

2023 - 2024 Civic Arts Grant Review Panelist Pool



Name (pronouns)	County	Organization	Artistic Discipline	Biography
Paige Anderson (she/her/hers)	Alameda		Visual Arts Other Literary Arts	Paige Anderson is a crafty and creative person with many years of experience working for and volunteering with community non-profits. She moved to Berkeley mid-pandemic from the Seattle Area, where she was twice the Social Media Coordinator for Bellwether Arts Week in Bellevue, a Board Member and Education Committee Chair of the Friends of Volunteer Park Conservatory in Seattle, a photographer for Eastside Community Aid Thrift Shop, an Events & Outreach Coordinator for Friends of Waterfront Seattle, and support for local makers such as Posie Soap. Since moving to Berkeley, she has dabbled in volunteering with Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, and spent a year supporting local studio artist Slowwag. A maker herself, Paige works primarily in paper crafts and photography, and writing, recently venturing into textile arts and creating decorative scenes around her neighborhood. Paige is an active and public transportation advocate, is passionate about supporting local events, artisans, and craftspersons, and has a strong sense of civic duty and pride. Marrying her academic backgrounds in social science and urban design, one of her goals is to conduct placemaking projects: installing functional public art on a human-scale which has a positive impact on the built environment and social behavior.
Laura Atkins (she/they)	Alameda		Literary Arts Multi-disciplinary Visual Arts	Laura Atkins is an independent children's book author, editor and teacher who has worked in the children's book field for over 25 years. She spent seven years in editorial departments in the United States where she helped to produce winners of the Coretta Scott King Award and American Library Association Notable Book selections, among others. She continued to work as a freelance editor and as a Lecturer at the National Centre for Research in Children's Literature (NCRCL) at Roehampton University in London. Now based in Berkeley, California, She works with clients all over the world. Laura has an MA in Children's Literature from Roehampton University, where she taught creative writing within the MA program for several years, and an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Finally, She is the author of the picture book, Sled Dog Dachshund, and the co-author of Fred Korematsu Speaks Up and Biddy Mason Speaks Up in the Fighting for Justice series. Laura's editorial clients include Nigerian publisher Cassava Republic Press, and Blood Orange Press, City Lights Publishing, and Parallax Press in the Bay Area. She offers manuscript critiques to a variety of clients.
Neha Balram (she/her/hers)	Alameda	City of Oakland, Cultural Affairs Division	Other	Neha is a first-generation daughter of Indo-Fijian immigrants. She was born and raised in Hayward and after spending the better part of a decade in Oakland, Neha chose to put down roots in Berkeley's District 5 with her new baby and partner. Since 2018, she manages the City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission, whose mission is to act as ambassadors and advocates for arts and culture in Oakland. Prior to joining The City, Neha worked at California Humanities for almost 5 fulfilling years, where she wove her passion for cultural advocacy and building stronger communities through conversation and cultural expression. She couldn't stay away for too long and is now on the Board of California Humanities. One of her most rewarding professional experiences was serving on the City of Hayward's Community Services Commission, which makes annual funding recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for community resources and services. Neha earned a B.A. in History with a concentration in African American and Gender Studies from UC Irvine. In her free time, she enjoys live music, attending cultural events, spending time in nature, and trying out new recipes.
Megan Bates (she/her or they/them)	Alameda	MOTHERSHIP HACKERMOMS	Literary Arts	Megan Bates is a multidisciplinary writer and editor, having managed the production of best-selling graphic novels, novels, art books, monographs, and animated films. One of her areas of expertise is writing about the visual arts, and she has written art reviews for Ceramics Art & Perception, Art Papers, Shade, and American Craft magazine. Additionally, she works with Engineered Artworks, a the Richmond-based public art design and build studio, formulating public art schemas. She lives in Berkeley, where she is the leader of the Gender Inclusive Schools Alliance and advocates within the school district for equal access to opportunities for trans and nonbinary young people.
Megan Broughton (she/her/hers)	San Francisco		Multi-disciplinary Visual Arts	Broughton is a multidisciplinary artist based in San Francisco. She holds a BFA in Fine Arts from CalArts and has exhibited widely throughout the US. She has held residencies at The Earthfire Institute, Idaho; Can Serrat, El Bruc, Spain; and The Arctic Circle, Svalbard, Norway. She is a member of the California Society of Printmakers, Northern California Women's Caucus for Art, and the Los Angeles Printmaking Society. Her writing has appeared in The California Printmaker: Journal of the California Society of Printmakers and Art Education Journal: Journal of the National Art Education Association. She has served as a grant review panelist for the California Arts Council and is on the California Art Education Association's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission. Megan worked in arts education from 2009 to 2022, at The Community Arts Partnership at CalArts, The California State Summer School for the Arts, The Oxbow School, and NOMAD Lab. She is the founder of The Oxbow School's After School Art Program for local middle school students, a co-founder of School of Now, and was a founding instructor at Evelyn Serrano's NOMAD Lab which was awarded by the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission in its inaugural year.
Chelsea Brown (they/them/theirs)	Alameda	BANDALOOP	Dance	Chelsea Brown is a queer dancer, teacher, choreographer, arts administrator, and activist living in Oakland, CA. Prior to their current position of Operations Manager for BANDALOOP (www.bandaloop.org), they were the Managing Director for Duniya Dance and Drum Company (www.duniyadance.com), a South Asian and West African company based in San Francisco since 2007, for 4.5 years. Chelsea is passionate about sustainability and equity in the arts in the Bay Area and beyond. Chelsea has trained in a variety of dance genres including modern, improvisation, ballet, Hip Hop and acrobatics. They are especially interested in responsive, site-specific choreography and sensation-based improvisation. Their creative process aims to dismantle hierarchal systems of oppression by challenging racist, capitalist, ableist "norms." Chelsea is a Level 2 certified Responsive Body practitioner (www.responsivebody.com). Responsive Body is a biodynamic practice for all bodies consisting of guided movement experiences, tactile body-to-bodywork and professional development. Chelsea's choreography has been performed at the John F. Kennedy Center, Dance Place DC, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, and Safehouse for the Arts. They have worked with dance artists including: Cat Call Choir, Suzanne Bhears, Molly Rose-Williams, PearsonWidrig DanceTheater, Heart Stück Bernie, Briana Stuart, Stephanie Miracle, Adriane Fang, Christopher K. Morgan, and Chris Aiken & Angie Hauser.
Mary Brown (she/her/hers)	Alameda		Visual Arts	Mary Brown has worked for the East Bay Regional Park District for the past five years and worked in finance for nearly a decade. She has a strong background in grants and budgeting for public agency. In 2022, Mary resigned from the Park District to pursue a career as an artist. She has practiced painting since she was a child and landed her first job painting for the City of Santa Rosa's Art Start program. Mary has exhibited her work over the years in various small group shows around the bay area, published illustrations for Edible East Bay Magazine, and worked as a painter full time for artist, Angie Crabtree. Additionally, she has been a member + ceramicist at the Berkeley Potters' Studio for the past four years. Mary's strong background in art and public agency make her a well-rounded and qualified applicant for becoming a grant review panelist.

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Alexis Cabrera (she/they)	Alameda		Dance	Cabrera, (she/they) directs the Oakland, CA based performance company, Blind Tiger Society which is their main conduit for choreography and performance creation. Between 2012-2022, Bianca created 10 full length works and many more short works, with performances and commissions for The Garage, ODC Theater, ODC Youth Company, CounterPULSE, viv dance collective, SAFEhouse Arts, the Seattle Inter National Dance Festival, Links Hall/Midwest Nexus, RAW Concept Series, Ann Schnake/Mobile InTent, Yerba Buena Gardens ChoreoFest, Sheridan College, SweetPea Festival and Kate Mitchell Creative. Cabrera has been awarded artistic residencies from organizations in Seattle, San Francisco, Oakland and Wyoming. Her work was nominated for a 2014 Soul of Oakland award and has been supported through the Fleishhacker and Rainin Foundations. Their two decade performing career includes work with many celebrated dance artists and companies including: Kim Epifano, LevyDance, The Fossettes, Sonya Smith, Christine Bonansea, Erika Tsimbrovsky/AvyK Productions, Flyaway Productions and Cielo Vertical Arts. Bianca is a founding member of Latinx Hispanix Danza Unidxs and served on the Isadora Duncan Dance Awards committee in 2019-20. Cabrera is dedicated to dance education, having developed her weekly technique classes, master classes and workshops for over 15 years at arts centers, studios and universities across the United States.
Vineeta Chand (she/her)	Alameda		Visual Arts	Dr. Chand is an active glass mosaic artist and art educator out of her west Berkeley studio. She sells her work locally at ACCI Gallery, The Riveter and Oakland Native Plant Nursery, in addition to juried art fairs. A former academic, she has an extensive grantwriting and grant reviewing experience, and has been awarded multiple nationally ranked research grants (NSF, NIH, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research).
Takming Chuang (he/him/his)	San Francisco		Visual Arts	Born in New York City, Takming Chuang currently lives in San Francisco. He serves on the programming committee of Right Window gallery and makes sculptures and installations at his studio in Oakland. His interests center around the nature of impermanence and the range of emotions that arise between accepting and rejecting change. Chuang's creative process incorporates the mutable potential of materials such as paper, brass, photographs, and clay to underscore the value of transformation. He has lectured about art at UC Berkeley and Sonoma State in courses such as Sculpture, Ceramics, Visual Thinking and Collaborative Innovation. Chuang has also sat in review panels such as the MFA program at UC Berkeley and the Graduate Fellowship program at Headlands Center for the Arts. He has exhibited at SculptureCenter NY, the Hessel Museum at Bard College NY, Camden Arts Centre London, and the Berkeley Art Museum among other institutions. Chuang received his MFA in Art Practice from the University of California, Berkeley and a BA in Economics from the State University of New York, Binghamton.
Cora Cliburn (she/her)	Alameda	ODC/Dance Company	Dance Film/Media Arts	Cora Yuqing Cliburn is a dance artist with ODC/Dance in San Francisco, where she also serves as the company's Sustainability Ambassador. Originally from New Mexico, she received her training at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance and LINES Ballet. In 2016, she was named one of DANCE Magazine's "25 to Watch," and her ensemble work with Post:ballet was nominated for an Isadora Duncan "Izzy" Dance Award. As a recipient of the Stanford University Chappell Lougee and Rosaldo Fellowships, Cora conducted independent anthropological research on cross-cultural communication at dance festivals in Belgium, The Netherlands, and Austria (2017), and on environmental attitudes among graduate students in Beijing, China (2018). In 2019, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford, earning a BA in Environmental Anthropology and minors in East Asian Studies and Theater and Performance Studies. As a dancer, Cora has worked with Robert Moses' Kin, Post:ballet, Lil Buck and Jon Boogz, GERALDCASELDANCE, Sharp & Fine, Liv Schaffer, and ARCOS Dance, among others. In addition to her performance work, Cora has worked as a media collaborator and video editor with several dance companies and Stanford Arts, and as a Fellow with Stanford's Sustainable Food Program.
Paris Cotz (she/her/hers)	Alameda	SF Arts Commission	Multi-disciplinary Visual Arts Literary Arts	Paris Cotz is a Berkeley based arts administrator and public programmer. She currently works at SF Arts Commission and 2727 California Street in Berkeley. Previously, she worked at UC Berkeley Office of Arts + Design and curated exhibitions and programs at the Pauline Kael - Jess Murals House. Paris has been living and working in the Bay Area art world for 10+ years.
Shannon R Davis (she/hers/they)	Contra Costa		Theater Social Practice Multi-disciplinary	Shannon is a Bay Area director, storyteller, & educator originally from Wisconsin. She is in the Cal Shakes Artist Circle, is Director of Community Connections at American Conservatory Theater, a Guest Artist at UC-Berkeley, and a co-founder of the Bay Area Theater Accountability Workgroup. She holds an MFA in Directing & Acting from UW-Madison, specializing in directing intercultural theatre for social awareness. With a foundation in Theatre of the Oppressed, Shannon uses the transformational tools of theatre to endeavor to restructure harmful processes, raise consciousness, and heal community. She is a classics buff who turns traditional storytelling reverentially on its head with devised satire and puppetry. Shannon champions storytelling not normally included in traditional white patriarchal theatre narratives. Shannon strives to create true community through practicing active Decolonization and Anti-Racism in processes she leads. She's worked with: New Native Theatre, SF Shakes, A.C.T., Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Native Writers Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, American Indian Community House, Cal Shakes, Anchorage Opera, Theatre of Yugen, Berkeley Rep, MoxieArts NY, Brava Theater, Theatre Battery, Ohio University, Ashland New Play Festival, Freestyle Love Supreme, Forward Theatre, UC-Berkeley, Shotgun Players, TheaterWorks, Marin Shakespeare, Renaissance Theaterworks, Playwrights Foundation, & others. www.shannonrdavis.com
Deb Durant (she/her/hers)	Alameda		Visual Arts Other Multi-disciplinary	Deb Durant is a lifetime/fulltime artist/sole practitioner of her woman-owned business. Her full-time work is metalsmithing/jewelry design with a focus on ceremonial jewelry. She creates a wider range of pieces used ceremonially from mixed media, including mosaics, basketry, ceramics, encaustics, photography, and textile arts. Her practice also includes interior design projects in the hospitality sector: small-scale projects to develop, source, and create from concept design through completion (Babette, Revival Bar + Kitchen, CAL's Nutrition Policy Institute; private homes & offices consultation) focusing on upcycled/recycled materials. She has been involved in numerous community projects, functioning as an organizer and creator of spaces/places/events including fundraising/grant writing for schools (Hug-A-Bug Preschool, Prospect Sierra School, Berkeley High School), community projects (Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association), Arts Orgs (Society of American Mosaic Artists, Women's Jewelry Association), and is a founder of a local activist group (Turtle Island Monument group). Her interest in becoming more involved in cultural and arts community work is to help expand cultural awareness and to bring increased sensitivity (her own and the community's) to create a more equitable future. She has a practice of regular and consistency outreach within her own arts community and beyond which she hopes to continually expand further.

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Jesse Dutton-Kenny (she/her/hers)	Alameda	San Francisco Public Library / City and County of San Francisco	Folk/Traditional Arts Multi-disciplinary Visual Arts Social Practice	Jesse Dutton-Kenny was born and raised in Oakland, CA and is currently the Exhibition Curator for the San Francisco Public Library. Prior to joining the Library she worked as a Preparator in Exhibitions at the SFO Museum and served on the Board of the National Emerging Museum Professionals Network as a Regional Director and Advocacy Chair. Since her first museum job as an undergraduate at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, she has worked throughout the cultural sector at institutions including Chabot Space and Science Center, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, The Mexican Museum, Norlin Library Photographic Archive, Indian Arts Research Center, Lawrence Fine Arts Services, and Axiell Archives, Libraries & Museums. Jesse received a Bachelor's degree in Comparative Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master's degree in Museum Studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Jesse has always been captivated by the behind-the-scenes world of museums and is passionate about creating timely, relevant, and effective exhibitions and programs that connect people to the arts. Outside of her work in the cultural sector, Jesse is a practicing ceramicist working out of a community studio in Berkeley.
Karen Eichler (she/her/hers)	Alameda	Karen Eichler Fine Art	Other	For over 20 years Karen Eichler has worked as an independent art consultant to private developers implementing public art projects in response to municipal codes in the East Bay. These consulting services require interaction with dozens of professions, vendors of different backgrounds, from many communities. Treating everyone transparently, with respect and fairness, creates a scaffolding for the difficult conversations around equity, fairness and inclusion among artists, community, and clients. She applies intentional curiosity, diplomacy, and consistent communication to expand her own and others' cultural knowledge. A recent assignment included acting as liaison between a private developer and the Oakland Asian Cultural Center to create public art that would represent multiple Asian cultures who inhabit Oakland's Chinatown. The transparent process of vetting qualified artists from both within and external to the community required sensitivity to community perspectives and an acknowledgment of those who had a voice in the process. Likewise, curating a meaningful public art piece for a West Oakland community food market required an understanding of the population being served by the market, and the art. A participatory piece by Ramekon O'Arwisters brings pride to the community for their contribution to both the market and the art. <a href="http://www.kareneichlerfineart.com">www.kareneichlerfineart.com</a>
Daniel Freeman (he/him)	Alameda		Film/Media Arts Music Visual Arts	Daniel Freeman is a Berkeley based filmmaker and musician. He was supported as a 2x SFFILM FilmHouse resident (2019 & 2020) where he worked to develop his debut micro budget feature, Teddy, Out of Tune. The film went on to receive the Programmers' Choice award for best narrative feature at the 2020 Bushwick Film Festival in New York and was selected to the Maryland, Mill Valley, and Ashland Independent Film Festivals. Teddy has also been programmed and taught in high school classrooms via the California Film Institute's Education department. In 2021, Daniel's short film, If You Hum at the Right Frequency, was selected to premiere at the San Francisco International Film Festival and later screened at the Roxie Theater during the Bay Area Media Maker Summit. Daniel often blends fiction and documentary approaches to create a hybrid style rooted in realism. He works as a seasonal film instructor for California Film Institute as part of their My Story My Place team where he mentors teenage students during week long workshops as they create personal essay films. Since 2021, Daniel has worked professionally as a video editor and sound recordist for the Berkeley production company, 3rd & Gilman Studios.
Sarah Galender Meyer (she/her/hers)	Alameda	SGM Art Advisory	Visual Arts Multi-disciplinary Dance	Before founding SGM Art Advisory, Sarah Galender Meyer served as Gallery Director at Creative Growth, the world's oldest and largest studio and gallery for artists with disabilities, in Oakland CA. She received her B.A. in Anthropology at NYU's Gallatin School, while professionally performing and choreographing contemporary dance in New York. She received an M.A. in Arts Administration from Columbia University and worked at The Baryshnikov Dance Foundation and Electronic Arts Intermix before moving to the Bay Area in 2006. In San Francisco, Sarah served as Associate Director of ODC School and worked as a consultant for performing and visual artists and arts organizations, including the FOR-SITE Foundation. Sarah had been a long-time member and volunteer at Creative Growth before joining the staff as Gallery Director from 2017-2022. SGM Art Advisory aims to disrupt the art market by educating and connecting collectors to self-taught, 'Outsider', and otherwise under-represented artists. Sarah has been living in Berkeley with her husband (a Berkeley Native) and children since 2006.
Elena Gross (she/they)	San Francisco	Berkeley Art Center	Visual Arts	Elena Gross (she/they) is the Co-Director of the Berkeley Art Center and an independent writer and culture critic living in San Francisco, CA. Elena was previously the Director of Exhibitions & Curatorial Affairs at Museum of the African Diaspora. She received an MA in Visual & Critical Studies from the California College of the Arts in 2016. She specializes in representations of identity in fine art, photography, and popular media. Elena was formerly the creator and co-host of the arts & visual culture podcast what are you looking at? published by Art Practical. Her research has been centered around conceptual and material abstractions of the body in the work of Black modern and contemporary artists and most recently in queer artistic and literary histories of the late 20th century. She has presented her writing and research at institutions and conferences across the U.S., including Southern Exposure, KADIST, Harvard College, YBCA, California College of the Arts, and the GLBT History Museum. Elena is the co-editor, along with Julie R. Enszer, of OutWrite: The Speeches that Shaped LGBTQ Culture (Rutgers University Press).
Michelle Hirsch (she/her/hers)	San Francisco		Visual Arts	Michelle Hirsch is a multimedia artist working in photography, collage, painting, drawing and printmaking who completed a postgraduate diploma in Fine Art (with merit) at Goldsmiths University of London in 2015. Her work has been exhibited in London, the SF Bay Area, Washington DC and New York City. In 2022, she received a grant from Creative Sonoma, won third place in Slice: A Juried Exhibit of Regional Art at Pence Gallery, Davis CA. Her upcoming exhibition at Pepperwood Preserve deals with Healing and Emergence, where she will use found materials from the Preserve to create visual metaphors on how colonial land management has impacted the Sonoma county landscape. In 2021, her photograph was one of twelve selected for the Grifols corporate calendar. She was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. She has lived in Indonesia, Canada, the UK and the US.
Anna Iglitzin (she/her/hers)	Alameda		Literary Arts Social Practice	Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Anna Iglitzin has lived in the Bay Area since 2018. She graduated from her master's in public policy from U.C. Berkeley in May of 2022. Beyond learning more about nonprofit administration/policy, while in graduate school she deepened her relationship to poetry, fiction, and music. Anna has been directly involved with arts and culture work when doing communications and marketing for an arts exhibition on Alcatraz, which featured the work of formerly incarcerated individuals. She has also supported poetry and creative writing workshops/opportunities for undergraduates at UC Berkeley. Before graduate school Anna worked for organizations in San Francisco and Oakland that support formerly incarcerated individuals with their re-entry into society. Anna has worked in the Bay Area as a youth educator, athletic coach, and development coordinator for several local nonprofits and consistently infuses art and cultural strategy into her work with youth. This is particularly true in her work with Kehilla Synagogue where she teaches both the kindergarten and 1st/2nd grade classes. Anna applied for local grants during her time working for nonprofits and has also reviewed grant applications on behalf of the California Department of Education, so she is familiar with these processes.

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Teslim Ikharo (we/us)	Alameda		Visual Arts Social Practice Multi-disciplinary Music	Teslim Ikharo is an urban strategist, community convener, and impact investor. He uses finance, real estate development, social services, and policy to produce positive change. With several professional lives, Teslim has worked as an investment advisor, real estate developer, financial services writer, and managing director of social service programs in the mental health, homeless, formerly incarcerated, and social justice disciplines. An Oakland native, Teslim grew up in the city's Dimond District—a neighborhood he credits with helping shape his worldview that diversity is a necessary component for creating resilient communities. Just as ecosystems are strengthened by biodiversity, neighborhoods and companies are more resilient when people of different backgrounds come together. He believes that proximity and access to public spaces, academic and cultural institutions, and public transit are the bedrock of inclusive, diverse, safe and healthy blocks, neighborhoods, and cities. Adaptive reuse, infill development, green infrastructure, and public art are primarily his current tools of choice. His current work focuses on demonstrating the economic + social benefits of the arts and artists within communities so that public and private entities increase investments that make sense from a quadruple bottom line lens: people, planet, profit, and purpose. B.A. - Indiana University; J.D. - LSU Law
MJ Jones (they/them, he/him)	Contra Costa	Foglifter Press	Literary Arts Music	Michal 'MJ' Jones is a Pushcart Prize nominated poet, parent, and editor living in Richmond, CA. Their poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Anomaly, Kissing Dynamite, Split This Rock: The Quarry, TriQuarterly Review, & wildness. Their personal and political essays have been featured in Everyday Feminism, Black Girl Dangerous, The Body Is Not An Apology, and elsewhere. MJ also serves as the Editor-In-Chief of Foglifter Journal & Press, an award-winning literary journal publishing radical work by LGBTQIA2-S writers. They have a debut full-length poetry collection HOOD VACATIONS from Black Lawrence Press, and a chapbook, SOFT ARMOR, from Nomadic Press, both forthcoming in early 2023.
NiQueen Jones (she/her)	Alameda		Multi-disciplinary Social Practice Visual Arts	Nicole (NiQueen) Jones is an Oakland based multidisciplinary artist and arts educator who intersects the concepts of social justice, youth empowerment, community unification and mindfulness. A multi-disciplinary working artist since 1997, NiQueen began her career as a poet and well respected B-Girl in Los Angeles's Leimert Park. Her writing & dance reputations led her to work with Karl Kani and as a dancer open up for iconic artist's Run DMC and Aerosmith at the House of Blues on Sunset Blvd. Her music & poetry was featured in several reggae albums through the 2000's. NiQueen moved to Oakland in 2007 and planted deep roots with her family. She created a daytime arts homeschool program for 13 years, taught and collaborated in Art Shows with Oakland Terminal Art Gallery, and began teaching art and mindfulness with Oakland Freedom School. In 2019, NiQueen participated in the creation of "The Sankofa Project", a mobile "Living" Black History Museum with Spearitwurx in 2019, completed an Artist Fellowship in Design & Tech with AfroUrban Society in 2020. In 2021 became designated an official "Black Culture Keeper" and mentor by the Black Cultural Zone in Oakland, CA. She currently teaches visual art and Hip Hop History.
Nika Jurich (they/she)	San Francisco		Dance Music	Nika Jurich is a freelance dancer, teacher, choreographer, and musician based in San Francisco. They began dancing at the age of 5 at Dance Attack in Los Gatos, then with the Ballet San Jose School. They then trained with Xavier Ferla at Dance Theatre International before leaving for Florida, where they graduated from the Harid Conservatory in 2015. They continued their training at the Pacific Northwest Ballet Professional Division in 2017 and the Lines Training Program in 2019, where they began and have continued to study many different contemporary dance styles. They presented work at Safehouse Arts as a part of the 2022 Fall RAW Showcase and continue to dance and make music around the city. They began teaching in 2016 and currently teach young dancers ballet, pointe, contemporary, choreography, injury prevention/prepointe, and unique summer camps such as the Story Ballet Camp and Destination Choreography Camp. They enjoy being able to share their love of dance and the care and wisdom of their teachers. They believe that dance and music has a great capacity to connect people, teach us how to navigate difficult moments in our lives with grace, and inspire us discover our true potential.
Chris Kerr (he/she/they/Chris)	Alameda	Round Weather	Visual Arts	Chris Kerr is a gallery director, writer, artist, and parent who has headed the School of Literary Arts at Oakland School for the Arts and now focuses on helping mitigate the climate crisis. This includes directing Round Weather (a nonprofit art gallery that raises significant funds for environmental organizations and activists), editing the Inner Forest Service, and serving on the DNC's Council on the Environment and Climate Crisis. Chris has also edited Projector, the magazine of creative response to film. He has organized events that bridge artistic disciplines for the Berkeley Art Museum, Rock Paper Scissors Collective, the Roxie Theater, and SFMOMA; performed their poems at Aggregate Space, a.Muse Gallery, and Art & Music in the Gardens at Lake Merritt; and displayed her artwork at E.M. Wolfman, MacArthur Annex, and Merritt College's climate crisis exhibition Cherish and Resist. Poems and stories by Chris appear in Eleven Eleven, The New Review of Literature, Sugar Mule, and Work. At Round Weather, Chris curates museum-quality shows that in under two years have served the environmental and art-world dreams of sixty-two artists, mostly from our Bay Area. They are also currently curating a climate-crisis-focused exhibition for fall of 2023 at Marin MOCA.
Avery Ligon (she/her/hers)	Alameda	Habitot Children's Museum	Folk/Traditional Arts Literary Arts	Avery works at a children's museum where she loves helping young children with process art, and making and tinkering projects. Her behind the scenes work involves updating cultural events. She came to this work by way of a Cultural Heritage Management MA from Johns Hopkins, and a lifetime of considering the value in being a part of a healthy, supportive community.
Roopa Mahadevan (she/her)	San Francisco		Music Dance Folk/Traditional Arts	Roopa Mahadevan is a leading second-generation Carnatic classical and crossover vocalist in the American diaspora, known for her powerful, emotive voice, versatility, and collaborative spirit. She leads the crossover ensemble Roopa in Flux, where she works with musicians in jazz, soul/R&B, and various global traditions, directs the innovative choir Navatman Music Collective, and sings for leading Bharathanatyam (South Indian) and modern dancers around the world. Roopa received formative training in Carnatic vocal music under Asha Ramesh of the Bay Area, and Suguna Varadachari in Chennai, India through the Fulbright. Roopa has performed in prestigious Chennai's Music Academy during the December music season and Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana, which awarded her the title "Kala Ratna," as well as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, MET Museum, Hollywood Bowl, Chicago Cultural Center, Millennium Stage and more. She is a soloist on Christopher Tin's Grammy Award-winning album Calling All Dawns and has participated in residencies at the Banff Center for Arts and Creativity, Hedgebrook, Ryder Farm, and Joe's Pub. She recently received the competitive Creative Work Fund grant with violinist Sruti Sarathy to create original Carnatic compositions on South Asian life in the diaspora. Previously, Roopa worked in public health policy, following undergrad/grad studies at Stanford.

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Magali Maiza (she/her/hers)	San Francisco		Multi-disciplinary Other	Trained in business, non-profit and arts administration, Magali Maïza has substantial experience managing teams and leading projects in organizations like the Palais de Tokyo, the Musée du Louvre, and the Cité de la Musique in France, fostering a more inclusive work culture and more efficient organizations. She managed organizational changes and conducted strategic planning processes, performance surveys, and program evaluations in France and the United States. A European originally from France, Magali lived in Boston for eight years. She is now based in San Francisco and is engaged in projects on both the West and East Coasts. Her U.S. references include the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts and the Art, Film and Visual Studies Department at Harvard University, The Cambridge Art Council of the City of Cambridge (MA), Convergence Ensemble (Chamber Music, Boston, MA), Artisan Asylum (Makerspace, Boston, MA), The City of Chelsea (MA), The Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, 2022 Venice Biennial U.S. Pavilion commission, and FOR-SITE (CA). An art stan, and a continuous learner, Magali cultivates her curiosity everywhere and her creativity at the ceramics studio.
Sue Mark (she/her/hers)	Alameda		Social Practice Multi-disciplinary Visual Arts	Since 2000, Sue Mark, cultural researcher, artist, and literacy educator, has been designing interactive opportunities for communities to amplify and preserve neighborhood narratives in Oakland, across California, nationally and internationally. Working under the moniker marksearch, she creates dynamic situations for listening, learning and making visible local culture at risk of erasure. marksearch works with neighbor groups, community organizations, citizen historians, local knowledge-bearers, and activists in Oakland, nationally and internationally. Through neighbor-led walking discussions, community celebrations, skill-sharing workshops, interactive story-telling and published community scholarship, projects center the voices and expertise of everyday people. These local actions collectively gather, celebrate, amplify and preserve multi-faceted neighborhood narratives that nurture long-term resiliency. As the creative director and lead artist for marksearch, Sue has received support from: San Jose Public Art Commission, San Francisco Foundation Equity Grant, Japan-US Creative Artists Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, Kenneth Rainin Foundation Open Spaces Grant, California Humanities, Creative Work Fund, California Arts Council, Oakland's Cultural Funding Program and the Fulbright Commission. marksearch has received additional project support by attending the following national and international artist-in-residence programs for creative project research, development and production: Kala Art Institute's Print Public, Djerassi, 21st Century Museum, Japan, Bemis Art Center. marksearch.org
Elizabeth Cruz-Nakamura (she/her/hers)	Alameda	Fraenkel Gallery & Friends Indeed	Visual Arts Film/Media Arts	Elizabeth Cruz-Nakamura is a first generation Asian-American arts administrator, archivist, writer, and researcher. An experienced cultural worker, Elizabeth began her career in the arts in Visitor Services at MOCA, Los Angeles, working her way up through various nonprofit, municipal, and gallery spaces including the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs as a Digital Archivist, and the Hammer Museum as a Curatorial Assistant. Currently, Elizabeth resides in Berkeley and works in Registration at Fraenkel Gallery. Elizabeth graduated from UCLA with a BA in Art History and Digital Humanities.
Jim Santi Owen (he/him)	Alameda	California Jazz Conservatory, Freight & Salvage, Oakland Cultural Arts Commission	Music Dance Folk/Traditional Arts Multi-disciplinary	Jim Santi Owen (www.jimsantiowen.com) is an American percussionist, educator, and producer specializing in the classical percussion traditions of India. He holds a Master's degree in World Music from the California Institute of the Arts, is a Fellow of the American Institute of Indian Studies, and served for five years as Music Director for the San Francisco World Music Festival. Owen is on the faculty of Dominican University, the California Jazz Conservatory, and the Ali Akbar College of Music, and has taught at the California Institute of the Arts, Oakland School of the Arts, Edna Brewer Middle School, and Park Day School. Owen served six years as Chair of the Funding Advisory Committee for the City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Division, three years as a panelist for Zellerbach Family Foundation's Community Arts Program, and was recently nominated to serve on Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission. He is a Recording Academy member and a board member of the Swapan Chaudhuri Digital Tabla Library. Owen is a featured composer/producer for Facebook's Sound Collection which has released over 150 of his original and traditional world music tracks. His music has been used on Facebook and Instagram for over 16 million reels and other user-generated content.
Lucy Puls (she/her/hers)	Alameda	Kala Art Institute, UC Davis	Visual Arts	Lucy Puls received her M.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design in 1980 and her BS in art in 1977 from the University of Wisconsin. Madison. Her work is represented in numerous collections including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Oakland Museum, the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, and the Jewish Museum in New York. Puls, a Professor Emeritus from the University of California at Davis taught art studio for 35 years. Puls lives and works in Berkeley, CA and is represented by Nicelle Beauchene Gallery in New York.
Janie Radler (she/her)	Alameda		Film/Media Arts Visual Arts	Janie Radler is a Bay Area native and has worked in several Bay Area art institutions including fine art galleries, museums, and non-profit arts and culture spaces. She believes these spaces play an equal role in uplifting artists and advancing arts education among the local community. In college, she worked on the Student Endowment for the Arts Committee granting various awards for all art disciplines. She continues to champion the arts in her local community by working with the fundraising committee board at the Berkeley Arts Center and Headlands Center for the Arts helping to create successful fundraising events. At Fraenkel Gallery, her recent focus is bringing school groups of economically disadvantaged students into the gallery to allow for a broader arts education and more transparency between the art world and the public. Outside work, Janie organizes events for the community from fashion shows to video screenings to art shows.
Leonard Reidelbach (he/him)	San Francisco	San Francisco State University	Visual Arts	Leonard Reidelbach is an artist, educator, and organizer currently pursuing an MFA in Visual Art at San Francisco State University (2023), where he is a co-founding member of the Art Student Union. He has exhibited in the Bay Area at CUBE Space Gallery, Adobe Books, Queer Arts Featured, Root Division and at SOMArts as a recipient of the Murphy and Cadogan Contemporary Art Award. He recently participated in Recology's Artist in Residence Program. Reidelbach holds a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and completed the apprenticeship program at the Fabric Workshop and Museum in Philadelphia. He has taught classes through Kala Art Institute, the New Orleans Community Printshop and Darkroom, and as a lecturer at San Francisco State University.
Alice Rice (she/her)	Alameda		Visual Arts	Alice Rice is a Teaching Artist who lives in Berkeley. Over the past decade, she has worked at many nonprofit organizations in the Bay Area where she has taught a variety of visual art courses such as ceramics and printmaking. Alice has a Masters Degree in Art in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Bachelors of Fine Art in Art and Design from University of Michigan. Additionally, she is a working artist who currently focuses on contemporary and historical craft processes.
Aisha Rivera (they/them)	Napa	Arts Council Napa Valley, Robert Mondavi Winery	Literary Arts Multi-disciplinary Theater Visual Arts	Aisha Rivera is a poet, artist, and actor who resides in Napa, CA. They are currently a board member of the Non-Profit Arts Organization, Arts Council Napa Valley. Prior to serving as a board member they were a grant consultant and diversity consultant to Arts Council Napa Valley. They continue to help review grant applications and serve on grant panels for Arts Council Napa Valley. Their diversity consultant work consisted of advising ACNV to reach their goal of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion for both the organization and the populations they serve. Aisha also holds extensive administrative experience with non-profits, local government, and the private business sector. They have worked as an administrative assistant for the County of Napa, City of Napa, LGBTQ+ Connection, and Robert Mondavi Winery. Aisha is a multi-disciplinary artist who is passionate about diversity in the arts and increasing accessibility to all who wish to be creative.

Name (pronouns)	County	Organization	Artistic Discipline	Biography
Virginia Tominia (she/her/hers)	Sonoma	Chandra Cerrito Art Advisors	Visual Arts	Virginia Tominia has worked as a fine art consultant in Atlanta and California since 1999, developing collections focused on sourcing works that demonstrate a wide range of perspectives and visions for corporate and health care clients throughout the United States and abroad. She is a senior art consultant at Chandra Cerrito / Art Advisors, where she has worked since 2007. Tominia earned a BA in art history from Emory University in Atlanta, where she minored in fine art with a concentration in sculpture and philosophy. Early on, she carved her way as a fine artist, exhibiting in local and international art spaces, co-founded a contemporary art issues group of professional artists, writers and curators, and interned in the curatorial department at Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta. Passionate about art, Tominia has curated and juried numerous Bay Area gallery exhibitions, volunteered at local arts organizations, and served as managing gallery director of Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. With particular mastery in creative art sourcing, skillful placement, overseeing commissions, and meticulous project administration, Tominia has led dozens of projects for a variety of clientele including Kaiser Permanente, UCSF Medical Center, BayHealth, Georgia Pacific Headquarters, AAA California, and the David Brower Center.
Rochelle Vaughn (she/her)	Alameda		Dance Literary Arts Film/Media Arts Theater	Many years of advocating and working with art communities both volunteer and paid positions. Previous employment includes a number of Bay area nonprofits as well as the University of California Berkeley in Grants Administration roles.
Kirsten Vega (she/her/hers)	Alameda	California Humanities	Dance Literary Arts Film/Media Arts	Kirsten Vega is an Associate Program Officer with California Humanities in Oakland, the non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Kirsten manages the civics discussion series California on the Ballot, and a new grant program called Civics + Humanities Middle Grades Grants. She has ten years' experience managing events and programs in cultural organizations, libraries and art museums. In her free time, you can find Kirsten volunteering at the Oakland History Room, dancing at Berkeley Ballet Theater, or lost in the fiction stacks at the library.
Melissa Wang (she/her/hers)	Contra Costa		Visual Arts	Melissa Wang (b.1985) draws inspiration from science-fiction and esoteric philosophies in order to address contemporary social and environmental issues. She received her B.A. in Literature/Writing from the University of California, San Diego and her M.A. in English from the University of California, Davis. She researched and taught writing as a PhD candidate at UC Davis before segueing into tech. In late 2019, she began a professional arts practice. Since then, she has exhibited throughout the U.S., with works collected by both private and public collections. She was awarded an Emerging Artist fellowship from the California Arts Council in 2021 to curate an exhibition featuring 12 Asian and Asian-American women and queer artists in partnership with the Asian-Pacific Islander Cultural Center at SOMArts Gallery in San Francisco, CA. She founded her design studio in 2020, offering sliding scale or pro bono design support to women- or minority-led creatives and/or creative organizations as experiences shifted digitally.
Jan Wurm (she/her/hers)	Alameda	Berkeley Art Project	Visual Arts	Jan Wurm is an artist, educator, and curator engaged in expanding the community forum for contemporary art dialogue. Wurm taught for University of California Berkeley's Extension, ASUC Art Studio, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Wurm has lectured extensively as a guest artist and taught in the Sommerakademie in Neumarkt, Austria. Serving Cal Art Alumni Group she organized and moderated six annual symposia. Wurm organized and facilitated a 5-year Artist Lecture Series for the Berkeley Art Center. She has juried exhibitions, awards, an artist residency for the National Park Service, as well as jurying fellowships and chairing conference sessions for College Art Association Exhibited internationally, her work is in collections including the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Monterey Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Art. Past Director of Exhibitions and Curator of Art at the Richmond Art Center, Wurm's projects included Closely Considered: Diebenkorn in Berkeley, Mildred Howard: Spirit & Matter, David Park: Personal Perspectives, The Human Spirit: Contemporary Figuration as an Expression of Humanism, Mapping the Uncharted, and Face Forward: Self-Image and Self-Worth. Wurm founded the Berkeley Art Project for curatorial, educational, and historical projects.