

Cultural Equity Grants
CAEG November 2013
Panelists for Approval

Brian Karl
Musician

Brian Karl has worked professionally for over two decades as a curator and administrator at art organizations and programs in support of a wide range of creative media. This has included positions at Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (also known as LACE), Art-in-General gallery, and Harvestworks Digital Media Arts, as well as at Headlands Center for the Arts (during more than one period). He has also consulted as a curator, technician, and guest speaker for organizations, such as the California College of Art, Creative Time, Composers Forum, Kadist Foundation, the San Francisco Art Institute, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Mabou Mines, Squat and Wooster Group theater companies, along with having served as an editor and producer for Tellus, the Audio Art Magazine.

He completed his doctoral dissertation in music and anthropology at Columbia University after conducting archival and field research in Morocco, Spain, and the U.S. in the Arabic, English, French, and Spanish languages. He has taught widely a number of courses in cultural anthropology at the university level and most recently a cross-disciplinary course at the California College of the Arts while continuing to produce and direct a number of independent experimental video documentaries, often in collaboration with others. Several of these completed projects have received awards when screened at film festivals, as well as have been purchased for collections and/or commissioned by galleries and museums internationally.

Sherene Melania
Performing Artist, Choreographer, Arts Educator

Sherene Melania holds a Master of Arts in Education from Harvard University. She also earned a Certificate of Ballet Direction Specialty and Choreography from the Saint Petersburg State Conservatory in Russia and a Bachelor of Arts summa cum laude from the University of San Francisco in Performing Arts and Social Justice, where she received the Dean's Medal for Excellence in the Arts.

As the Artistic Director of Presidio Performing Arts Center, a premiere cultural institution in America's only urban National Park, Sherene directs Presidio Dance Theatre, an acclaimed multigenerational dance company, and she oversees its community programming, which presents a wide variety of public performances, workshops, and seminars at home and abroad. Her award-winning arts education programs, DANCE OUT! and Children's Day at the War Memorial Opera House, offer thousands of children free afterschool dance classes and performances.

Commissioner Melania has choreographed for dance companies at home and in Europe, and presented for the United Nations, European Parliament, the International Red Cross, and PBS. Her



work has been recognized by the press nationally in Dance Magazine and Dance Teacher, and internationally broadcast. Having excelled in artistic creation and innovative forms of cultural preservation, Sherene has received a “Certificate of Honor” in recognition of outstanding achievements in the arts from the City and County of San Francisco, and also a “Proclamation of Honor” from Stanislaus County for her Assyrian cultural preservation and humanitarian work. She is fluent in English, French, and Russian.