

Community Investments
FY2014-2015 Cultural Equity Initiatives—Levels One and Two
Panelists

Idris Ackamoor

Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director and Executive Director, Cultural Odyssey

Idris Ackamoor is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, actor, tap dancer, director, and producer. He is the Founder and Executive/Co-Artistic Director of the San Francisco performance company, Cultural Odyssey, which is over twenty-five years old. Idris and his partner actress Rhodessa Jones (Jones & Ackamoor) have developed over a dozen original duet productions that have toured throughout the United States, Japan, and Europe receiving critical and audience acclaim as well as numerous awards for their innovative interdisciplinary work. The Duet has performed at such prestigious venues as La Mama Theater and the Public Theater in New York City, Yale Repertory Theater, in New Haven, Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago, and the National Black Theatre Festival. Idris has also performed with percussionist Don Moye of the Art Ensemble of Chicago, dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones, writer/poet Ntozake Shange, tenor saxophonist Chico Freeman and many others.

Idris has received many awards for his work including "GOLDIE Lifetime Achievement Award," an Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political Theater, San Francisco Foundation Community Leadership Award, AUDELCO Board of Director's Award, and Black Theatre Network's Presidential Pathfinder Award. Idris has also received a prestigious New York "BESSIE", three National Endowment for the Arts Grants, and several San Francisco Art Commission Individual Artists Awards.

Idris released his third CD entitled, "Homage To Cuba", during the fall of 2004. In January 2000 Idris released his second jazz CD entitled, "Centurian", the follow-up to his critically acclaimed premiere 1998 CD entitled, "Portrait". Idris has also composed for many theater, film, and dance companies. The theaters he has composed for include Cultural Odyssey, Penumbra Theater in St. Paul, MN. the Lorraine Hansberry Theater in San Francisco, La Mama Theater in New York City, among others. He has composed for Dimensions Dance Company, dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones, and dancer Robert Henry Johnson. He also composed music for the score of the documentary Tongues Untied by the late filmmaker Marlon Riggs.

Madeleine Lim

Independent Filmmaker & Executive Director, Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project

As the founding Executive/Artistic Director, Madeleine Lim created Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP) in 2000 with the belief that a community of artist-activists could change the face of filmmaking and the social justice movement. Under Lim's leadership, QWOCMAP's Filmmaker Training Program was awarded the 2003 Best Video Program by San Francisco Community Media. In 2005, Lim received the LGBT Local Hero Award from KQED-TV in recognition of her leadership of QWOCMAP and her dedicated

service to the queer women of color community. The Featured Filmmaker at the 2006 APAture Asian American Arts Festival, she was awarded the 2007 DreamSpeaker Award from Purple Moon Dance Project, and the 2010 Phoenix Award from Asian Pacific Islander Women & Transgender Community (APIQWTC) for her outstanding, sustained and pioneering contributions to the Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women & Transgender Community. In 2011, Lim was awarded the Bayard Rustin Civil Rights Award from the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club for her leadership in advancing justice and equality for the LGBT community. In 2013, she received the State Farm Good Neighbor Award from Equality California for her extraordinary commitment to her work and LGBT community.

Originally from Singapore, Lim is an award-winning filmmaker with 25 years of experience. Lim's recent film, *THE WORLDS OF BERNICE BING* (2013), won the Audience Award at the 2013 Queer Women of Color Film Festival in San Francisco. Her films have screened at sold-out theaters at international film festivals around the world, featured at museums and universities, and broadcast on PBS to millions of viewers. Lim's films have received awards from the prestigious and highly competitive Paul Robeson Independent Media Fund, as well as the Frameline Film Completion Fund. She received the 1997 Award of Excellence from the San Jose Film & Video Commission's Joey Awards and won the 1998 National Educational Media Network Bronze Apple Award. From 2000 to 2003, she was a California Arts Council Artist-in-Residence. Lim has thrice been awarded the San Francisco Arts Commission Individual Artist Commission. She holds a B.A. in Cinema from San Francisco State University, where she was awarded Outstanding Cinema Student of the Year.

Ani Rivera
Executive Director, Galeria de la Raza

Executive Director Ani Rivera joined the Galeria in 2004 and served as the Business Manager through 2007; she joined the Board of Directors in 2010. In 2007, she became the Compliance Specialist at Community Initiatives, a nonprofit fiscal sponsor located in San Francisco, CA, where she worked for five years. Project and contract management was a central function of her position. She provided operation administration for a \$16 million revenue portfolio. The portfolio is composed from contributions from private foundations, local city, and federal government agencies providing funding to support the operations of 90 fiscally sponsored projects. In the project management capacity, she provided in depth one-on-one counseling to projects on budget development, program goals, work plan and evaluation designs to accommodate each project's unique operations.

Sylvia Sherman
Program Director, San Francisco Community Music Center

At the Community Music Center, Sylvia oversees and manages a broad range of community music education initiatives, both at the Center and off-site in collaboration with community partners, including schools, senior centers, transitional housing sites and libraries. Sylvia has more than twenty-five years of experience with non-profit and

philanthropic organizations including work at the San Francisco Arts Commission, Oakland School for the Arts, and various community-based and philanthropic groups. She worked for fourteen years as Director of Development and Special Projects at La Peña Cultural Center, developing long-range strategic plans, institutional and individual donor fundraising, special program initiatives, coordinating La Peña's artist-in-residence program; producing new work, concerts of international artists, and multi-disciplinary program series. Sylvia is an alumna of community-based arts education programs, playing percussion and bass, currently performing with various salsa and Latin Jazz groups.

Vanessa Whang
Arts & Culture/Philanthropy Consultant

Vanessa Whang is a consultant in the fields of arts & humanities and philanthropy. She served as the Director of Programs of Cal Humanities, California's statewide humanities organization, for six years from 2008-2014. In this position, she was responsible the creation, development, implementation, and evaluation of all of the organization's grantmaking and operating programs. Before joining Cal Humanities, Vanessa was a New York-based consultant with focus areas in arts philanthropy, cultural equity, culture and changing demographics, and evolving aesthetics. Her clients included Animating Democracy (DC/NY), Asia Society (NY), Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (NY), Ford Foundation (NY), Leveraging Investments in Creativity (NY), National Black Arts Festival (GA), and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (NY). From 1999 through 2003, she served as Director of Multidisciplinary Arts and Presenting at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC.