



FY2014-2016 Grant Review Panel Approval List (November)

Elmaz Abinader

Professor of English, Mills College; Faculty and Board Member, Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation

Born in 1954 in a small town in Pennsylvania, Elmaz Abinader has always felt as if she lived in two worlds: one in her home and the other outside the doors. Her home life was very much rooted in Lebanese tradition. Her childhood activities contrasted with those of the other children in her community. Abinader's first published book, *Children of the Roojme: A Family's Journey from Lebanon*, is about cultural belonging and family strength. She has published a collection of poems, *In The Country of My Dreams*, which won the Josephine Miles PEN Oakland award in 2000. Abinader has also written and performed three plays: "When Silence is Frightening," "Under The Ramadan Moon," and "Country of Origin," which won two "Drammies," Portland's Critic's Circle Awards for Theater.

Deeply involved with political activism, Abinader frequently writes articles about issues affecting Arabs and Arab-Americans. She also published an article on the Living Issue, post 9/11 website in which she writes about her experiences as an Arab-American after 9/11 and her fears for the future. Other work includes "For Arab Americans, Pain in Familiar Faces," an essay published on the Refuse and Resist website about the suffering in Palestine, and "In The Country of My Dreams. . . For Marcel Khalife & Khalil Gibran," in which she offers her support for songwriter Marcel Khalife.

Abinader teaches creative writing at Mills College. She is also a resident and hosts summer writing workshops on memoir and creative non-fiction at the University of San Francisco's Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation, which sponsors workshops for published and developing writers. She also participates in the Hurston-Wright Writers' Week West. One of her priorities when not doing her own work is helping young writers of color learn to express themselves.

Faith Adiele

Associate Professor, Writing, California College of the Arts; Faculty, Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation

Faith Adiele was born to a Nigerian father and a Nordic-American mother, and the PBS film *My Journey Home* documents her travels abroad to find her father and siblings. Her memoir about becoming the first black Buddhist nun of Thailand, *Meeting Faith* (W.W. Norton), received the PEN Beyond Margins Award for Best Memoir. Other honors include the Millennium Award from *Creative Nonfiction* and 16 artists' residencies, including a UNESCO International Artists Bursary to Civitella Ranieri (Italy); a Creative Nonfiction & Cultural Journalism Fellowship to Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada); Instituto Sacatar (Brazil); and Yaddo Corporation and MacDowell Colony (USA).

A contributor to *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *Yes!*, *Essence*, and *Transition*, Adiele is co-editor of *Coming of Age Around the World: A Multicultural Anthology* (The New Press). Other projects include *Ghosts*, a signed, limited edition chapbook with a Kenyan graphic artist; *The Student Body: A Novel* (Random House), a multicultural thriller co-written with three college classmates; and two middle-school readers on urban Africa (Time Warner). Most recently, her first e-book, "The Nigerian-Nordic Girl's Guide to Lady Problems," helped launch the new publisher shebooks.

Before coming to CCA, Adiele served as the Distinguished Visiting Writer at Mills College in Oakland, California. She is currently finishing *Twins: Growing Up Nigerian / Nordic / American*, an "epic memoir" that will complete the story begun in the PBS documentary. Her specialty courses include documentary narrative; hybrid and multimedia creative nonfiction; socially-engaged memoir; women's travel writing; and multicultural and international Young Adult literature.

Minna Dubin

Writer, Performer, Teaching Artist

Minna Dubin is a writer and performer, and facilitates creative writing workshops for teens. She holds an MA in Transformative Language Arts from Goddard College and a BA in Cultural Studies from Eugene Lang College. Since 2003, Minna has led workshops for youth in schools, libraries, afterschool programs, summer camps, youth-housing facilities, writing centers, and health clinics. She has taught in New York, Washington, D.C., Kentucky, the San Francisco Bay Area, and in her hometown Philadelphia.

In high school, Minna felt that race and sexuality were the biggest factors impacting her life, yet there was no space in school to engage with these issues in a healthy, meaningful way. In college, Minna focused on "Race, Ethnicity, and Post-Colonialism," memoir writing, and education. The combination of identity studies, creative writing, and youth development led to Minna's writing workshops with youth, in which she provides a safe space where youth can be themselves, while being challenged and inspired, learning and having fun.

Kevin B. Chen

Curator, Writer, Visual Artist

Kevin B. Chen has been involved in the San Francisco Bay Area arts community for over 20 years as a curator, writer, and visual artist. He was Program Director of Visual Arts at Intersection for the Arts for over 15 years, where he curated over 60 exhibitions and hundreds of public programs, including solo exhibitions by Lebbeus Woods, Hasan Elahi, Margaret Harrison, Taraneh Hemami, Conrad Atkinson, Ala Ebtakar, Jamex & Einar de la Torre, Claudia Bernardi, Binh Danh, Weston Teruya & Michele Carlson, Victor Cartagena, and Marcos Ramírez ERRE. His curatorial work has been reviewed in publications nationally, including *Art in America*, *afterimage: the journal of media arts and cultural criticism*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *Art Papers*, *New Art Examiner*, *Art Nexus*, *Bidoun Magazine*, *Contemporary Magazine*, *Bitch Magazine*, and the *Huffington Post*.

He previously served as Programs Manager at Kala Art Institute, one of the country's largest printmaking workshops. He has been a funding and residency panelist for Creative Capital, Multi-Arts Production Fund, Alliance of Artists Communities, Center for Cultural Innovation, City of San Jose, Recology, Arts Council Silicon Valley, Creative Work Fund, Zellerbach Family Foundation, SF Arts Commission, Alameda County Arts Commission, City of Oakland Cultural Arts Programs, Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Montalvo Arts Center, Headlands Center for the Arts; an exhibition juror for California College of the Arts, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco State University, SF Camerawork, Root Division, CSU Chico, Asian Pacific Fund, Pro Arts Gallery; and author of catalog essays for Paper Museum Press, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Light Work, The Third Line – Art Gallery in Dubai, and Kearny Street Workshop. He currently serves as co-

chairperson for the City of Oakland's Public Art Advisory Committee and as a member of Recology's Artist in Residence Program Advisory Board.

His work in drawing, collage, and sculpture has been exhibited locally at San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, Southern Exposure, Asian Art Museum, Palo Alto Art Center, Kala Art Institute, Blankspace, Ampersand Gallery, Kearny Street Workshop, and nationally at Angel's Gate Cultural Center (San Pedro, CA), Bob Rauschenberg Gallery (Ft. Myers, FL), Harn Museum of Art (Gainesville, FL), Bruno David Gallery (St. Louis, MO), New York University Tisch School of the Arts (New York, NY), and The Kitchen (New York, NY). He is represented by Jack Fischer Gallery in San Francisco, CA, and received his BA from Columbia University in Psychology and East Asian Languages & Cultures.

Malcolm Margolin

Founder and Executive Director, Heyday Books

Malcolm Margolin is an author, publisher, and the founder and executive director of Heyday Books, an independent nonprofit publisher and cultural institution in Berkeley, California. In 1974 Margolin founded Heyday with the publication of his book *The East Bay Out*, a guide to the East Bay Regional Parks.

Margolin is the author/editor of eight books including *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area*, named by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as one of the hundred most important books of the twentieth century by a western writer. His essays and articles have appeared in a number of periodicals including *The Nation*, *Small Press*, *National Parks*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

He has received dozens of prestigious honors including Lifetime Achievement Awards from the San Francisco Bay Area Book Reviewers Association and the California Studies Association, a Community Leadership Award from the San Francisco Foundation, and a Cultural Freedom Award from the Lannan Foundation. In 2012 he received the Chairman's Commendation from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the second person in the United States to be so honored.

Margolin has taught publishing courses at University of California Extension, Berkeley, and has served as advisor and mentor to many other publishers. He has lectured at dozens of universities and colleges throughout California including Stanford University and UC Berkeley, at libraries and bookstores, and at other venues such as the David Brower Center, Manhattan Theater Club, Life on the Water Theater, the Museum of Man, and the Japan Environmental Education Forum. In 2001, he co-founded *Bay Nature*, a nonprofit quarterly magazine focused on the natural world of the San Francisco Bay Area, and for a time served on its board of directors. He has also served on the boards of the Yosemite Association, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, and the Publication Committee of U.C. Berkeley's Bancroft Library.

Liz Ozol

Arts Education Program Officer, San Francisco Arts Commission □

Before joining the agency as arts education program officer, Liz Ozol founded and served for eight years as principal of New Highland Academy, a public elementary school in East Oakland with a vibrant arts program. Ms. Ozol's prior history includes working as a Spanish bilingual elementary teacher, teacher coach, dance teaching artist, and as an award-winning choreographer and performer in the Bay Area. In 1993, Ms. Ozol received an "Izzie" (Isadora Duncan Dance Award) and a "Goldie" (Bay Guardian Excellence in the Arts) award for "Conception," a talking dance from Ms. Ozol's *Propaganda Series*. Ms. Ozol holds an administrative credential through New Leaders for New Schools, a nationally recognized organization that prepares school leaders to transform underperforming urban schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies from Wesleyan University and a master's in Educational Psychology from University of California, Berkeley.

Federico Salas

Independent Nonprofit Arts Professional

In 1995, Federico Salas founded Este Lugar the Border Film Festival, one of the first festivals to showcase the work of Latino filmmakers living and working in the United States. The festival was created during his time as the Executive Director of the Mesilla Valley Film Society in Las Cruces NM. Salas continued his work in nonprofit arts as the Co-Executive Director of the San Diego Latino Film Festival from 1996 to 2000. While at the San Diego festival, he was twice on the selection panel for the Sundance Institute's Screenwriters Lab. Salas was the longtime literary and performing arts curator at MACLA/Movimiento De Arte Y Cultura in San Jose, CA. While at MACLA, he was a member of class 3 of MALI, the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute developed by 1st Act Silicon Valley to prepare persons of color for leadership roles in arts organizations. Salas was also an invited participant in NALAC/the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture's leadership institute. Federico Salas has spent over twenty years working in the nonprofit arts, with a specialization in Latino arts and culture, lives in San Jose, CA, and continues his work as an independent consultant.