



### **Salvador Acevedo**

#### **Principal, Contemporánea**

Salvador Acevedo is President of Contemporánea, a multicultural audience engagement consulting practice focused on strategies to respond to the needs of a changing society. Salvador has spent more than 20 years designing and implementing successful communication strategies as a cultural participation consultant, executive and researcher. His strategies are rooted in people's needs, perceptions and values. Being bilingual and bicultural, he has helped organizations and corporations build bridges with multicultural communities, aiding in their development and business opportunities.

Contemporánea has not only extensive experience in addressing issues of ethnic diversity in relationship to cultural participation, as a matter of social equity, but under Salvador's direction they are national leaders in this field. Furthermore, he has experience working with other underserved populations (e.g. women, linguistic minorities and youth), as well as on the impact of technology trends in the way people participate in the arts. Foundations, arts alliances and service organizations like WESTAF or American for the Arts frequently seek his insights on innovative trends on cultural participation. Salvador regularly speaks at conferences and facilitates workshops on issues of diversity in the arts, in which he always includes best practices and case studies of his work with clients.

### **Tamara Alvarado**

#### **Executive Director, School of Arts and Culture at MHP**

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 and a past member of the board of the National Performance Network. 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 15 years, she is a lead member of Calpulli Tonalehqueh Danza Azteca of San Jose. Originally from Escondido, CA, Tamara holds a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Literature, with an emphasis in Chicano Studies from Stanford University.

### **Lincoln (LEDOH) Basaing**

#### **Artistic Director, Salt Farm Butoh**

LEDOH is the founder of Salt Farm, a San Francisco-based performance collective united in its mission to explore its diverse cultural roots via the art of Butoh. Ledoh was born into the Ka-Ren hill tribe of Burma during a time of great oppression of minorities which



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continues through today. He was a soloist with Katsura Kan's Saltimbanques Butoh company from 1988-2001. Since 1998 his multimedia works have electrified audiences around the Bay Area and beyond. Full-length works include Heartland (2013), Suicide Barrier (2011), ColorMeAmerica (2008), Captivity Concealed/Revealed (2007), Blue Scale (2005), River of Sand (2003), River Rock Sun (2002), Reverberation (2001), and Requiem for Darkness (1999). Ledoh has received support from CEC ArtsLink, Creative Capital, the Margaret Jenkins Dance Laboratory, the Irvine Foundation, the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Japan Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Fund. He has been awarded residencies at the Headlands Center for the Arts, the Luggage Store Gallery, the Lucas Artists Program (Montalvo Arts Center), CHIME, and Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. He has been featured at Naropa University, Summerfest, Thailand's 7th International Butoh Festival (2011), and Tbilisi, Georgia's annual Artisterium (2008, 2010, and 2013). In 2014 he premiered INCOGNITO at the San Francisco International Arts festival.

**Lindsie Bear**

**Director, Nature and Environmental Publishing, Heyday**

Lindsie Bear is the Director of Nature and Environmental Publishing at Heyday and former editor of News from Native California magazine and founding director of the Berkeley Roundhouse, Heyday's California Indian publishing and events program where she co-founded the Oakland Museum's Annual Indian Art Market. She is formerly senior editor and humanities marketing manager at the University of California Press. Lindsie holds a BA in philosophy and the history of mathematics from St. John's College and currently serves as a trustee on the board of the California Historical Society and Open Roads Media International. She came to the Bay Area to be part of the 40th Street Warehouse arts collective and now uses her work in publishing to amplify the voices of the Native and immigrant communities that make California so wonderfully diverse.

**Vanessa Camarena-Arredondo**

**Executive Director, Studio Grand**

Vanessa is the executive director of Studio Grand Oakland, a performing and visual arts organization based in the East Bay. She served as the Arts & Culture Fellow at The San Francisco Foundation and has worked as a consultant and coach with numerous artists and arts organizations throughout the Bay Area. She maintains a leadership and personal coaching practice. In addition to her professional work, Vanessa is also a vocalist with Bay Area-based performance group Las Bomberas de La Bahia.

**Sidney Chen**

**Artistic Administrator, Kronos Quartet / Kronos Performing Arts Association**

Sidney Chen joined the staff of Kronos Performing Arts Association in 1997. He is the former executive director of Volti, a San Francisco-based vocal ensemble, where he currently serves as group's artistic advisor and has performed with the group since 2000.



Sidney tours internationally as member of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, which he joined in 2012. From 2012 to 2014, he was also the SF Bay Area Regional Editor for NewMusicBox, an online magazine of New Music in the United States.

**Christopher Dennis**  
**Production Director, San Francisco Ballet**

Christopher Dennis holds a BFA from Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. He has worked and designed lighting in the performing arts for the past 25 years. I spent 14 seasons as the lighting supervisor and resident lighting designer for the National Ballet of Canada, the country's largest ballet company. After his tenure, he spent a season at the Metropolitan Opera as the assistant resident lighting designer. Between the two positions, he had the pleasure of working with some of the world's leading designers, choreographers and directors. After his time at the MET, in 2010 he was hired as the technical director for the San Francisco Ballet and then in 2011 was appointed production director for the ballet. Christopher has had the pleasure in working in theaters and opera houses around the world, including Hamburg, London, Paris, Italy and Moscow. His extensive touring has helped Christopher gain a much broader understanding of performing arts venues and how they are managed.

**Ashara Ekundayo**  
**Founder, Chief Creative Officer, Impact Hub Oakland**

Ashara Ekundayo is a cultural strategist and convener who consults with start-ups and organizations to assess and build capacity for increased community engagement in their ventures through the uses of permaculture design, mindfulness, creative arts practice, exhibition, and project management. Her combined passions for media, food, art and technology also inspire her to produce events such as Pecha Kucha Night Oakland and "Grits & Greens."

Most recently Ashara serves as the co-founder and chief creative officer of Impact Hub Oakland and is also the director of Omi Gallery located in both Oakland and San Francisco, CA. She also participates in the Urban Futures Think Tank at YBCA, and holds advisory board positions with KQED Arts and Our City. She is an Emerging Arts Professional Fellow, an Institute For the Future 2015 Fellow4Good, and the Curator in Residence with Schools Without Borders where she hosts "Collaboratorium" - a methodology amplifying the intersections of social permaculture/ social entrepreneurship/ social justice. Considered a thoughtleader in cultural intersectionality, she is often found presenting as keynote or panelist at conferences such as SXSW, Dreamforce, Net Impact and SOCAP. Ashara uses social media as a tool for empowerment and Tweets from @Blublakwomyn.



**Erika Gee**

**Senior Planner, Chinatown Community Development Center**

Erika Gee is a senior planner at the Chinatown Community Development Center, with a focus on creative placemaking. Erika is an art historian by training and an arts educator by vocation. She has both breadth and depth of experience in a variety of arts and cultural institutions in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and New York including the LA County Museum of Art, the Museum of Chinese in America, Museum for African Art, and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. Most recently, Erika was the program fellow in arts and culture at the San Francisco Foundation. She has served as a panelist for the Institute of Museum & Library Services, New York State Council on the Arts, as well as a board member for Cultural Connections in the Bay Area. Erika received her BA in History/Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her MS Ed. in Museum Education from Bank Street College of Education.

**Corrina Gould**

**Title VII Coordinator, AICRC; Co Founder, IPOC**

Corrina Gould has worked in the Bay Area American Indian community in various positions throughout the past 20-plus years, as a service provider and as a community activist. Corrina has been at the forefront of work on the Bay Area shellmounds and cultural sites of her Ohlone ancestors and has worked along other leaders to ensure the longevity of the oldest urban American Indian center in the country, IFH. Corrina works well across lines with Indigenous communities, with fairness and integrity ensuring that everyone that has a stake in the community is represented.

**Jessica Mele**

**Program Officer, Performing Arts, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**

Jessica Mele is a program officer in the Performing Arts Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. In this role, she manages a diverse portfolio of grants, with a particular focus on arts education advocacy and policy. Prior to joining the Hewlett Foundation, Jessica was executive director at Performing Arts Workshop, an arts education organization in San Francisco. During that time, she was also an active arts education advocate, serving on the executive committee of the Arts Providers Alliance of San Francisco, the steering committee of the Alameda Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership, and the national advisory council of Teaching Artist's Guild. In addition, Jessica advocated with community-based organizations outside of the arts sector as part of the steering committee of the Family Budget Coalition in San Francisco, which was active in drafting legislation and re-authorizing the city's Children's Fund and Public Education Enrichment Fund in 2014. Jessica holds a BA in Anthropology and French Studies from Smith College, and an Ed M in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In her spare time, Jessica writes, directs and produces sketch comedy as part of the creative company at Pianofight in San Francisco.

**Mina Morita**

**Artistic Director, Crowded Fire Theater Company**

Mina Morita is the artistic director of Crowded Fire Theater, a critically acclaimed and vital company championing intrepid new play production in San Francisco. She is dedicated to the development of a contemporary theatre canon that reflects the diverse world in which we live. Previously, she served as the artistic associate at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and was part of the originating team for its Ground Floor Program, which is a center for the creation and development of new work.

As a freelance director, she has worked with a number of Bay Area theatres including: ACT, Berkeley Rep, Shotgun Players, and Aurora Theatre Company's Global Age Project. In 2014, Mina won the Theatre Bay Area Award for Outstanding Direction of a Musical for Min Kahng's *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* at Bay Area Children's Theatre. As an artistic leader, Mina serves on the Zellerbach Family Foundation's Community Arts Panel, and was board president of Shotgun Players, a guest lecturer at UC Berkeley, and one of the original founders of Bay Area Children's Theatre where she served as interim executive director in 2011.

**Kirthi Nath**

**Filmmaker, Cinemagical Media**

Kirthi Nath is an award-winning filmmaker who believes that ordinary people ripple extraordinary change. Kirthi is the creative director and lead filmmaker at Cinemagical Media, a media production company that focus on creating films and workshops that support individuals, communities and companies to 'be the cause that creates the effect'. She works with social entrepreneurs, values-based companies and nonprofits to create films for our evolving culture. Kirthi's films have featured cultural visionaries such as Jack Kornfield, Tara Sophia Mohr, Eve Ensler and Alice Walker and tell stories with bravery, courage and heart that bring messages alive and inspire social change. The films she's produced has reached over 500,000 viewers.

In addition to filmmaking, Kirthi teaches (in person and online) courses and delivers talks that focus on creative presence, spiritually, mindfulness and the practice of good. In 2014 she was a Made Grantee with the San Francisco Bay Area Emerging Arts Professionals Network and taught a four-session online course about modern day mindfulness at work. Previous to starting her own business, Kirthi worked at Bay Area Video Coalition for nine years and with NIOT. While at BAVC, Kirthi produced the Student Emmy Award winning short "The Apollos" and at NIOT produced "Gunn High School Sings Away Hate".



### **Fuifuilupe Niumeitolu**

#### **Doctoral Candidate, Institute for the Study of Social Change, UC Berkeley**

Fuifuilupe Niumeitolu is a Tongan born scholar and community organizer. She sits on the board of directors for the Pacific Islander Initiative, a collaborative project that includes Pacific Islander Community Leaders from around the Bay Area. She is also on the founding committee of OCNC (Oceania Coalition of Northern California), a Pacific Islander social justice organization. OCNC facilitates workshops on alternatives to violence with Pacific Islander men and women in prison and OCNC also works in solidarity and in collaborations with California Indians on projects pertaining to preserving Indigenous languages, using Indigenous knowledges and sacred ceremonies as methodologies for creating healing in Pacific Islander and California Indian communities. Fuifuilupe is also a member of several Pacific Islander academic organizations such as Hinemoana of Turtle Island, an Indigenous Pacific Islander feminist organization; The Pacific History Organization; and the Tongan Research Association. Fuifuilupe has taught Pacific Islands Studies in the U.S. for several years at City College of San Francisco and UC Berkeley. She is completing a Phd in the Department of Ethnic Studies on Tongan migrations to the U.S. at UC Berkeley and will be filing for graduation in Spring 2016.

### **Madeleine Oldham**

#### **Director, The Ground Floor and Resident Dramaturg, Berkeley Repertory Theatre**

Madeleine Oldham is the director of the Ground Floor, Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work. She also serves as the resident dramaturg there. She oversees all aspects of new play development, including the Summer Residency Lab that brings in artists from all over the country to work on projects in process. She was formerly the literary manager at Baltimore's Center Stage, Seattle Children's Theatre, and assistant literary manager at Seattle's Intiman Theater. Madeleine is also a DJ on UC Berkeley's KALX radio, as well as a sound designer, having collaborated locally with Crowded Fire, Shotgun Players, SF Playhouse, Just Theater, PlayGround, the Bay Area One-Act Festival, and others.

### **Frances Phillips**

#### **Program Director, Arts and the Creative Work Fund, Walter & Elise Haas Fund**

Frances Phillips has been a program director at the Walter & Elise Haas Fund for 21 years, managing capital and program grants in arts education, arts access, arts in immigrant communities, and the Creative Work Fund.

### **Joan Pinkvoss**

#### **Executive Director, Aunt Lute Books**

Joan Pinkvoss has over 33 years experience in the commercial publishing world and has won two national publishing awards. Originally the sole proprietor of a smaller Aunt Lute Book Company, she successfully led, in 1992, the transition of Aunt Lute to a nonprofit corporation, the Aunt Lute Foundation, encompassing a broader vision for the field of

literature. Under her direct supervision the company has published over 90 titles, many of them receiving literary awards and distinctions.

The mission of the Aunt Lute is to support and publish new writers from a variety of cultures and sub-cultures, both within the United States and from other countries. Choosing narratives that are relevant to pressing community issues, Pinkvoss, has spent major energy on outreach, networking with community members and hiring consultants from within communities to produce accessible literary programs, panels and performances. Besides a culturally diverse board and staff, Aunt Lute Books is committed to a strong intern program, actively recruiting interns from minority cultures. Further, Pinkvoss has led several manuscript workshops and tutorials in the Bay Area. She has also sat on national and local symposium panels, advocating for the importance of nonprofit literature in a democratic and socially just world.

**Ellen Richard**  
**Interim Managing Director, Magic Theatre**

Ellen Richard has spent the last 30-plus years as the executive and managing director of not for profit theater companies in New York City and San Francisco, including Roundabout Theatre Company, Second Stage Theatre and American Conservatory Theater. Ellen is a board member of Theater Communications Group where she serves as a member of their diversity committee. In addition, Ellen created the first staff diversity committee of American Conservatory Theater.

**Tomás Riley**  
**Executive Director, CounterPulse**

Tomás Riley brings nearly twenty years of leadership work in community engagement and education throughout California and across the country. He has worked as a bilingual classroom teacher and developed literary programs throughout the Bay Area for leading spoken word organization YouthSpeaks. As Executive Director of ArtsChange, Tomás worked with young people in the city of Richmond to create youth-centered arts engagement opportunities for teens. Most recently he served as the director of experience and community engagement at the Children's Creativity Museum in San Francisco. Tomás unites both his experience as a leader in community-based arts programming and social-justice driven artistic practice as the executive director of CounterPulse in San Francisco.

**Jim Santi Owen**  
**Musician, musical director, arts educator, funder**

Jim Santi Owen is an American percussionist, educator, producer, performer, and funder based in the San Francisco Bay Area. A specialist in the classical percussion traditions of India, Owen has studied for over 25 years from some of India's greatest artists including Swapan Chaudhuri, Ali Akbar Khan, Chitresh Das, T.H. Subash Chandran, and K. Sekar.

Jim Santi Owen has performed extensively with world-class musicians and choreographers including: Pharoah Sanders, Hamza el Din, Swapan Chaudhuri, Chitresh Das, Alonzo King, LINES Ballet, SF Ballet, John Santos, Steve Smith, Terry Riley, Joseph Alam Khan, Myra Melford, Gamelan Sekar Jaya, Rova Saxophone Quartet, Omar Sosa. From 2009 to 2014 he served as the Music Director and Board Treasurer for the San Francisco World Music Festival. Currently, he teaches at Dominican University, The Jazz Conservatory, LINES Ballet, and the Ali Akbar College of Music.

Owen holds a bachelor of Humanities from New College of California and a master's degree in World Music from California Institute of the Arts. He is currently sits on the Zellerbach Family Fund's Community Arts Panel and has just begun a 3-year term as a member of the Funding Advisory Committee for the Cultural Arts Department of the City of Oakland.

**Adriane Tafoya**  
**Registrar, Oakland Museum of California**

Adriane Tafoya (Tejon Indian) is currently the registrar for the Oakland Museum of California where she specializes in collection care oversight of the museum's two million objects as well as issues pertaining to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). As an undergraduate at CSU Chico with a degree in Art History, Adriane broadened her appreciation and technical understanding of art. After graduating, Adriane spent several years gaining museum experience before enrolling in the Museum Studies Master of Arts program at John F. Kennedy University.

Her research has delved into the delicate issue of sacred Native American objects held in mainstream American museums. Her goal was to research the collection care practices in which these museums provide everyday care based on tribal restrictions and/or instructions. In addition, she researched the care practices of tribal museums and cultural centers.

After earning her master's degree, she held positions at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF) in the registration department. She was also deeply involved with the state's building plan for the California Indian Heritage Center in Sacramento, and has maintained a position on the advisory committee since 2005. As an art advisory committee member, Adriane has worked with fellow California Indian museum professionals and renowned artists like, Harry Fonseca and Frank LaPena.

**Angela Wellman**  
**Founding Director, Oakland Public Conservatory of Music**

Trombonist Angela Wellman, hailing proudly from Kansas City, Missouri, has performed with the McCoy Tyner Big Band, Joe Williams, Al Grey, Slide Hampton and other noted





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musicians. Ms. Wellman is a recipient of national, state, and city arts awards and fellowships for performance study and music education. Among these awards is the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Study Fellowship to study with trombonist Steve Turre.

In 2005 she founded the Oakland Public Conservatory of Music which seeks to explore American musical identity and character through the African American experience while providing high caliber, affordable music education for underserved and under-resourced communities. Angela divides her time between Oakland and Madison, WI where she is pursuing doctoral studies in Education at the University of Wisconsin. She is a multi-talented musician and educator who performs and teaches throughout the United States.