



FY2014-2016 Grant Review Panel Approval List (September)

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.

Ashara Ekundayo, Chief Creative Officer & Omi Gallery Director, Impact Hub Oakland

Ashara is a cultural worker of the urban landscape and brings her whole self and more than 20 years of professional experience into the social entrepreneurial movement. Through her company BluBlak Media Consulting, she has worked with local and national organizations to build capacity for increased community engagement through the uses of creative practice, exhibition, strategic communications design and project management. She is a non-profit professional, serial entrepreneur, and activist committed to social change, and has supported individuals and grassroots companies in the redesign of their brand strategy through permaculture principles and is an expert at negotiating collaborative space within the intersections of the public and private sector.

In 2009, Ashara was selected by the Ashoka Foundation and the City of Denver in the U.S. launch of the "Change Your City" Campaign as a Social Innovator "stimulating the green economy." She has worked with indie media outlets such as FreeSpeech TV, GritTV KGNU radio, and Just Media, and has presented at international conferences including the World Social Forum, the Biennial of The Americas and SXSW.

She has held Fellowship positions with the U.S. Dept of State Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs and Green For All, and is currently a member of the "Future Soul Think Tank" at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Her passions for social media, technology, and civic hacking also find her writing STEAM Curriculum for BlackGirlsCode.com, and hosting a food Tumblr blog and in-person series called "Grits & Greens."

Ashara is also the Curator for Omi Arts Gallery – a contemporary art space located inside Hub Oakland featuring one-person exhibitions, performances and lectures.

Idris Ackamoor, Co-Founder, 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' primary instrument is

the alto saxophone. An accomplished tap dancer, Idris' signature performance is his uncanny ability to combine tap dancing with playing his saxophone simultaneously: a one-of-kind act!

For close to twenty years 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. In November 2003 he was presented with a "GOLDIE Lifetime Achievement Award" presented by the San Francisco Bay Guardian. In May 2003 he was awarded a Business Arts Council Award for Non-Profit Excellence. In June 2002 Idris was awarded an Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political Theater. In December 2000 he was awarded a San Francisco Foundation Community Leadership Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to improving the life in the Bay Area. In New York during November 1999 he received a prestigious AUDELCO Board of Director's Award "For 20 years of dedication in creating, producing and presenting original Theatre Performance Art". In August 1998 he was awarded the Black Theatre Network's Presidential Pathfinder Award to honor his contributions to the field of performance. In December 1995 Idris received New York City's 23rd Annual AUDELCO Awards for "Best Male Performer in a Musical" and "Musical Production of the Year" for his performance of "Shoehorn!" Idris has also received a prestigious New York "BESSIE" for his compositional score and direction of Rhodessa Jones' one-woman show, "Big Butt Girls, Hard-Headed Women. He is also the recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts Grants in jazz performance and composition, 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.

During November 2001 Idris was a Keynote Speaker and featured performer at the Black Artist Alliance Conference in Manchester, England. In September Idris performed at the 4th Annual International Tap Dance Human Rhythm Festival touring to 3 cities in Holland. Following the festival he performed with his jazz quartet and as a solo artist at European jazz clubs and cultural centers. During August 2001, Idris presented his fifth production of the "New Performance in Black Theater Series" for the National Black Theater Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The series featured some of the leading black performers in America.

During the winter of 1999, Idris performed a featured role in the Penumbra Theatre of St. Paul, Minnesota production of "Indigo Blues", written by Judi Ann Mason. In March of 1998 he was selected as one of 45 of the nation's leading theater professionals to attend the National Black Theatre Summit: On Golden Pond, convened by the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson and Dartmouth College. During the summer of 1996 Idris toured Japan performing his unique act of playing saxophone and tap dancing simultaneously.

Since 1976 Idris has been registered as a writer and publisher with Broadcast Music Inc. and has registered over fifty musical compositions that are published through his publishing company, Aomawa Music. Idris has composed for theater, dance companies, video/film

productions, and student ensembles. 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.

Juan G. Berumen, Adjunct Professor, University of San Francisco

As a social justice advocate, Juan specializes in both educational policy research and community-based theater to transform society. In academia, he researches effective policies for minority students in the P-20 Pipeline, including those that intersect with the arts. As a member of Campo Santo Theatre Company, Juan focuses on stories that capture the strengths and complexities of our communities. He relies on over 20 year of experience working and creating in California communities and schools in Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco as well as in Indiana to inform these endeavors. He earned a doctorate in Educational Policy Studies at Indiana University. Currently, Juan is an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco, policy researcher for David Campos Campaign for State Assembly, and director for Story High XIV at Bindlestiff Studios.

Lex Leifheit, Executive Director, SOMArts Cultural Center

Lex Leifheit is the Executive Director of SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology and Services), a unique hybrid of cultural center, arts service provider, co-working space and contemporary gallery. Founded in 1979, SOMArts has a venerable history of nurturing small and mid-size culturally-specific organizations as well as counterculture movements.

At SOMArts, Leifheit has spearheaded improvements to the facility, increased accessibility to the public and established new programs including the Commons Curatorial Residency and Feast of Words: A Literary Potluck. She served as a member of the steering committee for the development of San Francisco Bay Area Emerging Arts Professionals and was a member of the Emerging Leaders Council of Americans for the Arts from 2007–2009. Previous employers include the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts and the Green Street Arts Center.

Miguel Salinas, Program Officer in Local Grantmaking, Packard Foundation

Miguel Salinas is a Program Officer in Local Grantmaking with responsibility for grantmaking in Monterey County and leading the expansion of the program's organizational capacity building grants which span multiple counties.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Miguel worked for nearly a decade at Adobe where he served as Program Director for the Adobe Foundation, and Senior Manager of Global Giving at Adobe. At Adobe, he led the team charged with managing Adobe Youth Voices, the Adobe Foundation's signature giving initiative, as well as community grantmaking, and community sponsorships. Miguel's work at Adobe builds on a successful career as a communications strategist, grants manager and news reporter for institutions including the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Intel Corporation, the Tech Museum of Innovation and multiple media outlets based in both Texas and California.

Miguel has an extensive record of community service and is a current director of the School of Arts & Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza in San Jose and a past director of Teatro Visión, Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA), and the Hispanic Foundation Silicon Valley, also based in San Jose. Miguel received a Bachelor of Journalism degree from The University of Texas at Austin where he also minored in English. He is currently in the Master of Liberal Arts program at Stanford University.

Tamara Alvarado, Executive Director, School of Arts & Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza

Tamara is the Executive Director for the School of Arts & Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza. Prior to serving as ED, she was the Director of Multicultural Leadership for 1stACT Silicon Valley. From 2003 to 2008 she served as Executive Director of MACLA/ Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana in San Jose, California. From 1999 - 2003 she served as Program Director for the newly opened Washington United Youth Center, a partnership between Catholic Charities and the City of San Jose. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Western State Arts Federation and President of the Board of Directors for ACE Charter Schools in San Jose. Tamara is also co-founder of the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute, a leadership development program for people of color working in arts, culture and entertainment now housed at the School. A traditional Aztec dancer for the past 14 years, she is a member of Calpulli Tonalehqueh Danza Azteca of San Jose. Originally from Escondido, CA, Tamara holds a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Literature from Stanford University.

Vanessa Whang, Director of Programs, Cal Humanities

Vanessa Whang is Director of Programs for the Cal Humanities. As such she is responsible for the development, implementation, and coordination of Council programs, and as part of the management team is charged with developing and achieving the Council's strategic goals and objectives. She joined Cal Humanities in October 2008.

Before joining the Council, Whang was a New York-based consultant with interests in cultural equity, arts philanthropy, community cultural development, and arts education. Some of her recent projects included the design and implementation of arts grant programs, arts and culture research, research and evaluation of philanthropic practice and grantee outcomes, and documentation. Clients included the Asia Society, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Leveraging Investments in Creativity, National Black Arts Festival, and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. From 1999 through 2003, she served as Director of Multidisciplinary Arts and Presenting at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC. As such, her portfolio included multidisciplinary performing arts presenters with budgets from under \$100,000 to over \$100 million; artists' communities; companies producing interdisciplinary work and new forms, including the use of new media/technologies; culturally-specific, community-based organizations; alternative spaces; and multidisciplinary arts service organizations. She also served as the Endowment's liaison to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Before joining the Endowment, Whang was director of APEX (Arts Partnerships for Educational Excellence), a youth-centered arts learning initiative of the East Bay Community Foundation in Oakland, CA that provided networking, professional development, and funding opportunities to Bay Area arts organizations, schools, and youth development agencies. Previous to joining the EBCF staff, Whang worked as a California-based independent consultant providing project management, planning, development/fundraising, and evaluation services to a number of non-profit arts organizations and individual artists, including Cal Performances, The Canadian Consulate Trade Office, the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, and Theater Artaud.

Before her starting her consultancy, Whang served for over seven years as a member of the staff collective of La Peña Cultural Center, a multidisciplinary/ multicultural community and arts center in Berkeley, CA. While at La Peña, she served in a number of positions, including artistic/development director, and presented music, dance, theater, and interdisciplinary work

by local, national, and international artists in venues throughout the Bay Area.

Whang has served on boards and as an advisor to a number of arts organizations; has been an invited panelist and speaker at several conferences, convenings, and universities; and has been a peer review panelist for a number of public and private arts funders. As a multi-instrumentalist and composer/arranger, Whang toured nationally with the Latin American music ensemble Altazor and produced their two recordings for the Redwood Records label. Whang currently serves on the board of the National Writing Project, a professional development network for teachers of writing.

Wayne Hazzard, Executive Director, Dancers' Group

Wayne Hazzard is Executive Director of the service organization Dancers Group. Before his manifold career in arts management, Wayne Hazzard had a distinguished 20-year career performing with many notable choreographers and companies including the Joe Goode Performance Group; Margaret Jenkins Dance Company; Ed Mock & Company; June Watanabe; Aaron Osborne; Emily Keeler and more. Coinciding with his life as a dancer, Hazzard has and continues to work as an advocate for dance. In 2000 he worked with the dance legend Anna Halprin presenting her work in a performance retrospective celebrating her 80th year and received an Isadora Duncan (Izzies) Award for his innovation, dedication and contribution to the field of dance. In 1996 Hazzard was acknowledged for his role presenting The Dedication Project: remembering those lost to AIDS. Frequently asked to serve as an advisor and panelist with such organizations as the National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, and Dance Advance/PEW Charitable Trusts in Philadelphia, Hazzard currently serves on the board of trustees for Dance/USA.