



FY2014-2016 Grant Review Panelist Approval List (December 2014 – CAEG)

Alejandro D. Acosta, Technical Director and Facilities Manager, Intersection for the Arts

Alejandro D. Acosta is the Technical Director and Facilities Manager at Intersection for the Arts, a teaching artist (stagecraft) at Tamalpais High's Conservatory Theater Ensemble, and a freelance designer and technical consultant based in San Francisco. He has worked with many local artists and companies in a range of positions and mediums including: Video/Projection programmer for Eliza Barrios, Mark Baugh-Sasaki, and Su Chen Hung; Sound technician for Sara Shelton Mann, Z-Space, Counter-Pulse and Dance Mission Theater; Master Electrician for Jeff Rowlings, Living Word Project and Golden Thread Productions; Technical Director for Campo Santo, Bindlestiff Studios and Anne Bluethenthal (ABD); Touring and Production Manager for Afro Pomo Homos.

Carolyn Melenani Kualii, Founder and Executive Director, Kua`aina Associates

Carolyn Melenani Kualii is a descendent of the Kualii line of the island of Oahu, and the Mescalero Apache people of Southeastern New Mexico. She is the founder and executive director of Kua`aina Associates – a Berkeley based indigenous arts and culture non-profit. Her work is dedicated to indigenous arts, both traditional and contemporary, and has produced and directed art and cultural programs and exhibits, art residencies and fellowships. Some of the art organizations Carolyn has partnered with are: deYoung Museum, Oakland People's Museum, Galeria de la Raza, Maui Arts & Cultural Center, Heyday's Clappers Institute, and the California Indian Basketweavers Association. Carolyn is a graduate of Social Science with an emphasis on cultural anthropology from the University of California, Irvine. Her interest was in "material culture" and she was privileged to be an assistant to a number of cultural masters who provided Carolyn invaluable training and mentorship. Among her mentors were, Katherine Silva Saubal (Cahuilla Elder, Scholar and the first American Indian woman to be inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame) and Sam Kahai Kaai (Cultural Practitioner, Artist, Master Carver and 'Ele Makua Pu'ukohola Heiau).

For the past eight years, Carolyn has produced a number of projects designed for emerging indigenous artists that are reinventing tradition through contemporary art mediums and styles. These projects have provided them opportunities to learn new modes of expression in design and art making along with professional development workshops and consultation. Carolyn's goal has always been to ensure that artists gain a practical understanding of today's art world and to equip them with the tools to advance their art practice unbounded by conventional gallery walls. Carolyn is currently an advisor for two Bay Area exhibits scheduled for 2015: "The Royal Hawaiian Feather Works – "Na Hulu Ali`i" a partnership between the deYoung and Bishop Museum, and "Pacific Worlds" a project of Oakland People's Museum.

Cherie Hill, Communications Manager & Teaching Artist, Luna Dance Institute

Cherie Hill is a creative artist, dancer, performer, teacher and scholar, whose art explores human expression and how it is conveyed through the body in collaboration with nature, music and visual imagery. A certified Planetary Dance facilitator, Cherie's research on dance,

education and somatic practices have been presented at the National Dance Education Organization (2013), Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities (2010), and the International Association of Black Dance Conference (2009). An active scholar, Ms. Hill has published in the "Gender Forum", the "Sacred Dance Journal" and "InDance" Magazine. She is a research assistant for hip-hop legend Rennie Harris. Cherie's choreography has been shown at the Black Choreographer's Festival and African American Art and Culture Complex in San Francisco, California, as well as the Anschutz Theater and Bao Bao Festival in Denver, Colorado. She holds an MFA in Choreography and Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a BA in Dance and Performance Studies/African American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. She is current Co-Vice President of the Sacred Dance Guild and Public Relations Coordinator and Teaching Artist at Luna Dance Institute.

Cherie specializes in teaching contemporary dance, improvisation and African Diaspora dance styles. She enjoys creating choreography in nature, alternative environments and theaters. Her research interests include women and gender studies, cultural studies, and holistic dance practices.

Diane Sanchez, Former Director of Community Investment, East Bay Community Foundation

Diane was responsible for the East Bay Community Foundation's grantmaking strategies and programs as well as the development of co-investment strategies and services to the foundation's donors. Diane had a consulting practice in organizational development for 14 years and served on the board of the EBCF before joining the staff in 2000. As a consultant she worked with both corporations and community organizations in the U.S., in Asia & in Europe. Her core focus was on strategic change management. She has also held senior management positions with J. Walter Thompson, Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation, and Bedford Properties. Diane has served on the boards of La Raza Graphics, The Spanish Speaking Unity Council, The City of Oakland Civil Service Commission, Goodwill Industries of the East Bay, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Diane currently is on the National Board of Grant Makers in the Arts.

Dr. Andrew Jolivet, Chair of American Indian Studies Department, San Francisco State University

Dr. Andrew Jolivet, chair of the American Indian Studies Department at San Francisco State University is an accomplished educator, writer, speaker, and socio-cultural critic. He is the author of three books: *Cultural Representation in Native America* (AltaMira Press, 2006); *Louisiana Creoles: Cultural Recovery and Mixed-Race Native American Identity* (Lexington Books, 2007); and *Obama and the Biracial Factor: The Battle for a New American Majority* (Policy Press, 2012) and many journal articles and community studies including A Report on the Health and Wellness of Multiracial Youth in the San Francisco Bay Area (2008).

He is currently completing work on two new books, *Indian Blood: Critical Interventions in Mixed-Race Identity and HIV* (Contract Pending, Duke University Press, Spring 2016), where he explores the efficacy of an Indigenous stress coping mechanism along with a new intervention model on Inter-Generational Healing and Cultural Leadership to reduce HIV risk among multiracial, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and two-spirit populations. His other new book project is an edited anthology entitled, *The Research Justice Handbook: Sacred Methodologies for Social Change* (Policy Press/University of Chicago Press, July 2015). This manuscript is being written in collaboration with the DataCenter, Research for Justice.

Jolivet's writing has been featured in the *American Indian Cultural and Research Journal*, the *Ethnic Studies Review Journal*, *The Yellow Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of Critical Mixed Race Studies* and in several anthologies. He has served as president of the board for

three organizations, Speak Out (the Institute for Democratic Education and Culture), the GLBT Historical Society & Museum, and iPride for Multiracial Families and Youth. He is the former Vice-Chair of the DataCenter, Research for Justice Board of Directors. He currently serves as a new board member with the African American Art and Culture Complex in San Francisco and he is the Book Series Editor of Critical Indigenous and American Indian Studies at Peter Lang Publishing in New York.

Dr. Jolivette recently served as scholar in residence in Native Sexualities and Public Health at the University of California, Santa Cruz in fall 2013. He was the Indigenous Peoples' Representative at the United Nations Forum on HIV and the Law in 2011 during his two-year fellowship as an IHART (Indigenous HIV/AIDS Research Training Program) Fellow at the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute at the University of Washington in Seattle. He recently served as the co-chair for the National Association for Ethnic Studies 2014 Conference, "Research As Ceremony: Decolonizing Ethnic Studies" which was held at Mills College in April 2014. He delivered a keynote address at this year's International Indigenous HIV/AIDS Conference in Sydney, Australia in July 2014.

Dr. Jolivette is a Creole of Opelousa, Choctaw, Atakapa-Ishak, French, African, and Spanish descent. Professor Jolivette is the former tribal historian for the Atakapa-Ishak Nation located between southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas. As a national speaker he has spoken to thousands of college students, educators, government employees and private sector organizations over the past decade across the United States. Jolivette received his Ph.D in Sociology from the University of California Santa Cruz.

Emiko Saraswati Susilo, Director, Gamelan Sekar Jaya

Emiko Saraswati Susilo is the Director and Guest Dance Director of Gamelan Sekar Jaya. A dancer, musician and vocalist she is also a founding member and Associate Director of Cudamani, one of Bali's most active and internationally renowned performing arts companies. She spends her life finding balance between the worlds of Bali and California, music and dance, modern and traditional, and mother and professional. The daughter of esteemed Javanese musician Hardja Susilo and arts presenter Judy Mitoma, was surrounded by great artists from a young age. Emiko received her Bachelor of the Arts degree in Anthropology at UC Berkeley, and went on to study music and dance at STSI Denpasar through the Darma Siswa program. She received her Master's degree in Asian Studies and a Certificate of Completion for South East Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Emiko is a founding member of Gamelan Cudamani, a Balinese arts school and performing company dedicated both to the study of traditional Balinese arts. Associate Director of the company, she is responsible for organizing Cudamani's international projects, and for developing and overseeing curriculum for Cudamani's music and dance programs

Gerald Richards, Chief Executive Officer, 826 National

Gerald Richards is the Chief Executive Officer of 826 National, a network of creative writing and after-school tutoring centers located in seven cities in the U.S.. With twenty years of management and development experience at national nonprofit organizations, Gerald is a respected trainer and sought after speaker on topics of youth and education access. He has also served as an education expert for national marketing campaigns promoting creativity in and outside the classroom. His nonprofit career also includes positions with the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, the United Negro College Fund (UNCF); University of California, San Francisco; the J. David Gladstone Institutes; Chicago Panel on Social Policy; and The Cradle Foundation. Gerald has a BA in Film Studies from Wesleyan University and an MFA in Writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Joti Singh, Artistic Director and Founder, Duniya Dance and Drum Company

Joti Singh is a choreographer, performer, and instructor of Bhangra and Bollywood dances from India and dance from Guinea, West Africa. She is the Artistic Director and founder of Duniya Dance and Drum Company. With Zenon Barron, director of Ensembles Ballet Folklorico de San Francisco, Joti created a full-length performance called "Half and Halves," about the Punjabi-Mexican communities of California. The performance featured over 30 dancers and 10 musicians, and was funded by the Creative Work Fund and the SF Arts Commission. In addition Joti choreographed the West African dance performances, "Lanyee" and "The Madness of the Elephant." Joti has received the Apprenticeship award and Traditional Artist Development grant from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, and participated in the Margaret Jenkins CHIME mentorship program. She was a Performing Diaspora artist at CounterPULSE and premiered "Red, Saffron and Green," about the Gadar Party fighting for India's independence. Along with her husband, Bongo Sidibe, Duniya's Musical Director, Joti leads a group of dance and drum students to Guinea, West Africa every year. They recently built the Duniya Center for Arts and Education in Conakry, Guinea. Joti currently teaches at Dance Mission in San Francisco and is a guest teacher at numerous Bay Area schools and colleges.

Julia Robertson, Multi-media Artist

Julia is a multi-media artist who plays with time, space and place; weaving together sound, light, image and objects to create video based installations. Her current work explores the connection between the past and present, contemplating how historical materiality inhabits and informs present day realities in tangible and uncanny ways.

Julia recently completed her MFA at California College of the Arts where she studied Social Practice, a field that focuses on topics such as aesthetics, ethics, collaboration, media strategies, and social activism, issues that are central to artworks and projects that cross into public and social spheres. Before embarking on a graduate degree, Julia co-founded Pinch Me Films Inc., a Berkeley based non-profit production company that creates media for youth. With PMF, Julia worked directly with middle and high school aged teens to write, produce and edit entertaining and educational films for their peers. In addition to her art practice, Julia is engaged with several civic and philanthropic groups. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Berkeley Film Foundation where she served as chair for two year and a member of the Berkeley Civic Arts Commission where she chairs the grants committee and sits on the public art committee.

Melanie Smith, Executive Director, San Francisco Girls Chorus

Melanie Smith brings over twenty years of arts administration experience to this leadership role. Prior to working with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, Ms. Smith was director of education and artistic administration for San Francisco Performances. Before moving to the Bay Area, Ms. Smith was executive director of The Midori Foundation (*Midori and Friends*), an arts education organization in New York City, where she also held management positions with Young Concert Artists and Carnegie Hall.

Rebecca Johnson, Managing Director, Shawl Anderson Dance Center

Rebecca Johnson joined Shawl-Anderson as the Administrative Director in 2008 and became the Managing Director in 2010. Prior to that time Rebecca served on the organization's Board of Directors for three years and was a youth and adult teacher since 2002. In addition to her work at the Center, she dances professionally with Paufve Dance and Nina Haft & Company and has toured to New York, Portland, San Diego, Vermont, Los Angeles and Massachusetts as well Amman and Ramallah. In addition to these companies, she has also had the pleasure of working with numerous choreographers including Della Davidson, Tammy Cheney, Kimi Guthrie, Martt Lawrence, Dana Lawton, Heidi Schweiker and Carol Kueffer amongst others. Rebecca began her dance training on the East coast studying ballet in a Royal Academy

(RAD) program and then started her pre-professional modern dance training at the age of 14 with Moving West Dance Company. Rebecca graduated with highest honors in 1994 from Rutgers University in English Literature and Modern Dance with a minor in French Language & Literature, followed by the completion of her Master of Education degree in secondary teaching with an emphasis on Special Education from the University of New Hampshire. As a choreographer, Rebecca's work has been seen at the Dance IS Festival, Paufve Dance's 8x8x8, Works in the Works, Berkeley Earth Day, The Whole Story produced by Watchword Press and at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center. She is thrilled to be working at the Center serving child, teen and adult dancers as well as professional dance artists and choreographers.

Rob Bailis, Musician, Writer, and Performing Arts Curator

As a classical clarinetist, Mr. Bailis is lauded for his "sweet, singing tone...and technical wizardry..." -S.F. Classical Voice. He has performed with orchestra, chamber ensembles, and as a recitalist across the U.S., Canada, Asia, and the U.K. A strong proponent of contemporary music, he began his career premiering late works of Berio with the composer conducting, and has since gone on to collaborate in scored, improvised, and electro-acoustic idioms with composers such as Martin Bresnick, Jack Perla, Arlene Sierra, and Matt Ingalls among many others. On the more traditional side, in 1999 he joined the Napa Valley Symphony, and he continues to perform with numerous symphonies and chamber ensembles throughout northern California, notably the acclaimed Mirage Ensemble of which he is a founding member. From 2003 - 2011, he was Director of ODC Theater. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the theater's \$9 million dollar expansion of its facility. He elevated the theater's platform from regional to national and international visibility, and received numerous awards in recognition of his presenting, advocacy, and residency programs. In 2007, the San Francisco Chronicle named him "MVP" in dance presenting, describing his curation as, "...smart...instinctive, and infectious." He has commissioned over 30 new works in a variety of genres, and has served as a panelist / program consultant for foundations and arts funding organizations including MAP Fund, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Creative Capital, SF Arts Commission, New England Foundation for the Arts, Chamber Music America, WESTAF, and the Center for Cultural Innovation, among many. A frequent public speaker on arts and culture, he has recently been heard at The Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, on KPFA's Against the Grain, and on NPR's West Coast Live, and has been a speaker and content provider at national conferences such as Dance USA and Association of Performing Arts Presenters. A widely produced lyricist and librettist, Mr. Bailis' newest piece, Love/Hate, was co-commissioned by American Opera Projects and ODC Theater and premiered in April 2012 as a co-production of ODC and San Francisco Opera. The work will tour to New York, Baltimore, and Houston. In June of 2013, Mr. Bailis was appointed Director of External Relations and Artistic Initiatives at Cal Performances on the UC Berkeley campus, where he leads the artistic programming team in areas of dance, theater, and world stages, and oversees the fundraising, marketing, and education departments. He is an affiliate member of the UC Berkeley based think tank, Arts Research Center. He holds degrees from Northwestern University and Yale School of Music.

Samuel White Swan-Perkins, Contributing Writer, News From Native California

Samuel White Swan-Perkins (TsaLaGi/Siksika/German/English) was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. After a 15 year stint in the Bay Area, he is currently based out of Chico, CA and maintains close ties with the Bay Area Native community. As a member of the Kiowa Gourd Dance Society and as a traditional powwow dancer and singer since his youth, he has participated in hundreds of traditional Native gatherings across the United States. He has been guest panelist and teachers' assistant for several American Indian Studies departments, both in St. Louis and the Bay Area. Sam is a freelance writer and researcher and is a regular contributing writer for News From Native California. He also works in various mediums. His video short "The Dancer", a meditation and reflection on powwow, gender binaries and Two

Spirit realities, was created through a collaborative between Native American Health Center and Digital Storytellers. It has screened at multiple fests, cultural events and academic presentations. Sam has a new zine in the works entitled WagonBurners and is a ledger artist. Sam serves on two State Advisory Boards that help to reduce disparities among LGBT populations. His pastime activities include mountaineering, cliff jumping and his lifelong pursuit of mastering boardsports.

Santhosh Daniel, Creative Media Consultant

Santhosh Daniel is a creative media consultant specializing in social enterprise and global ventures in the arts, with emphasis in independent film and media, education and the literary and visual arts. His professional experience includes work with The Global Film Initiative, the Smithsonian Institution, and Stanford University Press, in addition to independent feature-length narrative and documentary film projects, and arts and culture publications, including the architectural photography book, *Colonial Noir*.

Mr. Daniel serves as Board President for the Puerto Rico Film Society and on the Board of Directors for the Cal Humanities. He has sat on media and funding panels for the Busan International Film Festival, Center for Asian American Media, European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs and San Francisco Film Society, and written and presented extensively on international film funding and financing, and cultural diplomacy via the arts. He is also creator of public programming initiatives such as Cinema in the Schools, Arthouse Revival and Global Public, and author of the original television series' *Red Violet* and *Weeping*.

Mr. Daniel has a B.A. in English from the University of Washington and a M.F.A. in English from the University of Iowa, and is recipient of a Writers' Workshop fellowship and Kala Mandala award from the University of Iowa.

Stephanie A. Johnson, cultural activist, visual artist, lighting designer, educator

Stephanie A. Johnson is a cultural activist, visual artist, lighting designer and educator. Her work has been exhibited at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco), The Jewish Museum (San Francisco), The African American Museum (Dallas), Spelman College Museum of Art (Atlanta) and The Museum of Fine Arts (Houston) among many other national venues. She has had one-person shows at The Center For African American Life and Culture (San Francisco) and The African American Historical Society (San Francisco).

She has been the recipient of grants from The Gerbode Foundation, New Langton Arts, and The National Endowment for the Arts and has been commissioned by The Atlanta Arts Festival, The City of Oakland, The DeYoung Museum, Intersection for The Arts (San Francisco), and Saint Lawrence University (Canton) among other organizations.

In a lighting design career that spans more than three decades, Ms. Johnson has designed shows for Cultural Odyssey (San Francisco), Dimensions Dance Theater (Oakland), The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Arizona Repertory Theater, La Mama Theater (New York) and Black Moon Theatre (New York and Paris). Her lighting design work has been seen in India, The Netherlands, Italy, France and Belgium.

She has been the recipient of grants and fellowships from The Gerbode Foundation (San Francisco), The Margaret Calder Hayes Prize (U.C. Berkeley), and California State University, Monterey Bay. Ms. Johnson holds degrees (theater, interdisciplinary studies and art) from Emerson College (Boston), San Francisco State University, The University of California at Berkeley and a PhD in Public Policy from The Union Institute & University (Cincinnati). She is a Professor in The Visual and Public Art Department at California State University, Monterey Bay. She is the current Chair of the Berkeley Civic Arts Commission.

Thomas Robert Simpson, Founder and Artistic Director, Afro Solo

Thomas Robert Simpson, actor, director, producer, and writer, is the founder and artistic director of AfroSolo Arts Festival. Since 1991 he has concentrated on presenting African American and African Diasporan art and culture through solo performances and the visual and literary arts.

For the past seventeen years Mr. Simpson has produced the award winning and critically acclaimed AfroSolo Arts Festival in San Francisco, presenting over seventy-five artists. He has also showcased celebrity artists such as award-winning actor Ruby Dee, comedian and political activist Dick Gregory, beloved teacher, poet and social activist June Jordan, sensational black gospel singer Emmitt Powell, and many others.

In 2006 Mr. Simpson won a coveted Bay Area Jefferson Award for Public Service. In 2009 he was awarded a prestigious Certificate of Honor from the San Francisco Board of Supervisor, as well as award from San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Black Brothers Esteem Program, The Reggie Williams Achievement Award and the Oakland Supper Club for his contributions to our community.

Since 1999 Mr. Simpson has also used this Arts Festival to focus on the health of African Americans, he has collaborating with the medical community to present health fairs as well as sat on committees charged with decreasing the health disparity in the African American community.