



## **Community Arts and Education FY2013-2014 Community Arts in Bayview: Pilot Grants Program**

### **PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Ed Donaldson** was born and raised in Bayview Hunters Point. In 2004, he accepted a position with San Francisco Housing Development Corporation, which allowed him to participate in several development projects and economic development activities along the Third Street Corridor. As a **certified economic development finance professional**, he recognized how art can be a driver in the economic development of Bayview Hunters Point. Currently, he resides in Bayview with his family and is active with several organizations within the community.

**Steven Anthony Jones** is the **artistic director of the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre**, the premiere African American theatre company in the San Francisco Bay Area. Most recently, he directed eight of the ten titles in LHT's 2012-13 *Bringing the Art to the Audience* staged readings series, as well as the workshop production of Philip Kan Gotanda's *Jamaican Wash Project*. He has worked professionally on stage, television and in film for 37 years. He has performed in the works of Wilson, Charles Fuller, Fugard, Stoppard, Gotonda, Becket, Pinter, Moliere, Shakespeare, Chekhov, and others. He was in the original cast of *A Soldier's Play* produced by the Negro Ensemble Company, which won an Obie Award for ensemble acting and the Pulitzer Prize for best drama. He performed, taught and directed at the American Conservatory Theater for 22 years as a member of the core acting company. His many film and television credits include two seasons of *Midnight Caller* and a recurring role on the NBC series *Trauma*. Mr. Jones received his early theatre training at Karamu House in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. He is a graduate of Yankton College in South Dakota. Other experience includes the Cleveland Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, and San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, among others.

**Brigette LeBlanc (Commissioner of Southeast Community Facility Commission)** is a native of San Francisco Bayview Hunter's Point. She has her bachelor degree in Mass Communications from California State Hayward and a master degree in Tourism Administration with a concentration in Event Planning from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. With over 16 years of experience in the hospitality, entertainment, and political arenas, LeBlanc launched her own event management firm in Washington, D.C. (1998) and in San Francisco (2006). LeBlanc



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was appointed to the Southeast Community Facility Commission by former Mayor Gavin Newsom in 2010.

San Francisco native, **Kristine Mays (visual artist)** received her bachelor degree in Arts Administration from DePaul University and has been creating and exhibiting her artwork for since 1993. In 2009, Kristine was a featured artist in San Francisco Arts Commission's Bayview Art in Storefronts pilot program, a project which transformed vacant storefronts and commercial corridors into a destination for contemporary art, bringing new energy to the area. Kristine is currently an artist-in-residence at the Bayview Hunters Points Shipyard. For two years, she served on the Board of Directors for ArtSpan, and has participated in several of their committees. Kristin has raised thousands of dollars for AIDS research through the sale of her work. In addition, she has worked with organizations like Visual Aid, the UCSF Alliance Health Project, and WE-ACTx. Collectors of her work include an eclectic mix of people in the Bay Area and throughout the United States.

**Laura Page** has worked in public policy throughout her career, including directing social service programs for the State of Illinois. In her current role as the **arts & educational initiatives analyst of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)**, Laura is the agency's liaison with the San Francisco Unified School District and the San Francisco Arts Commission. Laura creates programs and curriculum for environmental education in K-12, helps facilitate the Civic Design Review process for construction of new SFPUC properties, and oversees the agency's 2% for Arts program, which funds public art and arts enrichment programs. In her spare time, Laura enjoys yoga, making music, and spending as much time outdoors as possible.