

**Abby Chen**, Asian Art Museum  
*Bio Forthcoming*

**Adam Fong**, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Adam Fong is a cultural entrepreneur, and a composer, performer and producer of new music. He has helped build two innovative arts service organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area: Emerging Arts Professionals (Co-Founder 2008; Director 2011-14) is a network dedicated to the development and growth of next generation arts and culture workers; Center for New Music (Co-Founder 2012; Executive Director 2012-18) serves the practitioners of creative, non-commercial music in San Francisco by providing resources including space to work, rehearse and perform, and access to a like-minded community. Fong received the MFA in Music Composition at California Institute of the Arts, where he studied with James Tenney and Wadada Leo Smith. As Associate Director of Other Minds (2006–2012), he produced the annual Other Minds Festival and led many special projects including CD issues, tribute concerts, and a composer fellowship. Fong's own compositions have been performed internationally in Auckland, London, Berlin, Tübingen and Darmstadt, at many US universities, and throughout California. Fong also holds a master's degree from Stanford University (English). He is currently Program Officer in the Performing Arts at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

**Andrea Porras**, California Arts Council

Andrea Porras is a Cultura Cura Ninja with curator, producer, actor, creative writer and documentarian superpowers. Porras was the resident artist at the Gallery of Myths and Living Traditions with their mentor Michelle Walker, who together created and curated Healing Altares. Currently they serve as part of the Arts Program Specialist Team with The California Arts Council, managing Artists in Communities, Youth Arts Action and the Re Entry into the Arts project based grants. They are co-founder of Movimiento Molcajete a 2 womyn Flor y Canto/ Theatre force with Nicole C. Limon, performing and producing since 1997. Prior to joining the CAC, Porras served as Curator and Community Arts Center manager for University of California Davis' Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer alongside Malaquias Montoya and a team of emerging artists. They received a B.A. in Theatre Arts with a focus on Teatro Chicana & Black Theatre from California State University, Sacramento and a minor in Cultural Anthropology with an emphasis in traditional dance cultures. Porras has been the recipient of fellowships from El Teatro Campesino, Brown Sheep Project/Guillermo Gomez-Peña, Manicrudo collective, The Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, and the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture among others.

**Anna Lisa Escobedo**, California Historical Society

Anna Lisa Escobedo is a visual artist, activist, event producer, cultural worker, and networker. Born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. She Graduated from San Francisco State University with double major in Latina/o Studies and Art with a dual concentration in Studio Painting and Art History. She received her Museum Studies certificate in 2018 and is currently, pursuing her M.B.A. at John F. Kennedy University. She now works for the California Historical Society on the Executive team. Ms. Escobedo has worked for numerous art projects and community-based organizations. Her work encompasses a range of visual, literary, multicultural art projects, advocacy, and preservation. As an artist, she's installed an altar that gave tribute to the crossroads of African and Indigenous roots for San Francisco Symphony for their Dia de Los Muerto celebrations.

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Ms. Escobedo founded and currently serves as a board member for the non-profit organization Calle 24 Latino Cultural District. She leads the neighborhood Cultural Arts and Assets Committee working closely with various art-based non-profit organization in the Mission District of San Francisco.

**Aria Sa'id**, Compton's Cafeteria Transgender Cultural District

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**Catherine S. Lam**, Chinatown Community Development Center

Cathie Lam has been involved with the Chinatown community for over 40 years, first as a summer core teacher for YWCA while in college, then as staff for a 4/4 program that helps immigrants to secure employment. Eventually she landed on a position with the Chinatown Community Development Center in 1979 until to-date.

Throughout the years she has been actively engaged in collaboration with community partners to promote arts to the general public. She believes that art can be presented in different formats to entice all ethnicity, age and background.

In the past she has successfully advocated and assisted SFAC's programs such as Arts in the Storefront in Chinatown, engaged community businesses to support and drew over 400 guests in the opening event; advocated and became a panelist to the Central Subway Chinatown Station artists selection process; engaged in the Mandarin Institute's summer school Arts in the Community projects, just to name a few. The most satisfying project to-date is her creative space at 41 Ross Alley in partnership with fellow community organization to bring art to the public at large, to create space and opportunity for artists and the public to interact and engage.

Since its inception, 41 Ross continues to entice the public with its programs. She finds it satisfying to continue programs for the public to engage and appreciate.

**Charles McNeal**, San Francisco Opera

Charles Chip Mc Neal is an international arts educator who consults and advises on a wide range of subject matter and learning contexts including; Diversity, equity, inclusion, creative arts, and education, community engagement, arts integration and professional development. He advises government agencies non-profits on organizational structure, policies, professional development and team-building, program assessment and more. The former Director of Education for San Francisco Ballet, Mr. Mc Neal is currently the Senior Curriculum & Program Manager for San Francisco Opera and works as an arts integration specialist for Alameda County Office of Education. Mc Neal is a member of the San Francisco Unified School District's Arts Education Master Plan Advisory Committee and serves on the Leadership Council of the Create California, a coalition of innovative leaders who work together to create lasting change for California students. Mr. Mc Neal holds two bachelor's degrees from Excelsior College, psychology and sociology, and a master's degree in Education: Curriculum and Instruction, from Lesley University. Currently and Ph.D. scholar, Mc Neal's research focuses on the intersection of arts, education and social justice as he advocates for the benefits of arts education, while addressing the pressing issues of education reform, and racial equity in the arts.

**David Schleifer-Lee**, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco

David Schleifer-Lee is a Bay Area native that grew up playing trombone in public school ensembles. In high school, he began volunteering to teach music to young students without access to music education opportunities. David evolved from volunteer music teacher to community organizer in his early 20's. In

2010, he co-founded and led a volunteer-based nonprofit organization in Santa Barbara, CA that provided academic and music mentorship services for elementary students in ASES programs at Title 1 schools. From that experience, he gained valuable organizational management and fundraising skills that led him to become part of the leadership teams at various equity-focused arts agencies including The Rhythmic Arts Project (educates individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities using rhythm to address basic life and learning skills), Art Without Limits (mentorship and workforce development for artists as well as fiscal sponsorship for individual artists), and Notes for Notes (a national youth development nonprofit that builds and runs music recording studios inside afterschool facilities to serve low-income communities). Now a fundraiser with Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, David continues to leverage his background in the arts to ensure all youth have the opportunity to make art a significant part of their success.

**Deborah Cullinan**, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) CEO Deborah Cullinan is a founding partner of CultureBank. She is one of the nation's leading thinkers on the pivotal role arts organizations can play in shaping our social and political landscape, and has spent years mobilizing communities through arts and culture. She is committed to revolutionizing the role art centers play in public life. During her tenure at YBCA, Cullinan has launched bold new community programs, engagement strategies, and civic coalitions. She has won numerous awards and is an Innovator in Residence at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a cofounder of ArtsForum SF, co-chair of the San Francisco Arts Alliance, a member of the Refinery and Enso's Shared Mission Network, and a board member of California Arts Advocates, Californians for the Arts, and the Community Arts Stabilization Trust.

**Debra Walker**, Independent Artist, Co-chair of Mayor Breed's Arts & Tourism Transition Team and Department of Building Inspection Commissioner  
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**Denise Pate**, City of Oakland, Cultural Affairs Division

As the Cultural Funding Coordinator, Denise manages the City of Oakland's competitive, cultural arts grants process awards over \$1 million dollars to Oakland individual artists and nonprofit organizations. She has spent over 25 years working in the non-profit management community as an executive director, program manager, board member, development professional, dancer, and choreographer. She has raised funds, managed programs, and provided technical assistance for over 20 non-profit organizations in San Francisco, Alameda, Solano, Marin and Sonoma counties. She is the former Associate Director of Operations for California College of the Arts' Center for Art and Public Life (2005-2007). As a former dancer/teacher/program director, her past affiliations include Young Audiences of the Bay Area, Wolfrap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts, Youth in Arts, Community Action Marin, and World Arts West (Producers of the SF Ethnic Dance Festival). She is the former Executive Director of CitiCentre Dance Theatre, a multi-cultural arts center that was once headquartered in Oakland's Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts. She received her B.A. in Movement Education, and has an M.B.A.

**devorah major**, Independent Artist and Former San Francisco Poet Laureate

Third poet laureate of SF devorah major, has nine books published, five in poetry, two novels, and two historical biographies for young people. She taught poetry at the city's Fine Arts Museums for 28 years to children grades 4-12 and still leads teacher training sessions there. She is a senior adjunct professor at

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California College of the Arts. She wrote and performed in a poetry play based on Blacks in 18th century SF at the SF International Arts Festival. She is the author of a Cultural Equity report, and mediator and meeting facilitator for California Lawyers for the Arts.

**Elizabeth R Isaacs**, Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts

Ms. Isaacs has been a parent leader in San Francisco public schools since 2006. She has served in various capacities, including President, on the PTA Executive Boards at her children's elementary and middle schools, and currently, at Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (RASOTA). Ms. Isaacs also serves on RASOTA's Multicultural Parent Advisory Committee and the Community Outreach Action Team, a group of parents and staff dedicated to increasing the diversity and inclusion of underrepresented groups at RASOTA.

Ms. Isaacs was a member of the Quality Teacher and Education Act (Prop A 2008) Oversight Committee from 2010 to 2012. This SFUSD citizens' oversight committee reviewed and reported on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money generated by the parcel tax.

Ms. Isaacs was a co-founder of EdMatch from 2010 to 2012. An independent, non-profit created to develop fundraising equity in San Francisco public schools, it ceased operations in 2014. The mission challenged corporations and private philanthropists to match funds raised in San Francisco's public schools by parent groups.

Ms. Isaacs has a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a Bachelors in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Fay Darmawi**, Affordable Housing and Community Development Finance Consulting

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**Golda Sargento**, Arkipelago Books

*Bio Forthcoming*

**Jenny Lam**, Education Policy Advisor to Mayor Breed and San Francisco Unified School District Board Commissioner

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**Jeremy Liu**, PolicyLink

Jeremy Liu is a community development strategist, social entrepreneur, real estate developer, and award-winning artist whose work has been exhibited in museums, art centers and at country's oldest county fair. Having served as executive director of two community development corporations, he has led and overseen: hundreds of millions of dollars of real estate development, asset management of diverse and complex real estate portfolios, and staff as large as 110 community development professionals with \$13m operating budget. He led the strategic repositioning of one of these nationally-recognized community development corporation from a focus on housing production and service provision to a performance focus on the social determinants of health. He co-founded Creative Ecology Partners, an art and design studio incubating economic and community development innovation, which developed the Creative Determinants of Health framework and created the National Bitter Melon Council, winner of the 2005 Artadia Award, to address social bitterness. As a Senior Fellow at PolicyLink, he is shaping and guiding a national initiative to integrate arts and culture into equitable development. He is the creative director of "We, the 100 Million" project, a current Hewlett 50 Commission awardee.

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He has served as a reviewer for ArtPlace America, the National Endowment for the Arts, the CA Arts Council, the National Science Foundation, and the New England Foundation for the Arts

**Jerome Reyes**, Stanford University Institute for Diversity in the Arts

Jerome Reyes is an artist, researcher, and educator working with collaborative potentials of institutions, alterity, and architecture. He is Artist Liaison/faculty at Stanford's Institute for Diversity in the Arts, teaching and designing partnerships with artists, scholars, and organizations. He is Researcher at Asia Culture Institute, Gwangju, Korea and long-term collaborator of San Francisco's South of Market Community Action Network.

He holds an MFA from Stanford and has made projects for Prospect 3. Biennial, SFMOMA, KADIST, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Cantor Center for Visual Arts, and Asian Art Museum. He is the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts 2017 Public Art Commission recipient for his billboard *Abeyance*.

He's been awarded residencies at National Museum for Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, Gwangju Biennale Foundation, Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, Seoul Museum of Art, Headlands Center for the Arts, and YBCA's 2016 Artist-in-Residence Award. He has received support from National Endowment for the Arts and awards from Joan Mitchell Foundation, Art Matters, Creative Work Fund, and Center for Cultural Innovation.

Reyes has fifteen years of teaching/programming in settings including universities, museums, multimedia labs, non-profits, and senior/youth community centers in East Oakland, Iron Triangle Richmond, Chinatown/Manilatown, and SOMA SF.

**Jesus Varela**, Impact Hub, San Francisco

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**Margaret Spriggs**, ArtCare Board Chair and Shorenstein Properties

Meg Spriggs has been a member of the Executive Management team and Investment Committee at Shorenstein Properties since 2013. Ms. Spriggs has received recognition as an innovative and influential business leader, most recently she was among the San Francisco Business Times' "Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business" for years 2014, 2015, and the "Forever Influential Honor Roll for Exceptional Women Leaders" in 2017. In 2013, she was in the top 40 list for the Bay Area's brightest rising stars under the age of 40. Ms. Spriggs serves on the Board of Directors of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco Housing Accelerator Fund and is founding member and Board Chair of ArtCare, Friends of the SFAC.

**Maria Jenson**, SOMArts

As Creative and Executive Director of SOMArts, Jenson has deepened the organization's commitment to racial equity, creating clear pathways for Bay Area artists to incubate new ideas and grow their careers. Through her leadership, Maria has expanded SOMArts' educational and public programs, advanced new public-private partnerships, and fostered groundbreaking exhibitions such as *The Black Woman is God*, *The Third Muslim: Queer and Trans\* Muslim Narratives of Resistance and Resilience*, and many more. These initiatives further SOMArts' mission to engage the Bay Area's diverse cultural communities in inspiring creative encounters at the intersection of art and social justice. They also represent SOMArts' commitment to incubating the growth and careers Bay Area artists and curators, building the sustainability and future of artistic practices in the Bay Area. Prior to joining SOMArts, Jenson was a key

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member of the External Relations team in the Marketing and Communications Division. Jenson produced the museum's Economic and Cultural Impact study in collaboration with the Boston Consulting Group, demonstrating the crucial role of cultural institutions in the civic and economic life of San Francisco.

Jenson was the Founding Director of ArtPadSF — an independent art fair launched in 2010 at the Phoenix Hotel.

Jenson is a graduate of the 2018 Getty Foundation Executive Leadership Institute

**Melorra Green**, African American Art and Culture Complex

Melorra Green is a newly appointed co-director of the African American Art & Culture Complex in San Francisco. Originally from Memphis, she and her sister have generated an enormous artistic legacy in the past decade in San Francisco, producing more than 70 exhibits and 100 public events. Together they host a Tuesday night weekly radio show, Ibeji Lounge on KPOO. Ibeji denotes twins in Yoruba culture and these pair of twins are the genius behind some of the most exciting events and experiences in the Bay Area - including the explosive exhibition, Black Women Is God, which started right here in the Sargent Johnson Gallery and founded by Karen Seneferu and has been held annually for the past three years at SOMArts.

**Mia Nakano**, Visibility Project + Resilience Archives

Mia Nakano is a freelance photographer, videographer, web-designer, and social change maker rooted in Oakland, CA. Her work is shaped through her experiences as a proud 4th generation Japanese American, queer woman of color, daughter of a single mother, and sister of a deaf adult. She is a self-taught artist, who advocates strategic and ethical use of visual arts to make social change.

Nakano is the Director of the Visibility Project and founder and Co-Director of the Resilience Archives. She is a board member of Banteay Srei, whose work is dedicated to ending sexual exploitation of young Southeast Asian women in Oakland. She is on the leadership team of the Asian American for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE) network, and co-founder of Hyphen magazine. Nakano has dedicated the last fifteen years to uplifting the stories and histories of LGBTQ Asian Pacific Americans.

She has contributed work to Colorlines, the Kathmandu Post, Democracy Now! the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Institute, Salon.com, APEX Express, Intersection for the Arts, and the de Young. She is a strategic consultant for artists, non-profits, and small businesses.

**Nancy Lim**, SFMOMA

Lim is a curator of painting and sculpture at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Prior to this, she held curatorial positions at The Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum. She received her BA in Art History and English Literature from UC Berkeley, and she did her doctoral work in Art History at Northwestern University.

**Patience Nicole Elfving Yi**, Code and Canvas

Patience Yi is a former technology executive that now utilizes her skills and training to foster connections between the worlds of art and technology in SF. She founded and operates a non-profit art organization, called Code and Canvas, that provides below market studio space to local artists and has created programs that provide economic opportunities for artists in San Francisco. In addition to her arts advocacy, Ms. Yi is also an advocate for equity, education and community. She currently serves

on the Board of a public charter school called New School SF and was also voted in to sit on their facilities committee focused on the acquisition and development of private space to house their school. This is reflective of Ms. Yi's deep knowledge of zoning, development and commitment to bringing value to local communities and families.

She also has deep experience advocating for space for artists through threat of eviction by local developers and with a combination of legal, political and public support has successfully preserved space in SF for over 65 artists. Ms. Yi's experience that spans both tech and creative sectors gives her a unique perspective that has helped to bridge different worlds, opinions and priorities.

**Ramekon O'Arwisters, Independent Artist**

Ramekon O'Arwisters is an African-American artist, best known for his fabric and social-art practice, Crochet Jam. He creates art using the folk-art tradition of rag-rug weaving. Ramekon's work has been exhibited in New York, North Carolina, Tokyo, Bologna, Miami Beach, and San Francisco[citation needed]. He is also the former curator of fine-art photography at SFO Museum.

**Roberta A. D'Alois, Jump! Theatre**

Roberta D'Alois is a playwright and Artistic Director of Jump! Theatre, whose mission is to present theater based on authentic stories of mental illness.

Roberta has a B.A. with honors in Theatre Arts from Brandeis and an M.F.A in Playwriting from San Francisco State, where she also teaches. Her plays have been read or produced at Boxcar Theater, the Exit, and Impact Theatre, and published by the International Centre for Women Playwrights. She is a former Artist in Residence at Z Space Studios and at the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive and a former member of San Francisco's PlayGround.

As an artist-activist, Roberta was chosen as one of the 2016-17 Fellows at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, where she worked with 30 other artists and change makers to delve deeply into the intersection of cultural and social responsibility. Jump! Theatre also completed a residency at ACT's Costume Shop in 2017 for their 8th Annual Springboard Series.

[www.robetadalois.com](http://www.robetadalois.com)

**Salê Ramos, Destiny Arts Center and Performing Arts Workshop**

Dedicated Capoeirista teaching artist, educator, and fluent speaker of Portuguese, Spanish and English, Salê Ramos has been a capoeira practitioner for over 25 years. He came to the Bay Area in 2001. Today, Salê teaches basic body movement, history, philosophy, rituals and music from Capoeira to inspire and direct young students in reaching high and respectable social skills. Salê has been teaching capoeira and working with Performing Arts Workshop since 2009 and has taught in many schools all over the Bay Area. He adapts his teaching methodology to individual student needs in order to create a safe and comfortable environment for all levels of learning.

**Sarah Guerra,**

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**Shamsher Virk, ZERO1**

Shamsher Virk amplifies the impact of mission-driven organizations with strategic community engagement, communications, program development, and design. Currently, he is the executive

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director of art and technology nonprofit ZERO1 and program director of American Arts Incubator, an international artist exchange program aimed at building cultural understanding through collaborative digital and new media public art projects. Prior to ZERO1 he was the communications and engagement director at CounterPulse. Shamsheer has worked internationally on three continents in four languages, entering new communities with a sustained commitment to inclusive process, responsive adaptation, and shared leadership. He studied human ecology at College of the Atlantic where he immersed himself in social research methodology and interdisciplinary communication arts. His creative work includes video production for CounterPulse, sound design for Joanna Haigood's Zaccho Dance Theatre, and an independent performance ethnography of migrant laborers on a U.S. dairy farm.

**Susan Lynn McKinnon, Arts for a Better Bay Area and SAFEhouse Arts**

Susie McKinnon, MPA brings over twelve years management and leadership experience in nonprofit and mission-driven projects focused on benefiting and improving underserved communities and neighborhoods. From 2010-2012, Susie led and managed a weekly community engagement event in the Tenderloin and Central Market neighborhoods transforming a challenged public space into a city destination through artistic and economic opportunities. From 2012-2016, she managed and oversaw the administration and programs of the Tenderloin Community Benefit District as the Associate and Interim Executive Director. As neighborhood services and program manager for Urban Solutions (2016-17), she was consulting small businesses in various underserved San Francisco neighborhoods and challenged business corridors. Also, Susie is an artist and advocate of the arts and has been volunteering and working within the cultural community since 2009, most recently, volunteering and working for Arts for a Better Bay Area in an effort to build an advocacy platform for the Bay Area arts and culture community. With her varying roles, she has developed a beneficial network of neighborhood, arts, business, and City stakeholders and organizations. Before Susie's community and arts-focused work she experienced managing nationwide membership acquisition and engagement campaigns for a nationally known nonprofit.

**Tajuana Kebo Drew, Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project - QWOCMAP**

T. Kebo Drew, CFRE, directs QWOCMAP capacity building and strategic thinking including development, communications, and evaluation. , and is responsible for collaborations and engagement. Drew has professionally managed development, operations and events for corporations, community, arts and nonprofit organizations for over 20 years, and is a coach for the Fundraising Brights Spots program and trainer for the James Irvine Foundation New California Arts Fund.

A filmmaker, writer and dancer, Drew is the writer, producer and director of *Ain't I A Woman?* which has screened at the Langston Hughes African American Film Festival and *Translations: the Seattle Transgender Film Festival*. She is a member of the QWOCMAP Productions Team responsible for story development. She has produced numerous films, which include *Don't Fence Me In: Major Mary and the Karen Refugees from Burma*, which won the Grand Jury Award for Best Documentary from the 2006 Washington D.C. Independent Film Festival and the Director's Citation Award from the 2006 Black Maria Film Festival. She has performed in the U.S., Latin America and Europe as a poet and dancer. She is a Cave Canem Poetry Fellow and won the Audre Lorde/Pat Parker Award and the Astraea Emerging Lesbian Writers Award. She also won the Irene Weed Dance Award and Robert Kuykendall Dance Scholarship.