation and an Ed.M from Harvard. While my career centered on higher education administration and teaching, I continued to engage in performing mariachi music and developing opportunities for members of under resourced communities to engage in the arts. In 2014, I left higher education and joined the San Diego Symphony as Artistic Projects Manager where I worked with film and television composer Bill Conti to create a multicultural production with the SD Symphony and San Diego's ethnic and cultural communities. It was a two-year project that was funded by the Irvine Foundation. Also in 2014, I launched an exhibit based on my original research on the history of women in mariachi at the Women's Museum of CA, established the Mariachi Women's Foundation and launched the International Mariachi Women's Festival that just completed its 10th year. I established a partnership between MWF and the Los Angeles Unified School District to provide mariachi music workshops for youth.

Nathaniel PErgamit; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Working with professional historians in San Francisco, I cataloged over 1,200 pieces of antique music and concert programs from the Golden Gate Park Concert Band. I then transformed the hard data I had collected into a tale of how our city changed across the twentieth century. Still, I am prouder of how I was able to communicate those ideas to audiences well beyond my peers. My oratory was so compelling to the panel of non-musician judges, that I earned the second-place award at the San Jose State University 2022 Grad Slam contest.

Since completing my master's degree in May 2022, I dove headfirst into the world of arts administration and have not looked back once. I brought with me a wealth of experience that can only be gained by the discipline of academia and the practical lessons of being a working musician. I have also taken on the role of doing DEI research and presenting my findings to our Executive and Artistic Director, which has helped them craft policy to make our organization a better place for students of all backgrounds.

Raymond Persinger; Mission Viejo

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a practicing public artist and art educator. I came from a large working class family. As a child, I was diagnosed with dysgraphia and hyperactivity with no accommodations available at

the time. School was difficult and unpleasant to say the least, however my family had a love of books and reading which after much struggle I came to share.

I began sculpting and metal casting in my teens. My academic (MFA) and professional training eventually came to encompass a variety of technical disciplines including sculpture, robotics, foundry, mold making, iron work and hot glass.

Working as a practicing artist creating public art, I was also employed by Robert Graham for the 1984 Olympic Gateway. I was selected for a national exhibition by Dr. Virginia Mecklenburg, the Chief Curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Art and I was a visiting artist at SIAS University in China. I have juried exhibits for public and private spaces.

As a commercial artist, I was employed as the Sculpture Department Manager at an international science exhibit corporation, creating life sized robotic dinosaurs. I have been a Professor of Visual Arts at several colleges in California.

Domingas Person Müller; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Growing up in a family of artists, I was immersed in the world of theater, film, and television, starting my journey as an actress in childhood. As the daughter of renowned Brazilian filmmaker Luiz Sergio Person, I inherited a deep passion for the arts from a young age.

Alongside my career as an actress, I ventured into journalism, driven by a desire to explore and listen to and share stories from diverse perspectives.

Through my work as a journalist, I honed my skills in storytelling and connecting with audiences, amplifying voices in mainstream media.

Transitioning into producing, I continued to channel my artistic background into creating meaningful work: my most recent production is in theater: "Rilke", a one man solo performance based on the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, whose works from the 19th century are still super relevant.

My unique upbringing and diverse experiences have shaped my perspective on both sides, as artist and producer, fueling a desire to bring creativity alive and now, finally, making diversity, and inclusivity in cultural communities a MUST.

I strive to honor my father's legacy, while forging my own path in arts and communications.

Whitney Peskin; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Whitney Shay is one #busylittlesinger. 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 and also reached #1 on the Roots Music Report. 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.

In addition to her time as a full time musician, Whitney Shay also has a great passion for visual art and art history, and many years of experience in dance and theatre.

Victoria Petrovich; Vista

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

I'm a professor of design (scenic/costume/media) and a practicing artist. I have a BA in Visual Art from UC Santa Cruz and an MFA in Theatre Design from UC San Diego. My roots in community activist art began as a mural painter in Chicano collectives in Santa Cruz county where I was a co-artist funded by CAC in grants such as Artists in Social Institutions and Artists in Schools (Radcliffe Bilingual School). I later served as an artist consultant in schools (SPECTRA program/Santa Cruz Co.) for 5 years: mural painting/sculpture/watercolor/ and textile arts. I volunteered in the local migrant camps where I taught indigenous arts and crafts, and worked as an artist-instructor at the Cultural Enrichment Program for 2 years serving the low income population as an after-school program for Salinas and the Bard Blades school for special education. In addition to my professional design work (Scenic/Costume/Video), I've also served as an artist-instructor at the Boys & Girls Clubs (PICART program) and as a volunteer in the Equestrian Therapy program at Helen Woodward Animal Shelter in SD County. My experience is a dedicated blend of community-focused projects and professional expertise.

Alix Pham; West Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Alixen Pham is a Best New Poets 2022 finalist and Best of the Net-nominated multidisciplinary artist/poet/writer with numerous publications including The Slowdown featuring Ada Limon, Salamander, Tahoma Literary Review, Rust + Moth, Apogee Journal, New York Quarterly, Brooklyn Poets, DiaCRITICS, the museum of americana, and Gyroscope. Since 2022, she co-organizes and co-hosts the Festival of Asian American and Pacific Islander Books in Long Beach, CA, curating adult authors of poetry, fiction and nonfiction works. She led the Westside Los Angeles chapter of Women Who Submit, a nonprofit organization nurturing and supporting women and non-binary writers from 2019-2023. She curates and hosts various literary events including public readings at the Will and Ariel Durant Branch Library's 2022 Virtual Public Poetry Reading Series for National Poetry Month. She facilitates a weekly generative poetry workshop through The Poetry Salon. Alixen is the recipient of The City of West Hollywood 2022 Artist Grant, Brooklyn Poets Fellowship & Scholarship, AWP Mentee Program, PEN Center Fiction Scholarship and others.

Jean Pham; San Leandro***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

As a local artist, I organize within my community to create more art spaces. Being Vietnamese-American, I am very attuned to what it means to come from a family of refugees, displaced by war. This desire to communicate history, culture and belonging has informed my artwork, and I use oil paints as a visual medium. In my spare time, I organize with the Queer/Trans Vietnamese Cafe, which is a resilience and cultural hub dedicated to restoring ancestral Vietnamese practices and culture. In this collective, we use food as a method of gathering and building community.

Hailing from the Bay Area, I also am dedicated to organizing spaces for art creation. This includes organizing figure drawing sessions that are free to the public, and model-training sessions for new figure models. I believe in the importance of using art to creating change in our communities and to move one another on an emotional level. I would love for the opportunity to serve as a panelist such that I can help evaluate and offer my perspective in terms of what could best serve our communities, as well as looking at the logistics of what might be viable in a given proposal.

Lane Pianta; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

In one form or another, I have dedicated my life to the arts, culture, and education spheres of human endeavor. From the age of 13 onward, I have played guitar, sung, and written songs. While not nearly as prolific as many other songwriters, I nevertheless have penned over 300 musical compositions, and have collaborated with numerous bands since those early years. Additionally, I've participated in over 50 theatrical productions, produced a dozen shows as primary creative artist, and acquired two degrees in my field: A Bachelor of Fine Arts from UT Austin in Theatre Studies, and a Master's Degree from Towson University in Theatre with an emphasis on interdisciplinary performance and artist-as-entrepreneur. My thesis production, SONGSCAPES, melded song composition and acting theory into a coherent approach to singing as physical action. In 2009 and 2010, I created and produced two productions in the "My Comic Valentine" series - theatrical performance events based on pre-code 1950s romance comics. In the Fall of 2017, I wrote "The Unfinished Story of Docketown", which told the story of floating home residents facing eviction at the hands of their own City Council.

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 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.

Esha Pillay; San Leandro

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I am a creative professional with 10+ years of experience in higher education institutions, student services, and social justice organizing. I have strong critical thinking skills and have produced both academic materials as well as more accessible content for social media. As an Indo-Fijian woman who uses storytelling and visual art in my own work, I understand the importance of uplifting people from marginalized backgrounds and supporting them in art spaces, which can be very exclusive. As someone who comes from a complex history, representation that has nuance is important to me and a quality that I would keep an eye out for when reviewing grant applications.

Guennh Pires; Tehachapi

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Director/Producer: 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 his work producing documentary and narrative films that focus on Cape Verde and the African Diaspora. In 2005, he relocated to Los Angeles, where he established Txan Film Productions & Visual Arts. For over 27 years, he has created films that address questions of identity and social justice. Guenny has earned a Master's degree in Audio-visual and Communication Arts from Porto University, as well as 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.

Q Pivoine; Alhambra

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Born in Saigon and immigrated to the US as a teenager, my practice repurposes cultural symbolisms and memories into intricate art objects, installations, and collective rituals that expand our capacity for empathy and resilience. In using my art as means for personal and communal healing, organizing, and activism, I posit art as an essential public goods.

My works have appeared at notable venues such as the Autry's SouthWest Museum, the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, the Geffen Playhouse, the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, and the Armory Center for the Arts. I've also received press coverage from local news outlets such as the LATimes, the Santa Monica Mirror, Westside Today, the Downey Patriot, and others.

Beyond my visual art practice, I'm also a published poet, curator, art educator, and guest speaker.

Daisy Pizana; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Daisy S. Pizana is a grant professional based in Los Angeles. She has worked with organizations in Los Angeles and Sacramento, supporting them with raising funds for the theatre arts, music education, public art, and social justice work. Currently, Pizana is a full-time grant writer with the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) conducting statewide immigrant justice work throughout California and nationally.

Connie Pleasant; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have volunteered for many art and cultural nonprofit organizations over the last 10 years. I have volunteered for the CSU East Bay Alumni Association Board of Directors, Sororities-traditional and non traditional, AfroComicCon and the American Legion Auxiliary.

I have served as an officer or volunteer, helping to plan, organize, recruit and fundraise for many of these organizations.

In 2019, I put my skills to use for my own organization, called Veteran Comic Con, that supports military and veterans who create and sell art.

Art therapy is known to help alleviate symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder. Veteran Comic Con provides an outlet for military and veterans to showcase their art in a safe environment which helps to alleviate symptoms of PTSD.

Tracy Polkownikow; Hanford

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an artist that comes from a family history of impoverishment and maltreatment. I began my professional artistic career at the age of 16 by hand painting signs for a local business and creating commissioned illustrations for friends and school district officials. Since then, I have developed my artistic skills and have had clients collect and commission my work from all over the continental U.S. and as far away as Australia and the Czech Republic. I never found much support from my family or peers in that art was viewed as a dead-end lifestyle and not worth pursuing as a serious career. I have made it my life's mission to not only advocate for my own artistic endeavors, but to empower other artists along the way so that they also can recognize and in turn communicate the importance of arts in everyone's lives. I took the position at Arts Visalia and have found a group of like-minded individuals that have aided me in my own personal mission as well as theirs to advocate and grow the appreciation of the visual arts.

Don Porcella; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Born and raised in Modesto, California, Don Porcella's artwork has been exhibited at galleries and museums across the U.S. and in Berlin, Paris, and Copenhagen. Porcella's art has been reviewed in the New York Times, NY ARTS, Fiber Arts Magazine, Chelsea Now, San Francisco

Magazine and the Village Voice to name a few. He has a BA in Psychology from the University of California at San Diego, a BFA from California College of Arts and Crafts and an MFA from Hunter College in New York. Porcella's work is included in public and private collections across the United States and Europe. Porcella has received grants from the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island, the Brooklyn Arts Council, an EAF Fellowship from Socrates Sculpture Park, the 2012 West Collects Prize, an artist residency at the Museum of Arts and Design, and a 2014 Swatch Art Residency in Shanghai. In 2016,

Andrea Porras; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

J. andrea porras| yAyA is an independent Creative Capacity Consultant, currently cultivating with Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits & Indigenous Justice. As a Two-Spirit curator Chicana of Coahuiltecan descent, they embody wisdom & ways of their ancestors y future relatives alike. Porras is a film producer, interdisciplinary artist & practitioner; with over 25 years of experience in performance, organizing, facilitation, grant-making, grant reviewing, philanthropy, and mentoring. Porras curates' visual exhibitions & creates site specific installations, ritual performance estilo flor y canto. Porras earned their B.A. from California State University Sacramento, Theater Dance, and Cultural Anthropology Departments, where they specialized in Black, Indigenous, and Chicano/Theater, Dance & leadership. They focused on acting, improv movement, playwriting, producing, and photo & video documenting. yAyA works between connecting and building in Northern California across the Southwest. Their work has been shared across the US, China, Cuba, Mexico & Africa.

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.

Clayton Powell JR; Beaumont

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have 40 years of experience in the music and media industries. I spent 15 years in the military band program for the United States, Marine Corps and the United States Army in 17 countries on five continents. I have studied music at the Armed Forces school of music in Little

Creek Virginia. I have studied Korean cultural music in Seoul Korea and Japanese traditional music in Okinawa, Japan. I am a professor of audio production for film and television, gaming, media and sound design at California Baptist University, Riverside, California. I was an instructor of pop and jazz piano, pop and jazz drumming, music programming, composition and production, at the famed number one boarding school of the arts in the world, Idyllwild Arts Academy in Idyllwild California. I also am an operator at television operations for Armed Forces network, at March Air Reserve Base, California. I have been involved in music and media education for the last 25 years. I am chief executive officer for Redemption Shelter Studios Inc., Khoydoll films which is a black, and Latino owned media corporation here in California. Associate producer for TEDx for MT. San Jacinto Jr College.

Jack Powers; Mountain View

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have been of an artistic persuasion for my entire life. My first memory is of being commended by my kindergarten teacher, Miss Baker, for having taken an empty roll, and a paper doily on top of it, and around it, so that it made a small light table.

Are used art to keep me alive while I was in solitary confinement for nearly 22 years of my life. While there, I created All kinds of works of art. I taught myself English composition, and wrote manuscripts based on my own life, and on other subjects: Music, performance, stop motion animation, abstract art, producing, writing, documentary film, personal growth and development.

Christina Preston; Pilot Hill

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have an M.Sc. in Community and Regional Development from U.C. Davis with a focus on stake holder analysis. In addition, I have a B.A. in anthropology. I am a grant writer, researcher, NGO consultant, creative director, and project manager. I have worked with artists, private galleries, universities, and community groups to bring ideas to fruition.

Astra Price; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Astra Price (she/her) is a moving image specialist, focusing on digital media education and moving image preservation. She has worked in the digital collections of artists such as Bill Viola, Jane Geiser, Lewis Klahr, Sylvère Lotringer, and James Scott. She has also taught moving image-focused classes at several universities, including CalArts, where she was an educator for over a decade. Her publications on the preservation of time-based media can be found in Leonardo and the IIC Journal. Currently, Astra is the Editorial Director at The Outwords Archive, an LGBTQ+ organization focusing on preserving the oral histories of community elders. In addition to working with other artists and archives, Astra is also an artist and filmmaker with a focus in experimental documentaries.

Kwanza Price; Palo Alto

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Moved to the Bay Area from NYC (Harlem) after being recruited by a life sciences company in Palo Alto. I am a single parent with a 4th grader who loves art. While living in NYC, we were surrounded by the arts and lived in a neighborhood where we could walk to places like the Studio Museum of Harlem, Dance Theater of Harlem, the Appollo....even just walking along the streets of Manhattan or taking the train was an opportunity to observe artists live. We miss that. Also, I want to learn more about local artists here in California, especially women artists and minority artists.

Ruthie Prillaman; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a multi-disciplinary writer and musician. This year, I published a middle grade novel with Simon and Schuster and I created a children's orchestra piece that will be premiered by the Utah Symphony. I've been commissioned to write libretti for operas and choral pieces across the country. I'm also a member of WGA West - I've written for television for FX and developed film and television work with other major studios. I'm also a member of Small Fools, a classically-inflected folk band that mashes up medieval compositional techniques with bluegrass and electronic music. We were recently featured on ABC Classic, Australia's public radio broadcast.

Jenn Procacci; Covelo

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Jenn Procacci is an interdisciplinary artist whose work includes visual art, media arts, journalism, social practice, and arts advocacy. She currently resides in Covelo, CA and has been a board member of the Arts Council of Mendocino County since 2014. In 2023, she received an generous grant from the Upstate California Creative Corps along with Michelle Penalzoza for their yearlong social practice in writing project, "The Round Valley Reader". Jenn has a long relationship with the Mural Arts Program, where she has assisted with the creation and restoration of over 15 murals in Philadelphia, including a 2013 complete restoration of "We the Youth, an original Keith Haring mural sponsored by The Keith Haring Foundation where she was the co-lead artist. Her visual artwork has been shown on both coasts of the United States, in the mediums of sculpture, painting, photography and mixed media pieces. Her work was most recently shown in 2023 with Amber Art Collective at the Ice Box Project Space in Philadelphia. She is 2006 graduate of Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia PA, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts with an award for excellence in the field of fine art photography.

Michele Prosser; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Michele Prosser served as executive director of the San Diego Dance Alliance from 1995 to 1997. During her tenure she served as co-producer with the SD Repertory Theatre on the Nations of San Diego International Dance Festival, expanding the festival and its audiences drawing local, national and international attention to the diversity of artists in San Diego.

From 1997 to 2001, she served as chief development officer at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. She then served as a consultant to the San Diego Museum of Man, and associate director of development at The Old Globe Theatre. Currently, she is the capital campaign director for the Salvation Army in San Diego. The Salvation Army serves all those in need without discrimination. Michele currently leads the campaign for the Rady Center after having completed the successful campaign for the Rady Residence at The Salvation Army Door of Hope, now open and serving families experiencing homelessness. She has also served as a site visitor and panelist for the California Arts Council's dance, multidisciplinary and touring and presenting programs and also served on the board of SD Performing Arts League/SD Arts Advocates.

Polina Protsenko; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Born in Tartu, Estonia, Polina is an interdisciplinary artist and educator who holds a B.F.A with distinguished honors in Studio for Interrelated Media and Art Education from Massachusetts College of Art and Design (2016) and her M.F.A in Performance from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2019). Polina is a member of the Skirball Cultural Center Teacher Advisory Council. She is currently an art teacher and department chair of the fine arts and performing arts at Loyola High School in Los Angeles, California.

Before she transitioned to California, she was a production assistant at MASARY Studios (Boston, MA), a lead for a multidisciplinary collective specialized in site-specific installations using sound, light, interactivity, and performance in immersive visual spectacle. In addition, she was an art preparator at the M.I.T List Gallery and School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Tufts University. She is a visiting teacher with Open Door Arts; a nonprofit organization with a mission to increase access, participation, and representation by people with disabilities in the arts, strengthening our shared cultural community.

Emily Purificacao; Susanville

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

My background in education and administration (15 years) would be a strength to this role, as well as my artistic background (music, dance, and literary arts). Most recently I have had poetry published in journals including Metonym and In Parentheses. I hold an M.A. in English from McGill University.

Kelly Purvis; Coronado

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Kelly Purvis is a Senior Management Analyst for the City of Coronado and serves as the first Arts Administrator for Coronado since 2013. During her tenure, Coronado opened two city-owned art galleries, adopted a Public Art Masterplan, and completed a strategic plan for arts and culture. She coordinated Coronado's participation in the Americans for the Arts AEP6 study. She oversees a robust social media program for the arts.

Purvis collaborates with 25+ local non-profit organizations to promote innovative programs, audience development and collaborations among arts organizations and artists. She manages Coronado's extensive public art collection. Skilled in nonprofit organizations, development, community grants, event management, social media, volunteer engagement, public art administration, and team building – skills that contribute to the arts thriving in Coronado.

Purvis is a resident of Coronado for over 36+ years. She has a record of volunteer and advocacy work in local education, historic preservation, residential planning, and philanthropic endeavors. She has a (BA) in Political Science from the USC and was honored with the USC Alumni Service Award in 2012.

Randall Radic; Ripon

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

At the present juncture, I review music. Prior to that, I was a ghostwriter for a number of individuals, writing books for topics including martial arts, memoir, business, and marketing. Under my own name, I wrote two books on swimming, and two books on true crime. Under my pen name, I wrote three true crime books. I am an amateur abstract painter.

Ruben Radillo; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a returning citizen after serving 25yrs. I been drawing and painting since elementary school. My work experience includes being a teaching artist with Project Paint. Some acting, writing and panelist with Playwrights Project. Curator helper at Institute of contemporary Art San Diego via California lawyers for the Arts. Also a tattoo artist .

Richard Radosh; Carlsbad

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am an active community volunteer, serve on the Board of Directors of Reading Legacies and a past-President of the Coastal Communities Concert Band Foundation I play trumpet in the band, perform with Trumpets R Us, a trumpet ensemble, and the Temple Solel Shabbat Unplugged Band.

I have broad experience in development including annual giving, planned giving, and grant writing. I am the Grants & Contracts Manager for Community Resource Center, an Encinitas human 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 and victims of crime or abuse.

I am native Californian, grew up in the San Fernando Valley, graduated from UCSB, and went to law school at University of San Francisco School of Law.

Antonio Rael; West Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been a professional artist and arts educator for 35+ years. I graduated from U.C.L.A. in 1986 with a B.A. in Art. I am published in 7 Chicano Art History books and my artwork is in

collections across the USA including the Hispanic Research Center in Arizona. Today, I exhibit and work closely with Plaza de La Raza, Self Help Graphics, The Music Center and the City of West Hollywood. I have also created murals throughout the County of Los Angeles. In 2002, I founded Latino Pop Shop and the Latino Pop Art movement as documented in 'Triumph In Our Communities: Four Decades of Mexican American Art' produced by The Bilingual Press Foundation, ASU and Gary Keller. I am active within the Latino, Chicano and LGBTQIA+ artist communities in Los Angeles County. I am constantly working to improve my work as an artist, be an active member of my community and empower those in underrepresented communities by my positivity, commitment and hard work.

David Ralphe; Simi Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

- Trained, and eventually became artistic Director of the Hedgerow Theatre in Pennsylvania.
- Dozens of productions on the East Coast, including Hedgerow, off Broadway (Living Theatre, Irish Players, Actor's Equity Theatre).
- Over thirty productions in Los Angeles including serving as co-artistic Director with Lonny Chapman, and with others founding the group repertory theater.
- Served for two years as Executive Director of the Los Angeles theater alliance.
- Produced, hosted or participated in over 8000 events as general manager of the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center including visual arts, gallery, presentations, music series, including jazz, and classical, as well as full productions of musicals and plays.
- Supported and promoted independent film production, as well as appearing in over 40 episodic and five feature films, including Star Trek Nemesis.
- Current directing project on stage through April is the musical PARADE.

Joshua Ramirez; Pico Rivera

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Joshua J. Ramirez is a brown-indigenous social practice artist, museum arts administrator and cultural practitioner that works and resides in Los Angeles County. Using his own mental illness and disability as a platform for systemic change, he has successfully started his own non-profit that merges advocacy and art. Saint Remy Arts & Culture, provides transformative and cultural spaces for individuals with mental illness, PTSD, and suicidal thoughts through the creative process of art and creation. By leading through the lens of authenticity and empathy, he continues to use his unique experience to mentor at-risk youth, advocate for artists with disabilities, and create social impact programming for traditionally underrepresented communities. Intentional in his own practice, Joshua explores the complexity of the human condition, exploring themes of abandonment, past childhood trauma, and working-class race relations in the United States through photography, sculpture, and painting. He has a BA in art from the University of Southern California and an MA in art education. He currently works in Youth Development Programs at the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles.

Ricardo Ramirez; Whittier

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am the first to graduate from El Rancho High School, CSU Long Beach for undergrad and BCLAD Credential, and CSU Los Angeles for Master's in Educational Leadership. Now the first to have been accepted in a doctoral program at LMU. I attended two schools in two schools I've taught 3rd- 8th grades. I have held a teacher on special assignment (TOSA) split position in the English Learner Program Department. Currently I am a TOSA at the district office supporting the arts education department, the extended learner opportunity program (ELO-P), and collaborating with other departments to integrate the arts. We began a collaboration with a neighboring school district to implementing an ethnics study/visual arts model of instruction to our elementary schools. We have brought on partners to offer arts enrichment to all elementary and intermediate schools. Cal Arts Community Arts Program (CAP), 24th Street Theatre, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, and The Orange County Cube. Because of our strong drive to increase arts education, we have been granted two endowments: one with LACMA and the other with Cal Arts.

Carmelita Ramirez-Sanchez; South Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Carmelita Sanchez's distinguished 30+ year career in broadcasting and entertainment includes a string of "firsts"—from first female vice-president of a hip-hop record label (Poetic Groove/Interscope) to first Chicana radio DJ to reach over 10 million listeners (Wake Up Show.) Transitioning from the private sector Carmelita served as the "hard to count" lead for the 2010 Census, specifically focused on reaching LA's undocumented population and unhoused adults, family, and youth. Carmelita currently serves as Executive Director of Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, supports and advocates for diversity in the creative arts, media, and technology industries. To create workforces that are inclusive and reflective of Los Angeles in ethnicity, age, gender, social/economic status and one that removes the barriers for our most historically excluded communities. We are led by the guiding principles of Workforce Development, Culturally Relevant Pedagogy, Trauma-Informed Healing-Centered Arts-Based Engagement, and Self-Care.

Olivia Ramos; Hayward

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a proud queer Chicana and UCLA graduate holding a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology with a minor in Chicana/o Studies. Currently, I serve as a Bilingual Family Eligibility Coordinator, passionately assisting low-income families in accessing subsidized child care assistance.

With a rich background in community engagement, I previously thrived as a Program Manager for Oakland First Fridays, a free and inclusive street arts festival. In this role, I collaborated with diverse community members, local businesses, artists, and vendors, fostering an environment that celebrated people of all ages, backgrounds, and lifestyles.

My passion for community-driven art was nurtured by trailblazing figures like Judith Baca and Juana Alicia Araiza, whom I studied under at UCLA and Berkeley Community College. Inspired by their work, I endeavor to infuse my artistry with a commitment to social engagement and cultural enrichment.

My intersectional identity, combined with my academic expertise, positions me as a valuable contributor to the arts and cultural communities, bringing a wealth of experience and a profound commitment to positive change.

Cynthia Randolph; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Cynthia Randolph is a California-based artist and writer who works across photography, film, drawing, sculpture, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

In addition to her writing and art practices, Randolph currently serves as Chairman of the Advisory Board for St. Mary's MFA in Creative Writing program. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Arts in Education Fund for Laird Norton Family Foundation, a medium sized foundation, where she served as Co-Chairman for six years. She also works as a Suicide Crisis Counselor.

Randolph earned an MBA in Design Strategy from the California College of Art; an MFA in Sculpture from Cranbrook Academy of Art; with electives in Photography and 2D Design; and a BS in English Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with minors in Creative Writing, Psychology, and Fine Art.

She has received a Vermont Studio Center Artist Grant, George B. Hill and Therese Muller Creative Writing Awards, and has exhibited throughout the United States and abroad. Her debut poetry collection, *In the Museum of Hunting and Nature*, was published by fmsbw press in June 2023, and her writing has been included in small journals and anthologies.

Patty Rangel-Hernandez; Chula Vista

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Patty is a 2022 GEN (Global Ecovillage Network) NGO representative to the United Nations Environment Program (General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya), a graduate of the United Nations Summer Intensive Program (UN Headquarters in New York City), Honorary Burning Man Earth Guardian, and a member of EcoVillages in France, Italy, Mexico, and the USA. Patty is passionate about ARTivism and empowering Indigenous Nations. She has been involved with GEN since 2007.

Bridgett Rangel-Rexford; Davis

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Meet Bridgett Rangel-Rexford, an ambitious Chicax woman who resides in Davis, CA on the land of the Patwin indigenous people. She is a skilled individual who received honors at UCSD, where she received her B.A. in Art History/Theory and Criticism. Being a forever learner, Bridgett also received her A.A. in Graphic Design. During one summer, she served as the art director for Camp Krem, a camp for people with disabilities. In another summer, she

helped facilitate art birthday parties and designed flyers for the Crocker Art Museum's events. Whenever she isn't working, her heart is dedicated to volunteering as the President of the Siskiyou Arts Council and providing her social media services as a volunteer with Capitol Creative Alliance.

After facilitating art classes and providing administrative support for artists for most of her career, Bridgett has decided to pursue her art more directly. She is currently working on a series of large-scale pen and ink illustrations that explore the concepts of grief and loss.

Kumi Rauf; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Kumi Rauf is the creator in the flavors of photography, videography and music. He has been to dozens of countries capturing the cultural aspects of the lives of melanated people. Kumi's true passion is Africa; having traveled to 15 African countries so far, he documents the beauty and uniqueness of each one. His work has been featured in various galleries such as: Joyce Gordon Gallery, The Art of Living Black, etc.

He is also the creator of the I Love Being Black Cultural Movement that focuses on positivity, awareness and action amongst Black people worldwide. I Love Being Black has amassed over 6 million fans and followers globally on Facebook and Instagram.

Kumi is also an expert social media strategist, a DJ, a drone pilot, a photographer, a coder, and the crowned King of the Sneaker-Ball by Nike.

Linda Ravenswood; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

linda ravenwood is an Oxford Prize winning poet and performance artist from Los Angeles. her work in poetry resides at the intersection of literature and visual art, usually called Visual Poetics. her recent book -- a poem is a house -- from Madville Press (2024) won The Edwin Markham Prize from poet laureate of the US Juan Felipe Herrera, The Arthur Smith Prize, and was finalist for The Rachel Wetszeon Prize from MAP, and finalist for The Gunpowder Prize from ALTA. She is the daughter of a White, mixed Indigenous - European mother, and a Brown, mixed Indigenous - White, Mexican father. Her work interrogates and examines those fields and borderlands. She is the founding Editor in Chief at The Los Angeles Press, est. 2018.

Aubrey Rawlins; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

10 years in nonprofit fundraising (incl. grant writing and project management for state funding). Currently consulting with nonprofits across many issues and with many different budget sizes. Also advising a fund at SFF dedicated to arts in San Francisco which elevate and represent the cultures of historically marginalized peoples.

Chris Reed; Laguna Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am a retired professor of chemistry, having done research and teaching in Southern California at USC (25 yrs) and UC Riverside (14 yrs). Amongst other awards, I won national

recognition from the American Chemical Society in 2011 for the discovery of the world's strongest acid. At an early age, I sang in choirs and have since become passionate about opera. With the demise of Opera Pacific in the 2008 dotcom meltdown, there has been a vacuum for opera in Orange County. I discovered that opera in Orange County actually got started in 1961 by rancher Nellie Gail Moulton who, unbelievably, mounted three full scale operas per year for a decade in Laguna Beach before the operation transmogrified into Opera Pacific at the newly-built Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, only to close for financial reasons in 2008. Some years later, I met an extremely talented young soprano and tenor who reside in Laguna Beach and we together decided to re-invent opera in Laguna Beach. I became Vice-President of Opera Laguna, helped secure it's 501c3 tax-exempt status, promoted its first concerts and now plan its more ambitious future.

Candace Reese Walters; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

With a reputation for challenging small visions and transforming them into global notoriety, I have received brand recognition as a nationally recognized entrepreneur and inspirational / empowerment speaker. Specializing in brand management, government / corporate communications, business development, and philanthropic strategy management, Candace has a strong track record in exceeding expectations.

Notable clientele have included Atlanta's Resource for Entertainment & Arts (AREA), the National Youth Connection, Essence Cares (now, National Cares Mentoring Movement), The KING Foundation (founded by Clifford "TI" Harris), The Ludacris Foundation (founded by Chris "Ludacris" Bridges), The King Center, Dougherty County Government, The City of Oakland (Dept. of Violence Prevention), and StarVista (counseling, case management, skill development, and crisis prevention programs), etc.

Silvia Regalado-Zachlod; American Canyon

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Silvia Regalado-Zachlod holds a Master of Arts Degree in Nonprofit Administration and Leadership from Seattle University and a Bachelor of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from San Francisco State University.

Silvia's breadth of experience includes serving as the Associate/Interim Director of Development at Blue Oak School leading their annual auction and individual giving program and Senior Development Director at Cal Maritime where she directed annual and corporate giving, oversaw alumni affairs, and produced special events. Silvia served youth and families previously in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area as the Executive Director of the Parent Institute for Quality Education in Oakland where she oversaw culturally relevant program development and delivery, strategic planning, as well as grant and budget responsibilities for seven Bay Area counties. Silvia supports music education and believes we child deserves an enriching musical education. She gives her time to supporting strong school communities serving her local schools and school district as a parent advisor.

Anastasia Rego; Modesto***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am the founder of the Central Valley Independent Music Festival which ran from 2002-2008 over three counties and featured over seventy different groups per year and was done by volunteers on shoe string budget.

I was owner/operator of A Girl Hurts Records from 1999-2010 with my partner, Robbie Giant, which released over two dozen albums by regional artists and organized over 1200 live music events including the annual Punk Rock Prom, and the Red Cross 9/11 fundraiser, which raised \$15,000 for families of 9/11 victims.

I have written for several underground zines and I have been an advocate on social media, with my current project, Modesto Community Action Association, and Modesto Unhoused, a collective for homeless artists, musicians, and creators.

I am a visual artist with hundreds of pieces that are featured during monthly "pop up" gallery showcase events along with other artists. I have been active since 1994 and while I have yet to receive funding from grants, and am a disabled, low income, underrepresented and often overlooked in my small community, I can learn from this opportunity.

Howard Reichenthal; Lawndale***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Howard Rich, the Executive/Artistic Director of Saturday Night Bath Concert Fund, graduated Queens College of the City University of New York in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Performing since the age of 13, during college he continued to study the bass viol, electric bass guitar, voice, and trumpet. His lifetime love of music spurred him to Los Angeles in 1973, where he immediately became a professional musician and private teacher and took three years of advanced music theory courses and many apprenticeships. He recognized the need to stimulate interest in musical arts in public schools, and in 1984 he founded Saturday Night Bath Band, targeting disadvantaged youth by performing his original jazz and blues style compositions, as well as the music of traditional composers. His concerts and clinics have now reached over 48,000 young people in juvenile halls, probation camps and continuation high schools throughout California, one-at-a-time.

Louise Reichlin aka Desio; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Louise Reichlin, Director, Choreographer, Administrator, began her professional career in NY in concerts & on Broadway, performing and choreographing throughout USA with her work also seen in 6 countries. Since 1972 she has worked extensively from her LA base, founding LOS ANGELES CHOREOGRAPHERS & DANCERS, the nonprofit base of Louise Reichlin & Dancers, in 1979. She taught "Movement Training For Musicians & Actors" for 30 years at USC, and is comfortable with all genres. Since 1995, most of her concert works also include multimedia; works include The Tennis Dances, Urban and Tribal Dances, The Patchwork Girl of Oz, Dream Scapes, Tap Dance Widows Club, a 50' video & live multimedia work from "The Baggage Project, A Jewish Child's Story, Invasion, Reboot Reboot, just some of her 125 works.

She & her company have received many superb reviews and grants from govt funding as well as an ARC grant from CCI and the Creative Capacity Fund. Louise was an NPN artist. Received the Bruce Geller Memorial WORD prize for A Jewish Child's Story, a REACH Demonstration Grant through CHC from the CDC, and receives multiple grants from the LA County Arts, the CA Arts Council and DCA/LA.

Myriam Renée Myriam; Redding

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

I am a seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in social change, equity, inclusion, and advocacy. I leverage my strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills to drive positive change for underserved communities. Throughout my career, I have worked in various settings, from non-profit organizations to educational institutions, consistently demonstrating a commitment to empowering individuals and fostering systemic transformation.

Currently, I serve as a Senior Program Specialist-Equity at the United Way of Northern California, where I champion equity and social justice initiatives. My background also includes extensive experience in student support services, program management, and community engagement.

I am a passionate advocate for under-served populations, including first-generation, low-income, and educationally disadvantaged students. I am fluent in French and possess a strong ability to build relationships and collaborate across cultures.

Catalina Rey; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am an Arts and Culture Manager who has worked in the creation, curation, and execution of cultural policies, programs, and projects that have helped transform and empower diverse communities throughout the Americas. I hold a BA in Literary Studies from the National University of Colombia and studied Copyright Law at the University of Buenos Aires. I have actively engaged in diverse projects that have helped me to deeply understand the Latino community of Los Angeles. My ability to connect with and mobilize communities has been evident through my involvement in initiatives such as LéaLA, the Spanish-language Book Fair of Los Angeles, which I spearheaded from its inception in 2010 until its last edition in large format in 2015. This fair, focused on promoting the Spanish-language book industry in the United States and fostering language appreciation among locals, underscores my commitment to impactful cultural endeavors. Based in Los Angeles, I operate between the United States and Mexico. My current endeavors include serving as a book production manager for a private art gallery in Guadalajara, Mexico, and advising undergraduate students on professional career paths.

Brenda Reynolds; Studio City

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

My thorough grant management experience, combined with a career spanning two decades in

the arts, has equipped me with valuable insights into the dynamics of agency collaboration. My track record in elevating public engagement and securing financial support demonstrates my capacity to foster innovation and growth in the arts.

My strategic approach to historical preservation, particularly my academic work and collaborative efforts with the Shubert Organization in New York, exemplifies my capability to conceive and implement programs that respect heritage while attracting broad audiences.

Finally, my experience in leading large teams and overseeing substantial budgets is indicative of the leadership qualities essential to my Arts Manager role, whether it involves steering complex projects or nurturing team growth. My broad-ranging experience serves as proof of my competence in uniting multiple city departments and fostering successful collaborations, ensuring the effective execution of arts initiatives across the spectrum of the Department of Cultural Affairs' diverse portfolio.

Paula Reynolds; Mount Shasta

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am the former executive director for the Siskiyou Arts Council, and therefore was the SLPP liaison for two years. I also write grants for a local music nonprofit and helped them recently secure the General Operations Grant. I work for a multi-million-dollar nonprofit and submit grants on a weekly basis. I also mentor and train other grant writers and have established a group of 100 grant writers who meet regularly to share ideas and information. I have a certificate in professional fundraising from Boston University and a certificate in planned giving from UC Davis. I also hold an AA degree in Music and am in my third year of a music bachelor's program online. I have experience in supporting artists of every discipline and am highly focused on DEI and multicultural experiences.

Pamela Rhodes; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Pamela combines business and financial management with love and respect for visual arts. Starting as a technical illustrator, directing the AV dept. at Grumman, she graduated from Baruch, BBA, majoring in marketing. A Santa Clara Law graduate she opened and managed a San Francisco law office. Finding litigation frustrating, she transitioned to helping people plan for the future, managing Prospettiva Financial Planning© (CFP®). That office hosts an art gallery; "Spare Change Artist Space" with educational programs focusing on financial topics. She collaborated with California Lawyers for the Arts, presenting educational seminars for artists.

She pursues her own art; portraits of people, places and possessions. She founded and directs the ARTroads Academy©, a for-profit teaching and touring enterprise. Annual workshops in Tuscany provide inspiration, education and international exchange for students and staff. She has taught for the YWCA, Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, Pathways for Kids, Seven Tepees, SF Women Artists, Options Recovery, Stepping Stone, and many others. She designed and presented art classes on Zoom for the SF City Club.

Tori Rice; Lakeside***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Tori Rice is a celebrated San Diego-based playwright, teaching artist, and director known for addressing profound societal issues through her plays. Her notable works, including "Sisters in the System" and "Maybe for a Minute," explore themes from juvenile justice to memory loss and gender transition, employing a mix of realism and magical elements. Rice's collaborations highlight her commitment to storytelling that fosters conversation and empathy. She actively engages in community through teaching, directing, and innovative theater. As a teaching artist with Playwrights Project, she works with diverse groups including incarcerated individuals and those experiencing homelessness. As a proponent of women's and underrepresented voices in theater, Rice's work is characterized by hope, resilience, and humor. With an MFA from Arizona State University, Rice's accolades include participations in the Valdez Theatre Conference and recognition at the William Inge Theatre Festival. A member of multiple theater and education organizations, she co-hosts the "Hey Playwright" podcast, further extending her influence within the arts and cultural communities.

Winifred Richardson; Gardena***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

My name is Winifred Lee Richardson of Gold I Words WR 1 Writing Business, that has been a pillar to the community in which has operated for 5 years. It has been involved in community based events to uplift and encourage people through writing, poetry, Positive Quotes, Brief Speeches and Greetings and Welcomes for Special Events.

Keith Riedell; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Keith Riedell is the Managing Director at Capital Stage in Sacramento. In his 17 years at Capital Stage he grew box office operations and installed two online ticketing and donor systems and has developed sound accounting and financial policies and systems which has led to 9 years of clean financial audits. He has also been part of the teams that oversaw leadership changes as Capital Stage transitioned from a founder-led to a non-founder led organization. He also was part of the team that helped renovate and relocate the theatre from the Delta King Riverboat to the theatre's current home in the heart of Midtown at 2215 J St. He championed the hiring of the first development director, led efforts to provide living wages to the staff and artists, began the apprenticeship program improvement efforts and has been an outspoken voice for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging efforts. Working with the board of directors Mr. Riedell is leading a five-year strategic planning process with Michael Kiser and the DeVos Institute of Arts Management. The plan was completed in the Summer of 2023 and now is being implemented by various board committees.

Mina Rios; Santa Rosa***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Born and raised in San Francisco, Jasmine Rios - Mina by trade, found inspiration in the arts through film, live music, dance, theater, and the culinary experience. During her youth she

played the violin, attended Summer drama workshops with the Performing Arts Workshop (PAW) in SF, and attended the SF School of the Arts High School (now Ruth Asawa). Following her arts training and college pursuit in Journalism and Mass Communication at San Jose State Univ., Rios followed a decade-long career path down Marketing, Advertising, and Public Relations avenues before pursuing Journalism. Rios established her own consulting business Mina Communications in 2007 while residing in San Diego, to help facilitate Advertising, Public Relations, and Marketing service needs in the arts community - and to serve as a voice for the arts through stimulating, under-reported journalism. Media affiliations include: Made Local Magazine, Sonoma Magazine, In Dance, the North Bay Bohemian, the Pacific Sun, the San Diego Reader, Dance International Magazine, Dance For You Magazine, ExploreDance dot com, and others.

Paul Rivas; Granada Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Born in Queens, NY in 1966 to South American immigrants, I received my early education in Catholic schools. In 1976, my family relocated to Ecuador. Settling in Guayaquil, I pursued my secondary education at the Liceo Naval Academy where my interest for art and music ignited. Upon returning to LA, I honed my artistic skills through various classes at SMC, LATTC and Platt College where I cultivated a foundation in visual communication and computer graphics. Today, 30 years later, I stand at the intersection of artistry and innovation, fueled by a relentless pursuit of creativity via art.

Guadulesa Rivera; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have been a practicing artist for more than 40 years. My paintings have been widely exhibited & earned several awards. Works may be found in private collections throughout the USA, including Puerto Rico & St. Croix, as well as in Israel, Mexico & Spain. From 1985-2003, I was an active member of the arts community in Boston, where I headed arts programming at a non-profit. In 1989, I embarked on a creative journey, called Keys of Infinity, with like-minded artists who helped to shape an interdisciplinary, improvisational group of musicians, visual artists, dancers & poets. Throughout my stay on the East Coast, I participated in performances at several venues in Massachusetts & New York City. In 1992, I received an Individual Project Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency funded by the NEA. I was appointed to serve on the Boston Cultural Council from 1997-2003. I returned to California in 2003 & spent 17 years with Adventist Health Glendale, where I managed a Tobacco Control program & incorporated community art workshops to provide another avenue for expression & advocacy. I have been a member of the Arroyo Arts Collective in Los Angeles since 2005.

Jessica Roberts; Encinitas

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I was a community musician worked as a project a coordinator for a great music charity venue, created events , still do, play music, run arts events, was a booking agent a tour manager , and now am an arts supervisor for a city about to open an arts centre.

Reina Robinson; Vallejo

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Reina Robinson, MA, is the Founder and CEO of the Center for Urban Excellence, a certified resilience and mental wellness practitioner, author, and advocate for underrepresented groups. With a focus on digital media literacy, spectrum thinking, and social and economic opportunity development, Reina's work embodies a commitment to fostering hope, healing, and antifragility. She earned her B.A. in Ethnic Studies, Black Studies, and a minor in Genders and Sexualities in Communities of Color, followed by a Master of Arts degree in Communication from California State University, East Bay. Utilizing Afrofuturism, art, and education, Reina shares her experiences to empower and uplift communities.

Valiant Robinson; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I have previously been on the California Arts Council several times in 2020, 2021, 2022. I was a former board member of St. Elmo's Village in Los Angeles Ca., in the 1980's. I have produced Art Shows and Open Mics and Stage Plays in Bakersfield Ca., since 2008. I sponsor local non-profits and community organizations.

Lettie Robles-Tovar; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a disabled hard-of-hearing multimedia trans artist, native plant tender, and Disability Justice cultural worker. Rooted in my commitment to gender justice, Disability Justice, and collective care work, all of my professional and artistic work aims to cultivate change in the arts landscape which has historically excluded disabled and trans communities. Currently, I am the Development and Administrative Associate for Sins Invalid which is a disability justice-based performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and LGBTQ+ artists as communities who have been historically marginalized.

I have previously participated in the Borealis Philanthropy's Disability Inclusion Fund participatory grant-making committee as well as Deaf Spotlight's BIPOC Deaf Arts Grant screening committee, campaigning the artistic endeavors of disabled individuals and D/deaf and hard of hearing communities within the arts.

Nataly Rock; Colfax

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I am an independent artist whose journey through the arts and cultural communities spans continents, cultures, and the many facets of performing arts.

My academic journey in the arts commenced in Turkmenistan (small Asian country by the Caspian sea), where I earned a Master's degree in Performing Art from the Turkmenistan Institute of Culture in 2000.

The early 2000s political and cultural climate in my home region propelled me to immigrate to the USA in 2002. This marked a significant shift, not just in location, but in my life and career trajectory.

In Austin, Texas, I found new opportunities to grow as an artist and leader within the arts community. I dedicated myself to fostering cultural expression and engagement, curating programs that showcased artistic talent and encouraged dialogue among diverse audiences.

The year 2020 marked the beginning of a new chapter as I moved to California. Here, I have produced several shows, drawing upon my extensive experience in performance, direction, and arts management.

I have also dedicated three years as a panelist for art-related grants.

Cris Rodarte; Visalia

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am Cristobal Rodarte, a lifelong steward of creative development, production, and distribution. From my formative years to the present, I've relentlessly pursued my dream, forging a meaningful career along the way. My fervor lies in discovering innovative applications of my skills across diverse industries, from businesses to artists and political campaigns. As the creative landscape continues to evolve, so have I. I firmly believe that one cannot excel by presuming to know it all. My journey, as evident from my CV, has seen me progress from an assistant to a business owner. I thrive on challenges, embracing them fearlessly, and learning from every setback.

Erick Rodriguez; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Erick is an experienced youth mentor 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. As a creative, Erick is also an artist, educator, and champion of the life-changing power of the arts. Erick is passionate about creating equitable access to arts education and is proud to continue using art as a vehicle for learning.

Gilberto Rodriguez; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Gilberto Daniel Rodriguez is a musician and owner of record label Discos Pistolas y Saguaros. He has worked alongside a variety of groups and as a solo artist in the Bay Area and California as a whole. He has spearheaded imaginative musical concepts that have become recordings, videos, physical vinyl records with distribution across the world and press in NPR, Forbes, Vogue and Vice.

Co-eL Rodriguez; Sherman Oaks

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Juan "Co-eL" Rodriguez is a Hip Hop Dance and Performance Artist from Phoenix, Arizona. Co-eL studied dance at Arizona State University where he expanded on Hip Hop Dance training including House, Locking, Breaking among other Hip Hop adjacent based techniques along with training in postmodern contemporary dance and a variety of improvisation based forms including contact improvisation, battling, cyphers and other structure based work.

Co-eL's notable partnerships include Lighting and Production Management for Jumatatu Poe's "Let 'im Move You" series, Passionfruit Dance Company's "Dance Within your Dance Your Dance" and J. Bouey's "Chiron in Leo", Administrative support for CONTRA-TIEMPO as an Operations Manager, and as a performer for choreographers including Raja Feather Kelly's "The Feath3r Theory" and currently, Jacques Heim's "DIAVOLO Architecture in Motion". He has also worked as an educator for several institutions including Dance For a Variable Population, Mark Morris Dance Group and Dancewave as well as holding residencies at several universities and institutions and currently serving as DIAVOLO's Education Programs Director.

Alison Roeske; Yucaipa

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a lifelong learner with a passion for writing and visual arts. I have an MA in English from SUNY Binghamton, as well as certifications in Library Technology and Digitization for Cultural Institutions from Pasadena City College. As an intern, I digitized historic documents for the LA County Public Library. I also volunteered with the LA Arboretum Library before the pandemic. I worked as a supplemental instructor and writing center tutor at Mount San Antonio College for ten years, where I assisted students with drafting and revising papers, and conceptualizing and completing creative presentations with written and visual components. I also helped students put together portfolios and answer essay questions for college applications. My interest in environmentalism led me to earn a UC California Naturalist Certificate in Riverside County in 2023. In addition, I have studied graphic design, art, historic preservation, and horticulture in college courses. In the past, I have written profiles and photographed local community events for freelance writing assignments. I also helped others with researching and applying for grants for community gardening projects.

Denise Rogers; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a Professor of Art History at San Diego Mesa College. I have a B.A. in Visual Arts/Criticism from UCSD; a Masters in Art History from SDSU; and a Ph.D. in Visual Studies with an emphasis in Feminist Studies from UC Irvine. I currently teach courses from Pre-Historic Art through Contemporary art, as well art from Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. I teach African American art at USD and SDSU. I manage the San Diego Mesa College World Art collection, and curate yearly exhibitions. I have also curated exhibitions at the Mesa College Art Gallery, San Diego Public Library – Echoes of Africa (2022), Guardian Spirits (2015), and

assisted in the curation of exhibitions with the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Arts, and the San Diego Museum of Art - Black Life and A Dogon Figure from Mali: Bridge to the Spirit World. I have presented on African American art and the Diaspora locally and at regional conferences.

Melissa Rohlf; San Bruno

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

I have lived in California for 8+ years. I work in Development (fundraising) for a local Community College District, so I understand the nuances of the grantmaking process. I've served my own community of San Bruno as a Culture and Arts Commissioner for 6+ years. It's a volunteer role, but one I take seriously. In this position, I'm able to help the City Council decide how to spend it's limited budget to bring cultural and artistic programming to our community. One of the things that I'm most proud of was successfully lobbying the city council to fund a spruce up of the Community Art Gallery (new lighting!), and also to provide a stipend to the artists selected to exhibit their work in the gallery. This has improved the quality and quantity of candidates. Compensation is also a tangible way of supporting the work of local artists.

Freddi Rokaw; Woodland Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

As a former 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. I have volunteered for organizations such as Burbank Arts for All, Partners in Care, Los Angeles Symphonic Winds, and Burbank Library Writers. I have also been a recurring judge for the Humanitas Prize for many years, and a previous panel reviewer for the California Arts Council Artists in Schools and Creative Youth Development grant applications.

Judy Roldan Roldan; Bellflower

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As the director of marketing and sponsorship for the East LA Mexican Independence Day Parade and Festival for the past 13 years, I have honed my skills and expertise in promoting cultural events, fostering community engagement, and securing sponsorships. My role has allowed me to develop a deep understanding of the intersection between arts, culture, and

community, and I have successfully implemented marketing strategies to elevate the visibility and impact of cultural initiatives.

Throughout my career, I have collaborated with artists, performers, and community organizations to create dynamic and inclusive cultural experiences. I have a proven track record of building partnerships, managing budgets, and executing marketing campaigns that resonate with diverse audiences. My passion for supporting and celebrating cultural diversity drives my commitment to contributing meaningfully to the arts and cultural communities.

With a solid foundation in event management, marketing, and community outreach, I am excited about the opportunity to leverage my qualifications and experiences to continue making a positive impact in the arts and cultural communities.

Gabrielle Romberger; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

I have dedicated my professional career to building relationships between arts organizations and our San Diego communities that help to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion in our vibrant city. In my role at Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park as Studio Education Specialist, I spent two years managing the development, facilitation, and reflection of many grant-funded arts and culture programs. During my time at the New Children's Museum, I was the collaborating artist and, a few years later, the manager of a program called Mass Creativity. Each year the Mass Creativity program consists of complimentary workshops in diverse communities in San Diego and culminates in a free all-day event at the Museum called Mass Creativity Day. In my current role, Arts & Culture Project Manager I oversee the City of San Diego's Arts & Culture grants.

Michael Romero; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As a muralist and visual artist, my work is a vibrant tribute to the diversity and resilience of human spirit. Drawing from my own heritage and experiences from extensive travels, I blend traditional motifs with contemporary themes, creating murals that speak to societal issues and celebrate unity. My art transforms public spaces into canvases of collective expression, fostering dialogue and a sense of community. Recognized for my innovative approach, I've dedicated myself to using art as a tool for social change, aiming to inspire and challenge communities globally. My commitment to community engagement is at the heart of my practice, making every project a collaborative endeavor that reflects our shared narratives and aspirations. Through my art, I strive to create a more inclusive and understanding world, one mural at a time.

Maya Rosales; Whittier

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I have served pre-transition as a Panelist before and feel more strongly in serving a second term or beyond! I enjoyed my time serving the panel and feel more inclined the second time around. The arts will place a special place in my home as a lot has happened in a year,

namely, I am engaged! And my current husband and I are gearing up for babies planning to homeschool. To be an artist previously showcased alongside Ryman Arts as a student artist to a married full time mother. I am engaged, prepared, hopefully welcome for a second term.

Catherine Roscart; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Catherine is a seasoned producer committed to infusing urban landscapes with creativity and culture. With a fervent desire to transform public spaces into dynamic canvases, Catherine brings together a distinct fusion of artistic vision and logistical prowess to every endeavor.

Drawing from her extensive background in public art curation and production, Catherine excels in orchestrating large-scale installations that resonate with diverse communities. From conceptualization to execution, she navigates the intricate process of bringing art to public spaces with finesse and ingenuity.

Catherine's rich portfolio includes roles such as Creative Residency Producer at 72 and Sunny, Producer at the esteemed public art agency Now Art, and Senior Producer at Building 180. Her projects span a wide spectrum, ranging from monumental sculptures and interactive installations to community-driven murals and immersive experiences. Whether collaborating with local artists, city officials, or community stakeholders, Catherine remains steadfast in her dedication to fostering inclusive and impactful art that authentically reflects the spirit and identity of its surroundings.

Montana Rose; Sherman Oaks

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I AM THE FOUNDER OF FILL THE CITY ; MARKETING DESIGN GROUP THAT'S CELEBRATED FOR ITS DISTINCT METHOD OF ACTIVATING SPACES. FROM URBAN PUBLIC SPACES, TO INTERIORS, TO LIVE BRANDED EVENTS, WE'RE DEVOTED TO CREATING A MEMORABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL.

AT THE HELM OF THE COMPANY, FOUNDER MONTANA ROSE HAS DEFINED A HOLISTIC CONTEMPORARY APPROACH TO BOTH STRATEGY AND PROBLEM SOLVING THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL DESIGN. FILL THE CITY SPECIALIZES IN SERVICES WITHIN ART CONSULTING, EXPERIENTIAL DESIGN, SOCIAL MARKETING, AND LIVE EVENTS.

WE ELEVATE SPACES THROUGH

CREATIVE MARKETING. PLACEMAKING. REBRANDING. ART CONSULTING. EXPERIENTIAL ARCHITECTURE. BRAND ACTIVATIONS. EVENTS. ARTIST/INFLUENCER MATCHING SERVICES FOR BRANDS AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS

Rachel Rosekind; El Cerrito

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I believe that art bridges communication and empathy gaps, preserves cultural traditions, reflects individual identities, and creates social belonging. My artistic practice centers the

beauty of individual voice and celebrates the tenacity of the collective human spirit. I teach/mentor/facilitate workshops for people of all ages—in schools, libraries, homes, community centers, and prisons—to help channel their unique visions into authentic and purposeful expression. I've organized arts conferences, led tours of arts exhibits and districts, serve as panelist/judge for arts grants/contests, and edited artistic surveys and biographies. I'm committed to addressing and redressing inequitable access to arts opportunities, education, and exhibition. As part of the National Arts & Justice Collective, I advocate for increased arts programming and partnerships in prisons and impacted communities; as an appointee to two county boards, I make funding recommendations to support expanded arts programming for populations of all ages; and I serve as founding vice chair of the Library Foundation of Contra Costa, an organization explicitly created to bolster programming equity across our branches.

Craig Rosen; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Craig Rosen worked with the Public Interest Video Network in Washington DC where he produced a documentary about PCP, featuring DC go go funk bands that aired on PBS and was used in public schools, funded by the Commission on Public Health. Following that, he produced an AIDS awareness PSA with DC go go and rap music. In film school Rosen produced a narrative short set in the Navajo Nation and a film set amidst the Amish. In LA, he assisted Leila Steinberg, Tupac Shakur's early mentor, with workshops at a group home in Long Beach. At VCAC, he teaches poetry in juvenile hall, manages the Arts & Youth Justice program and produces, 'Teen Centric,' a radio show that airs on an FM station in Ventura. As grant writer, Rosen forges most of VCAC's partnerships which have included, Camp Hope at the Family Justice Center, Kindling Studios representing adult artists with disabilities, MICOP representing the county's indigenous immigrants, Our Town Our Children, the Oxnard Performing Arts Center and Teatro de las Americas, among many others. Rosen has a B.A. in English from George Washington University, an M.F.A., from Columbia University film school.

Joan Rosenberg; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

As the COO of Berkeley Music Group and The UC Theatre, I lead strategic and operational growth for a workforce training program that removes the barriers of entry to a career in the live music & events industry for young people from underrepresented communities. With 19 years in arts management, including roles at Live Nation, AEG, American Conservatory Theatre, and MoAD, I've driven engagement for diverse cultural events and the arts. I'm committed to empowering others and building inclusive communities through the arts. My New York upbringing and Bay Area education have fueled my passion for connecting creators with ways to do social good.

Michelle Roshanzamir; Beverly Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

The core of the work I do as an arts administrator and consultant stemmed not only from my

background as a creative and eventual segway into business, but continually seeing how much creatives and leaders - many of them working in the arts, entertainment, and culture sector - struggle with the business and management side of what they're working on.

I started my own business in 2019 and started working with Donna Sternberg & Dancers in 2022.

Much of the work I do centers around operations, program management, and funding.

J. Ross Ross; Auburn

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

A mother, an educator, and an award-winning recording artist Jamie Ross, aka J. Ross Parrelli, has a passion for bringing creative teaching and cultural equity to the forefront whether in a classroom or on a stage. Raised in Auburn and a graduate of AUSD schools, Ms. Ross received her teaching credential from Long Beach State and has earned her Master's Degree in Policy and Leadership in Education at Mills College. Serving the past three years as a Board Trustee for AUSD, Ross has lead Drama Clubs at our Elementary Schools and Hip Hop Clubs at our Middle Schools.

Ms. Ross founded Beats Lyrics Leaders, an organization that creates confidence and community through cultural arts, music production, and entrepreneurship. She was recent Artist in Resident with the Office of Arts and Culture in Sacramento working in the Oak Park Community Center. J. Ross also teaches Hip Hop Education in Sacramento City Unified School District, Elk Grove, and Twin Rivers School District, with the Any Given Child Program. Recently graduated the Creative Startups City of Sacramento, working on the concept of Creative Economy.

Shary Ross; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I hold a B.A. in Dance from UCLA and have extensive experience in dance as a teacher and performer in educational, community, and professional settings.

I have been an adjudicator for the National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA), a program of the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO). The program awards scholarships to students from diverse communities across the United States.

As an elementary dance instructor for the Los Angeles Unified School District, I created curriculum implementing state standards for the LAUSD Arts Prototype Program, providing arts experiences to students of diverse and underserved communities, and also coached classroom teachers in the use of arts integration across the curriculum.

I taught modern dance, ballet, jazz, improvisation and choreography in the middle school, high school and adult levels for the LA Recreation and Parks Department, and at the Colburn School of Performing Arts.

I have trained with and performed in the dance companies of Bonnie Homsey, Charles Edmondson, Stefan Wenta, Stanley Holden, and Sarah Elgart.

Judy Roth; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

When I lived in Cincinnati, OH, I registered artists for SummerFair and also chaired Hospitality Committee. I also helped determine grants for high school students who were interested in the arts. I volunteered for several years and really enjoyed it.

Ann Marie Rousseau; Newport Beach***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

A.M. Rousseau is a multi-disciplined artist and photographer who has exhibited her work in solo shows in New York, California, Texas, Ohio, and in Europe and Japan. Her work has been published in magazines including Life Magazine, The Photo Review, Art in America, The San Francisco Chronicle, and the New York Times.

She is the recipient of a National Endowment in the Arts Fellowship, The Djerassi Foundation Affymax Fellowship, the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Artist Residency, Yaddo Artist residency, the Virginia Center for the Arts residency, the Manhattan Borough President's Award for Excellence and Service in the Arts, and the Harc Foundation Award.

She received her undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts College of Art and a Master's Degree in Fine art from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY. She also attended the New York Studio School for Painting and Sculpture and the Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture. Her drawings and paintings were exhibited at the Lancaster Museum of Art and History and the Bakersfield Museum. She is currently represented by Scape Gallery in Corona Del Mar, CA., and 515 Gallery, Los Angeles.

Jim Royce; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

With a 55-year career in professional non-profit theatre, I've been in leadership position as Director of Marketing, Communications, and Sales for Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles ('96-'14), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, A.C.T., and Berkeley Rep.

Since 2014, I've worked with many arts organizations as a consultant in arts management. Clients included Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Valley Performing Arts Center, Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago, Lewis Family Playhouse in Rancho Cucamonga, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington DC, China HuaTeng Film and TV Culture (USA and China), East West Players and Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in LA., among others.

Over the past 30 years, I've served on panels for grant-making and service organizations: Theatre Philadelphia, Theatre Bay Area, Philadelphia Culture Fund, California Arts Council, Doris Duke Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, and others.

I've frequently presented at arts and marketing conferences: Arts Reach, The Broadway League, Tessitura Network, League of American Orchestras, Americans for the Arts, and others.

Douglas Rubel; Mt Shasta***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

As a member of the toy industry, I've created magnetic games such as 3-dimensional Tic-tac-toe and Polarity that explored the point at which play and this force intersect for fun.

I also designed and produced a line of water toys called Subbugs that incorporated random motion in their movement that was carried by Target and other retailers. Lately, I've been involved in creating timeless time sculptures from manzanita that grows on the sides of Mt Shasta, opening a center in Mt Shasta to display them.

Maestra Yajaira Rubio Machado; Vallejo***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Maestra Yajaira, the visionary behind Moon Azteca Dance and Art School, hails from Mocorito, Sinaloa, Mexico, where her family's legacy in music and arts began. Since the age of four, she has immersed herself in traditional Mexican folklore dance, laying the foundation for a lifelong commitment to cultural preservation.

With four certifications in dance arts and cultural enrichment from various regions of Mexico, Maestra Yajaira continues to deepen her expertise. Having completed her certification in indigenous pre-Hispanic dance and holding credentials in early childhood education, she strives to enrich her understanding and pedagogical approach.

Beyond her role as a cultural steward, Maestra Yajaira is an active community advocate, serving on multiple boards such as the Solano Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and collaborating with the Vallejo Sister City Association. Her dedication to fostering global connections and preserving Mexico's cultural heritage shines brightly in all her endeavors.

Elissa Russell; San Diego***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Elissa Russell (she/her) has worked as a teaching artist, director, and theatre administrator for over a decade. Prior to joining San Diego Junior Theatre as Education Director, she spent 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.

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 Oakland's artists collectives, deepening my community ties and furthering my creative processes.

Over the past 2 years I've renewed and nurtured my purpose through music education, becoming a high school teacher in San Francisco. I now share my joy for music with brilliant young students, fostering creativity, collaboration and appreciation for the arts.

Zuzka Sabata; Eureka***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

2023 - Board President of Creative Sanctuary, Arcata Ca.;

2019-2022 Artistic Director "The Bartow Project" at Dell'Arte International in collaboration with the Wiyot Tribe;

2015-2019 co-founder and program administrator of the first theatre program at Pelican Bay State Prison;

2009-2020 faculty, resident artist & community-based programs director at Dell'Arte International;

AKILAH SALAAM; Downtown Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am an artist in my low income minority community of skid row. I have lived in exp with the community in regards to poverty and music I identify with other lower income minority. I have listen and participated in community boards that have made effective changes

Jillian Sandell; Joshua Tree***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am a new artist, starting in 2016 at the age of 50 (after a 20-year career as an academic/teacher). As a former professor/teacher, I have experience working on committees reviewing applications, and I have some experience as a new artist applying for grants and residencies. I have the time and skills to review grant applications. Last year I received two small grants (one from CCI and one from Arts Connection), which enabled me to attend a conference. I was very grateful and am eager to pay it forward by serving my community and supporting other artists applying for grants.

Ari Saperstein; Glendale***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Ari Saperstein is a multimedia journalist and storyteller based in Los Angeles. He is the project director for the KCRW x LA Radio Club Mentorship Program. His career has mostly been in audio, working for companies like This American Life, Serial, Pineapple Street Studios and KPCC/LAist. Ari is the creator and host of the award-winning documentary podcast Blind Landing. The series was named one of The Atlantic's Best Podcasts of 2021 and has been honored by the Webby's, AIPS, Gracies and Ambie Awards. As a visual artist, Ari's illustrations has been published in outlets like The New Yorker and The Boston Globe.

Susan Sarinas; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I have been employed by ACC Senior Services (ACC) since May 2009. ACC is a non-profit whose mission is to promote the general welfare and enhance the quality of life for our community by identifying, developing and providing culturally sensitive health and social services for older adults. During my time at ACC, I have participated in many grant-funded programs and I assisted with grant writing and reporting. Those programs included utilities assistance and the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Dementia Care Network. From 2013 to 2021, I was Program Manager for the Lifelong Learning and Wellness Program. In this role, I oversaw the scheduling of classes and instructors. Because the majority of our participants were Japanese and Chinese seniors, I insured that Asian arts and cultural classes were a priority. Among the classes we offered were ikebana, hula, nihon buyo, taiko, ukulele, Chinese calligraphy, Asian languages and Asian cooking demonstrations. In addition, we had social clubs for Chinese singing, tai chi, and mahjong. Although I retired at the end of 2021, I am currently an on-call employee assisting in grant research and writing.

Greg Savage; Escalon***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

I was born and raised in the inner-city of Buffalo, NY. I served as a police officer for three years in Buffalo, but was laid off due to budget cuts. I joined the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged after serving four years. Sankofa Theatre Company is the first African American theater company in Modesto, Ca and is currently the only African American theater company in the central valley. We have been in existence for for eleven years and I am one of four co-founders. I am also a Baptist preacher, who teaches and preaches the Word of God.

Shi Scales; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Dance***

Innovative executive officer equipped with natural talents and proven business acumen. Excellent strategic planning skills to implement positive changes to achieve sustainability and growth. Specializes in talent-driven operations, business

management, artist development, and youth mentorship. My expertise is dance and choreography. My highest level of education = M.A. in non profit leadership and management.

Davia Schendel; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Davia Schendel is a writer, musician and filmmaker Born and raised in San Francisco, CA, Davia grew up in a vibrant community of artists, activists and scholars. A love for writing stories and lyrics in her childhood turned into a frequent practice, inspiring her to delve into the craft of songwriting and dramatic writing in her teens. During her undergraduate years at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, she immersed herself in the craft of storytelling by ways of studying acting, playwriting and directing. At the culmination of her undergraduate studies, she wrote, directed and produced *Beatniks*, a musical based on the female beat poets of the 1960s. The show had its debut at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in 2018. During her Master's program at Gallatin, she studied creative writing, sound mixing, film and theater history, as well as popular culture through the feminist lens. After successfully embarking on her first US tour in 2022, she is currently working on a full length album, scoring the short film *Arden*, and developing theatrical projects for the upcoming year.

Sami Schilf; Riverside

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Sami Schilf is an arts administrator, researcher, and multidisciplinary artist from San Francisco, CA. Since 2010, she has collaborated with arts and cultural organizations, academic institutions, researchers, and NGOs to champion the development, dissemination, and evaluation of community-based initiatives at the intersection of the arts and public health. Sami holds a B.A. in Psychology and Holistic Health from San Francisco State, studied Digital Media Communications at UC Berkeley, and has a decade of experience leading evaluative research and communications strategy at UC San Francisco.

William Schinsky; Indio

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

Visual Arts Program Director, Southern Arts Federation Atlanta, Curator, Atlanta International Museum of Design, Partner, Curators Forum Charlotte, NC, Founder, Coachella Valley Art Center, Indio, CA, Curator, Rancho Mirage Festival of the Arts, Chief Curator, CV Art Programs, Coachella Valley CA. Panel member, Visual Arts Program, National Endowment for the Arts, Panel Member, Veterans in the Arts, California Arts Council.

Kathryn Schulmeister; San Gabriel

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Praised for her "expressive and captivating performance", bassist Kathryn Schulmeister brings radiant energy to her creative musical practice ranging from classical to experimental.

Kathryn is a member of several contemporary music ensembles including the renowned Australian ELISION Ensemble, Fonema Consort (NYC), and the Echoi Ensemble (LA). She has performed as a guest artist with various adventurous international ensembles such as Klangforum Wien, Ensemble MusikFabrik, Delirium Musicum, Ensemble Dal Niente, and Ensemble Vertixe Sonora.

Kathryn received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Contemporary Music Performance from the University of California San Diego, Master of Music degree from McGill University, and Bachelor of Music degree from the New England Conservatory of Music.

In Fall 2023, Kathryn joined the faculty of the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music as Assistant Professor of Practice in String Bass.

Luisa Schultz; Poway

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am an educator and professional for the past thirty years spanning the fields of interior, architecture, visual arts, music and traditional languages. I worked and lived overseas, in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Armenia. These opportunities enriched my experiences with the diverse cultures and people in my field of expertise as well as with the larger communities.

I was the first female AIA president of the Middle East chapter and was able to design and LEED certify the first Library building in Saudi Arabia at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology. While there I served as the lead creative design director for Aramco facilities and executive training. I was an invited lecturer at the University of Bahrain and later at the American University of Armenia.

More recently I served as the Director of the undergraduate program at NewSchool of architecture and Design and was named in eVOLO publications and design competitions.

Currently, I am an adjunct at the Design Institute and program coordinator at the Southwestern College, both in San Diego.

Sondra Schwetman; Arcata

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Schwetman a fourth generation Texan transplanted to Humboldt County and has been teaching sculpture at Cal Poly Humboldt for the last 20 years. Her BFA is from the University of Texas at Austin and her MFA is from the University of Houston. She has been creating work to generate dialogue about women's issues for twenty-five years. She exhibits nationally and internationally.

There are two major bodies of work she generates: one is based on three-dimensional clothing construction, the other is allegorical figurative work. Both bodies of work display their own poetry.

Working with materials such as: Forton MG resin, fibers, bronze found object, etc. She feels that processing knowledge in as many mediums as possible is necessary so that one can achieve a “vision” that is a basis of communication. It is her desire to start dialogue about women’s issues, cultural change and contemporary miasma.

She has been teaching sculpture for 30 years to a variety of ages and skill levels and likes to see success for her students and community. She has served as a juror for many exhibitions and a grants evaluator for the state of Kansas.

Brody Scotland; San Leandro

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have worked for the Burning Man Project in the art department for 13 years. We grant \$1.3 million a year to artists, and I both help administer that program and am on the grant committee.

In addition to my work with Burning Man, I am Vice-Chair of the San Leandro Arts, Culture and Library Commission. We administer a biennial arts and culture grant, and I was on the sub-committee to completely revamp that grant process to increase accessibility to that grant process for our community. I created and produced a San Leandro Arts and Culture Survey, in order to find and bring together the creatives living in our city.

I also served as a juror for Esalen's Artist-in-Residence program in 2021.

Ali Scott; El Cerrito

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I stepped into the Program Manager role at QCC in December 2022. After graduating with a BFA from the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago, I moved to the Bay Area in 2013 to begin my gay adulthood. I have over 10 years of experience in event production running the gamut from art curation to queer nightlife. My most recent work adventures include throwing parties with the Ships in the Night crew (the longest running queer dance party + social justice benefit in the Bay), serving as secretary on the St James Infirmary Board of Directors (a peer-based occupational health & safety clinic for sex workers), participating in a queer cabin collective that recently rematriated the land & its deed to Sogorea Te' Land Trust, and creating leather commissions for the QTBIPOC kink community. My passions include reparations, harm reduction, and dogs.

Cristie Scott; Idyllwild

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Cristie Scott is an arts administrator, educator and exhibition specialist with over a decade of experience with nonprofits, public, private and educational institutions. Since 2018, Cristie has managed all exhibits and events of Parks Exhibition Center, the campus gallery for the Idyllwild Arts Academy and Summer program, and is faculty and Assistant Chair to the Visual Arts Department. Cristie hails from Durango, CO where

she served as Executive Director to the Durango Arts Center, a decades-old visual and performing arts hub that is housed in a converted car dealership. She has served and chaired numerous boards and special cultural planning committees, including: City of Durango's Public Art Commission; Durango Area Tourism Office board of directors; Durango Arts Center board of directors; and most recently, the Idyllwild Community Fund's Advisory Board providing grants to nonprofits in the small mountaintop community she currently resides. Cristie holds a BA in studio art (University of Puget Sound) and MA in visual arts administration, with a concentration in nonprofit management (New York University-Steinhardt).

Micha Scott; Aptos

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Micha Scott is a professional dancer, teacher and choreographer who has performed on stages around the world as a 13-year senior member with the renowned Garth Fagan Dance. Moving to Santa Cruz in 2008, Ms. Scott is an advocate for the Black youth dance community. As Executive & Artistic Director at Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center, 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 Board of the Black Health Matters Initiative and grants panel at the Arts Council Santa Cruz. In 2022 Ms. Scott started the Deep Roots Dance Fest, bringing to the Santa Cruz stage artists of the African Diaspora to perform original contemporary dances rooted in their traditional forms. In 2023 she traveled to Congo to perform a solo and train dancers at the Tokomi Festival in Brazzaville. As a mixed-race Black woman Ms. Scott is deeply committed to advocating for equity in the arts, including access to funding, professional development, and artistic exposure.

Sherri Scott; Solana Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

After immersing herself in the action sports design world for several years, Sherri Scott is now embarking on an exciting artistic adventure. Driven by a deep passion for the arts, she enjoys experimenting with various traditional and contemporary media in her paintings. Inspired by her exploration of the outdoors, she finds inspiration in both the picturesque landscapes and captivating elements of land and sea. A versatile artist and designer, with a strong background in designing for brands including her own successful apparel line, she brings a unique perspective to her designs. Her technical design skills and creative vision blend seamlessly to create her work. Today her deep appreciation shines through in her artwork, she continues to push boundaries and explore new artistic horizons. She spends time painting between two cities [solana beach] and [yucca valley]. The influence of these locations inspires her artwork in land + sea + desert + horizons.

Maryam Sedadi; Aliso Viejo

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I immigrated to US in 1978 from Iran. As a young girl, I always loved drawing and painting but did not start back my artistic journey until about 6-7 years ago. I am self-taught paper collage artist and first supporting artist at The Art Spread. I have participated at many art calls at various city halls and in group exhibitions at Gong Gallery in Newport Beach & Laguna Beach. I volunteer at multiple organizations. I have also coordinated and managed artists group participation at International Festivals at SOKA university.

Joey Serricchio; La Crescenta

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have previously served as a grant panelist reviewer two other times for the CAC. The first time was to review individual artist grants and the second was for organizations. Personally I create art myself and work to participate in the art world through exhibitions and community engagement. I have grown up in Los Angeles, and I appreciate and adore the community of artists present here. I studied fine art in college and that has also helped build a framework for considering art that has helped in previous grant reviews. I would love to participate in this review and consider another batch of applicants and do my part in helping lift up the art community here in Los Angeles.

Farah Shaikh; Menlo Park

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Farah Yasmeeen Shaikh is an internationally acclaimed Kathak artist - performer, choreographer and instructor, and Founder/Artistic Director of Noorani Dance. Known for her evocative storytelling, technical precision, delicacy and grace, Farah received two decades of training from Pandit Chitresh Das, and has gone on to develop a unique artistic voice, while also maintaining the classical elements of Kathak. Farah's solo performances and choreography on Noorani Dance Company, often address topics of historical and social relevance, evident in her traditional and innovative works. Farah hosts a podcast, Heartistry Talk Show, is a TEDx speaker, an Arts Commissioner for San Mateo County, and a public speaker on various topics related to art and activism. Grants and awards include NEA, Walter & Elise Haas Fund, New England Foundation for the Arts, Gerbode Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, CAC, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and others. Since 2015, Farah has been performing and teaching throughout Pakistan, and is now a sought after presence and contributor to the cultural arts landscape in Pakistan, and around the globe.

Ria Sharma; Saratoga

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Artist Statement My Cubist artworks are an offshoot of my Civil Engineering background . "My block by block constructed subjects melts to a fluid state as if in trance" Subjects

seem to be driven by Eternal Dance, Soulful music and faith. Invisible but elements like Wind, momentum or gravity keep my subject dynamic at a higher conscious level!

About: Ria Sharma is a US based multi award winning Artist, Photographer and art teacher. After fulfilling a 16 year career in construction as a civil engineer, she accidentally found herself in the middle of paints & brushes in 2016. With a desire to bring out goodness to society she practices her art. Her passion grew into photography in 2019, She studied photography online. She received three distinctions and 20 plus awards.

She had 8 Solo Shows. More than 50 international / group exhibitions. Her typical style of Cubism is covered by many leading newspapers internationally.

Shawn Shaw; Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state

Non profit organizations cooperation

Peyton Sheets; Fresno

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I was the Program Director of SVS Tower Arts Center & Studio in Fresno's Tower District and hosted monthly ArtHop events for four years. The program I ran was focused on promoting community inclusion and integration for our clients with developmental and intellectual disabilities through art and community; I'm passionate about mental health and art in equal measure. I was also a volunteer coordinator for Tower Porchfest 2023 and have helped several local organizations with their graphic design needs. I feel that art can bring people together and I have spent the better part of my life trying to help others. Thank you for your consideration.

Theresa Shellcroft; Victorville

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I began my art career at the age of 8 years by being involved in our local community art programs including dance, instruments, (piano and flute), and the visual arts. My major study from Junior High School through undergraduate and graduate college education has been the Visual Arts and art history. I hold the Bachelor of Science in Arts Education, Masters Degree in Art, post graduate courses in Art History. Along with these credentials, I hold the Single Subject, Art K-12, Multiple Subject, K-8 (California). I hold the lifetime Community College Credential in the Visual Arts, African American History and Child Development. I am also a trained Montessori Teacher. Currently teaching at the college level with over 50 years in education, all levels. I conduct community summer art programs as well as conduct art and family together art projects. My works are in both private and professional collections, including the Smithsonian, Afro American Art Museum, Ohio, and the Huntington Museum of Art, West Virginia. My works have shown in galleries and exhibitions around the US.

Stephanie Shepherd; Monterey

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

With experience supporting arts and culture government and nonprofit organizations, I specialize in program development, fundraising, grant writing and communications, editing, and implementation of campaigns. Currently, I am an Independent Contractor, specializing in these areas.

From 9/2013-9/2022, I served as the Senior Advancement Officer: Grants, Publications, and Campaigns at the Monterey Museum of Art (MMA). At MMA, I managed and wrote grants, created and served as project manager/chief editor/contributing writer for MMA's "Musings" newsletter, and was project manager/chief editor/writer for the Museum's Annual Reports. There, I also developed surveys for evaluation and reporting, and strategized and implemented Annual Appeal campaigns and Monterey County Gives! annual fundraising campaigns.

Prior to my time at MMA, I was the Director of Education for the Monterey History and Art Association, and an Arts Educator for the City of Monterey and the City of San Jose. My education includes a BA in Art History and Visual Culture, and my volunteer experience includes four years as a grants and awards panelist for the Arts Council for Monterey County.

Sondra Sherman Sherman; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Sondra Sherman is Professor of Art, Teaching in applied arts field of Jewellery and Metal work and foundational studies of three-dimensional design. She received her MFA from the Academy of Fine Art, Munich GERMANY, and her BFA from Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA.

She has been the recipient of many awards including Individual Artist Fellowships from the Rhode Island Council on the Arts (2002, 2005) Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation (2001), Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (1990) the Mid-Atlantic Regional National Endowment for the Arts (1989) as well as a Fulbright Scholarship for Study Abroad (1988).

Sherman's artwork is included in the following public collections: the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, the Museum of Arts and Design, NY, the Racine Art Museum, WI, the Renwick Gallery-National Museum of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution, DC and Rhode Island School of Design Museum, RI, and the City Museum of Turnov, Czech Republic.

Her work has been exhibited and published in Europe and the U.S.

Ada Shido; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As an artist, a Youth Commissioner for the SD County's Arts and Culture Commission, a

RISE Urban Leadership Fellow, the People & Culture Coordinator at A Reason To Survive (ARTS), and SD County's Youth Sector Lead for California Jobs First, I harness my experiences to champion accessibility and support for the arts.

Through my artistic practice, I've discovered that art serves not only as a powerful tool for self-reflection, but also as a catalyst for unity which sparks conversations about our roles in creating impactful change. Through the Commission, I work with art advocates to create an arts landscape that reflects the richness of our cultural heritage. Through RISE, I've embraced the power of dialogue in fostering individual and community healing. My work at ARTS, a non-profit art organization, deepens my understanding of artists' needs. Here, I've also facilitated socio-emotional art activities and created a summer program that directly impacted 60+ local youth.

My journey underscores my dedication to advancing the intersection of art, politics, and community. I'm eager to bring my unique perspective to this opportunity, where I am confident I can make a meaningful impact.

Sarah Shockley; Fairfax

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

MBA, International Finance, AA, Fine Arts

Current: ED, Healing Muses, an Oakland-based grassroots nonprofit that sends harpers out to play therapeutic music for patients in cancer wards & children in palliative care. I handle fundraising, grant writing, overall organizational management.

Co-Chair Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble Board, a women's vocal group specializing in Medieval & Renaissance music, a 501(c)3 based in Berkeley. I write grants, do publicity, help manage operations (we do not have an ED, so the board acts as one), oversee hiring of personnel, budgets

In the past I have been Contract & Grants Administrator for Lawrence Berkeley Lab overseeing large government grants & budgets & compliance for the Physics Division. I have worked in several different capacities for San Francisco Early Music Society over the years as large donor liaison, volunteer coordinator, registrar for concerts, etc. As an individual artist, I wrote & received more than a half dozen grants to produce & direct a documentary video on disabled dance which subsequently won numerous major film festival awards. I currently perform as a singer with a number of choral groups & am an exhibiting artist.

Anthony Sigala; Brawley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a visual artist, Illustrator/Designer. I grew up in Imperial County and graduated from Art Center College of Design on a scholarship after serving in the United States Navy. I've created art works for Disney, Mattel Toys, Reebok and various publications. My career took me to into education first as an art instructor then as a Supervisor of Correctional Education for the Ca Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. I am a

strong believer art and education can transform lives. Currently, as an Illustrator/Designer I'm working on social justice visual arts campaigns for underrepresented communities in San Diego and Imperial County. I have experienced and researched these communities which has given me the resources to create impactful visuals. I believe my life long experiences have made me a better visual communicator as well as supporter of education and the arts.

Juan Silverio; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Juan Silverio is a queer/trans femme of Zapotec descent visual artist and arts administrator living and working in Tongva-Gabrielino land (Los Angeles). Juan joined LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions) in 2019 as an apprentice, and now runs all exhibitions, programming and operations. They are invested in championing and building community with artists, curators, creatives and cultural workers from LGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, and communities of color across Los Angeles and beyond.

Juan has held curatorial assistant and apprentice positions at 18th Street Arts Center, LACE, UCSB Special Collections Library, and the Getty Research Institute. In 2022, they were an All Paper Seminar inaugural fellow at the Benton Museum (Claremont, CA), and co-edited the LACE publication for CAVERNOUS: Young Joon Kwak and Mutant Salon (2018). In 2023, they joined the National Performance Network (NPN) Board of Directors and was awarded a fellowship at the National Association of Latino Arts & Culture (NALAC) Leadership Institute. Juan holds BA degrees in Book Arts and Chicana/o Studies from the College of Creative Studies and University of California, Santa Barbara.

Paul Simmons; Lotus

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I have been active in the arts for the past 40+ years and have a number of qualifications:

- * Masters Degree in Music from CSU Sacramento, Summa Cum Laude.
- * Degrees in Education and music, and programs in healthcare and association management

I have played professionally with symphony orchestras, wind ensembles, rock, jazz and funk bands, musical theatre. I have also studied dance and theatre in college and so have a good understanding of the various genres.

I have served on the boards or committees of a number of organizations including:

Friends of the Sacramento Public Library

WEAVE (Women Escaping A Violent Environment)

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of California

Camellia Symphony Association

I have worked in the nonprofit sector for more than 30 years, and so understand the workings of associations and foundations.

Overall, I have been immersed in similar organizations for most of my professional life.

I look forward to working with CAC to support great arts of all kinds.

Tomi Simmons; Huntington Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

My name is Tomi Simmons and in 2021 I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a minor in Communications. In 2020-2021 I was in the position at Americorps Vista with a non-profit called Steps to End Poverty of McPherson County. My primary priorities were to create communication strategies, write grants and fundraise. .

In 2022 I transferred to Kim Joyce and Associates where I have learned how to successfully receive foundation, corporate, city, and state grant money. Additionally, I have written letters of intent and reports for my clients (non-profits). I have also created board reports for clients. In 2022 I volunteered to review state grants for the Arizona state department.

In 2023 I moved to California where I found the position at Irvine Public Schools Foundation as a development coordinator. I am very passionate about uplifting communities through arts and have personal experience with that through my slam poetry. I organize Orange Counties' only poetry slam. Additionally, I am very familiar with arts organizations and grant writing.

Earl Simms; Hayward

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Earl Simms is the Executive Director of Restorative Community Solutions, which centers healing divided communities through individual, group and community coaching. Earl grew up in Los Angeles, and paroled to Oakland after serving 22 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He works to battle the disease of violence a disease that he had himself, and that has designed him to be effective in connecting and empowering others who are also battling violence. Earl has worked in the non-profit sector since his release, ranging from a Health Navigator with Roots Community Health Center, Intensive Life Coach with Oakland Unite while at Roots, and Bay Area Regional Director for Timelist Group, a housing provider. In addition, Earl is a member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), a senior consultant with the Bright Research Group, sat on the Formerly Incarcerated Advisory Board (FIA) for the San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon. Earl is dedicated to lifting up the voices of the community and those who are impacted by justice involvement. Earl is a certified Community Care Coach.

Jules Simons; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre***

Jules (she/her/hers) has a background in playwrighting and production management and is currently at Marin Theatre Company as the Box Office Manager. She is a New Orleans native, though she spent the last five years at Ohio University, from which she holds a BA in Theater and a Master of Art Administration with area specialization in Theater and Production Management. She found a new passion for disability advocacy within the performing arts after serving with AmeriCorps at Easter Seals Wisconsin Respite Camp in 2021. Jules is also a Teaching Artist with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival in their Shakespeare's Heartbeat program which uses the Hunter Heartbeat Method developed by Kelly Hunter of Flute Theatre, utilizing the iambic pentameter (heartbeat rhythm) of Shakespeare's words and the physicality of his characters to engage with students on the autism spectrum.

Zia Sinclair; San Diego***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

My name is Zia Sinclair, and my pronouns are "she/her". I work in the arts and culture nonprofit sector where I have gained invaluable experience in community building, digital marketing, and fundraising. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work with diverse groups of people and collaborate with teams on projects that promote cultural diversity and inclusivity. Currently, I am the Development Manager for Pacific Arts Movement, presenters of the San Diego Asian Film Festival.

As a visual artist, I've had the privilege of exhibiting work at various galleries, such as the San Diego Art Institute, the Oceanside Museum of Art, Bread and Salt and La Bodega Gallery.

I truly believe that arts and culture are essential in fostering growth, creating economic opportunities, and strengthening communities. As a person of color, I deeply believe that art has the power to drive social change. It can be a powerful medium for expressing emotions, voicing opinions, and creating conversations that contribute positively to community development. I am committed to building connections, and making meaningful contributions to the communities that I engage with.

Priyanka Singh; Fresno***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I've an academic background in the social sciences. I studied sociology for my undergrad and international development for my master's. I've then switched to work in communications and tech, but have continued to work with my social science training as the foundation. I participate in making art through poetry and graphic design. As an avid language learner, I also partake in the art of studying cultures through languages.

Aisha Singleton; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Aisha Singleton is a BIPOC, Disabled, Boston native. Currently, LA based, Soho House

Fellow & Unicef Next Gen Visual Storyteller specializing in conceptual fine art and documentary photography. Her deep sense of joy in the human spirit is evident in these various forms. Inspired by a spiritual connection to the natural world, her most recent tableau/project, Earth, Wind & Fire offers a critical lens of natural disasters as embodied in the divine feminine, and her deep love of music is showcased by her dynamic and visceral live music photography.

Her fine art photography series Duplicity in Roots was recently apart of the Illuminate LA's Collective Memory juried exhibition at Grand Park.

Aisha's first love is cinematography. Her short film, Ghost Bae, an homage to Golden era Hollywood actors Anna May Wong & James Dean just screened at HollyShorts for the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge.

She aims to amplify diverse voices across cultures and abilities.

Gwen Sliger; La Verne

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I am a soloist and have been a musician since I was a young girl. I have performed as a singer, actress, and speaker for many years. My museum affiliations include LBMA as a docent and board member. I served as an officer on the Docent Council and the Docent Council representative on the Museum Board. I was a docent at DMA and taught for the Go Van Gogh program in the schools. In New Hampshire, I served as chairperson of a juried art show for the local high school. I have taught art, music, and many other disciplines in public and private schools. My fiancé and I are members of the Huntington and are frequent visitors and patrons of many museums.

Anne Smith; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

In a varied career I've been fortunate enough to work locally, national, and internationally as an arts executive, policy influencer, communicator, writer, consultant and professor in arts and arts management. Also, I have applied extensive collaborative experience to peer panel and other grant making administrative work at the state and local arts agency level, including the California Arts Council. I'm a proven experienced arts executive as a member, Vice President and President of various sized arts organizational non profit Boards of Directors.

. I have in place extensive global strategic networks as a practitioner, grants panelist, program manager, auditor, researcher, educator or consultant for arts organizations and agencies.

Jacqui Smith; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Illustrator Jacqui C. Smith passionately showcases the diverse beauty of women of color through her unique artwork. As a graduate of Columbia College of Chicago in Traditional Animation, her focus includes children's book illustrations, animation, and

artwork for companies such as Scholastic UK, Harlequin, and Penguin Books Australia. Notable projects include crafting murals for 60 Walmarts in 27 states with an emphasis on community and diverse representation. Jacqui also sat on the Burbank Airport Art Selection Advisory Panel and authored "Know Yourself: A Coloring Book for Girls (& Women)."

In addition to designing the "Beautiful Skin" beer can for Brewery Beer Company, she organized donations to the Glendale/Pasadena YWCA and a marketplace for local women of color-owned businesses. She also founded the Brewery Art Festival in 2017 to support local artists. Jacqui's art, featured in LA Weekly and the hit tv show All American, addresses the need for better treatment and representation of women of color with an aim to inspire change.

Kara Smith; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Kara Q. Smith is an arts professional with over 16 years of experience working for museums, galleries and non-profit institutions in California and beyond. She is passionate about advancing equity and accessibility in the arts, championing the role of arts and cultural organizations in our communities, and advocating for art as a driver of social change and mutual understanding. Kara currently holds the position of manager of programs and organizational advancement for Californians for the Arts to advance support for and awareness of the state's creative workforce and economy. She previously served as the executive director of Gallup MainStreet Arts & Cultural District in Gallup, NM, where she developed programs to support artists/entrepreneurs in the downtown district and drove creative economic development strategies through placemaking projects and cross-sector partnerships. She has curated exhibitions, spoken at art fairs and symposiums, officiated workshops and lectures, and written for numerous publications—most often focusing on the intersections of contemporary art, the built environment, and queer identity.

Marva Smith; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Marva Smith of Marva Smith Consulting d/b/a, a boutique consultancy specializing in nonprofit development and strategic planning. Her career spans 35 years in project management, grant writing, program evaluation, and community engagement. She began her career as an aide to Maxine Waters in the CA State Assembly and the House of Representatives. Smith has an extensive background in community organizing and youth workforce development.

Marva Smith is a powerhouse vocalist and an actress. She has appeared in more than fifteen stage plays. She recently released new music available on all digital platforms and has several projects in development.

Marva studied business and organizational management at Mills College and Antioch University, Los Angeles, and possesses certifications in Community Building, Data Analysis, Nonprofit Management, Nonprofit Financial Essentials, Grant Writing, Case Management, and Group Facilitation. She is a certified CA Notary Public.

She lives and works in the heart of Los Angeles' Black Arts District, Leimert Park, CA. Marva Smith is an Officer and board member of Cakecutter Institute, an arts organization serving communities of color

Rachel Smith; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Rachel May (Ray) Smith is on a mission to change the arts sector from the outside in, making it stronger and more equitable for everyone. She has over 15 years experience in the arts and nonprofits leading administration and programming and creating engaging experiences with the arts for a wide variety of audiences. Ray has published pieces on art education with Art Education: The Journal of the National Art Education Association and Zócalo Public Square. Previously the director of the Corita Art Center and the manager of New Frontier Public Programs at the Sundance Institute in Los Angeles, Ray currently leads the only systemwide arts initiative at the nation's largest public higher education institution, The California State University. She has served as a grant panelist for the California Arts Council and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

Stacey Smith; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am the Founder/Principal of SKS Consulting, a woman-owned consulting agency that helps nonprofits and other social impact agencies successfully navigate growth and change while staying true to the heart of their missions. I specialize in board development, strategic planning, evaluation, fundraising, volunteer and community engagement. My 25+ 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, an arts education organization, and an artist/community partnership. I've partnered with organizations serving youth, adults and children with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, seniors, the unhoused, low-income, at-risk, and other historically underrepresented communities.

I'm a life-long volunteer who champions cross-sector collaboration and social impact partnerships, such as through my work with the Oakland Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Committee. My company, SKS Consulting proudly gives back time and money to communities where it does business through its social impact program.

Kevin Smith-Fagan; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Since 2020 I've serve as executive director of Fairytale Town in Sacramento, which

fosters imagination and creativity in young children through a variety of arts programs. Before that, I worked for 15 years as a senior executive at the PBS station in Sacramento, where I learned a great deal about media arts. I am an amateur musician.

Sara Solaimani; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Sara Solaimani is a doctoral candidate in Art History, Theory, and Criticism at UCSD's Visual Arts Dept. Her research focuses on the work of performance artists of Mexican roots in the US between 1968 and 1994. Sara's work highlights artistic interrogations borders that deconstruct our understanding of space in the age of global capital, and identifies critical questions about identity in a compartmentalized world. In particular, she is interested in using her writing to distinguish the often conflated histories of Chicana Performance Art of the 1960s and '70s, and Border Art in the 1980s and '90s. Sara's advocacy work includes translation and interpretation for political asylum-seekers and survivors of domestic violence detained in private immigration prisons. In 2011, she graduated from the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at SDSU, with a MA thesis on the multidimensional questioning of transborder space by artist Marcos Ramírez ERRE. She has published and presented texts and curated exhibitions on the historical relationship between geopolitics and art on the TJ-SD border and in Mexico. Sara teaches art history and Chicana Studies at SDCCD and the CSUs.

Gabrielle Solano; Hayward

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Born and raised in Western Massachusetts, I moved to the East Bay area in 2017. After completing my general education requirements at Chabot College in Hayward, I transferred to UC Berkeley and graduated with a B.S. in English Literature in the Spring of 2023. In the fall of 2023, I accepted a position at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco as the Institutional Partnerships Associate. In my role, I work with our corporate, foundation, and government partners to secure funding for exhibitions, programs, and general operating at the museum.

Marcelo Solis; Lafayette

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Born in Argentina, I've been entwined with Tango for 40 years, cherishing its dance, music, and culture, notably the Golden Era. A devoted dancer, choreographer, and instructor, I'm a milonguero at heart, emphasizing musicality, connection, and Tango's social values in my teaching. I inspire students to improvise and imbibe the true Buenos Aires Milonga spirit.

Leading guided Tango tours to Buenos Aires, I share my deep knowledge of the city's culture and Tango scene. Since 1993, I've globally taught and performed, taking Tango's essence from Argentina to the USA, Canada, Europe, and Indonesia, gracing prestigious venues and festivals.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, I'm deeply involved in teaching and performing at major Milongas. Serving as a juror for the USA Official Tango Festival and co-founding the Escuela de Tango de Buenos Aires (ETBA), I've demonstrated my dedication to nurturing Tango connections and supporting dancers' journeys.

Brian Sonia-Wallace; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Brian Sonia-Wallace (RENT Poet) uses dialogue at typewriters to bridge communities, and has been a full-time poet-for-hire for a decade. He was the Poet-in-Residence for the Mall of America, Amtrak Trains, and the National Parks, and most recently completed a term as Poet Laureate for the City of West Hollywood.

Brian's work appears in such places as The Guardian, Rolling Stone, and American Poets, and he is the author of the memoir *The Poetry of Strangers: What I Learned Traveling America with a Typewriter* (Harper Collins) and two books of poetry: *Maze Mouth* and *I Sold These Poems, Now I Want Them Back*.

Brian curates regular poetry installations for The Getty, is a host for 90.7 KPFK's Poet's Cafe, and teaches at the UCLA Extension Writers Program. The motto of his company, RENT Poet, which brings poets on typewriters to events, is "everyone deserves a poem".

Brian was awarded a Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets for his LGBTQ+ advocacy through literature, and is a former Arts4LA Fellow. He was a 2015 national +Doris Duke Impact Award nominee, and holds an MA in arts for activism from the University of St Andrews, Scotland.

Amandine Sosinski; San Luis Obispo

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Amandine Sosinski, born and raised in France, studied art history and history for many years, went through many careers in marketing and communications, before becoming a funeral director due to a passion for funeral art, historical tomb preservation, rites and customs.

Meeting Californian-born painter Valin Mattheis in 2015, she moved to California in 2019 to collaborate with him on the Strange Gods Art project, where she co-lead the art direction, managed art shows, inventories, budgets, brand strategy, partnerships and social media accounts. With the desire to explore further, she started working on her own art and studied gallery management and museum practices, hoping now to put her strengths to the service of art institutions.

Alison Sotomayor; Anaheim

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Alison Sotomayor 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 the communication director for the media advocacy organization, National Hispanic Media Coalition, and producer/fundraiser for *LatinaFest*, an outdoor festival that empowers marginalized Latina entrepreneurs. She co-owns *OUR L.A.*, a nonprofit organization that works to provide media opportunities for youth and people of color. Alison has won two Emmy Awards, five Golden Mikes, and a Telly Award, and has earned a B.A. in Sociology at UCLA.

Megan Sousa; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Megan Sousa, is a professional actor, voice-over artist, comedian, writer, and host. She is a member of SAG-AFTRA, the AFI Conservatory, and the NAACP. She is an Alum of Tuskegee University and the Upright Citizens Brigade. Megan is an up-and-comer in Hollywood and can be seen in the feel-good comedy film "DOMINO: BATTLE OF THE BONES " now playing on STARZ. She also portrayed the role of Kari in the NETFLIX feature film "BEATS", starring Anthony Anderson. Megan landed her first role on TV in the award-winning short film "ZERO", premiering on HBO in 2012. Megan is the founder of Laugh Your Truth Productions, better known as, LYT Comedy Show. When she's not performing on stage or in front of the camera you can find Megan at home loving on her crazy cat, Kiki, and her puppy girl, Sacha.

Catherine Souza; Rancho Cordova

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am Catherine Souza and I have been living in California for the majority of my life. Being raised as a first generation American has allowed me to experience the importance of having culture and being able to share my life growing up with a diverse background of Brazilian and Italian traditions. I recently moved back from London, England in September 2023, after being there the past year to attend graduate school at Richmond American University in London. There, I received my Master's Degree in Art History and Visual Culture. Prior to leaving to further my studies, I was working on the Fundraising and Events Team for PBS KVIE. During my first three years there, I worked on events that were focused on community outreach, while also assisting in the arts with the gallery set up by interacting with local Sacramento artists and keeping inventory of the annual Art Auction that takes place every September. Even though I work full-time with Verge, I do still work TPT with PBS KVIE, assisting with the donor database and maintaining membership records. I find such value for being in the non-profit world that bring programs to many different communities in the Sacramento and greater area.

Jennifer Sparks; Sacramento

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Jennifer Dare Sparks

MFA - UCSD - Visual Arts

BA - UCD - Art

Studies - Academy of Art - Venice, Italy

Studies - UCB - Art, Architecture, Design History, Anthropology

Single Subject Teaching Credential - CSU Sacramento

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential - CSU Sacramento

Designer/Developer/CEO - Six Multi-Ethnic Restaurants - Sacramento

Board Member - B Street Theater - Sacramento

Teacher SCUSD - K -12 Multi-subject, Art, Literacy - Sacramento

My work has been in inspiring creative and critical thinking with students and artists from the youngest ages to the college level. My aspiration has always been to support individuals of all ages, abilities, and expertise to find their voice and to empower individuals to express their voice.

Bee Sparks; Loomis

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As a program director and cultural practitioner, I bring extensive experience in the artistic, cultural, and social realms. I currently spearhead a multi-site nonprofit arts program, specifically designed for and by people with disabilities, through Southside Unlimited's Work of Art program. This role positions me as a strong advocate for diverse and inclusive programming. Recognizing the significance and impact of social services, justice, and community building, I am well-equipped to contribute meaningfully in these areas as a CAC Panel Reviewer!

Eliot Spaulding; Santa Barbara

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Eliot Spaulding is a visual artist with a focus on sustainability, craft, and community. She received her BFA from Chapman University. During her tenure as a Display Artist, Eliot ideated and created one-of-a-kind art installations throughout retail stores across the country as a member of a select traveling team of artists. Through her subsequent freelance business, she designed and created bespoke installations for corporate campaigns and headquarters, boutiques, private homes, and nonprofit events for organizations such as Planned Parenthood and CASA. She served as a member of the Contemporaries Committee for the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara for several years until its temporary closure in 2020. In 2022, the concept for her public installation work '10 Knots' earned her a scholarship for further development in Venice,

Italy. Presently Eliot is in the prototyping phase of this expansive installation project, and beginning to execute the related community outreach workshops. She is looking forward to attending her first two residencies this year at Taft Gardens & Nature Preserve in Ojai, CA, and Pine Meadow Ranch Center for Arts & Agriculture in Sisters, OR.

Liz Spavento; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a curator and artist living in Bakersfield, CA. I started a collective called Border Patrol that examines the relationship between contemporary art and corporate aesthetics. From 2016 - 2019 I served as the Visual Arts Director at SPACE in Portland, ME where I curated exhibitions, oversaw a statewide grant program as part of the Warhol Foundation's regranteeing network, and ran a residency program dedicated to highlighting the contributions of queer artists and artists of color. From 2015 - 2016, I co-curated ALL RISE with Meagan Atiyeh, a two-year temporary public art program for an empty acre of land in downtown Seattle which was recognized as one of the nation's outstanding public art projects two years in a row. Most recently I served as the Executive Director of the Arts Council of Kern. I am a 2023-2024 Creative Corps Fellow with 18th Street Arts Center and the California Arts Council. I received an Ellis-Beauregard Foundation Project Grant; and Alliance for California Traditional Arts Living Cultures Grant; and I have been awarded residencies with Iris Project (Los Angeles, CA); ACRE (Steuben, WI); and the Centre for the Study of Substructured Loss (London, England).

Natricee Spicer; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Natricee is a poet/authorpreneur. She owns The Inspired Life, a wellness consulting company offering books, creative services, and accessories. Their specialties are personal development and micro business coaching for creatives, their teams, and their teens. She is an alumna of Youth Speaks, recipient of a Howard Univ grant from the English Dept, featured in several publications, has had work discussed/studied by the Univ of New Mexico, and is a host for open mics and artists showcase. She works with BIPOC nonprofits and individual artists to expand their business exposure and build business skills for sustainable ventures using their gifts.

Sandie Steele; Newport Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a 64-year-old disabled first-generation Japanese American who had been misdiagnosed for the greater part of my life. Since I was diagnosed correctly, I have achieved an AA in Fine Arts and Art History, volunteered in a teen runaway home, worked as a teacher assistant, and continue to review films for the Newport Beach Film Festival. I will begin attending a four-year college in the fall to study Art History with a minor in digital art. I have enjoyed the study of art passed down from my mother, who, as a child, was interned in a Japanese internment camp during WWII; she took up

drawing to pass the long days in the camp's heat, dust, and cold. My mother and I continue to visit museums or dip into sumi ink and watercolor. My goals during and after college are to continue to work with children, seniors, and people with disabilities in the study of art. I would appreciate this opportunity to learn about this educational process while engaging and learning from others.

Linda Steele II; El Cerrito

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Linda Steele II is an improvisational dance artist, dance and language researcher, educator, and choreographer formally trained at Marin School of the Arts, Marin Ballet and Alonzo King's LINES Ballet before receiving her degree from Dominican University of CA.

She has presented her solo improvisational dance works in dance festivals and events including Ebony Magazine's renowned Ebony Fashion Fair, the NAACP and abroad at Champs Meliséy in Burgundy, France. In addition to performing and touring internationally, Linda has studied and choreographed dance films with MADE in France, Inside Out Contemporary Ballet, and Oakland Ballet.

Versing herself in many dance forms/dialects, Linda's research work focuses on investigating the intersection of dance arts and language, in addition to celebrating the many ways we use the language of our moving, dancing bodies to communicate and express our humanity, histories of heritage, thoughts, and ideas. Linda is also a teaching artist and dance educator, lending her skills and insight to help encourage the next generation of movers, artists, and creators. She is deeply grateful to have met and collaborated with such amazing artists.

Laurie Steelink; San Pedro

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Laurie Steelink is Akimel O'otham and a citizen of the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona. Born in Phoenix, she was adopted by a progressive white family and was raised with a strong foundation in political consciousness and creativity. She received a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, and an MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Steelink met her biological relatives in her 40s and her reconnection with her family and cultural roots has had a profound impact on her artistic practice. Both "place" and "situation" inform Laurie's work and in 2012 she founded Cornelius Projects, an exhibition space in San Pedro, CA with a curatorial focus on the artists and cultural history of the area. She is on the organizing committee for the Many Winters Gathering of Elders, a 4-day Indigenous cultural and spiritual event held at Angels Gate Cultural Center in San Pedro. Steelink is a recipient of a 2023 California Arts Council Individual Artists Fellowship and is currently a Native Scholar in Residence at Pitzer College, Spring 2024.

Mark Stenroos; Lake Forest***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Mark Stenroos has served as a nonprofit arts fundraiser since 2004. His experience includes conceptualizing, designing and leading development initiatives across the fundraising spectrum, including annual funds, capital campaigns, membership drives, grant writing and major gift solicitation. He has worked as a staff member with the Las Vegas Philharmonic, Pacific Chorale, Balboa Performing Arts Theater Foundation, California Center for the Arts Escondido, and the Pasadena Museum of California Art.

Meriel Stern; Pasadena***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

A sculptor with 30+ years of experience in education, I have worked as A.I.R. at PUC Milagro School for the last 19 years, Stevenson/BUSD for 3 years, and also a consultant/teacher at StemPrep Schools. Prior to that I was at the Armory Center for the Arts in several capacities including Lead Teacher, Studio Director, and Master Teaching Artist. During that time I participated in the development and teaching of numerous innovative and award winning programs for which The Armory received national recognition. Additionally, I have led workshops, participated in many Communities of Practice, and volunteered, including on grant review panels for Long Beach, Pasadena and DOE/materials adoption, was City of Pasadena Arts and Culture and later Design Commissioner, a Trustee at Sequoyah School, Board Member of Pasadena Pro Musica to name a few. I have a BA in Asian Studies from Barnard College and MFA in ceramics from Otis Art Institute. I continue to maintain a studio practice/show schedule concurrent with teaching. My sculpture is primarily organic forms crocheted out of various wire, fiber, and ceramic materials, and is an expression of my interest in “how things grow.”

Samantha Stevens; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Relevant Experience: Upon first moving to SF, I belonged to a residential artists' collective and lived with 20 other artists. I attend community arts events regularly and am familiar with many of the institutions and events at both the institutional and grassroots level. As an educator, I have experience conducting admissions activity sessions with prospective students and families, reading and assessing student files, providing notes, discussing with admissions committee members, and making recommendations. I have served diverse communities and have participated in anti-bias training.

Writing Bio: Samantha Stevens is a queer, black, disabled writer and educator from the East Coast living in San Francisco, occupied Ramaytush Ohlone land. They are a recent graduate of the MFA in Poetry at the University of San Francisco and have received fellowships from The Watering Hole, Community of Writers, and Interdisciplinary Writer's Lab. They are the recipient of the Penrose Poetry Prize and a Creative in Residence with The Ruby Collective. She is working to build an integrative

practice centering writing, art, movement, and healing and is working on her first collection of poetry.

Naomi Stewart; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Naomi Stewart, a Los Angeles-based curator and poet, merges her passion for the arts with a commitment to fostering inclusive spaces for marginalized voices. With a B.A. in Anthropology and Art History minor from Hawaii Pacific University and near completion of her MBA from Pepperdine University, she brings a multidisciplinary approach to her work.

Her curatorial focus centers on identity, collective healing, and somatic ecology, demonstrated through collaborations with galleries such as Wonzimer, Brea Gallery, and Angel's Gate Cultural Center. Serving as a curator for projects with Sci-Art collective, SuperCollider Art, and Inbreak Residency, Naomi explores themes of trauma, erasure, and resilience in the modern Black experience in the United States.

Naomi Stewart has contributed to publications such as the Borderline Exhibition Catalog (2021) and the Inbreak Residency Journal (2021). She has also presented at events like CultureHub Re-Fest (2022) and has been featured in press outlets such as CARLA and Voyage LA. Moreover, she has engaged audiences through artist talks, performances, and panels like CultureHub Refest.

Don Stouder; Cathedral City

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Born in New Jersey and a California "native" since 1985, I have been a writer and photographer since my early teens. My adult career would take me in a different direction; I was a paramedic and then an ER/ICU/Trauma/Hospice Chaplain for nearly 50 years, and I believe that my work as an artist reflects this journey along the borders of life and death. If you are like me, your creative eye is drawn to natural beauty, bright colors, dramatic contrasts, and visual texture and tension. My love of color celebrates living life to its fullest, with contrasts that recognize the dramatic twists and turns that most of us experience as we move through the world. I am a previous gallery bookstore owner, and I currently curate a virtual gallery for artists living with HIV.

Kara Stratton; Long Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As a US Navy veteran and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I've spent four years dedicated to working low-income elderly veterans in permanent supportive housing. Running therapeutic art groups, I've witnessed firsthand the healing power of creativity. Working in a diverse community as well as volunteering at The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach for two years has broadened my cultural understanding.

Art has always been my passion, I was raised by my mother, an artist, and grandmother, a skilled quilter. They inspire my diverse artistic pursuits, including paper crafts, sewing, and music. With this rich background, I bring a unique blend of empathy,

creativity, and community engagement to the arts and cultural communities of Long Beach.

Ronice Stratton; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Ronice (she/they) is a seasoned dance practitioner with over 30 years of experience, deeply immersed in the vibrant Arts Community of the Bay Area and beyond. Her current projects include performing with Dancing Earth, Diana Lara, and collaborating with the Bay Area POC Contact Improvisation. These ventures delve into themes of "mixed" identity, belonging, ecology, and healing, reflecting her commitment to creating a more just, sustainable, and vibrant world through artistic expression.

She has performed at Dance Mission Theater, San Jose Mosaic Festival, SNAG Magazine, and Cal State East Bay. With upcoming engagements at CounterPulse, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and a tour in Mexico, Ronice continues to captivate audiences with her diverse movement vocabulary spanning contemporary, hip hop, West African, Argentine tango, and more.

Beyond her dance career, Ronice serves on the board of an art nonprofit and is an artist herself, focusing on film photography, ceramics, and painting. Ronice's leadership at LUNA Bar included advising LUNAFEST, a traveling film festival amplifying women and gender nonconforming film artists, highlighting her commitment to equity in the arts.

Constance Strickland; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As Visual Director of Theatre Roscius, I write and build physical theatre pieces using gesture, movement, and sound as the entry vehicle to explore the complex realities of women's lives and what it means to be human. I have been creating a hybrid of new physical theatre using the body as a landscape with Theatre Roscius since 2013. I merge avant-garde theatre with visual art in a way that widens the lens of physical theatre by taking a deep dive into women's lives who often go unseen. I shatter old theatre taboos by investigating how physical manifestations of joy, generational trauma, memory, and mental health live in the body through my Black female perspective. My work reflects on history while taking a bold probing at patriarchal control and how it's played a role in the relationship between women of different backgrounds and races, most specifically black and white women.

Tammy Strobel; Chico

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Tammy Strobel is an experienced writer, photographer, teacher, and grant writer. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from CSU, Chico, a Masters in Public Administration from CSU, Chico, and a Masters of Arts in Education from CSU, Sacramento.

Tammy worked at various non-profits that provided essential programs and services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. During her time in the violence

prevention field, Tammy was a Peer Counselor, Public Affairs Coordinator, and Research Associate.

Tammy is also a published author. Her books include:

- "You Can Buy Happiness (and It's Cheap)"
- "My Morning View: An iPhone Photography Project about Gratitude, Grief & Good Coffee"
- "Write to Flourish: A Beginner's Guide to Journaling"
- "Everyday Adventures: Tiny Quests to Spark Your Creative Life"

Tammy's creative work focuses on social connection, positive psychology, and the cultural perspective of meaning.

Currently, Tammy works with the Media Arts Center San Diego, a non profit that provides "new media tools and channels to create equitable and engaged communities where underserved voices are heard."

Caitlin Strom-Martin; Cazadero

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Caitlin Strom-Martin is a working actor and playwright based in Sonoma County California. She is a reader for the Ashland New Play Festival, a reader for Left Edge Theater Company's production team, a Theatre Bay Area adjudicator, and has performed for the last 10 years all over the beautiful Bay Area. She's also the author of several working scripts that are seeking production. Her work focuses on strong roles for women, and in gaining representation for all working female artists through collaboration rather than competition.

Jewell Strong-Sparks; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I studied art foundation, sculpture and painting simultaneously in pursuit of my molecular biology degree during my undergraduate studies at Haverford. I obtained my MBA in Strategic Planning, Global Markets, and Corporate Comms from USF. I am a DON. My family has a collection of works by artists found in the MoMA, MET, Smithsonian, and Whitney collections (José Clemente Orozco, Kenneth M. Adams, and various French and German artists). I was always encouraged to engage in activities that exercised both my left and right side of the brain. While living and working in Japan, I would paint almost daily after returning home from the lab. Upon moving to San Francisco in the early 2000's I served on the board of the first museum supporting artworks from the African Diaspora, as well as on the young professionals board of the DeYoung. Upon the redevelopment of the Jazz District in San Francisco, I served as the VP of Strategic Development for The Jazz Heritage Center (JHC) which was an art gallery, as well as a cultural and educational complex dedicated to the long history of

Jazz in San Francisco and the Fillmore District. Identifying new business models for the arts intrigues me.

Marcy Sudock; Seal Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I began my study of music through my elementary school when I was 9 years old. I continued with private instruction throughout my school years. I hold a BM from CSULB in violin performance. My career has included solo work, chamber ensembles, orchestra and recordings with some of our greatest artists including Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Lionel Richie, Lou Rawls to name but a few. I have conducted concerts locally in SoCal as well as internationally, including London's Royal College of Music, Vienna's Musikverien- Saal and the Sydney Opera House. I taught and coordinated the afterschool music program for the Los Alamitos Youth Center for 16 years and founded the Musique Sur La Mer Youth Orchestras program, which I currently run and have directed for the past 24 years. Bi-Annually I participate in the Starling-DeLay Violin Symposium at the Juilliard School of Music. I am also a visual artist working in acrylic and watercolor paintings. I have served on the Board of Directors of Compassionate Artists since its conception.

Stacy Sullivan; San Luis Obispo

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I'm a California girl, a 1988 UCLA grad with a BA in English Literature & a dance background, who spent 31 years in Seattle working/volunteering in arts & education. I moved to sunny San Luis Obispo 2-1/2 years ago and immediately got involved in our small but mighty arts community. I'm a board member with the foundation for the theater on campus at Cal Poly, the FPAC. I promote and support our art museum, SLOMA, & have continued my run as a top notch audience member. In Seattle until the pandemic, I worked for King County's 4Culture as an arts & culture reviewer frequently attending shows around the county to review them for grant-funding purposes. My reviews included production quality, diversity of performers/audience and venue suitability/accessibility. For a decade as a board member with Pacific NW Ballet, I assisted weekly with DanceChance, a program providing training and opportunity to young dancers from high-need public schools. I also volunteered 4 years with the Starbucks Hot Java Cool Jazz concert for public high school bands. For the Seattle Art Museum, I fundraised with SAMS and opened one of the first FLAGS in the nation (Free Little Art Gallery) to build community.

Patrick Sumlin; Bakersfield

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Through my non-profit I Provide exposure to the Arts & Humanities, to those that are under served: Arranged/coordinated visits to museums, churches, schools and libraries for Art exposure and enlightenment. I'm a member of Los Angeles Philharmonic's concert connections. I'm awarded complimentary tickets yearly to the Hollywood Bowl to

reach out to the underserved with tickets and transportation to concerts and events. I have sponsored project that include guided tours to the Getty Museum.

Danielle Swan; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Danielle Swan is a dedicated arts advocate, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the pursuit of cultural enrichment as well as causes aligned with social justice. Danielle earned a BS in Communications from Southern Oregon University, where her passion for the performing arts blossomed. Working at the Oregon Cabaret Theater, she developed an enduring love for the theater. She also holds an MS in Arts Administration from the Drexel University, where she also assumed the role of President of her graduate association, showcasing her leadership acumen.

Accumulating a wealth of experience over multiple decades, Danielle has navigated the realms of the arts sector and higher education arts programs. Her professional forte lies in operational management and event planning, exemplifying a proficiency honed over the years.

In 2020, Danielle began her work with the all-volunteer racial justice nonprofit, Phans for Racial Equity (PHRE), where she currently assumes the role of co-chair for the organization committee. PHRE seeks to build an antiracist live music scene and promote liberation through racial equity in the world at large by activating the collective power of our community.

Brandon Sward; Lomita

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Brandon Sward is an artist, writer, and organizer in Los Angeles. His words can be read in The Chicago Reader, The Point, High Country News, and dozens of other local, national, and international publications. He is also the author of the Substack News from Nowhere. He has been a finalist or nominee for the Pushcart Prize, a Periplus Fellowship, and the Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant. Residencies attended include Yaddo, Byrdcliffe, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. He is currently seeking literary representation for a nonfiction book that explores growing up queer and biracial in Colorado Springs, the “Evangelical Vatican.”

Emilio Sweet-Coll; Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Emilio Sweet-Coll is a queer transmasculine Mexican-American artist, animator, and musician with backgrounds in film, dance, virtual reality, photography, and sculpture. His animation work lives where music and movement meet and tends toward the meditative, textural, conceptual, and abstract. He is part of the son jarocho community in Los Angeles and has played with community collectives in Pacoima and El Sereno.

As a community organizer, Sweet-Coll has coordinated a team of abolitionist artists in a successful campaign to stop LA County’s jail expansion plan and organized toward housing as a human right with the Los Angeles Tenants Union. His current work is

focused on building community around tending land, both as a seedkeeper and a prescribed fire practitioner. His hope in all his work is to make more space for living things to rest and breathe.

Joanne Swift; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

"As a dedicated arts enthusiast with a background in fashion design and marketing, I've spent years honing my skills in community engagement and social media. I've worked with influencers and major brands, managed social media campaigns, and volunteered at galleries and festivals. My passion for arts and culture has also led me to work with underserved communities, using art as a tool for social change. I've partnered with community organizations to create inclusive programming, amplify marginalized voices, and support arts education. Additionally, I hold a degree in fine arts and textile design and have exhibited my own work in Asia and Europe. Now, I'm eager to bring my expertise to the CAC Panel Reviewer role, championing diverse perspectives and empowering artists from underrepresented backgrounds."

Susan Swinburne; Torrance

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Susan Swinburne, MBA, began her nonprofit management career directing Fortune 500 Social Responsibility programs. After a decade as a corporate philanthropist, the opportunity arose to pursue her passion for music and the arts; she made a leap into professional development to direct the campaign to help a beloved orchestra conquer a bankruptcy crisis.

The experience of running a successful high-stakes fundraising campaign launched a new professional direction and ignited a passion for helping organizations craft innovative solutions to problems or circumstances that are preventing success.

Having served 50+ organizations in 35 years, Susan offers insight, knowledge, key skills, and a team-building approach to nonprofits seeking change and to businesses wishing to make a greater impact through their philanthropic mission.

Susan is a graduate of U.C. Irvine (Linguistics, Music) and the Loyola Marymount University School of Business.

Katherine Syer; Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

From 2001 until 2019 I taught and mentored students in the departments of theatre and music at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. My pedagogical areas of specialization included progressive, multidisciplinary genres and social issues theatre. As a theatre dramaturg, journalist, and public scholar throughout that time, I engaged with diverse student and general populations and advocated for broad access to the performing arts.

Moving to Los Angeles in 2019, I began pivoting out of higher education and re-focusing my skill set towards nonprofit performing arts organizations as a fundraiser, mostly in the area of grant writing. Since October 2023, I have been a volunteer grant writer for Highland Park-based Pacific Opera Project, whose mission prioritizes accessibility and inclusivity, and whose education department serves many Title-I schools in Los Angeles. I am currently completing a certificate in Nonprofit Fundraising through the University of California San Diego's Extension Studies, and plan to remain active in the Southern California area supporting community-oriented performing arts organizations in various ways.

Jim Tabuchi; Elk Grove

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Jim Tabuchi is the Program Director for the Mandarins Music Academy. This program provides instrumental music within the Sacramento Region. He created the vision to “Give the Gift of Music” to children and started the program in 2016 with 11 students at one elementary school. The program has grown 100-fold to provide music education at 45 elementary schools for over 1,300 students.

Tabuchi served as the President and CEO for the Sacramento Mandarins. This organization includes the Mandarins Drum & Bugle Corps, Mandarins Academies and Mandarins Entertainment. The Mandarins have influenced the lives of thousands of area youth with their continued mission of “Transforming Lives Through Performing Arts”.

Tabuchi is a semi-retired executive from HP. Today, he dedicates his time and energy toward the leadership development of professionals and youth. He has received awards including Elk Grove Volunteer of the Year, Sacramento Kings Community Impact, Sac State Community Impact, Drum Corps International Director of the Year, Mandarins Hall of Fame and the Sacramento Bee AAPI Change Makers Awards.

Xochitl Tafoya; Santa Barbara

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Xóchitl Tafoya is a creative thinker, cultural worker, musician, educator and believer in social change. She has experience working in both non-profit management and public education, holds a robust private strings studio and experience with creative youth development.

Xóchitl earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Scripps College (Claremont, California) with a concentration in violin and viola performance. Xóchitl received her Master of Arts degree in Ethnomusicology from the University of Maryland, College Park. She also holds a Single Subject Music California teaching credential from CalState Northridge and most recently completed her Administrative Credential from Sacramento County Office of Education, Leadership Institute. In 2013, Xóchitl became part of a visionary TED Prize wish of Maestro Jose Abreu by being selected to participate in the Sistema Fellows program at the New England Conservatory in

Boston. She is a graduate of Lincoln Center's Immersive Advanced Teaching Artists' Lab in New York City working with a select group of international teaching artists across multiple art disciplines.

Angie Tahti; Lincoln

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I am a Mestizo woman, grandmother, and veteran of nonprofit administration with twenty-seven years' experience managing State-Local Partner arts agencies. As an executive director and consultant, I coached small and midsize nonprofit, for profit, and municipal arts, culture, heritage, social justice, school district, tourism, environmental, and economic development agencies. I've worked with diverse visual, performing, and literary artists, elders, volunteers, educators, community members, and elected and tribal officials in rural, isolated, suburban, and urban environs. I led arts education planning and implementation in school districts, served as County Arts Lead for Placer COE, and as a CAC Peer Advisor. I understand cultural agencies, riding fiscal and social cycles, whether nonprofit board and staff, volunteer driven, or municipal, and the benefits of listening, building networks, and collaborating across sectors. Successes in fiscal stewardship, networking, coalition building, member cultivation, strategic and program planning, and board development are not without challenges. I believe in access and equity, am fair in accessing applications, and constructive in comments.

Melody Takata; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Melody Takata is the founder of GenRyu Arts and Festival Director of Japan Week, a summer cultural festival in San Francisco Japantown. She is a multi-faceted artist trained in Japanese Classical Dance, Taiko and Shamisen. Sensei Takata has been performing for over 20 years in Japan and U.S.A. Takata grew up in the Japanese American community of Los Angeles with a rich experience in traditional arts. She began formal study of Nihon Buyo (formal name for Japanese classical dance) at the Fujima School and has performed dance at numerous theater works under Madame Fujima Kansuma. She studied the shamisen with the Kineya School and received her natori. Performing with Los Angeles Matsuri and traveled to Japan to study and later perform as a member of Tokyo's O Edo Sukeroku Taiko, one of Japan's most highly renowned taiko ensembles. Ms. Takata completed the ACTA master apprentice program for 2002-2003 on shamisen with Hideko Nakajima Sensei. Most recently, Ms. Takata has completed her MFA at the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago in 2019.

Janice Tanaka; Thousand Oaks

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

JANICE D, TANAKA is a graduate of USC's School of Cinematic Arts. In addition to teaching at USC, she also was a professor for ten years, receiving tenure and promotion at University of Florida. In 2001, and worked at Fox on the show American Idol. Tanaka later became Manager, Diversity Development at FOX. As executive

producer for news, reality and animated TV shows for Comcast, she produced over 100 episodes of programming for AZN.

Tanaka is currently a freelance producer/director/writer for Asian American Advancing Justice-LA, Go For Broke National Education Center and a number of other community groups. Janice has worked for 10 years as a script evaluator for ABC. She is a member of the USC Delta Phi Kappa Alumni Board, an organization that creates opportunities for Asian American women at USC. She is also a member of USC's Women of Cinematic Arts serving on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Nica Tanaka; Half Moon Bay

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I am a migrant from the Philippines who speaks Tagalog. I started out in California as a community college student and later graduated with degrees in Geography and Peace & Conflict Studies at UC Berkeley. After that, for 10 years beginning 2013, my paid work involved being a community organizer for working families in California. I played a crucial role in developing training for janitorial, construction, and airport service workers all over the state (some of whom were non-English speakers.) I worked for organizations like the California Labor Federation, Building Skills Partnership, and Asian Immigrant Women Advocates. Alongside community organizing, I've been a working artist since 2014. I've showed my textile collages, illustration, and prints at craft fairs all over California. I was a featured artist at Kearny Street Workshop and a fiction fellow at the SF Writers Grotto. Today I'm completing my MFA in Creative Writing at San Jose State University. This year, I pivoted from workforce organizing to developing artists. I launched my own production and arts incubation called w/N. Its mission is to introduce unpublished stories that will create a holistic world culture.

Toby Tannenbaum; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am an independent professional consulting with museums and nonprofits. I was an Assistant Director for Education and Public Programs at the J. Paul Getty Museum from 2008-2014, overseeing programs and materials for all audiences at both museum sites and serving on the museum's senior management team. I was previously the Director of Education at LACMA (2000-2008) and Associate Director of Education at MOCA (1996-2000). I have served as faculty in the School of Critical Studies at CalArts, in the School of Fine Arts and the School of Education at USC, and as an assistant professor at CSULA. I have an MFA and BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Sendy Tapia; San Jose

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Sendy Tapia hails from the unceded territories of the Nimípuu (Nez Perce), Imatalamláma (Umatilla), Walawaláma (Walla Walla), and Liksiyu (Cayuse) tribes in Eastern Oregon, and the unceded lands of the Yowlumne, Wukchumnis, Western Mono, and Tübatulabal tribes near the Tule River in the San Joaquin Valley. She is the daughter of Mexican immigrants, who have dedicated over 40 years to agricultural labor

across multiple Western states. As a storyteller emerging from a region marked by limited diversity, Sendy is driven by a fervent commitment to amplify BIPOC voices, catalyzing progress towards an equitable future. In 2023, she will embark on the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute (MALI), equipping herself to champion underprivileged leaders within her community. Additionally, Sendy shares her expertise on publishing and writing at national conferences, furthering her mission to empower marginalized voices on a broader scale.

Mary Tartaro; Ben Lomond

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am currently director of a non profit gallery . I am a retired art professor, former arts commissioner, art therapist and a recipient of art grants and public art commissions myself. As an arts commissioner I sat on committees to select public art and community programming. I am a former university drawing instructor and have painted several public murals. My sculptural knowledge spans large-scale metal casting and fabrication welding mold making ceramics small metals jewelry glass and fiber arts.

Joanne Tawfilis; Oceanside

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

As an exhibiting artist and muralist, I earned my honorary PhD in Fine Arts from California State University San Marcos at the age of 71, based on my life's work after traveling and working in 68 countries.. I graduated with both a BFA and Masters degree, and worked as an illustrator for the US government prior to earning a Business degree and then was recruited by the UN utilizing my creative brain as the Director of Personnel and Management Services for nearly 25 years. I was then selected to manage the Women of Srebrenica project with the widows of 10,000 missing men and before I retired founded and created the Art Miles Mural Project with 350 orphans on a bedsheet full of bullet holes. Since then I facilitated the creation of more than 12 miles of murals on canvas and about 50 wall murals globally, have owned and operated 3 art galleries in Vienna, Austria, Connecticut and now a cultural center in Oceanside, California since 2014 that includes mural development, photo and painting exhibitions, music and spoken word. I also travel throughout the US convening mural keynote speakers and lectures and mural making at colleges and universities.

Yeye Teish; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

California Arts Council bio

Luisah Teish is an initiated elder (Iyanifa) in the Ifa/Orisha Tradition of the African diaspora and is internationally known for her storytelling, teaching, and spiritual guidance services.

She is the author of “Jambalaya: The Natural Woman’s Book of Personal Charms and Practical Rituals,” translated into German, Dutch, and Spanish.

Her latest work, "A Calabash of Cowries: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times"(Feb. 2023.), is an Amazon Books best seller.

She has contributed to 45 anthologies, and her poetry and prayers have been published in seven indigenous languages. She earned a Creative Writing Specialization Certificate from Wesleyan University.

She is the Founding Mother of Ile Orunmila Oshun (the House of Destiny and Love)and a member of the Mother Earth Delegation of United Indigenous Nations. She has served as Jubilee Justice for Reparations's spiritual and ritual performance advisor. She is a featured storyteller in the film "Changing of the Gods."

She has received a lifetime achievement award from the International Black Women's Congress.

Molly Terbovich-Ridenhour; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Molly Terbovich-Ridenhour has more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, organizational development and a lifelong background as a dance practitioner, educator and performer. She joined Kinetic Light as Managing Director in January of 2022. 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, transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project, Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and 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.

Jeff Thomas; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have over 10 years of experience as an arts nonprofit Executive Director, which has included being the sole fundraiser/grant writer for the organization (bringing in over half our annual \$1million budget each year). I'm passionate about supporting and being involved in the wider visual and performing arts community in California, as well as specifically San Francisco. Back in 2018 I started a peer support group for small to medium sized arts nonprofit executive directors. The group has grown to over 45 members and is a vital source of shared information and collaboration, especially as we worked our way through the pandemic. I also have a background in credit analysis, which includes skills that would be very useful in reviewing grant applications. I am able to absorb the priorities of a rating system and thoughtfully apply it to organizations. I was an Associate Vice President at Moody's Investors Service, assigning bond ratings to large scale and complex government entities. These included the City of Seattle and

King County (WA), and numerous electric, water, and sewer entities throughout the western states.

Luz Helena Thompson; Oceanside

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Luz Helena Thompson is a Colombian artist and Marine Corps veteran. She serves as an Art Commissioner for the City of Oceanside, California. As a self-taught artist based on the Southern California Coast, Thompson is best known for her handcrafted and intricate glass mosaic creations. Her mixed media artwork is inspired by her military service and deep sense of patriotism. She explores elements of the individual and collective identity experienced within the veteran community. Her work highlights topics such as trauma recovery, vulnerability, invisible wounds, military sexual trauma and post-traumatic growth, just to name a few. Thompson received a Bachelor's and Master of Science Degree from California University of Pennsylvania (CALU). She teaches art professionally as an Expressive Arts Educator working with Path With Art, a Non-profit organization in Seattle, Washington. Thompson also works from her private studio in Oceanside, California. Since 2011, her artwork has been featured in multiple exhibitions and fundraisers throughout the United States. Venues include museums and galleries in California, Washington, New York, Texas and Florida.

Felicia Tihista; Hawthorne

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I was born in Santa Cruz, California, in 1966. My parents were married one year before they had their first child, and within a few years they had several babies. Moving forward, I soon found myself a part of a growing family; more complex than I would ever have imagined, looking back. My having had several step fathers, stepmothers, stepbrothers and sisters, meant that I had to adapt as fast as possible. Which can prove very challenging, indeed, for any child. So, it was art that we shared together whenever playing in or outside.

I learned of relatives of mine who had been great musical artists and singers, and it was wonderful for my self esteem to discover. My mom says I sang the same song all day when I heard a song I liked. Which, I believe, but I dont recall. I thought I changed songs regularly. Lol.

It was in college, high school, and early on in my education, both at public school and church, where I experienced being a part of a community of very talented and gifted artists. I got involved with many student productions and took classes of this nature as well. And, later, as a substitute teacher had the honor of working with talented students.

Elizabeth Tobias; Reseda

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Elizabeth Tobias is an artist, administrator, producer, grant writer, and development professional who has served the Southern California arts community for 30 years. She received her BA from UCLA's School of Theatre, Film and Television and completed

UCLA's Graduate School of Education earning an Elementary Credential. She served as an adjunct professor for LMU's Graduate Theatre Pedagogy program. Ms. Tobias has served on the Board of Directors for Creative PlayGround (CPG) and Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum. She is co-founder of CPG and a grant writer for Latina Dance Project. She was the Education and Grants Directors for Theatricum and the Director of Advancement for the Ojai Playwrights Conference. She now works as a consultant for a national firm supporting ideation, proposal writing, and implementation of grants from federal agencies such as the NSF, DoE, and EDA.

Over her 25+ year career, Ms. Tobias has taught and administrated for S.T.A.R., Powerhouse, Actors' Gang, CPG, Children's Arts Institute, and Theatricum. She has Professional Designation in Arts Education from the L.A. County Dept of Arts and Culture.

Marcela Torres Ibarra; Irvine

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Marcela Torres has more than 15 years of experience in cultural management. She was Exhibition Manager in a renowned private art collection in Mexico, where she participated in the planning and execution of almost 100 exhibitions of Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art in more than ten countries in North and Central America and Europe. For five consecutive editions, she coordinated the FEMSA Biennial, where she presented more than 5,000 artist's proposals to specialized juries, organized traveling exhibitions, and coordinated educational and artistic residency programs.

In 2021 and 2022, she collaborated with the California Arts Council as a Panelist. Marcela holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master's in international migration studies. She is an art advisor and co-founder of Spaces for Art, a collection manager app. She has lived in Irvine, CA since 2014.

Ric Torres II; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

For the past 4 years I have been the Managing Partner in a production company led by Latino Cartoonist/Artist Lalo Alcaraz. We have managed to work for a variety of State, City and County agencies, Universities and Non-Profits with his art and animation work. I was a trial lawyer for 18 years before transitioning to producing/writing in the entertainment space.

Sandrine Tournier; Rocklin

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

My name is Sandrine Tournier, and I am the executive director and co-founder of Education Francaise de Sacramento. Our mission is to help children retain their Francophone culture. Over the past 13 years, I have organized cultural events to strengthen our roots and language. Additionally, I have co-organized an international French Comic Art Contest for children for the last 4 years. I also believe that everyone

should be exposed to visual art, as it is an international language that we all should speak.

Before joining the non-profit sector in Sacramento, I worked as a graphic designer, web designer, and video editor. I am a mother of two bilingual Californian and am recognized for representing the French Community of the Sacramento area. Additionally, I travel and volunteer every year to give back.

Linda Trapp; Arroyo Grande

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have taught art in Ethiopia as well as Colorado and California. I have been the Ethnic Studies faculty person at several colleges and one graduate school. I have presented workshops and retreats at more than 40 California locations. My own artwork, including painting, pottery, and sculpture, is in collections in many western US states and in Europe. I have personally taught students from preschool to a PhD program, and presented over 3500 consultations to management and employees over 18 years throughout the US and in Ethiopia. I assisted in documenting the National Museum collection in Ethiopia, and have also worked in Mexico and the Lake Baikal area of Russia. I am retired but active as an artist and writer.

Jose Trejo Maya; Baldwin Park

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

He is a remnant of the Nahuatlacah 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, Portugal, Ukraine. Public art outdoor sculptures in WA, OR & MA. While in ceremony with Chololo medicine men in the Tule River Reservation he dreamt this written prophecy...

Mamta Trivedi; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Mamta Trivedi is an Emmy-nominated South Asian Producer and emerging Director known for her immersive approach to documentary and narrative filmmaking. With a global upbringing and 3rd-culture-kid disposition, Mamta amplifies underrepresented voices and explores complex stories. Her collaborative style fosters creativity, enabling

filmmakers to thrive. Beginning at Space.com, covering space missions, she later produced for MSNBC and National Geographic Explorer, embedding with military units in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mamta has premiered films at Cannes, Toronto, Sundance, and Tribeca, working with new directors and managing high-end commercial projects. As Executive Producer at Here Be Dragons, she developed VR technology and created a series on indigenous cultures. Recent projects include work for Showtime, Paramount+, CNN Originals, and Netflix. Mamta is active in film communities, mentoring for DemocraSHE and Reel Champs, and is represented by UTA.

Stephen Trull; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I have been a grant writer and consultant for seven years. My expertise is assisting historically underrepresented arts, culture, and educational communities. Last year, I was a Guest Review Panelist for California Arts Council's Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Support (GenOps). Before that, I wrote successful grants for an individual female artist, a local after-school enrichment program, and a regional indigenous group.

I am a co-director for Wasted Books, an artists' book press. Wasted Books specializes in language-based art, conceptual writing, and long-form essays that describe strains of critical discourse surrounding contemporary art, culture, and theory. Wasted Books strives for diversity and equality in its publishing scope. Recently, it has been an exhibitor at the following art book fairs: FOG Design+Art 10 (2024) and the San Francisco Art Book Fair (2023 and 2022).

Thomas Tsai; Arcadia

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I am a Los Angeles dance artist, filmmaker, educator and activist. My work draws from my upbringing in post-martial law Taiwan, and my dedication to Hip Hop arts. My performances combine physical rigor with self-inquiry, personal storytelling with political engagement, and combats cultural erasure.

For 17 years in Los Angeles, I have worked with BIPOC and immigrant artists, educators, students, abolitionists, and people impacted by incarceration. I am inspired by those who defy injustice by nurturing their personal, cultural, and community narratives.

I have presented dance works nationally and internationally, supported by the California Arts Council, City of Pasadena Arts & Culture Commission, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Ghost Light Residency, and Dance Resource Center's Homegrown Residency @ The Music Center. I have been an adjunct dance professor at Pomona College, CSU Long Beach, CSU Fullerton, and Chapman University.

I fulfill choreographic, performance, and filmmaking roles as a part of Dancing Through Prison Walls, a community project that uplifts people impacted by mass incarceration. My films have been featured in publications, festivals, and conferences nationwide.

Richard "Tucci" Tucci; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Richard Tucci, a distinguished artist and storyteller, has enriched the City of Los Angeles through public murals. An alumnus of both Chapman University and USC, he honed his craft under Penny Marshall, contributing to projects like THE JOE FRAZIER STORY. Transitioning to photography under the alias Ricardo Tomasz, Tucci led community art initiatives, notably the historical series at North Hollywood's Threshold community center. His portfolio includes collaborations with Level Ground Artist Collective, Maiden L.A., Arroyo Artist Collective, and the Ontario Museum of History and Art. Tucci's public murals, sponsored by Councilmember Nithya Raman's office, adorn Sunset Blvd. and the Hollywood Bowl, portraying a diverse, magical Los Angeles. His accolades include Honorable Mentions in national shows and film festivals, alongside invitations to exhibit globally, from Portland and London to Izmir, Turkey.

Ann Tuomey; Lafayette***Artistic Area of Experience: Decline to state***

Ann Tuomey has served the arts and culture field in a variety of capacities for over 25 years, most recently as Managing Director of Oakland-based Sozo Impact, and Booking Representative for Sozo Artists a successful artist booking and management agency focused on incubating and amplifying the work of BIPOC artists and creative producers.

Her other roles included 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 of Twyla Tharp Productions (WAT Ltd.), strategic planning for the Baryshnikov Arts Center, Director of Studio Operations for New York City Center, and Senior Manager of Events for the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

The thrill of the creative process is close to her heart. Ann believes it's where art is the most accessible and inspirational. Throughout her career, she has assisted artists and producers in the development of new work and given audiences a crack at seeing it as it blossoms into something (or something else).

Michele Turnure-Salleo; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Michele Turnure-Salleo develops and executive produces independent films such as BLUEBACK (Sundance 2023/TIFF 2022), FAREWELL AMOR (Sundance 2020), BEFORE YOU KNOW IT (Sundance 2019), THE SOUND OF SILENCE (Sundance 2019) and BUOYANCY (Berlinale 2019). Turnure-Salleo works internationally as a script editor as well as a mentor at screenwriting labs such as Stowe Story Lab, Biennale College Cinema, Vic Screen's Originate Lab and Attagirl Global Lab. Turnure-Salleo is Senior Adjunct Professor at California College of the Arts (CCA) where she has taught film for more than 9 years.

From 2008-2016 Turnure-Salleo designed and ran the Filmmaker 360 program at San Francisco Film Society (now SFFilm). During her eight years she provided \$5 million in funding to support filmmakers such as Chloe Zhao, Destin Daniel Cretton and Ryan Coogler. Earlier in her career, Turnure-Salleo produced PSA's, documentary series and shorts for Bravo, CBC, The Knowledge Network and was Assistant Producer on the Academy Award-nominated documentary REGRET TO INFORM. She holds a BFA (Film) from the University of New South Wales and a MFA (Film) from the University of British Columbia.

Rebecca Tuynman; Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Rebecca Tuynman oversees all Ryman Arts classes and student activities. She has 30 years of experience in art education, having worked prior to Ryman Arts in a variety of community organizations, schools, universities, and museums. Rebecca is a graduate of the Community Arts Education Leadership Institute (CAELI), produced by the National Guild for Community Arts Education. She earned her MFA in Studio Art from UC Santa Barbara and a BA in History of Art from Bryn Mawr College. She has been with Ryman Arts since 2005. Rebecca received the Outstanding Visual Arts Supervisor/Administrator of the Year for 2017 from the California Art Education Association.

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, 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). Her book, Funding Your Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, with co-author Barbara Walker, was published in 2018, and her most recent volume, Designing and Implementing a Successful Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Program is forthcoming from Routledge.

Ulysses Urquizo; Whittier

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Public Sector professional. In my professional experience, I have been able to develop curriculum and programs, establish the foundation for programs under different grants with different requirements and outcomes. I have a personal mission to tackle issues of access and equity. Despite coming from a single parent home living under poverty

levels, I found avenues and opportunities to advocate for underrepresented youth and their families to create pathways for higher education and post-secondary options. This all stems from my upbringing and mentorship received in high school. I aim to connect with the community by letting them know my narrative and how I connect and relate. Adversities are everywhere but families must understand and know what they must do to rise above any statistic. Community outreach has been a major part of the work that I have done. I conducted outreach to ensure I am able to find; bring and offer additional resources to the community I serve. I have a strong community outreach skill and have always been able to capitalize opportunities to ensure student success.

Pancho Valdez; Santa Monica

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Pancho Cohen was raised in El Paso, TX. A graduate of UCLA, he has attended both Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA and the Grand Central Academy in New York, New York. He has been a featured artist at Luminaria Arts Festival in San Antonio, TX and a resident artist at Camera Obscura Art Lab in Santa Monica, CA. A recent recipient of the Joshua Tree Highland Arts Residency, he is a former fellow of the Hudson River Fellowship in Jackson, NH. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles running SEIS Gallery, which features up and coming young artists alongside masters of their craft.

Andrea Valentino Vieths; Dana Point

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have a BA in art history and have worked in art administration and community learning outreach programs in art museums. My experience includes volunteering as a teacher of arts and crafts and yoga to incarcerated women largely populated by black women, and I was a committee chair and volunteer for a program that brought art to students of all ages at a school for people with mental, emotion and developmental disabilities. I am a visual artist and yoga professional originally from San Diego living in Orange county, California.

Betsy Valle Poma; Tarzana

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

I have been an arts educator for over 8 years, and have held leadership roles in nonprofits for over 5 years. I am currently the board president at NVCS. My experience includes program planning and execution, program evaluation, budgeting, and training and development of staff.

Georgia Van Cuylenburg; West Hollywood

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Georgia is an artist, performer, activist and philanthropist who has dedicated her life to working with individuals and communities born into an unjust experience of our world. She is endlessly inspired by them to spend every day combining her passion for humans, arts, education, innovation and philanthropy to create a thriving future for everyone.

Georgia is an outspoken advocate for global human rights and ending childhood trauma, and speaks internationally on the platforms of children's rights, youth empowerment, and the power of art to create change.

Through founding Arts Bridging the Gap, she has used trauma informed care and neuroscience to form a community driven movement that brings artists, educators and community organizations together to create arts education experiences for children in under resourced areas in order to improve their self-efficacy and ultimately their academic success. Georgia developed all of ABG's programs including The Los Angeles Street Art Initiative and Futures, its Arts+Wellness Philosophy and is the author of its published Empathy Curriculum - a guide to creating connection and positive relationships amongst disenfranchised communities.

Alicia van de Bor; Stockton

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a first-generation college student and Mexican-American artist living with Hashimoto's autoimmune disease and primarily working with ceramics. I am studying at the University of Pacific for a BFA in Art with a concentration in Studio Arts. I have A.A. degrees in Art History, Studio Art, and Art. As a College Corp - Ameri-Corp fellow, last semester, I volunteered 240 hours serving underserved communities, and this semester, my goal is to reach 450 volunteer hours by the end of April 2024. My art concentration is in ceramics, where I create artwork that celebrates women's achievements. Last semester, I made a body of work influenced by the lack of representation of women in history and the arts. I have exhibited my artwork in multiple shows and have received several art-related grants, scholarships, and prizes. I have taught community-based art classes since 2018. My most recent art-related membership is with the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Scott Vandrick; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Scott Vandrick is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit professional who has been working in the field for more the 30 years. In 2023, he joined the staff of The Music Center as the Senior Director of Advancement, overseeing the individual giving and donor stewardship teams of the fundraising department. Prior to that, he served for a decade as the Chief Development Officer of the Pasadena Symphony Association, managing all levels of fundraising for a mid-sized arts organization. He previously served as the Director of Development for the Flintridge Center, Cornerstone Theater Company and Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. Between 2005-2012, Scott served as the Executive Director of the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation in Burbank, and the Chair of the Federation of Burn Foundations, a national advocacy group. Currently, Scott is on the Board of Directors of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras and is the Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Pasadena Scott is a graduate of UCLA School of Theatre, and a freelance theater director/choreographer.

Richard Varrasso; Copperopolis

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Richard Varrasso creates culture that can be proven. Constantly staying relevant to new desires, he knows how to find the demographic and develop the market. He has managed many roles in marketing, promotion, production and administration. He “specializes in being special”.

While working records and concerts, he was immersed in the radio broadcast business and became a song promoter for Big 7 Records out of Nashville. That led to a 3 year term with Live365 building almost 4000 internet radio stations. He has been an old school analog and new age digital business leader with a proven track record of driving results He is highly regarded for ability to problem-solve and execute in complex, fast-moving environments, consistently exceeding operating plans and goals.

While entering his retirement years, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Copperopolis Area Business Association, the Copperopolis Community Center, the Lake Tulloch Lions Club and Creative Copperopolis.

Luis Vasquez; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Luis is passionate about serving inner-city marginalized youth. He believes through trusting relationships and critical supports that complement their natural gifts and curiosities; Youth can reach their greatest potential. Luis is honored to advance the impact and mission of Rainbow Labs through building a network of champions, committed to accelerating opportunities for its youth. Luis Vasquez is a veteran non-profit administrator, with more than 16 years of experience in the greater Southern California region as an executive, project manager, administrator, business development, operations, communications specialist and service provider. At a very young age, Luis noticed firsthand how uneven the playing field was for kids that were different. For the past decade, he has worked in the public education and non-profit industry to change the narrative and disrupt the outcomes for youth. In his former roles Luis has led, one of the largest and most successful social service partnership programs in Los Angeles County dealing with youth development and trauma informed coaching.

Michael Vasquez; Fresno

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My name is Michael Vasquez. I am a 29 year old graphic designer and illustrator based in Fresno, CA. I worked under the artist name Izelillustrations. My work encompasses Mesoamerican and Indigenous cultures of Central America. I create and sell original artwork along with enamel pins, embroidered patches, vinyl stickers, and apparel of my indigenous artwork. My work has traveled as far as Brooklyn for an art show and I have my art pieces in numerous art museums in the United States from the National Museum of Mexican art in Chicago, to the Dallas Museum of Art in Dallas. I have been practicing my art for the past 7 years. I also do public arts in the form of murals and have 6 murals

throughout the Central Valley; 4 in Fresno, 1 in Del Rey, and 1 in Visalia. I have been awarded the CAC individual artists grant in 2023 and the CAC x Cultural Powers grant in 2023 as well.

Samuel Vasquez; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Samuel U. Vasquez has served as a dedicated fundraiser and arts advocate at leading Los Angeles institutions for over a decade. Following his experience as co-founder of the collective-run space eighteen-thirty, Samuel joined The Museum of Contemporary Art's (MOCA) fundraising department. This was followed by a tenure in Advancement at the Hammer Museum during the launch of Made in L.A. and Free Admission. He oversaw the opening of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA), formerly the Santa Monica Museum of Art and introduced new approaches to fundraising centered around community building, social inclusion, and mission-driven programming. Most recently, he served as Deputy Director, Advancement at MOCA and is currently working on opening The Performance Art Museum in Los Angeles. Samuel received his B.A. in Political Science from UCLA.

Sandy Vazquez; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Sandy Vazquez is an interdisciplinary artist and arts educator born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. In 2016, she graduated from UCLA with a dual degree in Dance and Chicxanx Studies. Through her performance work, she has featured on stages such as The John Anson Ford Theater, The Broad Stage, The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Brava Theater, and the Harare International Festival of the Arts. As the daughter of working class undocumented Mexican immigrants, she has committed her life's work to honoring her community, ancestry, and lineage by making space for dialogue on the stage and in the classroom. Sandy has vast experience in the arts education sector, working in direct service and arts administration for organizations such as Everybody Dance LA!, Youth Speaks, and Destiny arts Center to name a few. Sandy currently resides in Oakland, CA working as a Teaching Artist for Destiny Arts and performs regularly with San Francisco based touring company, La Mezcla.

Kirsten Vega; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I'm a Program Officer at California Humanities, the nonprofit state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. I work on arts and humanities grants across the state from my home in Berkeley, CA. Previously I've worked as a teaching artist and administrator for art museums, art centers, libraries, and nonprofits, including Bennington College Visual Arts Department, The Cape Ann Museum, and Historic New England.

I'm an experienced grant panelist who enjoys getting to know a project on the page and in work samples. Recently I served as a panelist for the California Arts Council and the City of Berkeley Civic Arts Department. In my role at California Humanities, I've read hundreds of applications across the categories of general operating support, public programs, exhibits, visual art projects, and media production. I'm a lifelong ballet dancer and textile artist with great respect for the power of the arts to bolster the collective.

Zoot Velasco; Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Zoot overcame an orthopedic disability, hospitalization, homelessness, and childhood trauma to have a 12-year career as a professional SAG dancer, actor, storyteller, and mime touring internationally (CAC Touring Roster). He has a BA in Dance Performance from St. Mary's College of CA and a certification from Second City. As a CAC artist-in-residence, he taught theatre in prisons, juvenile halls, hospitals, and community centers and on the 1992 CAC LA Recovery Program in Watts. For 23 years, Zoot led cultural programs including Arts-In-Corrections (Wasco & CRC), Mountain Arts Network, Unusual Suspects Theatre Company, and Homeland Cultural Center. He built 4 new Cultural Centers in the Harbor for LA Cultural Affairs and a theatre in Long Beach. As CEO of the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, income, endowment, audience, and programs quadrupled with Orange County's first STEAM programs, institutional arts programs, and audience development. Zoot is a registered CHC History Scholar. He created oral histories in Long Beach and co-wrote a book on Muckenthaler history. Zoot has an MBA in nonprofit management and has written two books on nonprofit leadership. As a CFRE, he raised over \$4M.

Joy Veluz; Pasadena

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

Myra Joy Veluz, a former competitive dancer at SMDA, achieved remarkable success with numerous scholarships and performing opportunities early in her career, including 2by2.net's All Star Summer Jam and the Stars of Tomorrow European Tour. She went on to perform commercially and in the concert dance world, notably with Blue13 Dance Company.

Recognizing the transformative power of dance education, she committed the next steps of her career to shaping the next generation of artists. Her dedication was recognized when she was selected as a Lead Teacher for NDEO's CAN Teacher Leader Project, one of only 15 dance educators in the United States to receive this honor. She also holds positions as an Adjunct Professor at PCC and a Resource Team member at USC's Glorya Kaufman School of Dance. Additionally, Ms. Joy's acceptance into the 2023 Fulbright Specialist Roster marks a significant accomplishment. She is dedicated to providing high-quality dance education wherever she teaches and looks forward to continuing her advocacy for the arts on a broader scale.

Simone Vianna; Sacramento***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I have been an Interior Designer for over 20 years, I have been an Antique Dealer, Faux Painter Artist, I am an Academy of the Motion Pictures Arts and Science Museum founding member for 3 years, I am an editorial stylist for over 12 years, Vogue Club founding member for 3 years, art supporter and really love art. I used to teach art for children in Davis thru Parks and Recreation program. I used to serve on the Board of Directors for 7 years of Access Sacramento.

Bernadette Vielbig; Eureka***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Bernadette Vielbig was born and raised on a small self-sufficient farm in northern California. She studied fine art and design and earned a BA in Studio Art from Humboldt State University and a Masters of Fine Art with studio concentrations in sculpture and design from Louisiana State University where she taught three-dimensional design and drawing classes before earning her letters. During her career as an academic she was a faculty specialist in new facilities, and updating labs, she accomplished such tasks at the University of South Carolina Columbia, Central Michigan University where she was also awarded the Stephen F Barstow Artist in Residence before moving onto a tenure track role as faculty in the sculpture area at Spokane Falls Community College in eastern Washington. Bernadette left her post and tenure to come back home to northern California.

Her work has been featured nationally at gallery & museum venues including the Kohler Design Center, Chrysler Museum of Art, NOLA Contemporary Art Center, and the Northwest Museum

of Arts and Culture. Vielbig has received grants and awards for her work and has held positions with several artist-in-residence programs nationally.

Ana Villalpando; La Jolla***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

Born and raised in Tijuana, I graduated with a BA in Philosophy from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California and taught humanities in a Rosarito high school. After this experience, I migrated to Long Beach to pursue a MA in Social Justice and Education at CSULB. At this time, I worked at the Kleefeld Contemporary Art Museum, translating archival documents for exhibitions. Simultaneously, I worked at the Long Beach Public Library as a Library Assistant and later as the Literacy Coordinator. During this period, I was a Committee Member of the Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant and a Shop Steward and Executive Board member for the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers Union. I continued to be involved in the Tijuana-San Diego area by serving as a youth mentor in Homegrown Collaborative, and by producing and hosting a Nett Nett radio show focused on interviewing artists and creators. I'm currently pursuing a PhD in Literatures in Spanish at UCSD, and continue to be a Committee Member at the Seguimos Creando Enlaces Conference. My art has

been featured in Gramanimia Magazine and at the Centro Cultural de La Raza in Balboa Park, San Diego.

Rocio Villanueva; Escondido

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Rocio Villanueva, Army Veteran OEF 21-C. She is a San Diego based multimedia artist and advocate. She was born in Jalisco, Mexico, in 1986. Since 2020 Villanueva has been teaching students who bring their diverse backgrounds, world views, intuitions, insights and ideas into the classroom, in turn inspiring and contributing to her own education. Villanueva primarily works with ceramics to fuse traditional & contemporary elements from her heritage and American upbringing.

Villanueva 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. She is an active member of the San Diego ceramics community and VETARTs.

Angela Vincent; Fresno

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Angela Chaidez Vincent writes poetry & fiction and teaches computer programming & mathematics. Her debut poetry collection, *Arena Glow*, is forthcoming this spring from Tourane Press. She enjoys blending creative writing and scientific inquiry by teaching summer workshops in science writing, most recently for Kenyon Review Young Science Writers. Her poetry has appeared in *Oxford Review of Books*, *North American Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *32 Poems*, and *Bellevue Literary Review*, among others. She has also recently shown work in several text/image/sculpture collaborations both locally and in New York. She holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering, teaching credentials in mathematics and instrumental music performance, and an MFA in Creative Writing.

Emilio Virata; Riverside

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Educator, activist, and organizer Emilio J. Virata spent over 30 years pushing back against the restrictive structures of higher education administration. He served as Director of Asian Pacific Student Programs at Loyola Marymount University and UC Riverside, and completed his sojourn through higher education as UCR's Assistant Dean of Students. In his younger years he worked as a youth outreach worker with several substance abuse prevention organizations, and also worked as a labor organizer with the Service Employees International Union.

An American born Pinoy, he has wrestled with finding identity while straddling two cultures. In his retirement years he seeks ways to nurture creativity in his life. He writes. He plays music. He makes films. He lets his imagination run wild. He happily plays with his grandchildren, watching them run and laugh, and have a great ol' time.

He shares his stories, that they might inspire some joy, or challenge some thinking, or that they might simply provide a momentary distraction from life's daily routines.

Hank von Hellion; Daly City***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Hank Von Hellion is a multi-talented artist and leader in the non-profit arts sector. He has extensive experience in arts management, having worked with various creative organizations, startups, community groups, and boards. In 2016, he co-founded an annual street art festival and remained a part of it until 2019. Throughout his career, he has developed and mentored numerous programs, including workshops, art exhibits, performances, pop-ups, and community events. From 2017 to 2022, Hank served as the founding Managing Director of a prominent community art and performance space in Worcester, Massachusetts. Besides his involvement in the arts sector, Hank is also a skilled fine artist, muralist, and freelance creative designer. His artwork has been showcased extensively in the United States and abroad, and in 2021, he curated his first solo museum show.

Lou Walker; Lancaster***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I received a Bachelor's of Art degree in Studio Art from California State University, San Bernardino in 2007. I began volunteering as a program leader in after-school programs (YMCA, local religious organizations) focused on at-risk youth populations beginning in 2009. I worked at a California state veterans residential retirement facility from 2010 to 2018 as a nursing unit clerk, and often volunteered with the senior activities department onsite. I began my journey as a state certified substitute teacher from 2013 to the present, providing emergency programming and lesson planning for students in grades K-12, including contract employment with detention centers in Los Angeles County.

I began merging my artistic creativity with advocacy when I learned how effective arts programming is to social emotional well-being, cultural and community empowerment and expression. I currently serve as the National Action Network (NAN) Antelope Valley Chapter president. This is a civil rights organization that advocates for disenfranchised communities and protects the civil rights of all persons, regardless of race, age, gender, religion, and more. I love seeing communities thrive.

Marissa Walker; Felton***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

I am a Santa Cruz artist that works in several mediums whilst specializing in metalsmithing. My metal and glass works are self taught and have propelled me into my own creative business. My sole income is from my art and I have made a very nice living from creating and selling my jewelry. I feel as though I have a lot to offer in terms of the market, up and coming artists, and projects for consideration.

I have been involved in the art community since I was a teen and painted murals. I am vested in my community and continually work to engage new faces in the arts.

Ena Walters; Lemon Grove***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am also a fashion designer of women's clothing and accessories/wearable art, and owner of the brand (One Nine Five). My technical skills include drawing and illustration, pattern making, draping, garment construction fabric manipulation and textile designs. Through my nonprofit San Diego Diverse Business Association, I have worked with many of the top fashion designers in San Diego County to highlight and support local talent.

Melissa Wang; Orinda

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Melissa Wang received her B.A. in Literature/Writing from the University of California, San Diego and her M.A. in English from the University of California, Davis. She researched science-fiction as a PhD candidate before segueing to tech. In 2019, she began a professional art practice, and has since exhibited at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlingburg, TN; Torrance Art Museum in Los Angeles, CA; and the de Young Museum in San Francisco, CA with a solo exhibition at Root Division (Frank-Ratchye space) in San Francisco, CA. Her work can be found in public spaces including Brown University in Providence, RI and Facebook in Menlo Park, CA. She is the recipient of a 2021 Individual Emerging Artist Fellowship from the California Arts Council.

In early 2020, she founded her design studio, leveraging her experience at Facebook (Meta) and Google to serve creatives during the pandemic. She helped launch the late Rose Imai's website and co-organized an art auction with artist Cindy Shih, raising \$11,000 for voter movement projects. In 2022, she curated her first in-person exhibition titled Grow Our Souls at SOMArts Gallery in San Francisco.

Lyzette Wanzer; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

Lyzette's work appears in over 30 literary journals, books, and magazines. Library Journal named her book, TRAUMA, TRESSES, & TRUTH: Untangling Our Hair Through Personal Narratives (Chicago Review Press 2022), a Top 10 Best Social Sciences Book. Publishers Weekly featured the book in Fall 2022. Lyzette is a contributor to Lyric Essay as Resistance: Truth From the Margins (Wayne State University Press 2023), Civil Liberties United: Diverse Voices from the San Francisco Bay Area (Pease Press 2019), and the multi-award-winning The Chalk Circle: Intercultural Prizewinning Essays (Wyatt-MacKenzie 2012).

Lyzette has served as an applicant reviewer for The Anderson Center artists' residency and The Writers Grotto fellowship program, and as a judge for the Keats Soulmaking Literary Competition and Women's National Book Association. Her work has been supported with grants from Center for Cultural Innovation, San Francisco Arts Commission, California Arts Council, and California Humanities. She presents her work at conferences across the country and, in 2021 and 2023, she produced her own three-day virtual conference, Trauma, Tresses, & Truth: A Natural Hair Conference.

Pam Ward; Northridge***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

LA native, Pam Ward recently released her first poetry book, "BETWEEN GOOD MEN & NO MAN AT ALL, World Stage Press. Pam is the author of two novels, "WANT SOME GET SOME," Kensington, chronicling a heist after the '92 riots and "BAD GIRLS BURN SLOW," Kensington, a tale of a mother working funeral homes. A UCLA graduate and recipient of a "California Arts Council Fellow" and a "Pushcart Poetry Nominee," Pam edited the first anthology of Los Angeles black women poets entitled, "The Supergirls Handbook." While operating a design studio and teaching at Art Center College of Design, Pam merged writing and graphics to produce "My Life, LA" documenting Black Angelinos in poster/stories. Pam's literary showcase, "I Didn't Survive Slavery For This!" a multi-media poetic riff on life post emancipation, featured a collective of poets of The World Stage. Pam currently designs, runs her community imprint Short Dress Press and hosts Beyond Baroque's Wednesday Night Poetry Workshop, the longest running workshop in Los Angeles. Pam recently completed her third novel "Bury My Dress on Central Ave."

Romaine Washington; Rancho Cucamonga***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I was first published as a teenager in a local neighborhood newspaper. What helped to enrich my life as a youth was participating in local dance classes, summer arts and reading programs, and community college programs geared toward high school students. I have been writing poetry most of my life and have been published in several periodicals. I have two chapbooks of poetry, and in the last year, I have been curating and editing collections, including art, poetry, memoirs, essays, and fiction. Arts and community building go hand-in-hand.

I have been involved with an arts organization for the past six years as a writing workshop facilitator. I have also been a California-certified ELA public high school teacher for over twenty years and know how important the arts are in creating opportunities for healing and community building. I am currently retired, and I know how important arts are in making meaning of lived experiences. I would like to use my time and focus to help in this part of the arts community.

Daniel Wasil; Mariposa***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

While pursuing a degree in Fine Art, I co-founded an Artists' Space in San Diego (INSTALLATION), served on the Board of the National Association of Artists Organizations (NAAO), and co-developed the processes for the nascent San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. I was the curator for the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art (LAICA).

Sarah Wass; Los Angeles***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

Sarah Wass is a nonprofit leader, award-winning arts educator, and active professional

musician with more than 20 years of experience in the performing 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, strategic growth, 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 the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra. As a flutist, Sarah performs in concert halls, on sound stages, and in the occasional former speakeasy. She has been an artist-in-residence at Stanford University; University of Surrey, UK; Dartington International Summer School and Cal State Summer Arts Festival. She has performed with Brightwork Ensemble, Wild Up, International Contemporary Ensemble, The Industry Opera and on the Ojai Festival, Hear Now Festival and Monday Evening Concerts.

Elka Weber; Ventura

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

I have years of experience reviewing and evaluating submissions for two literary arts magazines and a national screenwriting contest, and I'm currently on the scholarship application review panel for the Ventura County Community Foundation. I studied art and writing formally, and I have an MFA degree. By day, I help staff a special district that monitors groundwater usage in Ventura County. I use my creative talents outside of work, volunteering for the VC Art Market, attempting to work on art and writing projects of my own, and supporting peers with critique and encouragement. I want to be involved, and I have many strengths that can be put to use to ensure CAC's commitment to equity in arts funding is carried through with respect and dignity.

Brea Weinreb; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Brea Weinreb (she/her, b. 1994, Mineola, New York) is a queer female figurative painter whose vibrant paintings of gay men address themes of kinship, gender performativity, authorship, and the gaze. She holds a Dual B.A. in Art Practice and English from the University of California, Berkeley. Her work has been exhibited in solo exhibitions at OCHI Gallery (Los Angeles), Monya Rowe Gallery (New York) and Taymour Grahne Projects (London, UK), as well as group exhibitions across the United States, Europe and Asia. Her work has been reviewed in the Los Angeles Times and was featured on the cover of New American Paintings Pacific Coast Issue #157. Weinreb's work is included in the Green Family Art Foundation's public collection in Dallas, TX.

Mathew Werner; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I have lived and worked in San Diego since 1998 and am currently employed as an art teacher. I paint, draw, and sculpt and have always been a multimedia artist on the side of teaching. Before having kids I frequently hosted Art Shows in my community and sold work semi-professionally. I coach a robotics team at my school and enter various

contests with my students throughout the year. I have won countless awards for photography and painting in my community and help young artists develop their portfolio. I display much of my work on Instagram

Eve Weston; Santa Monica

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Eve Weston believes in storytelling as a force for positive change. Weston is writer/director of the award-winning world's first 360VR immersive sitcom, The BizNest. She is also a published expert in XR narrative, author of the taxonomy for immersive POV and a professor of VR filmmaking, TV writing and immersive storytelling at top-ranked film schools.

For The Bruce Lee Foundation, Weston created Be Water: My Friend, an interactive exploration of Bruce Lee's library and philosophy, currently on view at Seattle's Wing Luke Museum. She also served as a consultant for Dreamscape Learn and is on the advisory board of Hoppin.world.

Weston's speaking engagements include Stanford University, SIGGRAPH and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the organization behind the Emmys.

An award-winning journalist, Weston has written about VR for Ms. Magazine and The New York Post. A produced television writer, she's written and developed for several ABC/Disney channels and shows, including Wizards of Waverly Place—where she wrote and choreographed a viral YouTube sensation for Selena Gomez. Weston is an alumna of Princeton, USC and Goldman Sachs.

Gleidy Wetzel; Carmel

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a standing Junior in the Visual and Public Arts program through California State University of Monterey Bay. I participate in community service learning through our local museum, Monterey Museum of Art (MMA). In addition to immersing myself into community service through the arts, I have also completed a Mural at CSUMB with two other students. I am one of two chosen mock-panelist for our school's own pretend civic arts program. I have created a Request for Qualifications and upon researching what entails being a panelist, I came across this site and application and wish to be considered as a real panelist.

Shelby Whallon; Beverly Hills

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I was previously a dancer with Los Angeles Ballet from 2016 to 2023. I founded a fiscally sponsored nonprofit called The Encore Fund to help the professional dance community. I am now a full-time student at UCLA finishing my undergraduate degree in Public Affairs, and continuing to support the arts in Los Angeles through TEF's mission and teaching dance.

MonaLisa Whitaker; Inglewood***Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary***

MonaLisa Whitaker, works in photography/mixed media, is a mother, wife, sister, daughter and auntie, who was born and raised in several neighborhoods around Los Angeles. Always a voracious reader and intrigued by history, art, culture and community, she was inspired to obtain a BA in Art History, minor in Public Administration, an Occupational Certificate in Photography and Studio Art. This unusual combination informs both her identity and work.

Her photographic artworks have been shown in exhibitions nationally and in the greater Los Angeles area. In Spring 2020, her artwork was acquired as part of an archive to the UCLA Ralph Bunche Center for American studies; she was part of an artist panel at LACC about the importance and impact of artists' collectives to sustaining creative practices and exhibiting in non-traditional venues.

She seeks to promote understanding and acknowledgement that we, as humans, nature and all living beings are interconnected, despite societal tendencies that emphasize the opposite. Currently, she is learning how to honor authentic voices by incorporating oral history as components of her personal work and larger community archival projects.

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 hold a MFA in Creative Writing/Poetry from Dominican University of California. I have written plays and worked in theater. I live in Woodacre and have lived in Marin since 1970.

Totiana White; San Francisco***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

As of today I am currently the Founder and CEO of my own entertainment music company, going on 2 years on April 16th 2024. On top of being the Founder, I am the Director and Producer of the showcases completing 23 events from April 2022 until present. Nevertheless, I am still a music artist that performs Hip Hop & Soul music. I'm highly skilled with 15 years of professional music entertainment experience. Starting November 14th 2023, I've taught my own Create & Compose Music Lab Workshops once a month, every second Tuesday that I financially invested in Ruth Williams Opera House to train other artists to be successful entrepreneurs and businessmen. Continuing my education within local performing arts organizations like Bayview Opera House, AAACC, CalAsian Chamber of Commerce and Commonwealth Club to provide training, knowledge, and resources to emerging BIPOC artists. I've even completed a few event production bootcamp workshops with IntoTheStreets for budgeting and planning, which were vital. I am over qualified and have been putting the skills to use by traveling to different cities and states securing performance venues, while educating the next generations to come.

Sandra White-Stevens; San Diego***Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts***

Sandra is currently Ceo/founder of 2 online magazines, Urban Teen Magazine which features upcoming music artists and outstanding teens around the country and ModelStyle Magazine, featuring aspiring models. Sandra also works parttime as a independent talent agent for Breakpoint Booking and a music career specialist for Eleven, an online music career coaching platform. Crowned Miss California Professional Woman 2000. Sandra has a degree in Telemedia Communications from Southwestern College. A graduate of Patricia Stevens Fashion College, Sandra has past work in runway fashion shows and pageant training with a former Ebony Fashion Fair Model and Regional Miss California USA Pageant Director. A volunteer committee member and production staff member of The Miss San Diego Pageant Foundation, a local preliminary to the Miss America System.

Sandra has worked as a Media Sales Executive for XHRM 92.5 FM Radio, assistant director for a television cablecast teen dance show” Touchdown”,

A strong advocate for kids and community Sandra was a Girl Scout Leader for 5 years. She truly believes in seeing young people reach and achieve their potential.

Peter Whitley; Carlsbad***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

I am an adult student enrolled at California State University - San Marcos, in my senior year of my Art, Media and Design Bachelor's Degree. I have returned to school after a noteworthy career in game publishing, community advocacy, and grant-making. I am here to volunteer my experience, technical skills, and enthusiasm.

My art-direction work in game publishing focused on the communication of complex ideas and instruction to motivated young people. In this work I became involved in Pokémon, Dungeons & Dragons, and dozens of board game titles. This was the culmination of a career in graphic design. Games bring people together and require them to adapt to new and dynamic conditions and achieve their goals.

I recognize that skateparks bring young people together in a free and unrestricted environment and offers important risk-play opportunities. Skateparks are really good for some kids. And, in some ways, they are like games. I spent another decade as Programs Director for the Tony Hawk Foundation exploring ways to encourage skateboarding communities to advocate locally for public skateparks.

Together, these viewpoints might bring a unique perspective to the CAC process.

Keshini Wijegoonaratna; Chino Hills***Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts***

Passionate and creative performing arts professional with experience developing, executing, and fundraising to achieve sustainability in the Sri Lanka Foundation Academy of Performing Arts (SLF APA) for the last 10 years. I obtained the SLF APA

Accreditation Status from the ACS WASC in May 2019. I served on the grant panel in the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles in January 2024 which was a very positive and informative experience.

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of California, Irvine in 2022, a State of California Commission of Teacher Credentialing, Site Supervisor Permit, 2006, and a National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation Certification, 1996. When working in the previous Non-Profit Sector I have Actively participated in raising funds for the Asian Countries for the Tsunami Victims in 2004 and participated in International Relief work in Haiti, Bali, and Ethiopia. Served as the Past President of the Sri Lanka America Association of Southern California from 2003 to 2005. Organized fundraising projects for the Los Angeles Consul General of Sri Lanka and US Ambassador for Sri Lanka.

Antoinette Williams; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Since 2013, Antoinette has worked as an independent curator organizing exhibitions in the US and abroad. Her experiences have been honed working alongside institutions such as: Sotheby's Australia, Rise Art, and Peckham International Art Fair London. In addition to curating and organizing art projects, Antoinette is a contributing writer for Rise Art and Vanguard Culture. She has previously written articles for Discover North County Magazine, Fresh Paint Magazine, Or Does It Explode Magazine and Artfetch. Antoinette has pursued a career in the arts with the aim of exercising her passion for facilitating engagement and enthusiasm in a way that can further the art industry. Based in San Diego, CA + Copenhagen, she is the Founder of Apotheosis Art. Antoinette acquired her BA in Art History at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Upon completion she decided to pursue a Master's Degree in Fine and Decorative Art from Sotheby's Institute of Art, London. After the culmination of her studies, she went on to work as an independent advisor and curator, working with artists in Australia, the US, and Europe.

BK Williams; Richmond

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I have a strong belief in volunteerism and served as a Richmond CA Arts and Culture Commissioner for eight years. I served as Board Chair for Queer Women of Color Media Arts (QWOCMAP) a social justice focused film training organization. I co-founded Richmond Film Collective which supported story-telling through the effective use of film. I completed an award winning documentary, Against Hate which illuminated the free speech claims around hate speech in Richmond.

I cofounded Women in Politics (WIP) to ensure the representation and inclusion of women in leadership in Richmond.

I also served as Vice President and a founding member of Richmond Rainbow Pride, an organization that formed to better understand and address the needs of the LGBTQI community in and around Richmond and increase the visibility in the community.

I served as Vice Chair of the County MeasureX Task Force.

I serve as Co-Chair of the Richmond Progressive Alliance, a volunteer independent progressive organization and I served on Richmond's Reimagining Public Safety Task force.

I am the lead advisor for Richmond Renaissance, an Arts Corridor in Richmond Ca and an advisor to Arts CCC.

Charles Williams; Inglewood

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Mr. Douglass is the Co – Founder and Artistic Director of, The Performing Arts For Life And Education Foundation, Inc. (PALEF), a 30 year old nonprofit Arts and community activist, organization serving the underserved and disenfranchised youth, young adults and families of South Los Angeles and surrounding areas. PALEF's 30th anniversary celebration will be October 1, 2023. Mr. Douglass is also the creator and writer of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Gospel Songfest, just completing its twelfth year of existence.

Mr. Douglass Has had an extremely active career, spanning over a fifty year period. Hailing from Philadelphia (the city of 'Brotherly Love'), he was a community organizer under The Industrial Areas Foundation for over ten years and was a Supervisor with The La Bridges Program. Mr. Douglass spent well over five years with the "Hope in Youth" youth empowerment initiative in the mid-nineties.

Jessica Williams; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Jessica W. Williams is the Administrative Coordinator, K-12 Arts in the Division of Instruction for the Los Angeles Unified School District specializing in the development, implementation, and coordination of standards-based instructional programs across all art forms. With a passion for nurturing artistic talent and fostering creativity in students, Jessica dedicates her expertise to enhancing arts education in schools. A collaborative leader, she works closely with various departments and partner organizations to coordinate innovative programming. Passionate about arts integration, Jessica conducts professional development trainings, and oversees virtual enrichment classes. In addition to managing arts programming district-wide, she also serves as President-elect for the Organization of Management Administrators. She has two decades of experience with LAUSD, spanning school site, regional, and district levels. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

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.

Lacey Williams; Desert Hot Spring

Artistic Area of Experience: Folk/Traditional Arts

Native to California and growing up in Southeast San Diego, Ms. Lacey Williams was confronted with social injustice at a young age. Her parents were transplants from Jim Crow Mississippi and came to California for more diversity, opportunity, and less blatant racism. They fortified and enriched their young daughter with West African culture, arts, education and although she thrived, she was still impacted by racial inequality. Participating in West African drum and dance since the age of four, Ms. Lacey is a West African cultural ambassador. She is an expert Djun Djun drummer and teacher, and has performed all over the state, country, and world. A poet, lecturer, trainer, and motivational speaker, Ms. Lacey is also a LVN and Certified Therapeutic Recreational Specialist earning her Bachelors Degree and CTRS certification in 2016.

Patricia Williams, Ed.D; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Short Biography

Dr. Patricia Williams obtained her Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership Development at University of Phoenix, (2013) along with her Masters in Arts Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2004. is a well-rounded professional as she has obtained a Bachelor in Arts Degree in Business Administration/Computer Science and worked in accounting as a business leader prior to becoming an educator.

As a published author and now CEO of PTWO Push the Word Out Publications, Dr. Williams consults, writes, trains, educates, mentors, and now publishes new authors. Dr. Williams has been CEO of PTWO an educational consulting company for over 8 years.

Dr. Williams has been an educator for the past 29 years and was instrumental in working with the CEA, SDEA, OEA and NEA where she assists teachers with current and relevant guidelines affect teaching and learning everywhere.

James Wilson; Temecula

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am James D Wilson, a 64 year-old artist who began painting in 2005 after the passing of my mother. Since that time I painted to validate my feelings and to honor her memory.

Art allows me to express my emotions and utilize my creative energy .

Over the years I have created over 100 pieces of art. In January 2023, I had the pleasure of having my artwork selected by the 52 Project Exhibit 2023 that was shown at the Riverside Art Museum.

My collection titled " Trans Atlantic Voyage " was the first showing of any of my artwork publicly in a Gallery.

It would be my honor to serve as an panelist on the California Arts Council Grant review board.

Emily Wiseman; Santa Rosa

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Emily Wiseman earned her BFA from Sonoma State University and her MFA degree from California State University, Northridge. She currently divides her time between Santa Rosa and Los Angeles, exhibiting her work in both Northern and Southern California. Emily's work has been exhibited in the Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA, Launch Gallery, Los Angeles, Shoebox Projects, Los Angeles, ARC Gallery, San Francisco, California State University, Los Angeles, Fulton Crossing Gallery, Fulton CA. Her work has been reviewed in publications including Fabrik Magazine, Art and Cake, and Diversions LA.

Community involvement has always played a big part in Emily's life. She has donated time and expertise to community projects including event and prop production, several years as a member of Rohnert Park's Cultural Arts Commission, and served on the 2014/15 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury. Other volunteer activities include the local PBS affiliate and Pacific Standard Time, Los Angeles. In addition to her art practice, Emily is currently working as a freelance bookkeeper, grant writer and administrative consultant for small creative businesses and nonprofit arts organizations.

Elizabeth Withstandley; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Elizabeth Withstandley is from Cape Cod, Massachusetts and currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. She is one of the co-founders of Locust Projects, a not-for-profit art exhibition space, in Miami, FL and Prospect Art a not-for-profit in Los Angeles, CA. She received a BFA from Pratt Institute and an MFA from The University of Alabama.

Chris Wolf; La Habra

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

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.

Jessica Wolsfeld; Crescent City

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Descended from a family of painters, writers, and multimedia professionals, art is an essential organ in my life. Throughout my professional career, I support arts and culture programming. While working for a start-up non-profit Family Resource Center, I implemented multiple grant-funded programs for children and families including a weekly Sing-A-Long with a live musician. While running a Tribal Library, I organized a summer art and science program for Native American youth. Following a brief time as a case manager working with incarcerated Native Americans and Native American veterans, I witnessed the benefits of culture and art in healing.

Personally, I support fine artists, purchasing their prints, calendars, and books. I also follow the efforts of artists creating projects that interact with community (Candy Chang, Illegal Art).

Sandra Wong Orloff; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I earned a BFA in Painting from the San Francisco Art Institute and a MFA in Fine Arts from Mills College. I 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. I was a founding member of the artists collective Ben Dunne Presents, producing pop-up art exhibitions and events. I was a member of the artists collective GearBox Gallery. I have taught artmaking to young people, exhibited my artwork here and there and continue to explore my creative process. In 2023 I joined became a partner at Manna Gallery located in Uptown Oakland.

Lauren Wood; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I previously worked as a gallery director at Gavlak Los Angeles for 6 years. Our roster championed marginalized and LGBTQIA+ artists. I now work as a studio manager for Japanese American artist Kelly Akashi. My educational background is in English Literature and Psychology, and I am currently getting my master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. I am completing my practicum hours as a school counselor at an inner city school here in LA, where most students are from marginalized communities and low socio economic backgrounds. I have an in depth knowledge of fine art, am a great communicator, and have a strong passion for social justice and advocacy work. I utilize expressive arts therapy interventions in my clinical work, and I utilize great decision making skills and a strong work ethic at my job as a studio manager. I would be a great asset to the panel and would be honored and thrilled to help out again! Let's get some great programs funding!!

Ashleigh Worley; Santa Rosa

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Ashleigh Worley (she/her) has served as the Director of Education & Community Engagement at Luther Burbank Center for the Arts since 2018. Prior to this, Ashleigh served as the Director of Education for 3 years at a professional theatre company and was a classroom teacher in a public school setting for 5 years. In addition to her work at LBC, she is the co-chair of the Sonoma County Arts Education Alliance Steering Committee and board co-chair of the Arts Education Alliance of the Bay Area. Ashleigh specializes in curriculum creation, DEIB learning, organizational strategy, and program development, also holding teaching credentials in California and North Carolina. In April 2020 she started Education Leaders of Arts Organizations (ELAEO) of Sonoma County and is a co-author of 2019 Sonoma County Arts Education Framework. The North Bay Business Journal highlighted Ashleigh in April 2021 as one of their 40 Business Leaders Under 40, and she holds a Nonprofit Executive Leadership certificate from Harvard University.

Katy Wright; Fountain Valley

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I've produced art for public installations in Fountain Valley since 2020, and have recently founded the 501c3 non-profit charity Art On A Box to further public participation for visual and written art in the public good.

Kobina Wright; Lake Elsinore

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I'm an artist, a California native and host of the art history podcast, "The Whole Art Nebula."

I've donated several works of art to The G.R.E.E.N. Foundation to assist in fundraising efforts for the organization which provides health resources and educational activities throughout Orange County and surrounding counties to African Americans and underserved communities.

After the production of our short film that I wrote and directed titled, Two Three. I, along with my production team, created a short documentary for the Historic Hemet Theater in the city of Hemet for the celebration of the one-screen theater's 100th anniversary. I've also been invited to a screenplay reading for a local film production group and I've been invited to speak on my experience as a filmmaker at the theater after a private screening of my film.

In May 2024, I'll be participating in a group exhibition in Orange County alongside other Black artists associated with Orange County.

Stephanie Wu; Palo Alto

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

A cellist, tech marketer, and grantmaker, I combine artistic passion with marketing and grantmaking expertise. Performing at the Sydney Opera House with the YouTube

Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas with 100 musicians from 33 countries in a live-streamed concert with 30M+ views ignited my drive for arts innovation and accessibility. As the Assistant Principal Cellist with the Berkeley Symphony and a former volunteer site visitor for Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, I'm deeply invested in the Bay Area's arts scene. I have 5 years of philanthropic experience from working as a Grantmaking Operations Coordinator at The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and a Program Associate at The James Irvine Foundation.

My Harvard degree (BA in Social Studies & Music) and UC Berkeley MBA fueled my shift from grantmaking to marketing at tech companies such as Google and Coursera. I recently ended my ten years in tech marketing to transition into the nonprofit arts sector. I'm committed to using my combined skillset to shape the future of California's arts and culture through participation on the CAC panel.

Barby Wunsch; Templeton

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I possess a BS degree from University of Oregon in Fine Arts - Fibers. I have been raising alpacas for the past 15 years and process, dye, weave, knit all the fibers to create beautiful works of art. I also teach other how to do this type of work to further it to future generations. I am a past executive board member for the Central Coast Weavers guild and a current member of the organization where I have held membership for the past 5 years. I am currently the Executive Director for a 501c3 nonprofit afterschool art program in Paso Robles where I run a 10,000 sqft facility. Classes in the visual and performing arts are taught by professional artists who love to teach art to youth (ages 5-18) in our local community. We are strategically located in the most underrepresented, low income area of Paso Robles and we do not charge students to take our classes. It is our mission to enrich lives through the arts and provide our students with the many benefits of art education to help them succeed in life. Classes are held year-round during the afterschool hours of 3:30-7:30 Monday through Friday. We teach drawing, painting, theater, music, dance, culinary arts and video production.

Nanette Wylde; Redwood City

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Nanette Wylde is an interdisciplinary artist, writer and cultural worker making environmental and socially reflective works using a variety of hybrid media. Wylde is a co-founder of PreNeo Press, a conceptual space creating projects, publications, and opportunities which celebrate the Art Life. Her artist books, prints and electronic works are included in significant international collections. Wylde has a BA in Behavioral Science from San José State University. Her MFA is in Interactive Multimedia and Printmaking from Ohio State University. She is Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History at California State University, Chico. Wylde has served on the following arts non-profits' Board of Directors: Women Eco Artists Dialog, 2019–2020; California Society of Printmakers, 2018–2022; 1078 Gallery, Chico, California, 2000–2003; South Bay Area Women's Caucus for Art, 1996–2000.

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. Iris is currently a Design MFA candidate at the University of California, Davis. Iris also graduated with a double B.A. in Gender, Sexuality, Women's Studies and English from the University of California, Davis. Iris designs interactive installations that include literary forms of lyric games and visual poetry and stim objects that explore neurodivergence and invisible disabilities through the framework of crip technoscience. Their knowing-making practice centers on finding rest and self-trust while traversing liminality through discovering their political identities as a disabled queer trans person of color.

Jami Xu; Concord***Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts***

I am a poet, translator, instructor, and poetry event curator who writes in Chinese and English, and who has split my time between the US and China since for the last thirty years. Prior to starting college, I spent 20-30 hours/week dancing in high school, and was a member of a semi-professional ballet company in Tucson. I began publishing poetry in 2003, and moved to Beijing from 2008-2014, during which time I began participating in literature festivals all over China, and later in India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Colombia. I have co-organized international poetry events in China, South Africa, Eswatini, Ethiopia, and Lesotho, and have been a regular in the North Beach poetry scene for over a decade. I have taught poetry workshops with children and young adults in China, India, and the US, and will be teaching at a workshop in Nepal in May. I have also translated the work of poets in China, India, and the US, and served on the advisory board of a literary journal in Kolkata. I have co-edited poetry journals and anthologies in China, Nepal, and India, and am currently co-editing a book of poems and essays about Jack Hirschman that will be published in Kolkata later this year.

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.

Dawn Yamazi; San Pedro

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

Dawn Yamazi is a Talent Recruitment and Talent Development executive in the animation and entertainment industry with 25+ years of working with extraordinary companies, projects and brands including Illumination, Netflix Animation, Walt Disney Animation Studios, Universal Creative, Saban Entertainment and Hallmark Cards, Inc. Filmography credited includes The Super Mario Bros. Movie, Wreck-it Ralph 2, Moana, Academy Award®-winners Zootopia, Big Hero 6, and Frozen, Wreck-it Ralph, Winnie the Pooh, Tangled, Princess and the Frog, Bolt, Meet the Robinson and shorts including Tick Tock Tale, Short Circuit. Dawn is a fierce advocate for the creative voice and has reviewed, identified, mentored, groomed and hired thousands of artists across disciplines, expressions and range. She co-published “Art of Change in Support of Black Lives” in 2020 bringing together 100 artists and allies in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd.

Karina Yanez; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Karina Esperanza Yanez is an art educator and administrator from South-Central Los Angeles with a demonstrated history of working in arts education and arts management. Her goal is to provide students with the necessary tools to become creative in their own right as young artists and positively engage with their communities.

Karina is a multidisciplinary artist who works in photography, printmaking, sewing, drawing, and everything else in between. Karina holds two Graduate degrees; one from the Rhode Island School of Design in Art & Design Education with an emphasis on Community Arts Education and one from Sotheby's Institute of Art at Claremont Graduate University in Arts Administration. She earned her BFA in Fine Art with a minor in Cultural Studies from the California Institute of the Arts.

You can find her cozying up with her two dogs when she's not teaching, facilitating workshops, or creating art.

Bona Yang; La Jolla

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I immigrated with my family from Korea to Queens New York in the late 1970s. Despite a familial passion for the arts, I was driven by my financial realities and relied on my economic studies rather than my art history from Brandeis University to secure a contractor position with the Korean Ministry of Finance and Economics, 1996-98. I returned to the US to join the World Bank 1996-2005, to help design programs to secure the safety nets for the most vulnerable children in member countries. Based out of Washington D.C. my work consistently brought me to various regions across the globe.

I continued to foster relationships with UN and multilateral agencies and social responsibility programs when I moved to the private sector as the External Relations Manager at Eni Spa (2005-7). After having children I focused my volunteer activities with local institutions especially children's organizations. I took on numerous leadership roles at these varied organizations from 2009-2019. Since moving to CA in 2020, I am finally focused on my own art. Ironically, I have consistently attended classes at the NY Art Students League since moving out to NY.

Lingling Yang; San Diego

Artistic Area of Experience: Dance

I am an experienced development manager and producer with over 10 years of experience writing grants, developing project proposals and budgets, and implementing organizational programming. Past companies I have worked for include: Camille A. Brown and Dancers, Works and Process at the Guggenheim, Fractured Atlas, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, jaamil olawale kosoko, Brownbody, Mermaid Palace, Radio Diaries, Pioneer Works, Media Art Xploration and Clocktower Gallery. I have found that while grant applications can at their worst act as gate keepers and barriers to entry for artists from marginalized backgrounds, if approached thoughtfully, they can serve as important catalysts for making a nascent idea real, serving to not only to provide material support, but also allowing artists to think deeply about where the conceptual, the community, and the visceral collide.

Nur Yavuz; Berkeley

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

I was born and raised in Izmir, with a heritage rooted in Kurdish/Zaza ancestry. I lived and worked in cities like NYC and Athens, and was Academic in Izmir. I am a mother of a 17-year-old and a transdisciplinary artist. My work spans the realms of architectural design, activism, academia, and embodied healing practices, making me a cultural bearer of diverse influences.

Following political turmoil in Turkey, I moved to CA, where the challenges of Covid hit hard, as someone without benefits. In response, I co-founded the Anatolian Arts Institute with Duygu Gun. We've organized over six workshop series and performances, giving voice to underrepresented arts and artists from Anatolia, also navigating our way for setting up everything on our own.

On stage, I sing and drum in the melodies of Alevite, Sufi, and Kurdish songs, recently incorporating the tanbur. Last year, I taught design at USF. Beyond my creative pursuits, I am a healer, applying the wisdom from Sufism, Advaita, and yoga directly to life.

I am on the board of UrbanTank a collective activating desolate urban spaces, and designed and built several buildings.

Leafy Ye; Los Angeles

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

My name is Yun Ye, also known as Leafy, a Los Angeles-based photographer, born and raised in Guangzhou, China. I hold a Bachelor of Arts in New Media from SUNY Purchase. I have been working as a photographer and photo educator for the past seven years. As a photographer, I have worked with Apple, Adobe Lightroom, Canon, Samsung, Paramount Pictures, WWD, and worked as a photographer and writer for 1626 Magazine in China. As a photo educator, I worked as a Teaching Artist at Venice Arts, a non-profit educational organization for low-income youth in Los Angeles. Prior to that, I was a regular visiting photography instructor at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, where I held photography workshops for high school students as well as monks and nuns at Dharma Realm Buddhist University. My artistic achievements include receiving the finalist for the Aperture Portfolio Prize 2023, AIS Open Women Behind The Lens, People Awards of the Independent Photographer, and the Adobe Creative Residency Community Grant. My work has also been exhibited internationally at the 2023 Korea International Photo Festival at Hangaram Arts Center Museum, ImageNation at Paris Photo Off, Photoville NYC, and others.

Misty Youmans; Vallejo

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

I am a practicing studio artist who primarily works with artist books and textiles that have been shown in numerous Northern California venues. As the Senior Manager, Foundation and Government Partnerships at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art for more than two decades, I am very familiar with the California arts community and with best practices in grant seeking and administration. Service as a board member (2006-2009) at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum of Vallejo, CA provided a very different perspective on museums of differing sizes and missions. I hold a BFA from the California College of the Arts, with concentrations in printmaking and in painting.

My artistic practice revolves around the broad theme of “women’s work is never done” filtered through memories of women in my own family, what I learned from them, how their lives were so different from my own, and finding connection through domestic skills that were passed down to me.

My goal is to live a creative life every day, and being surrounded by art in all aspects of my life is what success looks like for me.

Patricia Zamora; Livingston

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As a Visual Installation Artist and Circle Keeper, I honor my traditions, culture, Family, community, and lived experience as part of my creative social justice practice. Highlights of my community work: Community Manger - SF for the Community Arts Stabilization Trust, Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco Citywide Creative Arts, Tenderloin Clubhouse Director, Lead Staff on reopening of Boeddeker Park utilizing a collective impact, restorative justice practice, Founding Director of the Chicago Public School Restorative Justice Program, Manager of Chicago Public Schools - Re-entry program working over the years with non-profits in the Central Valley: CVOC, Radio

Bilingue/Modesto, Self-Help Enterprises. Founding Member of the Tenderloin Safe Passage Project. My primary art collective is A PLACE OF HER OWN - founded by Cynthia Tom whom I partners with to launch the inaugural Central Valley Cohort of PLACE-which continues to thrive today. My current collaboration is with Shabnam Piryaeei, Bay Area Artist in the Healing House Project @ this year.

Lauren Zapata; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Theatre

Lauren is a world traveler, a writer, and a lover of all things outdoors. She continues to pursue meaningful cultural and spiritual events within marginal communities. Lauren is mixed ethnically - Colombian and Italian but born and raised in the USA. She would love to serve the board and assist as needed. She has excellent communication skills and pays attention to details. Lauren has worked as a content manager, project manager, and creative writer throughout her career and especially has interest in theater and literary arts.

Simone Zapata; Oakland

Artistic Area of Experience: Literary Arts

My name is Simone, I'm a queer poet, editor, and educator from San José, CA. I currently serve as Managing Editor for The Beat Within, a national publication of writing by and for incarcerated youth. I've been involved with this organization in a variety of capacities for the past 13 years, starting as a volunteer and spending a large chunk of the past six years as their program coordinator. I've also been a teaching artist with Get Lit – Words Ignite and Chapter 510, two literary non-profits that are doing incredible work to increase literacy and uplift youth voices. I've also been a grant writer for The Ella Baker Center, and a journalist for the (now defunct) news site Oakland Local, where I reported on non-profit programming geared toward youth development.

I received my MFA in Creative Writing ('21) from California Institute of the Arts, where I was granted a post-graduate fellowship as an exhibition curator. My work has been featured, or is forthcoming in Beloit Poetry Journal, Inverted Syntax, Foglifter, and elsewhere. I'm the inaugural Emerging Writer Fellow with BRINK Literary Journal, and I serve as a poetry editor for the online literary journal, MAYDAY.

Sara Zapata Mijares; Redondo Beach

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

Sara is a local and global leader and has been recognized for her exemplary work as a Cultural Bearer.

Among her experiences:

- Community Art Representative for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor Holly Mitchell, LACBOS District 2 – Harbor-UCLA Medical Art Center – Art selection committee. Two artists were chosen awarding each one of them \$800,000. 2022-2023

- CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL: GRANT REVIEW PANELIST – 2020-2021 – Reviewed and graded over 60 grant applications.
- Producer of the iconic MUNDO MAYA DAY at Levitt Pavilion, MacArthur Park in Los Angeles. This event is a cultural, artistic, free to the community.
- Collaborator with the Getty Center, LACMA and the California Science Center
- Former member of the LACMA Latino Printmaking Committee

Sara has been an artist/muralist representative for 25 years, and a gallery owner She supports and promotes upcoming Latino artists and all artists.

Sara was one of the “Inspirational Woman” of the Los Angeles Times Newspaper, B2B, 2022, “Woman of the Year” in the Cultural Category by La Opinion Newspaper in 2011

Lucy Zepeda; Alhambra

Artistic Area of Experience: Multidisciplinary

As the lead producer for Arts in Action, I manage two grant programs supporting arts and activism projects at USC. These grant programs include Mobilize!, a micro-grant program dedicated to student awards, and the Arts in Action Annual Grants Program that supports faculty and students in partnership with community organizations. My role involves overseeing the application process for both programs, including organizing a review panel of faculty and community partners and providing funding for approved projects. I also support grantees throughout their projects by providing creative input, managing reporting requirements, and offering production support for their public events.

Before joining USC, I was the assistant manager of community relations at The Music Center, where programming revolved around community engagement. My previous experiences as a production assistant, costume dresser, and stage manager have provided me with a deep understanding of the necessary elements to implement successful programs and productions.

Mengtai Zhang; San Carlos

Artistic Area of Experience: Media Arts

I am a multidisciplinary artist, working in the realms of virtual reality, simulation, sound art, and interactive installations. Born and raised in China, my artistic journey led me to the UK where I obtained a BA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths, University of London, followed by an MFA in Sound Art from Columbia University in the US. My academic pursuits culminated in a PhD in Electronic Arts from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. It was here that I deepened my fascination with immersive technologies, exploring them as a gateway to examine the interplay between technological advancements and its impact on arts and social changes in contemporary society.

My works have been showcased in distinguished venues, including IDFA, Sundance, SIGGRAPH, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Times Art Museum, New Interfaces for Musical

Expression, and International Computer Music Conference. I received fellowships from Wave Farm, IDFA DocLab, and Sylff Association, and won the “Best Chinese Work Award” from Sandbox Immersive Festival.

Yang Zhang; Azusa

Artistic Area of Experience: Music

Yang Zhang is a multifaceted professional with extensive experience in music production, entrepreneurship, and social innovation. Renowned for her pioneering work in music blending, she has garnered acclaim for projects like “The Lord of Flame” and “The Hard-boiled Wonderland and The End of Flame.” Zhang’s recent project, “The Touch of The Surging Tide,” earned multiple accolades, including 2023 Global Music Awards 2x gold medals, 2024 New Age Radio Notes Music Awards nomination(to date), 2024 Indie Short Fest for Best Original Song, 2022 Hollywood Music in Media Awards for best Sci-fi/Fantasy music, 2023 Little Talent Awards 2x Gold medals. Beyond music, she founded Mercury Orbit Music, a tech-driven startup, which gained prominence through initiatives like XPRIZE and partnerships with organizations like the United Nations, Ted X Talk San Marino. Zhang’s entrepreneurial journey includes recognition from various accelerators and grants, highlighting her commitment to innovation in both music and technology sectors. In 2022, her project titled “A.I.-enabled Music Program” was rewarded by the California Arts Council with two grants.

Tom Zimmeroff; San Francisco

Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts

Tom studied music at USC before pivoting to photojournalism. With the legendary Sygma Photo Agency, he covered hundreds of historical and breaking news stories worldwide.

His career took off — literally — with a helicopter carrying the military dictator of Panama. Tom was a stowaway. As a young freelancer trying to make his bones, hoping to grab exclusive photos of the inscrutably camera-shy ruler, Gen.Omar Torrijos, it turned out to be an entrée to more than twenty years of shooting for Time magazine.

His first 2 portraits were Marx and Lennon: Groucho & John. He’s shot hundreds more, including magazine covers from Ava Gardner to Steve Jobs, plus two sitting American presidents for the covers of Time and Fortune. His work is found in the National Portrait Gallery in London, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the San Francisco Museum of Performance + Design. It is archived at the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

Zimmeroff wrote Focus on Profit, a textbook about the business of photography. He also wrote and illustrated 2 volumes about motorcycle culture, exhibited at the Clinton Presidential Library & Museum.

Michael Ziskind; Rancho Mirage***Artistic Area of Experience: Music***

I am able to bring my career-long management expertise and voluntary arts commission experience to the CAC evaluation process. As a founder and former board member of the Washington, D.C. Gay Men's Chorus, I am sensitive to the needs of nonprofit arts organizations and appreciate the requisite skillset required to become a successful arts organization.

As a board member and rotating chairperson of the Palm Springs Villagefest Street Fair, I served on the jury to evaluate and approve various types of arts and crafts which were approved for display at our weekly street fair attended weekly by up to 10,000 visitors.

As a retired Federal executive, and current non-paid commissioner of the Rancho Mirage Traffic and Safety Commission, I am able to apply best practices to communicate, evaluate and fairly and equitably review submissions.

Danya Zituni; Oakland***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Danya Zituni is an Arab American visual artist whose work showcases the resilience and beauty of her community. Her artwork has been featured in galleries and community spaces including PO Box Collective gallery, the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Swords Into Plowshares gallery, The Congregation, Arab Film & Media Institute, and Spot Lite Detroit.

Nikos Zoggas; Irvine***Artistic Area of Experience: Visual Arts***

Throughout my life I've served in advancement, leadership, curatorial, and governance capacities helping to lead Fine Art Photography, Studio Arts, Artist Residency, Performing Arts and Exhibition Programs. After college I began my career working for the Sonoma County Arts Council as a community cultural arts center manager and secured grants and innovative business sponsorship programs. Some of this I did this while working for Bay Area Arts Services a management assistance organization in the 1980's helping to train artists and arts groups. I've also designed education programs and acted as trainer/teacher and facilitator for arts leadership, community service projects and arts grant writing skill development workshops. While working part-time as an artist, I've secured funding establish artist-in-residence programs devoted to the exploration of the arts and the natural world often using food as an organizing tool. I've acted as nonprofit leader and representative, mentor and advisory consultant to regional and state/local partnerships, arts managers and arts decentralization and culture policy programs, as well as regional arts service organizations.

TAB 5

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024

CALIFORNIA POETRY OUT LOUD

Charlie O'Malley (he / him / his)
Literary Arts Specialist, California Arts Council
charles.omalley@arts.ca.gov





2024 CA Poetry Out Loud county champions with CA Poet Laureate Lee Herrick



Starr Schwartz, Merced County Champion

In 2023-24, CA Poetry
Out Loud served:

18,849 students

490 teachers

221 schools





CA Poet Laureate Lee Herrick



CA Poetry Out Loud Champion
Riley O'Hara (Sonoma)

Poetry Out Loud National
Finals:
Apr. 30 - May 2, 2024
Washington, D.C.
(events streamed online)

www.poetryoutloud.org





2024 CA Poetry Out Loud county champions with CA Poet Laureate Lee Herrick

TAB 6

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024

Nevada County's Cultural Districts

California Arts Council
Eliza Tudor, Executive Director
Nevada County Arts Council
April 19, 2024



Who We Are & What We Do

Nevada County Arts Council, by resolution of Nevada County Board of Supervisors, is State-Local Partner with California Arts Council.

As the umbrella agency for the arts in Nevada County, we facilitate collaborative efforts that promote and sustain our creative sector, in order to advance the cultural, social and economic lives of all community members.

NEVADA
COUNTY **arts**
C O U N C I L



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR EQUITY IN THE ARTS

Serve creative sector through strategies for equity



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Pro-bono consulting, grantwriting, and education



ARTS ADVOCACY

Educating state and local elected officials & providing advocacy training



ARTS INCUBATOR

Supporting innovation through fiscal sponsorship

Who We Are & What We Do

Administering Organizations who are not SLPs in other service regions are partnering with SLPs to ensure the broadest and deepest reach into communities historically underserved and underrepresented in terms of receiving state funds.

California Cultural District Program

PILOT PROGRAM: AB 189 (2015)

ADMINISTERED BY CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

The California Arts Council's cultural districts program aims to assist Californians in leveraging the state's considerable assets in the areas of culture, creativity, and diversity. A cultural district is generally understood as a well-defined geographic area with a high concentration of cultural resources and activities.

WWW.CACULTURALDISTRICTS.ORG



What is a Cultural District?

“Creativity itself is a precondition for innovation. Innovation can be defined as application of creative ideas for use by the community and society and for inclusion in their practices. It takes place where the practice of a community changes... with ethical, cultural, social and commercial innovations following... Communities and society invest in resources for, and freedom of, experimentation in these areas, because they help to maintain the creative capacity and develop the creative capital of a community.”

Ethics in Cultural Policy, Hannele Koivunen and Leena Marsio

BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF
“CREATIVE PLACEKEEPING”

BUILT ON CROSS-SECTOR
PARTNERSHIPS

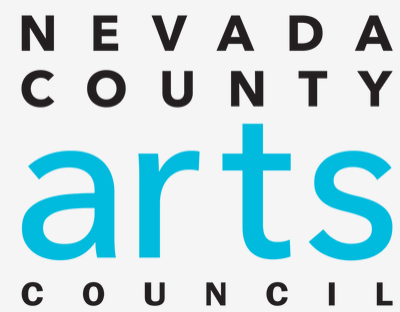
REQUIRES COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

ADVANCES LOCAL CHANGE

ADDRESSES COMMUNITY
CHALLENGES

WORKS AGAINST BY-
PRODUCTS OF PLACEMAKING
SUCH AS GENTRIFICATION,
DISPLACEMENT, AND RACISM

One County Two Cultural Districts



A nighttime photograph of a street festival in the GVNC Cultural District. The scene is illuminated by warm streetlights and building lights. On the left, a white building with a balcony is visible. In the foreground, a crowd of people is gathered, and a drum set is partially visible. The overall atmosphere is festive and lively.

GVNC Cultural District

PARTNERS

- City of Nevada City
- City of Grass Valley
- Nevada City Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Nevada County Arts Council



Truckee Cultural District

PARTNERS

- Town of Truckee
- Truckee Chamber of Commerce
- Truckee Downtown Merchants Association
- Truckee Arts Alliance
- Nevada County Arts Council



The Story of Land, Water, People

At 'Uba Seo



FOREST ⇒ FIRE

Commissioned 20 artists to create the largest exhibition in Nevada County's history in Truckee.



Advocacy







**TRUCKEE
ARTIST LOFTS**

9848



Cultural Asset Map

Arts Calendar

A comprehensive resource for our artists, residents, and those planning a visit.

Our calendar syncs automatically with GoNevadaCounty.com and from there is automatically integrated with many agencies throughout the county.

Artists and organizations can add their own events.



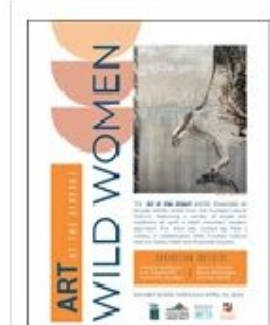
List Table Month **Title**

ADD AN EVENT



Subscribe

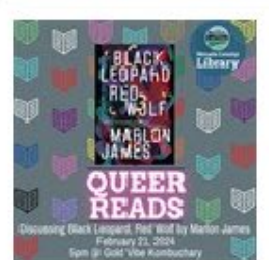
March 2024



Truckee Tahoe Airport District 'Art at the Airport' Exhibition
Truckee Tahoe Airport District, 10356 Truckee Airport Rd, Truckee, CA
Ongoing through Sunday, April 14



The Food Dude Wagon @ Gold Vibe Kombuchary
Gold Vibe Kombuchary, 12615 Charles Dr, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Ongoing through Saturday, March 16, 8pm



Queer Reads Monthly Book Club @ Gold Vibe Kombuchary
Gold Vibe Kombuchary, 12615 Charles Dr, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Ongoing through Thursday, March 21, 6pm



Paint Your Pet – A Simple Four Step Approach
The Curious Forge, 13024 Bitney Springs Rd Bldg 9, Nevada City, CA 95959
Thursday, March 7, 4 – 7pm



Mingle and Make - Micro Mosaic Pendants Class
The Curious Forge, 13024 Bitney Springs Rd Bldg 9, Nevada City, CA 95959
Wednesday, March 6, 5:30 – 7:30pm



"Awakening: the Sacred Feminine" exhibit by Shelley Carlisle
Nevada City Winery, 321 Spring St, Nevada City
Thursday, March 7, 2 – 6pm

- Event Type**
- Art & Gallery
 - Comedy/Improv
 - Conference / Lecture
 - Dance
 - Fair / Festival / Gala
 - Film
 - Government Meetings
 - Literary Arts
 - Music
 - Organizations and Facilities
 - Theatre
 - Visual Arts
- Select: **All**, None

Artist Directory

A professional directory open to all artists living or working in Nevada County.

Our directory highlights Nevada County as the premier arts destination for art buyers in the Sierra Nevada Foothills and Truckee-Tahoe region, and home to some of the best talent in northern California.

Currently includes 230+ artists.



[PAINTERS](#)

[TEXTILE](#)

VISUAL ARTISTS : PAINTERS



EVA SALYER

VISUAL ARTIST - PAINTER

I paint heads. Women's heads to be exact. I love to create faces, round cheeks, lips, color, earrings, long hair, swirls, plants, words, music and odd things. My current obsessions are translucency and disruption. My art represents the full gamut of feelings. I'm a melting pot of styles and I don't like being defined (confined) by a specific school of art. I'm figuring out who I am as I go!

[WEBSITE](#)



VALERIE OSTENAK

VISUAL ARTIST - PAINTER

I am a multidisciplinary artist, painter, and metalsmith currently focused on painting. My art is about movement, transformation, and the energy within—its effect on us and the power we have to affect it. The pieces I create speak to hope, weathering the storms, learning to swim within the chaos. I am inviting the richness of possibility that comes with transformation and change. Meant to stir emotions and feelings rather than anchored with a visually recognizable object, my paintings are nature-based abstracts in an atmospheric dreamy style, rich in color and often with high contrast between darks and lights.

[WEBSITE](#)

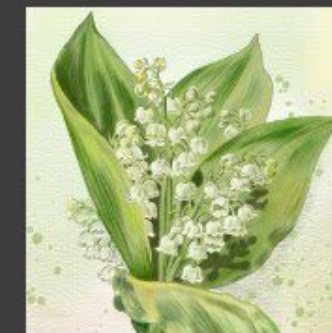


ELIZABETH WINTERS

VISUAL ARTIST - PAINTER

Elizabeth is an artist specializing in oil and watercolor painting. Elizabeth is inspired by the natural beauty of Northern California and strives to celebrate that beauty in her art.

[WEBSITE](#)

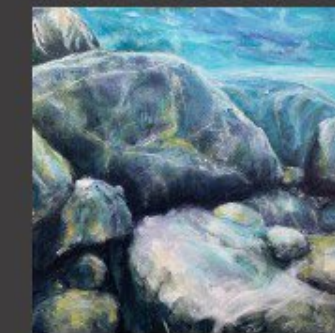


JANE LEE

VISUAL ARTIST - PAINTER

I love experimenting with different medium. I started with watercolor and ventured into acrylic, mixed media, paper mache, wire art, and recently started enjoying digital painting using Procreate. I am always searching for a new fields of art and joy.

[WEBSITE](#)



ALICE KRASINSKI

VISUAL ARTIST - PAINTER

Currently working in acrylic, my artwork focuses primarily on the natural world, most often inspired by the ways in which light interacts with environments and objects in my life. I paint places and moments that moved me, channeling the energy and joy of fleeting moments. Like a hike on a mountain trail or a wander on a beach, every painting is an exploration. Though I have a starting point with each canvas, I never know what I will discover in the process or where I will end up. This is what keeps me painting.

[WEBSITE](#)



VLATKA VARGA

VISUAL ARTIST - PAINTER

Vlatka Varga is a multimedia artist working in metal, oil /wax, acrylic and printmaking. She is interested in abstract landscape and human figure as a presence in the landscape. Most recent work focused on a series of biographical narrative paintings in combination with story telling performance and video document of the event. Vlatka worked as a visiting artist in Tuolumne County Schools through the California Arts Council Arts Reach to Schools grant as well as in California Arts in Corrections Program.

[WEBSITE](#)

Artist Calls

Artists are always in demand!

We host a dedicated web page for calls to artists from Nevada County Arts Council and our partners.

ARTIST CALLS

NEVADA COUNTY ARTISTS ARE ALWAYS IN DEMAND, EVEN DURING TIMES OF CRISIS. WE WELCOME YOUR PARTICIPATION. PLEASE EMAIL YOUR *CALL-TO-ARTISTS* INFORMATION TO INFO@NEVADACOUNTYARTS.ORG FOR INCLUSION HERE. WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS LONGER TERM CALLS BEYOND THE VIRTUAL!



Kelp Journal - Seeking Submissions

Submissions Due: Wednesday, May 15th [Read More](#) →



CALL FOR ARTISTS: Animal House 2024

Submissions Due: April 9th [Read More](#) →



Alphabet Soup - Call to LGBTQIA+ Artists

Submissions Due: April 6th [Read More](#) →



Winter Submissions - Grants for Artists and Photographers

Submissions Due: Thursday, March 21 [Read More](#) →



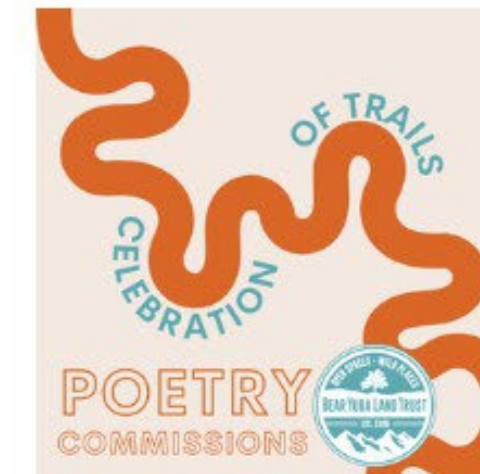
Tahoe Fund - Call for Muralists

Submissions Due: Friday, March 29 at 6:00pm [Read More](#) →



MISFITS - Juried Exhibition

Submissions Due: Thursday, April 4th [Read More](#) →



Celebration of Trails - Call for Poetry

Submissions Due: Monday, April 1st at 5:00pm [Read More](#) →



Open Studios

Submissions Due: Thursday, March 28th at 5:00pm [Read More](#) →

Creatives Meetups

We host monthly meetups for creatives in both Eastern and Western Nevada County.

Meetups are co-hosted at a different location throughout the Cultural Districts.

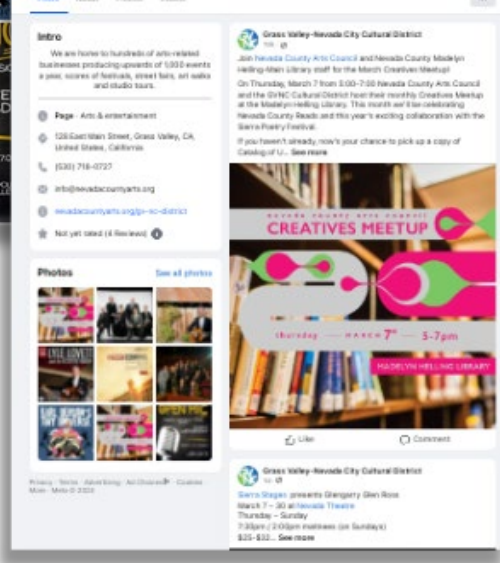
This is an opportunity for artists, cultural workers, culture bearers, and the community more broadly, to get inspired, share needs, and meet new friends. We also share invaluable state and local information, such as upcoming grant opportunities, free resources, and important news in the arts world at large.



Marketing & Promotion

We produce two monthly newsletters and manage multiple social media accounts to promote arts and culture events in our community and keep the creative community informed.

Keep an eye out for MUSE, our new annual print publication celebrating arts & culture in Nevada County!



WMS

A new guide for our Districts



A Guide to Local Art & Culture

Featuring the Artist Directory, Events Calendar, Cultural Districts, & Cultural Map

ISSUE 01 / 2024

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEVADA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL



The Art of Uba Seo: Chronicling Nevada Countys Native people

When thinking of the Yuba River most Nevada County locals think of the popular swimming destination; the area's majestic watershed that has drawn visitors since it was first spotted.

However the Nisenan Tribe see this great waterway as 'Uba Seo, the earliest iteration of the river.

In the Tribe's language, 'seo' means a waterway or river. Of 'uba,' California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) Executive Director Shelly Covert said: "We think it was what they called a serviceberry, and there were lots of them here and they were a big trade item. They used to call us the 'Uba people. And there are still lots of serviceberries on the Yuba."

Jai Hanes NCAC Feature

Jai Hanes has been thinking about an anti-racism youth program for young people since the spring of 2018. That's when someone "threw racial slurs" at a pair of young mixed-race kids riding their bicycles down Broad Street in Nevada City.

"I couldn't believe this happened to these kids in this day and age," said Hanes. "And I couldn't believe how much the kids themselves were interested in addressing the situation."

With guidance from Hanes and others, the two boys organized The Youth Ride Against Racism, in which dozens of young people and adults rode bikes down Nevada City's main drag, cheered by spectators. "The entire freakin' Broad St was filled with people bike riding," recalls Hanes. A video about the ride scored thousands of views.



"I left the city because of the violence." Hanes said in an interview in a KVMR-FM studio, his makeshift office. "I am with all this knowledge, so let me show you how it's to be different, to be confused."

About Upstate California Creative Corps, say Tudor, "89 our recipients are first time awardees for state funds," s

SPRING INTO

Art



NEVADACOUNTYARTS.ORG/SPRINGINTOART

BREATHE IN SKY

PROJECT
WILD EDGES

April 4 - June 28

Opening Reception
April 4 at 4.30pm

Art in Public Spaces



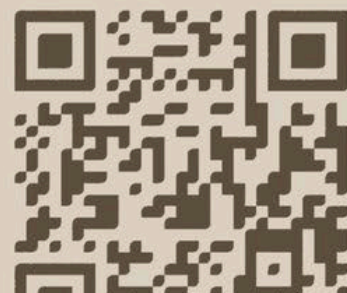
Presented by Nevada County Arts Council in partnership with the County of Nevada through *Art in Public Spaces*

Visibility Through Art Collection

CALIFORNIA HERITAGE: INDIGENOUS
RESEARCH PROJECT

October 2 – December 15

*Featured at the Rood Center through
December, 2023 are artworks from
California Heritage: Indigenous Research
Project's (CHIRP's) extensive Visibility
Through Art collection.*



30 YEARS OF CATS

“A Thousand Cranes”

Celebrating 30 years of Community
Asian Theatre of the Sierra

January 15 – March 28
Opening Reception January 19 at 4.30pm

Presented by Nevada County Arts Council
in partnership with the County of Nevada
through *Art in Public Spaces*

Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra (CATS) serves audiences from Nevada County and the Sierra Foothills to the greater Sacramento region and the San Francisco Bay Area.

For thirty years it has offered a unique glimpse into Asian culture through the dramatic arts, providing education for people of all ages and, most importantly, lending agency to the Asian-American voice.

Thanks to CATS we enjoy a deeper understanding of our own Asian-American heritage from the Gold Rush onwards, and to its ongoing contributions to this place we call home today.





Business of Art



Leadership Roundtable

Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP6)

FY 22/23

127 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

1091 AUDIENCE SURVEYS



ARTS &
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 6

ARTS & CULTURE BUILDS

JOBS & THE ECONOMY

Arts and culture supports jobs, generates revenue for local businesses, and provides authentic cultural experiences that strengthen tourism.

What Comes Next?



COUNTYWIDE ARTS & CULTURE MASTER PLAN

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

CREATING A SHARED CULTURAL VISION

ROADMAP FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

REGIONAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN

THE BUSINESS OF ART SYMPOSIUM

NEVADA
COUNTY
arts
NCIL



Thank You!

TAB 7

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024

ARTS

IN CALIFORNIA PARKS™

California Arts Council
April 19, 2024

Isby Fleischmann, PlaceWorks (State Parks)
Geoff Kish, Parks California

Arts in California Parks

- » Program connection with Statewide initiatives
 - California for All
 - Outdoors for All
 - Reexamining Our Past
- » Budget: \$25M one-time General Fund allocation
- » Schedule: 2023 - December 31, 2028



www.artsincaliforniaparks.org

Mission

Arts in California Parks seeks to expand and deepen connections between individuals, communities, and natural landscapes throughout California by:

- » Supporting artists, culture bearers, California Native American tribes, and communities in creating artwork that offers perspective on our past and present and helps us to reimagine our potential, and
- » Establishing art installations and programming in State and local parks as catalysts for sustainable community connection, health, and well-being.

Vision

*Through this program, California's State and local parks will become more **relevant** and **engaging** to all and will have a greater capacity to **nourish, educate, and inspire** individuals and communities.*

Goals

- » **Welcome:** to engage diverse populations in parks with culturally sensitive projects
- » **Empower:** to offer mentorship and job opportunities for creative career paths
- » **Heal:** to utilize arts and parks for community well-being
- » **Connect:** to craft emotional connections between parks and communities
- » **Inspire:** to evoke curiosity, awe, and creativity, and celebrate California's diverse heritage and culture



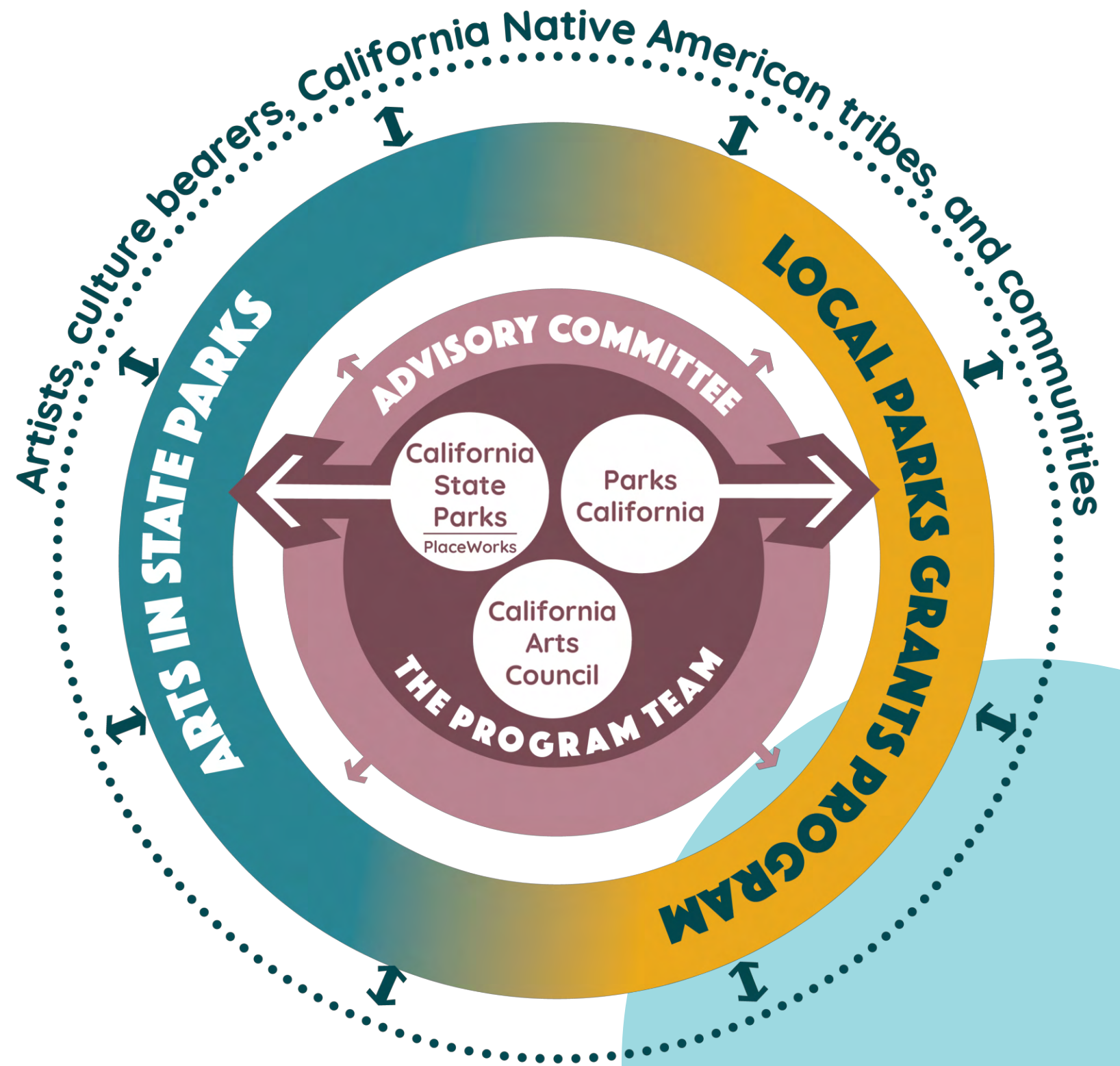
Dia de Los Muertos

Written messages to loved ones at the Community Altar in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park
[Photo Credit: California State Parks, Brian Baer]

Program Partners

- » California State Parks
- » Parks California
- » California Arts Council
 - Participates on Program Planning Team
 - Provides State-level support with outreach and communications
 - Connects projects with CAC Networks

- » Advisory Committee
 - 15 members
 - Diverse geographic perspectives, multicultural perspectives, organizational perspectives , and expertise in a range of art forms



Schedule

PROGRAM TIMELINE

2023

2024

2025

2026

Round 1

Round 2

Round 3

ARTS IN STATE PARKS

Inventory and Exploration

Selection Criteria

Review Proposals

Release Funds

Call for Projects

Selection/Awards

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LOCAL PARKS GRANT PROGRAM

Program Exploration

Program Development

Round 1

Round 2

Round 3

Artist Directory

Connecting Park Staff and Artists

- » State and local California Parks staff, as well as the general public, can search for artists based on location, art medium, or other considerations.
- » Artists who wish to work with parks, working in a variety of mediums, styles, and techniques, as well as artists from diverse abilities, backgrounds, and cultures, and with a range of experiences, creative visions, aesthetics, and approaches are encouraged to join the directory.
- » <https://artsincaliforniaparks.org/>

The screenshot shows the website's search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Artist Dire...', 'Home', 'Find Artists', 'Join as an Artist', 'FAQ', and a 'Sign In' button. The main header features the 'ARTS IN CALIFORNIA PARKS' logo. Below this, a section titled 'Search for Artists' includes a brief description: 'Looking for an individual artist or an organization to partner with to bring art to your park? Search by keyword or use the filters to find what you're looking for. Click on each result to learn more about each artist or organization and get contact information.' To the right of the text is a photograph of a colorful sculpture made of plastic bottles and a tall, spiky wooden tower. Below the photo is the caption: 'Watts Towers of Simon Rodia State Historic Park. Photo ©2012 California State Parks'. Underneath the photo is a search bar with a 'Search' button and a 'Filter' dropdown menu. At the bottom, there is a grid of 12 search results, each in a white box with a teal border. The results are: ORGANIZATION Floating; INDIVIDUAL Frederick W. Gearrin; INDIVIDUAL Greg Camphire; INDIVIDUAL HAND STUDIOS; INDIVIDUAL Holly Miller; ORGANIZATION homeLA; INDIVIDUAL Ian Stiles-Mikl; ORGANIZATION Infinite Jest Theatre Company; INDIVIDUAL Inna Pankratova; INDIVIDUAL J.O.W.Y; INDIVIDUAL Jackie Bleisch; and INDIVIDUAL Jake Toohey.

Arts in State Parks

Art in State Parks

Context

» Background:

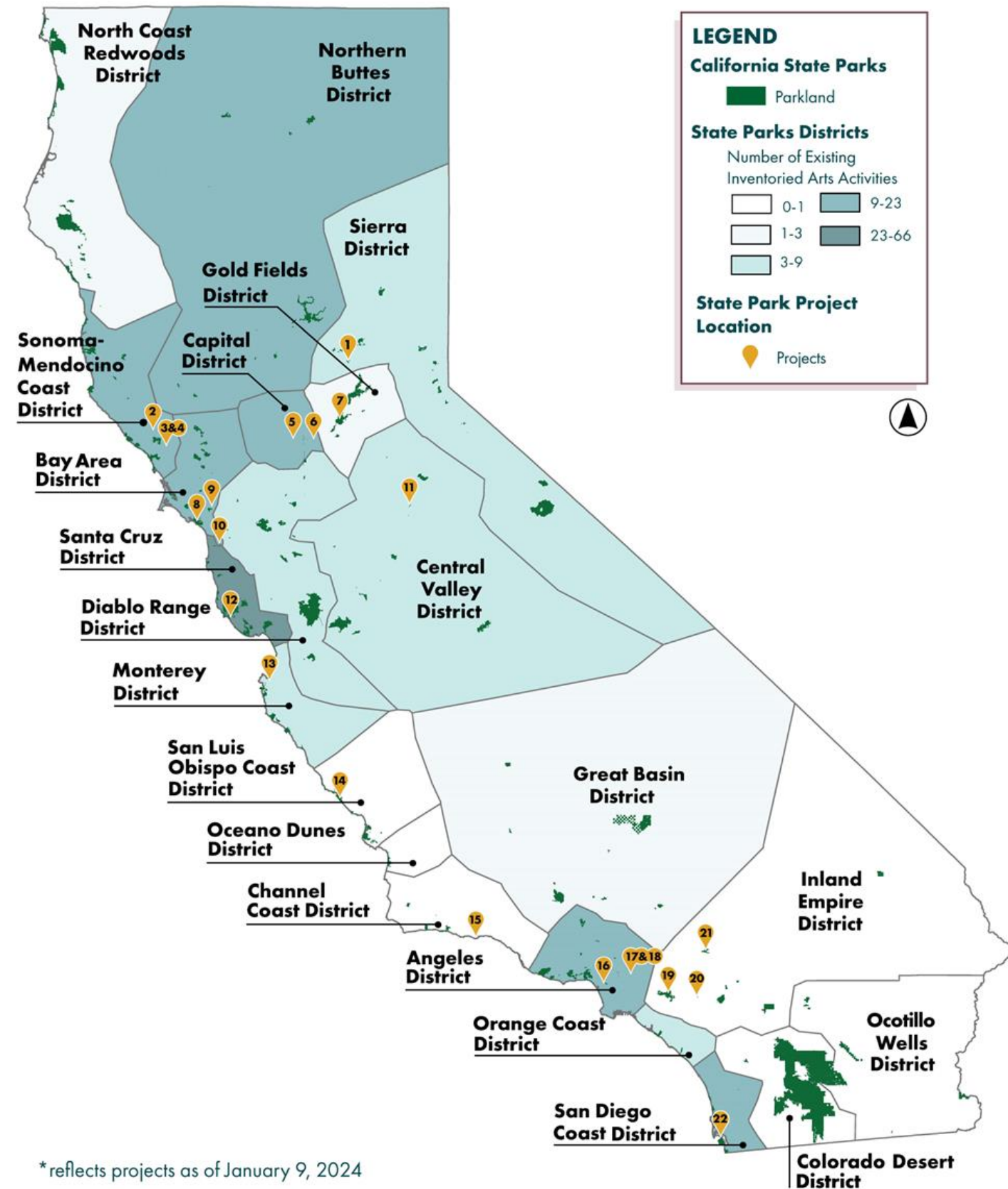
- 280 parks organized into 21 Districts
- Investment in arts varies in part due to differing partnerships and resources

» Happening now: Pilot Projects Underway!

- Include cultural events, artist in residence programs, and installations
- Amplifying existing efforts, testing new ideas, and informing program development

» Looking ahead: Sustainability of 'Art in State Parks' depend on:

- Building capacity of staff and Creative Partners
- Raising public awareness of Program opportunities and impacts



* reflects projects as of January 9, 2024

Art in State Parks

CAC Network roles in Pilot Projects include:

- » **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park**, Dia de Los Muertos, 10/28/23; SLP support with outreach and communication; artist selection process
- » **Santa Cruz State Parks**, Murals; SLP support with RFP design, call for artists; outreach and communication
- » **Folsom Lake State Recreation Area**, Lake Natoma Bridge Pillars Mural Project; Sacramento Office of Arts + Culture, (SLP), Cultural and Creative Economy Department, Art in Public Places Department, support with Outreach and Communication, relationship building with local artists
- » **Armstrong Redwoods Natural Reserve**, Sylvan Sounds, SLP providing support for outreach and communications; artist selection
- » **Austin Creek State Recreational Area**, Pond Farm Pond Farm Pottery Artist in Residency; SLP providing support for outreach and communications; artist selection
- » **Poetry in Parks State-Wide**, Multi-Park project, multiple SLPs involved; State level support, coordinating with *Poetry Out Loud*



Procession (Project Partner: Meztli)

Los Angeles State Historic Park

[Photo Credit: Stephanie Campbell]

Arts in State Parks

Round 2 Funding Opportunities

» Key dates

- » State Parks staff propose projects (May)
- » Proposal review and project selection (June)
- » **Calls for artists for selected projects (Summer/Fall)**

» Funding categories

- » Park-specific
- » Multi-park (ex: touring performance and exhibits!)



Round 2 Goals

- Build upon successes AND test new ideas
- Increase participation and build capacity (for Parks and artists)
- Make it is easy for staff to generate great project ideas
- **Align projects with contracting realities**
- **Ensure equity and transparency**

Local Parks Grant Program

Local Parks Grant Program

This new multi-year grant program intends to create local community connections to California's rich and diverse cultural history and natural areas outside of California's state park boundaries.

Eligible projects will enhance connections to local cultural history, local parks, open space or natural areas through community events, programming or installations that help to build sustainable community connections, health and well-being.



Local Parks Grant Program

2024/2025 Grant Cycles

Planning and Development Grants

8-month grant cycle;
October 2024 – May 2025

Objective

Support the early stages of project development with a focus on building partnerships, artist selection and developing project plans.

Implementation Grants

12-month grant cycle;
October 2024 – September 2025

Objective

Support the execution of a community engagement, art and culture programs with a well-defined partnership.

At a Glance | Program Features

Online Resource Hub	Templates, Informational Videos, Artist Directory, FAQ's
Evaluation & Reporting	Final to be informed by Evaluation Contractor
Communication Plan	Using paid and organic media, raise awareness about the program, curate and distribute content from grantees and build towards longer term program sustainability.
Technical Assistance*	Webinars (1), One-On-One Consultations, Community Office Hours (3-5)
Proposal Review Committee*	15-17 volunteers from across the state; diverse background and profession; experience in public parks and/or arts



Thank you!



TAB 8

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024



Memorandum

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
T: (916) 322-6555 | F: (916) 322-6575
www.arts.ca.gov

Date: April 4, 2024

To: California Arts Council

From: Chair Roxanne Messina Captor

Re: Council Committees

Hello, My Fellow Council Members,

I am back from the land down under, and all the wonderful artists and aboriginal art I was privileged to see and partake in. The Adelaide Fringe, like the Edinburgh Fringe, brings artists from all over the world to these cities. There are performance and art installations everywhere, including parks, coffee houses, and hotels. Very inspiring. I would love to see a California Fringe throughout our state.

A big hug of gratitude to my Vice-Chairperson, Leah Goodwin for exquisitely taking the reins. While I was away, I was able to stay in touch by attending executive committee meetings. The CAC is making such great progress with all your hard work as a council and with staff.

As we continue to move forward, I would like all of you to review the guidelines I presented for the committees last January. There are some additions as well. Please think about what goals you would like your committee to accomplish this year. We will have a few months before our August meeting, so staff will be reaching out to you to set up committee meetings.

At the April meeting I would like to have a discussion on what goals each committee hopes to achieve this year. This is a preliminary think tank.

Thanks again for all you do.

“Some painters transform the sun into a yellow spot, others transform a yellow spot into the sun.” – **Pablo Picasso**

Sincerely,

Roxanne Messina Captor
Council Chair

2024 Council Committee Assignments

Committees of the California Arts Council are established to advance the mission of the agency in accordance with the adopted Strategic Plan and Decision Support Tool (DST). Committee members are appointed by the Council Chair, in consultation with the Executive Director. The members ensure that their committee’s work product will be consistent, objective, and informative.

As stated in the Council bylaws:

- Each committee shall have a charge, which shall include its objective(s), its proposed work schedule, reporting deadlines and termination date.
- Each committee will report out to the full Council at least twice per year to share updates and decisions.
- Committee members shall be responsible for implementation of all committee assignments.
- All Committees are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

The role of Council members serving committees is to provide guidance and insight on programs, initiatives, policies, strategic direction, and activities of the agency. Recommendations developed by the Committee are aligned with the agencies’ current adopted strategic plan and decision making tool and are brought to the full council for discussion and voting. Committee members recognize that staff is accountable to the Executive Director who is responsible for the operations of the agency.

Standing Committees

Committee	Members	Meeting Schedule	Purpose and Assignments
Allocations	Phil Mercado Nicola Miner	2x monthly; 60 minutes	<p>The Allocations Committee shall provide input on the grant funding formula based on panel ranks, help formulate the projected grants budget, review staff and panel recommendations, and make recommendations to the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistically look at the money going to different arts organizations and where it is spent. • Set up a checks and balances for the organizations to report on the use of funds. • Consider how the outcomes of the programs policy committee guidelines will impact the size of the allocations for each program. • Consider the cultural pathways history to ensure we are not undercutting the stability of this category. • Work on a comprehensive history of the arc of the CAC budget size across the years, develop 5–10-year charts of funding history per grant opportunity.

Committee	Members	Meeting Schedule	Purpose and Assignments
Equity	Vicki Estrada Olivia Raynor	2x monthly; 60 minutes	<p>The Equity Committee shall ensure that grants invest in the evolving and diverse demographics of California. The committee defines equitable grant making as fair, accessible, inclusive and effectively serving to dismantle structural racism and other inequities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue developing a robust equity committee on race, gender, disability, and age equity. Consider supporting SLPs to develop their equity statements and share best practices. • Confirm panel guidelines and outreach strategies to encourage diversity. • Finalize equity language recommendation for grant guidelines and the equity statement • Complete a Decision Support Tool for the recommendations on the review criterion and equity statement
Executive	Roxanne Messina Captor Leah Goodwin	2x monthly; 90 minutes	<p>The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Executive Director and others as appointed by the Chair. They provide oversight of all Council operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with committees to head 2023 goals. • Governance committee to schedule full budget review by the ED including operating expenses. • Program and Governance committees review the grant process. Does it need updating? • Work with the state legislature to keep the CAC in the forefront. To keep CAC budget from being cut. • Work with program policy to implement Touring grants, matching grants, and reestablishing the arts in prisons program. • Work with staff to make sure all grants are paid on time. • Work with the Governor to increase his activity with the CAC
Governance	Vicki Estrada Alex Israel	2x monthly; 60 minutes	<p>The Governance Committee shall review and draft revisions to the CAC Member Handbook including the CAC Bylaws and make recommendations to the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and form a CAC Awards. (Fall 2025) • Work with Strategic Committee to form organizational plan for CAC. 1, 3,5-year plan • Form an Orientation packet for new members. Include Roberts Rules training etc. • Give guidelines to council on accepting meetings and how to deal with lobbying groups. • Review Bylaws, and include proposed revisions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extend the Chair and Vice Chair positions to two year terms. ○ Limit the number of virtual meetings the council members can attend in one year.

Committee	Members	Meeting Schedule	Purpose and Assignments
Legislative	Roxanne Messina Captor Roy Hirabayashi	Weekly; 60 minutes	<p>The Legislative Committee shall develop materials and strategy for Council's engagement with the Governor and Legislature, provide updates on CAC government affairs activities, and make recommendations to the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivate relationships with legislators that involves the full council. (Ongoing) • Focus on Joint Committee, Finance Committee, and other Arts related committees.
Nominating	Nicola Miner Olivia Raynor	2x monthly in Nov/Dec; 60 minutes	<p>The Committee shall help determine the nomination and election processes for the December council meeting, where new Council leadership is elected annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the nomination procedure when it happens and how.
Programs Policy	Gerald Clarke Caleb Duarte	2x monthly; 60 minutes	<p>The Programs Policy Committee shall provide input on program guidelines and policies, consider framework for Council on the adoption of new pilot grant programs based on Council priorities, and make recommendations to the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program guidelines (1) Set recommendations for General Op grant (2) Suggest structure for Impact Grant (3) Suggest setting a precedent for a 2–3-tiered administration fee. • Look into the grant process. Does it work? Does it need to be revised? • Implementing Touring, matching grants, native American grant organizations, and arts in prisons. • Work with CAC staff to research, design, and convene up to four new programs for 2025: a Native American Initiative, Touring and Presenting, Disability Program and Anchor Institutions Project. Please see the work already researched by the previous program committee.
Strategic Framework	Ellen Gavin Roy Hirabayashi	2x monthly; 60 minutes	<p>The Strategic Framework Committee shall maintain an active role of the Council in strategic planning by reviewing/assessing the current strategic framework, reporting on Council progress related to a strategic framework, establishing Council priorities for a planning process, considering public input strategies, and making recommendations to the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a 1-, 3- and 5-year plan for the CAC. Starting in 2023. • Review the Decision Support Tool to see if there are refinements that can be made or a simplified version that can be applied to more minor decisions • Review the grant process. What is working and what is not?

Ad-Hoc Committees

Committee	Members	Meeting Schedule	Purpose and Assignments
Disability, Access, and Inclusion	Ellen Gavin Olivia Raynor	As needed	<p>The Ad Hoc Disability, Access, and Inclusion Committee shall foster continued support for the equity, inclusion and belonging of people with disabilities within the California Arts Council's culture and strategic priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue ongoing work to cultivate increased equity, access, and inclusion
Partnerships	Leah Goodwin Phil Mercado	As needed	<p>The Ad Hoc Partnerships Committee shall work with the Chair and Executive Director to develop and maintain partnerships with other state agencies, building a powerful base of support for the California Arts Council within the state government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and target grants and funding sources for the CAC• Research and confirm what legally the CAC can do to fundraise.• Research possible grants or donors for the CAC Awards• Target 5 grants with their deadlines to be applied for in 2024.• Target 5 other funding sources and deadlines to be applied for in 2024.

TAB 9

California Arts Council | Public Meeting | 04/19/2024



CALIFORNIA
ARTS COUNCIL
A STATE AGENCY

16. In Memoriam

Santa Barbara Poet Sojourner Kincaid Rolle Passes

Rolle, Award-Winning Poet, Educator, and Historian, Served as Poet Laureate for the City of Santa Barbara from 2015-17



*Poet, historian, teacher, mentor, and civil rights activist
Sojourner Kincaid Rolle.*



Dickey Betts



Dickey Betts. PHOTO: FIN COSTELLO/REDFERNS

Dickey Betts, a founding member and guitarist of the Allman Brothers Band,

Robert MacNeil



Robert MacNeil. PHOTO: ART SELBY/NBC
NEWS/NBCU PHOTO
BANK/NBCUNIVERSAL/GETTY

Robert MacNeil, the longtime PBS
anchorman, died on April 12 at 93.

Mister Cee



Mister Cee. PHOTO: JOHNNY NUNEZ/WIREIMAGE

Mister Cee, the New York radio personality and DJ who helped launch the careers of hip-hop artists including Jay Z, Alicia Keys, and 50 Cent, was confirmed dead on April 10 at 57. Born Calvin LeBrun, Mister Cee spent more than 20 years at Hot 97 as the host of shows such as *Throwback at Noon* and *Friday Night Live*.



Adrian Schiller. PHOTO: MIKE MARSLAND/MIKE MARSLAND/WIREIMAGE

Adrian Schiller, the actor known for his role in Netflix's historical drama [The Last Kingdom](#), died on April 3, [CNN](#) has confirmed. He was 60 years old. No cause of death was disclosed. The English actor boasted an acting career that spanned over 30 years, including roles in such notable films as Meryl Streep's [Suffragette](#),

Christopher Durang

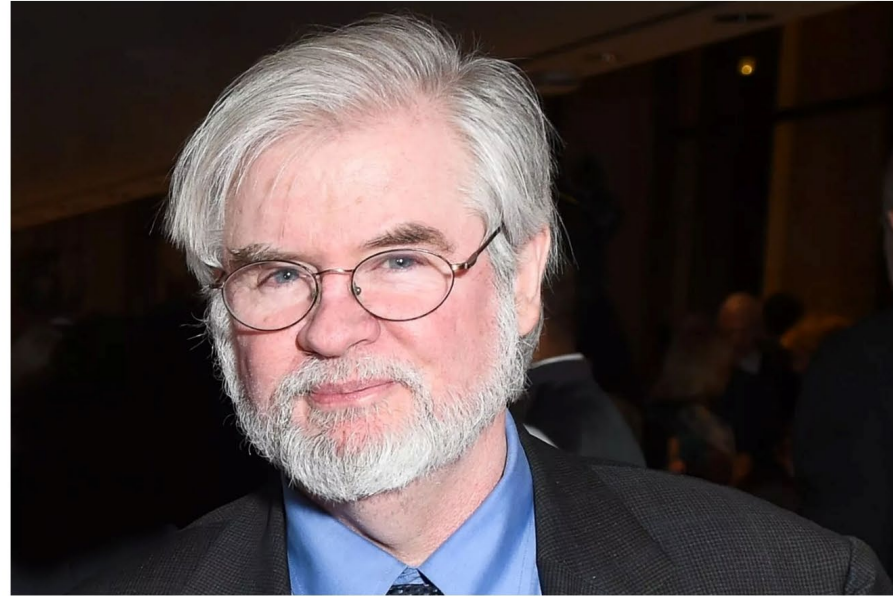


PHOTO: JOE SCHILDHORN/BFA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Christopher Durang, a beloved playwright of absurdist comedies, [died April 2](#) of complications from logopenic progressive aphasia. He was 75. Durang rose to fame in the 1980s, breaking out with *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All*, which won the Obie Award for Best Playwright in 1980.

Joe Flaherty



Joe Flaherty. PHOTO: JIM RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR VIA GETTY

[Joe Flaherty](#), the actor and comedian who played Weir family patriarch on [Freaks and Geeks](#) after several years as a writer/performer of *SCTV*, [died on April 1](#) after a brief illness. He was 82. Flaherty began his career at the legendary Second City comedy troupe in Chicago.

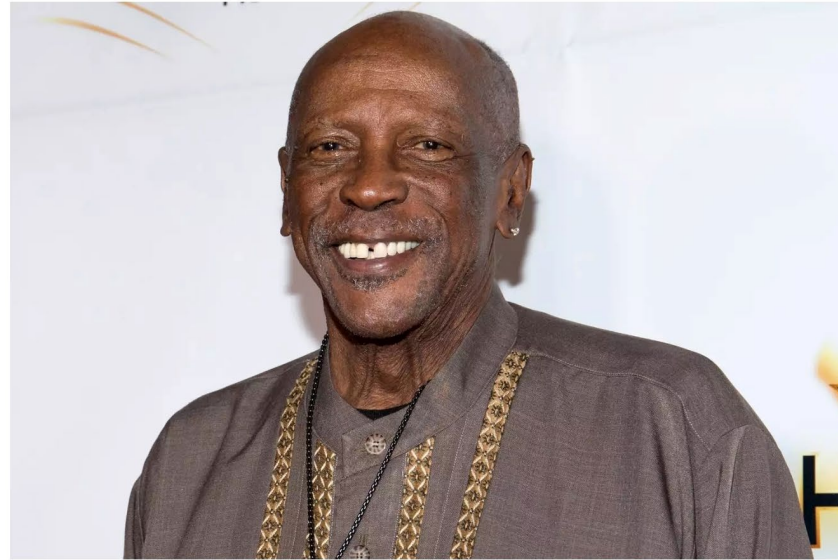
Tim McGovern



Tim McGovern. PHOTO: ALLEN BEREZOVSKY/WIREIMAGE

Tim McGovern, a visual effects veteran and an Oscar winner for his work on 1990's *Total Recall*, died in his sleep on March 30, his wife announced on social media. He was 68. A digital effects pioneer, McGovern started his career in the early '80s, working on the groundbreaking 1982 movie *Tron*.

Louis Gossett Jr.



Louis Gossett Jr. PHOTO: TARA ZIEMBA/GETTY

[Louis Gossett Jr.](#), a prolific character actor best known for his performances in *An Officer and a Gentleman* and the original [Roots](#) miniseries, [died March 29](#) at 87. Gossett first began acting for the stage, and appeared in the original Broadway run of *A Raisin in the Sun* alongside [Sidney Poitier](#)

Paula Weinstein



Paula Weinstein. PHOTO: MONICA SCHIPPER/GETTY

Paula Weinstein, producer of [Analyze This](#) and [Blood Diamond](#), died on March 25 at age 78. Weinstein, who was the chief content officer at Tribeca Enterprises until 2023, produced dozens of films, including [The Perfect Storm](#) and [The Fabulous Baker Boys](#).

M. Emmet Walsh



M. Emmet Walsh. PHOTO: MICHAEL BUCKNER/VARIETY/PENSKE MEDIA VIA GETTY

M. Emmet Walsh, the actor best known for his work as private detective Loren Visser in *Blood Simple*, died March 19 of cardiac arrest, [EW has confirmed](#). He was 88 years old. The beloved character actor is recognizable for his wry delivery and gruff persona.'

David Seidler



David Seidler. PHOTO: MICHAEL BUCKNER/GETTY

David Seidler, the Oscar-winning screenwriter, [died March 16](#) while on a fly-fishing expedition in New Zealand, per his manager. He was 86. Born Aug. 3, 1937, Seidler spent his early childhood in London before his family relocated to New York amidst World War II. He developed a stutter on the voyage

Joe Camp



Joe Camp in 2018. PHOTO: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY

Joe Camp, the writer and director best known as the creative force behind the *Benji* franchise, [died March 15 at 84.](#)

Camp's career started with the original *Benji* movie in 1974, which was partly inspired by his own dog of the same name.



Jess Curtis was an award-winning choreographer and performer committed to an art-making practice informed by experimentation, innovation, critical discourse and social relevance at the intersections of fine art and popular culture. Curtis has created and performed multidisciplinary dance theater throughout the U.S. and Europe with the seminal group Contraband, the radical performance collective CORE and the experimental French Circus company Cahin-Caha, Cirque Batard.

Bo\$\$



PHOTO: LEV RADIN/EVERETT

Bo\$\$, a rapper best known for her 1993 album *Born Gangstaz* and for being the first female rapper to sign with Def Jam, [died at age 54](#). Born Lichelle Marie Laws, she used the stage name Bo\$\$ when she released her only studio album in May 1993, which sold nearly 400,000 copies, peaking at No. 22 on the Billboard 200

Eric Carmen



Eric Carmen in 1970. PHOTO: MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY

Eric Carmen, who became a '70s icon as the frontman of the Raspberries, died in March at 74. Born Aug. 11, 1949 in Cleveland, the singer-songwriter forged his love for music at a young age, taking violin lessons at 6 and teaching himself to play the guitar as a teen.

Steve Lawrence



Steve Lawrence. PHOTO: HARRY LANGDON/GETTY

Steve Lawrence, the Grammy- and Emmy-winning entertainer who dazzled audiences as a nightclub and concert singer with his late wife, Eydie Gormé, [died March 7](#) from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was 88. Lawrence got his start in show business as a teenager, after winning a talent competition on Arthur Godfrey's CBS show

Faith Ringgold died on April 12, 2024. She was an American painter, painting on different materials including fabric, author, mixed media sculptor, performance artist, and intersectional activist, perhaps best known for her narrative quilts.



Jim Beard



Jim Beard. PHOTO: JIM BEARD

Jim Beard, the jazz pianist best known for his work with [Steely Dan](#), [died March 2](#) at a New York hospital following complications from a sudden illness. He was 63. Born in Philadelphia in 1960, Beard studied under jazz musicians including Don Sebesky, Roland Hanna, and George Shearing during his youth.



Japanese manga artist Akira Toriyama is seen in a 1982 photo. The creator of Japan's hugely popular and influential "Dragon Ball" comics and anime cartoons, Akira Toriyama, has died aged 68, his production team said on March 8, 2024.

Roberto Cavalli, 83



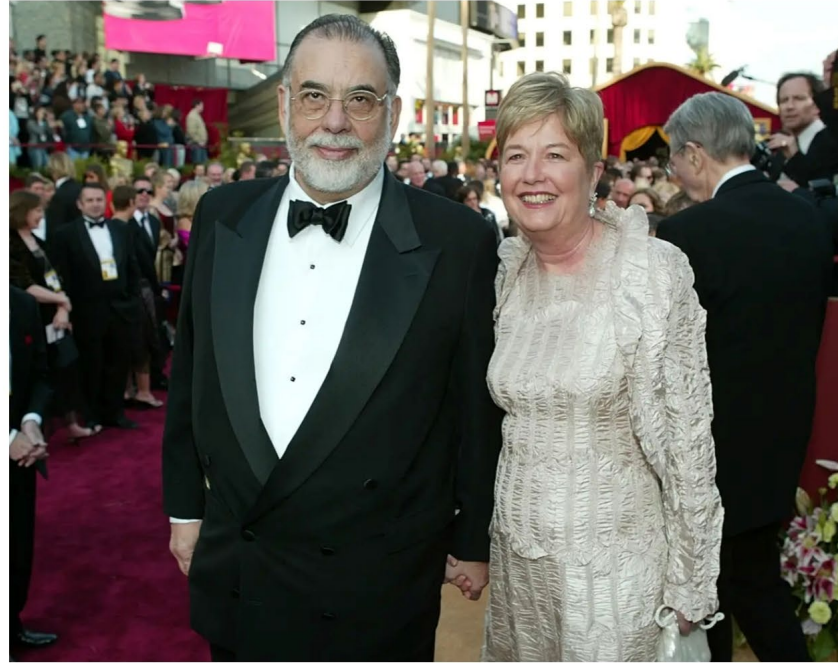
Roberto Cavalli. Daniele Venturelli/WireImage/Getty

The Italian fashion designer was known for his flamboyant designs and game-changing innovations.

Cavalli's use of leopard prints beginning in the 1970s became one of his trademarks. His revolutionary method of printing leather and patchwork denim was beloved by everyone from Madonna to Gwyneth Paltrow.

Cavalli died on April 12. No cause of death was given.

Eleanor Coppola, 87



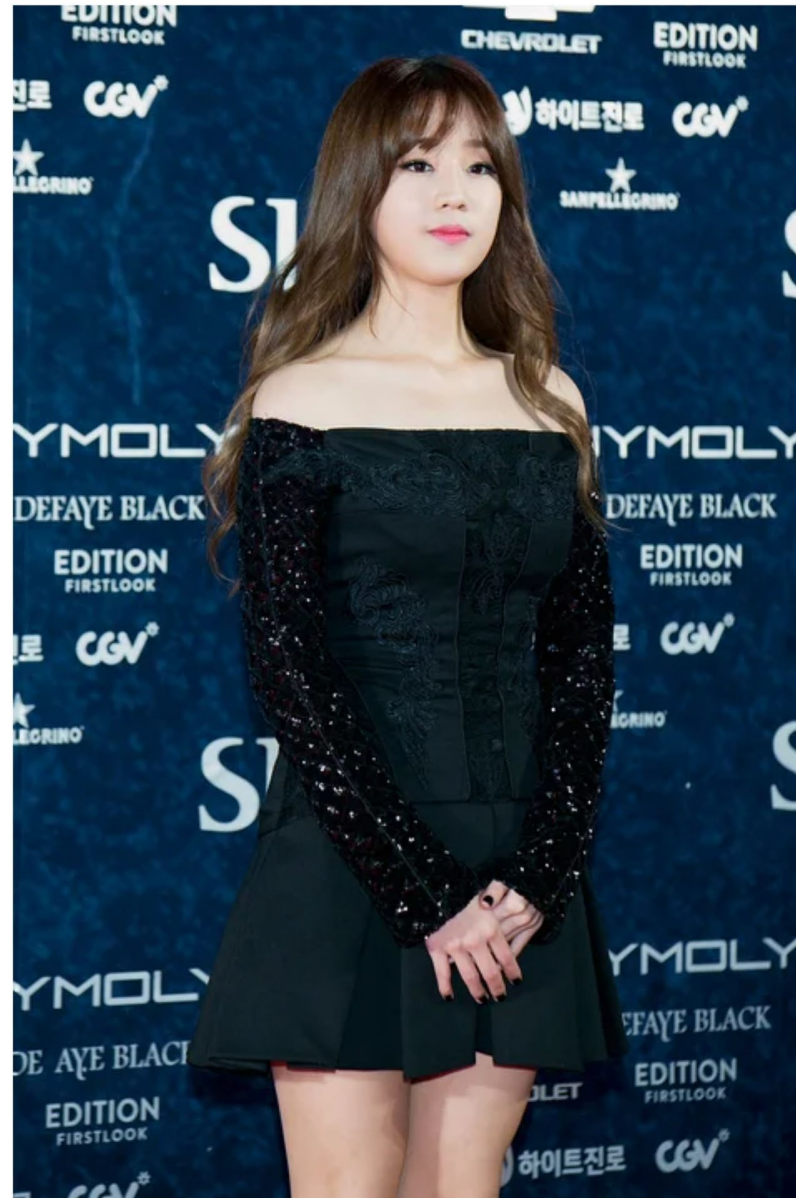
Francis Ford Coppola and Eleanor Coppola at the 76th Academy Awards in 2004.
Vince Bucci/Getty

As the wife of Francis Ford Coppola, Eleanor had to navigate the stress and complexities of living with one of the greatest directors of all time.

She channeled that by filming her husband while he made his landmark 1979 Vietnam movie "Apocalypse Now."

Her documentary, "Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse," has gone down as one of the most honest accounts of the making of a movie.

Park Boram



Han Myung-Gu/WireImage

South Korean singer Park Boram has reportedly died at the age of 30. Reports of her untimely death emerged on April 12 with her label, Xanadu, purportedly issuing a statement.