

Kyle Beckham, educator, filmmaker

Kyle Beckham taught for 10 years at a continuation school in San Francisco before transitioning to his current "job" as a PhD candidate in the program of Race, Inequality, and Language in Education (RILE) at the Graduate School of Education at Stanford. The high school was project based and he designed and co-taught a project on film making, screen writing, production design, and film editing where students created short dramatic films on social justice issues. The other project he co-created (Physics Reflected in Social Movements/PRISM), allowed him to design curriculum that integrated a range of topics from hip-hop culture and history to re-designing the American high school. Kyle also worked several semesters with WritersCorps teachers on a range of topics in which they created and implemented a variety of performances and artifacts. Kyle also helped design the Ethnic Studies curriculum currently being offered at all SFUSD high schools.

Elizabeth Brodersen, Director of Education, American Conservatory Theater

Elizabeth Brodersen was appointed A.C.T.'s first Director of Education in 2011. She previously led the theater's audience education efforts for 19 years as Publications Editor, overseeing all of A.C.T.'s dramaturgical publications, including Words on Plays, A.C.T.'s celebrated in-depth study guide, of which she is the founding editor. Brodersen co-chaired the Education Committee formed by the A.C.T. Board of Trustees during the theater's strategic planning process and has led the subsequent expansion of A.C.T.'s educational and community outreach efforts. As a member of the senior management team, she works closely with the Education Committee of the A.C.T. Board of Trustees and oversees the programs administered by A.C.T.'s Education Department, which annually serve more than 9,000 students in the Bay Area, including: Student Matinees (SMATs); ACTsmart Partnerships with schools and community-based organizations, including in-depth long-term residencies at San Francisco's continuation schools, Downtown High School and Ida B. Wells High School, and the Tenderloin Boys & Girls Club; the annual Will on Wheels school tour of Shakespeare classics; and Back to the Source, A.C.T.'s acclaimed annual educator institute.

Michele Carlson, artist, writer, educator and curator

Michele Carlson is a practicing artist, writer, educator, and curator whose interdisciplinary research investigates the intersections of history, memory, loss, race, and popular culture. Carlson was born in Seoul, Korea, but grew up in Seattle, WA and attended the University of Washington where she received a BFA in Printmaking and BAs in Interdisciplinary Visual Arts and History. After her undergraduate work, she moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where she completed an MFA in Printmaking and MA in Visual & Critical Studies from the California College of the Arts.

Her visual work, primarily works on paper, has been exhibited nationally at venues including Patricia Sweetow Gallery, the San Francisco Arts Commission, Intersection for the Arts, and Cerasoli Gallery, Los Angeles. She has received awards and fellowships from Kala Art Institute, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the Reader's Digest Museum Foundation. Her critical and creative writings have been published in numerous publications including Art in America, Art Practical, Hyphen, Afterimage, KQED Arts and various exhibition catalogs.

In addition to her visual work and writing practices, Carlson is an editor for Hyphen, a national print and online publication focusing on Asian American culture and politics. She is a member of the Curatorial Committee at Southern Exposure in San Francisco, where she recently co-curated

an exhibition titled Reverse Rehearsals, which was an iterative collaboration between 18 artists and writers.

She is currently an Adjunct Professor in the MFA Fine Arts and Visual and Critical Studies departments at California College of the Arts, while teaching undergraduate courses in Asian American studies, studio arts, art history and visual studies at University of California, Davis and several other San Francisco Bay Area colleges.

Minna Dubin, writer, performer, teaching artist

Minna Dubin is a writer and performer, and facilitates creative writing workshops for teens. She holds an MA in Transformative Language Arts from Goddard College and a BA in Cultural Studies from Eugene Lang College. Since 2003, Minna has led workshops for youth in schools, libraries, afterschool programs, summer camps, youth-housing facilities, writing centers, and health clinics. She has taught in New York, Washington, D.C., Kentucky, the San Francisco Bay Area, and in her hometown Philadelphia. In high school, Minna felt that race and sexuality were the biggest factors impacting her life, yet there was no space in school to engage with these issues in a healthy, meaningful way. In college, Minna focused on “Race, Ethnicity, and Post-Colonialism,” memoir writing, and education. The combination of identity studies, creative writing, and youth development led to Minna’s writing workshops with youth, in which she provides a safe space where youth can be themselves, while being challenged and inspired, learning and having fun.

Todd Gilens, visual and interdisciplinary artist

Todd Gilens develops temporary installations in public and private spaces through drawing, writing and dialogue, with an evolving palette of materials – most recently adhesive-backed plastics. His projects have been seen on public transit buses, in storefronts and on people’s refrigerators, in rock crevices and university buildings in the US and abroad. The work is supported by commissions, grants and in-kind donations, including from the Stockholm Resilience Centre, University of California Berkeley Botanical Garden, Richmond Art Center, San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Zellerbach and Adobe Foundations and the San Francisco Arts Commission. Todd holds a master’s degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University School of Design and his website is www.follywog.com

Jewelle Gomez, novelist and playwright

Jewelle Gomez (Cape Verdean/loway/Wampanoag), writer and cultural worker, is the author of seven books including the double Lambda Literary Award-winning, Black vampire novel, THE GILDA STORIES, in print continuously since 1991. Its 25th anniversary special edition will arrive in 2016. Her adaptation of the book for the stage, “Bones and Ash,” was commissioned and performed by Urban Bush Women Company in 13 US cities. Her fiction, non-fiction and poetry are included in over one hundred anthologies. She has written essays, literary and film criticism for numerous publications including ‘The Village Voice,’ MS Magazine,’ ‘The Advocate,’ ‘The San Francisco Chronicle,’ ‘Black Scholar,’ and ‘Wellesley’s Women’s Review of Books.’

Born in Boston, she was on the original staff of one of the first weekly Black television shows, ‘Say Brother,’ (WGBH). She was also on the founding board of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Astraea Lesbian Foundation. She was on the staff of the New York State Council on the Arts (1983-93) and director of Cultural Equity Grants at the San Francisco



Arts Commission (2001-2006) and director of grants at Horizons Foundation (2006-2012). She has taught creative writing and popular culture at San Francisco State University, Hunter College (NYC), New College of California and Menlo College (CA) as well as lectured at numerous higher education institutions around the country. She is the former president of the San Francisco Public Library Commission. Her play about James Baldwin, "Waiting for Giovanni," premiered in San Francisco in 2011. Her new play about singer/composer, Alberta Hunter, entitled "Leaving the Blues," will premier in 2016.

Melorra Green, Curator

Melorra is a curator, artist, radio show host, and community activist. She is a native of Memphis, TN and has called San Francisco home for over 15 years. She is a graduate of Tennessee State University in Nashville (Speech, Communication, & Theatre), the Academy of Art University (Bachelors of Arts in Motion Pictures & Television), and the University of Phoenix (Masters of Arts in Education). Melorra serves as a member of the San Francisco Graffiti Advisory Board for District 5. Along with her twin sister, Melonie Green, Melorra has been curating creative art experiences and traditional exhibitions for over eight years. Together, they have a niche and love for bringing seemingly obscure worlds together to create a beautiful cohesive message that leaves the viewer feeling inspired and included and the creator feeling empowered and appreciated.

Chike C. Nwoffiah, actor, theater director, filmmaker and educator

Chike C. Nwoffiah is a graduate of the University of Lagos, Nigeria; Columbia University's Graduate School of Business INM program and Leadership Mountain View class of 1999. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Oriki Theater, a Mountain View based performing arts company that provides African entertainment, educational and youth development programs. Nwoffiah is an adjunct professor at Menlo College in Atherton, California where he teaches African and African American History. He is a past president of Mountain View Community Television; a former board member of the Chamber of Commerce Mountain View and the Arts Council Silicon Valley. He is currently on the board of the Chamber of Commerce Mountain View Education Foundation, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, California Black Arts Alliance and the Palo Alto Red Cross.

An award winning filmmaker and director, Mr. Nwoffiah won the 1998 International Cinema in Industry Competition (Cindy) gold award and the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame award for his children's film of African folk stories - Ago! Ameer! Nwoffiah's other projects include: A Jewel in History - a feature length documentary on the history of Black hospitals in America. "Jewel" is in distribution through the UC Berkeley Media Center. His 2004 documentary "A Killing in Choctaw" on a 1962 race killing in Choctaw County Alabama was reviewed by the New York Times and premiered in Europe at the XX Black International Cinema Festival in Berlin, Germany in May 2005 where it won the Award for Best Film on Black Experience. "A Killing in Choctaw" also won the 2006 Telly Awards. Nwoffiah's latest project is a feature length drama Sabarâ" that is currently in post-production and due for release in summer of 2007.

Maurice Seaty, educator, photographer

Born in Oakland, Maurice Seaty's appreciation of the world around him and love for community is rooted in being raised by refugee parents. It is thru the experiences and narratives they've shared with him that he has developed a sense of identity that is both political and artistic. When he is not slamming down burritos in mass quantities, Maurice enjoys running, writing poetry, and



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photography. Currently, he is a Special Education teacher at Leadership High School in San Francisco. In January 2016, he piloted a program called "Snap For the City" at his high school, in which students use digital cameras and photography to document a landscape that is shifting before them.

Sherri Young, Executive Director, African American Shakespeare Company

An M.F.A. graduate from the American Conservatory Theatre; and former Commissioner for the San Francisco Art Commission proudly serving for Mayor Gavin Newsom, Young founded The African-American Shakespeare in 1993 and has been its Executive Director since. She has directed sixteen productions, produced and executed four programs for the organization and speaks at various colleges, universities, and conferences across the nation. Young manages the approximately 60 company members and volunteers for the organization's programs. Some career highlights includes the creation of the company's signature holiday performance Cinderella, effectively building and stabilizing the organization over the past five years, increase audience attendance by 30%, and increase new funding support by foundations and individual donors within the past two years.