

**SFAC Review Panelists Pool for Approval  
FY2016-2017 and FY2017-2018  
Community Arts, Education, and Grants Meeting  
March 14, 2017**

**Janet Heller, poet, creative writing teaching artist**

Janet Heller is an Oakland poet, teaching artist and community arts leader. She founded the San Francisco WritersCorps and during her tenure built an award-winning, highly respected literary arts program. She has published poetry (Back to Front: Red Window Press) and essays, but is currently working on a novel about an Oakland family with roots in Cuba. She graduated from Tulane University (BA in English) and Florida State University (MFA in Creative Writing). She has been teaching creative writing for 20 years, most recently at North Oakland Community Charter School.

**Natasha Huey, Brave New Voices Senior Associate, Youth Speaks**

Natasha Huey is the American Graduate and Brave New Voices Senior Associate for Youth Speaks. She is currently working on the Missed Education Project, a national youth hip hop and spoken word contest to develop the conversation about the high school drop-out crisis. Natasha was introduced to Youth Speaks as a youth poet on the 2010 Brave New Voices team representing the Bay Area and has since served the organization as a Youth Poet Mentor and member of Future Corps before joining the staff. Natasha is a graduate from UC Berkeley where she earned her degree in Language, Power, and Identity with a minor in Creative Writing. At Cal, she had the honor of Co-Directing UC Berkeley's spoken word organization, CalSLAM, for three years. She was on the CalSLAM poetry team that competes at college nationals (CUPSI) for the past four years. At CUPSI 2013, she was awarded "Best Poet." At CUPSI 2012, she was on the CalSLAM team that placed 3rd in the nation. On the Berkeley campus, she was also a Student Teacher Poet for Poetry for the People and the co-founder and co-facilitator of UC Berkeley's only student-led class on slam poetry. Natasha is currently a teaching artist for Performing Arts Workshop and a recipient of the Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize. The Stronach Prize currently funds her program, the Write Home Project, which makes creative spaces for homeless youth in Berkeley.

**Melissa Hung, writer, journalist, and media maker**

Melissa Hung is a writer, journalist, and media maker. She currently produces stories for print, digital, and radio. She also writes creative nonfiction. A former newspaper reporter, she co-founded Hyphen, an award-winning magazine about Asian American culture, and led the publication for more than five years as its editor in chief. She directed WritersCorps, a nationally-recognized arts education program that helped youth tell their own stories through creative writing and digital projects. Melissa also founded and curated Slant: Bold Asian American Images, an annual program of short films in Houston. On occasion, she makes short films herself. Her work has appeared in NPR, NBC News Digital, Houston Press, East Bay Express, Mother Jones, and KPFA-FM. A native Texan, she lives in San Francisco where she enjoys recycling and composting, but misses Tex-Mex and cafeterias.

**Barbara Jane Reyes, poet**

Barbara Jane Reyes is the author of *To Love as Aswang* (Philippine American Writers and Artists, Inc., 2015). She was born in Manila, Philippines, raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is the author of three previous collections of poetry, *Gravities of Center* (Arkipelago Books, 2003), *Poeta en San Francisco* (Tinfoil Press, 2005), which received the James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets, and *Diwata* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 2010), which received the Global Filipino Literary Award for Poetry. She is also the author of the chapbooks *Easter Sunday* (Ypolita Press, 2008) *Cherry* (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs, 2008), and *For the City that Nearly Broke Me* (Aztlán Libre Press, 2012). Her fifth full-length poetry collection, *Invocation to Daughters*, is forthcoming from City Lights Publishers.

**Harold Terezón, educator, poet**

Harold Terezón is an educator and poet from Pacoima, CA. He was awarded the 2013 James D. Phelan Literary Award by San Francisco Foundation. His work has appeared in *Texas Poetry Review*, *POECOLOGY*, *Puerto del Sol*, *PALABRA*, and *Rushing Waters Rising Dreams: How the Arts Are Transforming a Community*, among other publications. As a member of WritersCorps, he teaches creative writing to elementary and middle school students in San Francisco. He is currently working on *Hunting Izotes*, a poetry collection inspired by his family's immigrant experience in Pacoima, CA and by Pacoima native Ritchie Valens.