

December 13, 2012

**Cultural Equity Grants  
Panelist Biographies**

**Jordan Bass**

**Managing Editor, McSweeney's Publishing**

Since 2004, Bass has helped to edit and design dozens of books, both fiction and nonfiction at McSweeney's Publishing. His main focus is McSweeney's Quarterly, a short-story journal which he oversees; McSweeney's has published work by George Saunders, David Foster Wallace, Stephen King, Lydia Davis, and hundreds of other notable writers. Several stories Jordan has selected and edited for the journal have gone on to appear in the Best American Short Stories, and to receive the National Magazine Award for fiction. He lives in San Francisco.

**Glen Helfand**

**Independent writer, critic, curator, and educator**

Glen Helfand's writings appear regularly in Artforum and at Artforum.com, and he's contributed to the San Francisco Bay Guardian, ArtInfo.com, and many other periodicals and exhibition catalogs. He was the associate editor of the design magazine CMYK and a co-founder of the Bay Area arts website Stretcher.org. He's a Senior Adjunct professor at California College of the Arts, where he teaches courses on contemporary art (including classes focusing on suburban aesthetics, commerce in art, and professional practices). He also teaches in the graduate and undergraduate art programs at Mills College, and at the San Francisco Art Institute where he organizes the Visiting Artists and Scholars Lecture Series. Helfand has curated exhibitions for the De Young Museum, San Francisco; the San Jose Museum of Art; the Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena; Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco; Dust Gallery, Las Vegas; and the Mills College Art Museum, Oakland. He recently co-curated the show Temporary Structures at the Walter and McBean Galleries at SFAI, and organized the exhibition Fabricators, for Creativity Explored at Jack Fischer Gallery. He lives in San Francisco.

**Chinaka Hodge**

**Poet and playwright**

Chinaka Hodge is a poet and playwright. Originally from Oakland, California, she was named Best Poet by the East Bay Express in 2008. She was the inaugural recipient of Dave Eggers' 826Valencia young author scholarship. Chinaka graduated from New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study in May of 2006, and was honored to be the student speaker at the 174th Commencement exercise.

Her most recent book, *For Girls With Hips*, released in May 2006, is in its third publication. Chinaka was a member of the U.S. Artist Delegation to the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya in early 2007. She received co-writing credit for Marc Bamuthi Joseph's *Scourge*, sponsored, in part, by the Creative Work Fund, which opened in May 2005, in San Francisco. She was the assistant director of Suzan Lori Parks' *365 Plays, 365 Days*, at its San Francisco debut in November 2006. She also co-wrote *The One Drop Rule: A War Piece*, which debuted in Fall 2008. Her first independently written play, *Mirrors in Every Corner*, commissioned by SF's Intersection for the Arts will open in spring of 2010.

Her work has been featured in *Teen People Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Oakland Tribune*, *Scholastic Magazine*, *Current Magazine*, *The Annual Women of Color Film Festival*, PBS, NPR, KMEI, WBAR, WKCR, CNN, C-Span, KPFA and in two seasons of HBO's *Def Poetry*.

**Victoria Scott**

**Visual artist and sculptor**

Victoria Scott is a visual artist and sculptor. Her recent projects include constructing material representations of conceptual objects that exist in simulated digital environments and in the space of imagination. Her process involves working between the mediums of 3D electronic media and 2D physical materials to create site-specific installations, sculptures and multiples. Scott has exhibited at galleries and museums throughout North America and Europe, including the Centro Nacional de las Artes (Mexico City), San Jose Museum of Art (California), the University of Toronto Art Centre (Canada), Kasia Kay Art Projects (Chicago), Galleri Enkehuset (Stockholm), and the 2010 01SJ Biennial (San Jose). She has been awarded project commissions from the San Jose Museum of Art (2010), Zer01 Art and Technology Network (2010) and Turbulence.org (2007). She is the recipient of several grants from both the Canadian and Ontario Arts Councils.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Victoria graduated from the New Media/Photo Electric Arts Dept., at The Ontario College of Art. She attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago within the Art and Technology Department and completed her MFA in 2005. She lives and works in San Francisco.

**Monica Ramirez-Montagut**

**Senior Curator, San Jose Museum of Art**

Monica Ramirez-Montagut is Senior Curator at the San Jose Museum of Art, a museum dedicated to modern and contemporary art in Silicon Valley, California. Other professional positions she has held include curator at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, a museum dedicated to cutting edge contemporary art and young emerging artists in Ridgefield, CT; and assistant Curator of Architecture and Design at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Art. At the Guggenheim, she was responsible for exhibitions related to Frank Lloyd Wright, and the first United States retrospective of architect Zaha Hadid; and contributed to the exhibition and publication of renowned Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang (2008). Ramirez-Montagut has several publications including Erik Parker: Colorful Resistance (Rizzoli, 2012); KAWS (Rizzoli, 2010); Zaha Hadid (Guggenheim, 2006); and contributed to Prairie Skyscraper: Frank Lloyd Wright's Price Tower (Rizzoli, 2005). Ramirez-Montagut has a degree in architecture and received her Masters and Ph.D. degrees from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain.

**Ellen Oh**

**Program Administrator, Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University**

Ellen Oh is currently Program Administrator for the Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University. Previously, she served as Executive Director of Kearny Street Workshop (KSW), the nation's oldest Asian American multidisciplinary arts organization. At KSW, Ellen was not only responsible for the program vision and development, but also the community-building, fundraising, marketing and financial management that supported it. Ellen has an M.A. in Arts Administration from Columbia University and has spent over ten years working nonprofit arts organizations both nationally and internationally. Her experience includes serving as Associate Director of Marketing for Sundance Institute, Marketing and Community Outreach Associate at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Public Relations Coordinator for the Korean Pavilion at the 2001 Venice Biennale and Volunteer Program Manager for *America's Smithsonian* traveling exhibition.

**Barbara J Reyes**

**Writer and Adjunct Professor, University of San Francisco**

Barbara Jane Reyes was born in Manila, the Philippines, and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She received her BA in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley and her MFA from San Francisco State University.

Barbara Jane Reyes is the author of *Diwata* (BOA Editions, 2010), recently noted as a finalist for the

California Book Award. She is the author of two previous collections of poetry, *Gravities of Center* (Arkipelago Books, 2003), and *Poeta en San Francisco* (Tinfish Press, 2005) which received the James Laughlin award of the Academy of American Poets. She is co-editor with her husband, poet Oscar Bermeo, of Doveglion Press. Her chapbooks, *Easter Sunday* (Ypolita Press, 2008), *Cherry* (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs, 2008), and *West Oakland Sutra for the AK-47 Shooter at 3:00 AM and other Oakland poems* (Deep Oakland Editions, 2008). Prof Reyes' poetry, essays, and reviews have been published in *Latino Poetry Review*, *North American Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Parthenon West Review*, *XCP: Cross Cultural Poetics*, among others.

Prof Reyes teaches "Barrio Fiesta/Remixing Culture: Filipino American Cultural Production in Literature, Performance, and Visual Art" (YSPSP 205) and "Filipino American and Philippine Lit" (YSPSP 260). In addition to teaching at the University of San Francisco, she is also a Visiting Assistant Professor in Creative Writing at Mills College. Prof Reyes currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of Philippine American Writers and Artists, Inc (PAWA).

**Oscar Villalon**

**Managing Editor, ZYZZYVA**

Villalon is a writer, book critic, and editor of ZYZZYVA, the San Francisco literary journal established in 1985. A former book editor at the San Francisco Chronicle, he serves on the board of the National Book Critics Circle and reviews regularly for KQED's "The California Report." His writing and reviews have appeared in *VQR*, *The Believer*, *Black Clock*, *the Rumpus*, *the Los Angeles Times*, and *NPR.org*. He and his wife and son live in the Mission District.