



2026 - 2027 Civic Arts Grant Panelist Pool

Name	City	Organization	Artistic Discipline(s)	Biography
Abby Ha (she/her/they/them)	Vacaville	The UC Theatre, Women's Audio Mission	Music Social Practice Dance	Abby is a nonprofit development professional and performing artist passionate about fostering community connection through live music and the arts. Since 2017, she has built a career working and volunteering with young people in her communities to educate, advocate, and create inclusive spaces, bringing people together through creativity and collaboration. Abby holds a High Honors B.A. in Anthropology from UC Berkeley, where she researched the intersection of DIY culture, guerrilla community building through arts, and underground music scene behavior. After graduating, she joined The UC Theatre's Concert Career Pathways workforce development program as a Community Development Intern and was later promoted to Grant Writer and Community Development Associate, in support of donor engagement, grassroots fundraising, and workforce development initiatives in the arts. In tandem, she is also the Community Development Coordinator of the award-winning SF-based nonprofit Women's Audio Mission. Beyond her nonprofit work, Abby is an electric bassist and cellist who has performed in jazz bands, a dancer, and a longtime participant in community theatre, both onstage and behind the scenes as a stagehand. She brings a holistic, informed perspective to her development work, believing in the transformative power of accessible education in the arts.
Abigail Rocha Carlisle (She/They)	Berkeley	East Bay BIPOC Cartoonists	Visual Arts Literary Arts	Abby Rocha (She/They) is an artist and community organizer from San Diego who has settled in the coastal embrace of the East Bay. They create from the intersection of their Latinidad and the multifaceted subject of death as well as the world around them. Graduating from CCA with a B.A. in Illustration, she focused on art activism for her thesis, writing and illustrating a five story compendium, "VOICES: A Comic Anthology About Immigrant Interviews, Stories, And Reflections." She's continued this work with her visual and writing practice creating comics, images and graphic essays for local and national publications. She's also a member of the collective, the East Bay BIPOC Cartoonists (EBBIPOCC) and has helped organize, market and showcase the public reading series, "HELLA COMIX" in Berkeley and at various Bay Area libraries, giving BIPOC indie artists a platform to read their creative original work. In her spare time she also volunteers as an art teacher at her local preschool, The New School of Berkeley. The curriculum focuses on fostering confidence, self expression while developing fine motor skills and a lifelong love of creating. She is currently working on her debut graphic novel, "Hearts in Mictlan".
Aisha Rivera (They/Them)	Napa	N/A	Literary Arts Theater Visual Arts	Aisha Rivera, (they/them/elle) is an Artist, Writer, and Actor. Aisha. Their first full length, a Spanish adaptation of "It's a Wonderful Life" premiered with Shakespeare Napa Valley in 2023. Their second full-length play "Belly of the Beast" premiered with SF Playground's Free Play Festival in 2025. Favorite acting credits include R&J (Marin Shakespeare Co.), Yerma (Shotgun Players), Cymbeline (Berkeley Shakespeare Company), and Dead Man's Cellphone (Upstage Napa Valley). Aisha is also the current Poet Laureate for Napa County. Aisha's term was renewed in 2025 for another two years. In this position Aisha creates valuable community programming and education regarding the literary arts in Napa. They also have served as a Board Member for Arts Council Napa Valley for the previous 5 years. With Arts Council, they focus on equity and increasing diversity for artists in Napa County. They review grant applications for Arts Council Napa Valley on a yearly basis.
Alisa Polischuk (She/Her/Hers)	San Francisco	Creativity Explored	Visual Arts	Alisa Polischuk is the Exhibitions Coordinator at Creativity Explored, a non-profit gallery and studio in San Francisco that partners with artists with developmental disabilities to create, exhibit, and sell their artwork. In this role, she matches artists with opportunities in the art world, including open calls, awards, and public art commissions, helping artists navigate the process following a person-centered thinking model. In addition, she is currently developing a free, comprehensive resource on respectfully partnering with artists with IDD in the exhibition planning process, made possible by a research grant through the Teiger Foundation. Prior to pursuing exhibitions, Alisa worked in museum education departments across the country, including the SFMoMA, de Young, and the Smithsonian. In addition to her nonprofit work, Alisa served as Director of Craig Krull Gallery in Santa Monica, California, where she worked closely with contemporary artists across Los Angeles. Alisa has served as a juror for the Creative Growth Fellowship Program through the city of Sacramento (2025), Santa Cruz Open Studios (2024, 2025), and as a student juror for Apex Arts (2018). She graduated with a BA from the San Francisco State History Department and holds an MA in Art and Museum Studies from Georgetown University.

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Anna-Isabelle Bruey-Sedano (Her/She/They)	San Francisco	NA	Visual Arts Architecture / Design	Anna-Isabelle Gabrielle Bruey-Sedano, is a French and first-generation American sculptor whose work explores the intersections of industrialism, consumerism, and the domestic sphere. Working with materials such as steel, aluminum, bronze, and reclaimed ceramics, she reimagines functional objects to question how design reflects systems of power, labor, and value. Currently pursuing her MFA at San Francisco State University, she brings a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspective to the evaluation of artistic practices. Her background in both academic and studio settings informs a sensitivity to material innovation, craftsmanship, and critical inquiry. As a panelist, she offers an inclusive, research-driven approach that values experimentation and the social impact of contemporary art.
Beril Or (she/her/o)	Oakland	N/A	Visual Arts	Beril Or is a visual artist, curator, and educator from Türkiye, based in Oakland, California. Her interdisciplinary practice explores time, memory, and healing through rest, often balancing between comfort and disturbance. She has exhibited nationally and internationally at venues such as Marin MOCA, ICA SF, SOMArts, Root Division, Berkeley Art Center, Palo Alto Art Center, Galeri Nev, and Zilberman Gallery. Her awards include the State Contemporary Artist Award in Türkiye, the Sher-Right Scholarship, the Christine Tambllyn Award, the Steve Wilson Award, and the Cadogan Contemporary Art Award. She holds an MFA in Art Practice from San Francisco State University and a BFA in Sculpture from Hacettepe University. Before moving to the United States, Or worked in galleries in Türkiye, supporting exhibition programming, artist communication, and curatorial projects, experiences that continue to shape her collaborative approach. She is a co-founder of MUZ, a Bay Area collective that supports emerging artists through accessible exhibitions and educational programs, fiscally sponsored by Independent Arts and Media. At City College of San Francisco, she teaches 3D Design and Sculpture, creating spaces where experimentation and curiosity are encouraged. She aims to build an environment that values care, dialogue, and the different ways people learn and make.
chani bockwinkel (she/her)	Berkeley	chani	Dance Film / Media Arts	Chani Bockwinkel is a dancer and filmmaker based in the Bay Area. She makes interdisciplinary-collaborative-queer feminist imagery for the stage, gallery, and internet. Balancing reverence and irreverence, her work braids historical tales, somatic storytelling, and queer absurdity. She is often found working with dancers, drag queens, musicians and community activists. Her feature film "Those Who Wait", a poetic retelling of the Millerite doomsday movement that swept across America in the 1840's, premiered in 2023. She also teaches an internationally roving queer dance class SAPPHO and SWEAT. Her work has recently been shown at the Contemporary Jewish Museum SF, The Roxie, Hudson Gallery, Portland Museum of Art, BAMPFA, SOMArts, Acre TV, BRIC NYC, SF Trans film Festival, ODC Theatre, SF Dance Film Festival, Dock 11, Berlin. She was also a member of SALTA- ia collective of dancers that curated a free monthly mobile performance series in the East Bay From 2012 to 2016. This series that took place in a different venue each month, collaborating with an ever-expanding network of public and private spaces, institutions, communities, and performers Chani is currently a member at Real Time and Space, a collective of artist studios in Oakland.
Christina Azahar (she/her/hers)	El Cerrito	La Peña Cultural Center	Folk / Traditional Arts Music Social Practice	Christina Azahar is a scholar, educator, and musician of Salvadoran descent with expertise in Latinx music, ethnic studies, gender and sexuality, and feminist theory. Born and raised on Muscogee land in Milledgeville, GA, she moved to the Bay Area in 2013 and holds a PhD in ethnomusicology from UC Berkeley. She also has deep experience in archiving and cultural stewardship through multiple collaborations with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Since 2020 Christina has been deeply involved in the community-driven efforts to preserve, catalog, and digitize the archival collections at La Peña Cultural Center. In 2023 she joined La Peña professionally and since then has overseen all aspects of grassroots fundraising, institutional partnerships, and grant-related projects, and also supports regularly with communications and storytelling.
Elaine Fong (she/her)	San Francisco	N/A	Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Visual Arts	Elaine Fong is an arts and culture administrator with a strong desire to cultivate environments that fosters connectivity and facilitates dialogue surrounding disruptions of known narratives. Holding a degree in Art History and East Asian Studies from UC Davis, Elaine is passionate about highlighting the present and thriving art scene in the Bay Area. This motivation informs her, having worked at various arts administrative positions in San Francisco, such as Dolby Chadwick Gallery and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. In her most recent position program planning at the Chinatown non-profit Edge on the Square, Elaine developed and coordinated community centered exhibitions and programming, including the most recent outdoor contemporary art festival, "SUPER FLEX: Powered by Alter Ego and Shadow Selves."Driven by her belief of the regenerative and restorative power of art and creativity, Elaine is dedicated to creating programming that further enriches the surrounding community and its residents. In her free time, Elaine enjoys going to museums and is always on the lookout for interesting things to read.

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Hailey Lindsay (she/her/hers)	San Francisco	N/A	Visual Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary	Hailey Lindsay is a contemporary abstract artist based in San Francisco, California, specializing in the impasto style with an emphasis in color theory. From textured acrylic paintings to surreal collages made from scrap magazines, from stretched canvas to glass mirrors, from architectural photography to watercolor portraits, Lindsay's original artworks and practices hold no boundaries. While she finishes her studies in Humanities and Museum Studies at San Francisco State University, Lindsay spends time creating in her shipyard studio and is working towards a career in the museum and gallery sectors of the art industry. She has experience judging exhibition proposals for apexart's International Open Call, volunteering at San Francisco's Asian Art Museum, participating in Open Studios in Hunter's Point, and art handling and exhibition installation at SFSU's Fine Arts Gallery. Her nuanced approach to art and vast experience across multiple artistic mediums provides Lindsay with an inclusive outlook on art, inviting originality, creativity, and talent to shine.
Jay Lotus Allen (she/her/they/them)	Berkeley	N/A	Visual Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Literary Arts	Jay Lotus Allen (pronouns: she/her/they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist who works in writing, poetry, photography, video, sculpture, drawing, painting and printmaking. They especially enjoy mixed media for its endless creative possibilities, the interplay of media, form, and color, and the opportunity to experiment with combining different media. Their work is a complicated mix of cultural expressions and emergent realities, personal story, landscape, and our human and non-human relations. Jay Lotus received degrees summa cum laude in Art Practice from Berkeley City College (2021) and the University of California-Berkeley (2024). The Berkeley Civic Arts Commission awarded Jay Lotus Individual Artist Grants in 2021 ("Resilient Love Bundle" public art project) and 2024 ("Senior Shine: The Golden Years" public art project). Jay Lotus has extensive experience in grant research, writing and reporting as well as program administration. They worked for many years with non-profit organizations to promote sustainable cultural development, equity and diversity, including the Fellowship for Intentional Community, Network for a New Culture, Plenty International, Kids to the Country, and Northern California Land Trust. Jay Lotus lives and works in Berkeley. They have a small studio space in their apartment for their art and spiritual practices.
Jennifer Andrea Porras (They/Sir/She)	Oakland	Weaving Spirits 2 Spirit Festival of Performance	Dance Film / Media Arts Folk / Traditional Arts Literary Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Music Social Practice Theater Visual Arts Other	yAyA (j. andrea porras) is a 2S/ Coahuiltecan descendant/ Xicana, curator, producer, multidisciplinary creative and philanthropist. For over 30 years, they have cultivated & performed in duet, collective and solo theatre, dance and multimedia art installations & storytelling rituals across California, Texas, NY, Mexico, Cuba and Ghana. yAyA has 20 years lived experience as an arts administrator, grant maker & cultural strategist with an emphasis in capacity building & producing. Porras currently serves as a creative consultant with Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits & as a Co producer, for Weaving Spirits 2 Spirit Performance Festival and are founder of Movimientoyaya/ StudioAmaru52 located in Hutchinson/ Oakland.
Jessica Punzalan (she/her)	San Jose	Local Color	Visual Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary	As Creative Service and Public Art Program Manager at Local Color, Jessica Punzalan is passionate about changing the traditional landscape and infrastructure of the art world to better serve artists and the community. Jessica received her BA in Art History from San Francisco State University with a focus in exhibition development. In previous roles as Community Engagement Manager at the Children's Creativity Museum and Programs Fellow at the Palo Alto Art Center, Jess cultivated an understanding of the importance of accessible arts in everyday life. Jessica was previously Exhibitions Fellow at Root Division, and part of the 14th Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute. Currently, she is pursuing a Masters in Urban Planning at San Jose State University to further develop skills and an understanding of how municipal policies can shape and benefit arts and culture in the Bay Area.

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Karina (She/They)	Oakland	N/A	Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Visual Arts Dance	Karina is a multi-disciplinary artist with a passion for a variety of mediums. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from Loyola Marymount University with a concentration in Printmaking and Illustration. They create artworks in their free time and show support to fellow artists in the community through social media and at shows and festivals. Karina has a deep and personal appreciation for all art forms, taking special note of stylistic choice and technique equally. She has organized and curated multiple art shows including the LMU Latine/x Student Art Show and her senior showcase, A Series of Shambles, while attending school. While at LMU, Karina also participated on many student film sets for her peers as a production designer. Additionally, Karina has years of experience in different styles of dance, including contemporary, hip-hop, and folklórico Mexicano from clubs, elective classes and programs. They also worked as a community philanthropist for Youth Funding Youth Ideas at Bay Area Community Resources in 2015-2016. Youth Funding Youth Ideas's mission was to provide city funding for community-based art and service programs led by youth of the Bay Area.
Laurel M Hermes (she/her)	Berkeley	N/A	Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Visual Arts Folk / Traditional Arts Film / Media Arts Literary Arts	Laurel M Hermes has a background in interdisciplinary arts & craft, project management, and education. She has lived in Berkeley for over 20 years and raised her family here. Metal, stone, wood, light, media, and the written word infuse her imagination's machinations. She has formal education and mentorship in design and arts, has apprenticed in trade, and holds a graduate degree. An inveterate volunteer, she relishes the meaning-making of civic duty and recognizes the impact of civic art on our holistic engagement with our whole communities.
Lisa Cralle (she/her)	Vallejo	Professor of Art, Berkeley City College, and Founding Director of Personal Space (501c3 art space in Vallejo)	Visual Arts	Lisa Rybovich Crallé (she/her) is an interdisciplinary artist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to her studio practice, Lisa is the founding director of Personal Space, a 501(c)3 art space in Vallejo, CA and she is co-founder of Heavy Breathing, series of experimental movement seminars designed by artists combining physical activity with group discussion on ideas related to their creative practice. Lisa is also Associate Professor of Sculpture and Drawing at Berkeley City College, and she is excited to be joining the board of NIAD Art Center in Richmond, CA.
Mathias Lemos Castillo (HE/HIM/EL)	Berkeley	Mobilize, Listen & Connect (MLC) Consulting, LLC	Theater Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Folk / Traditional Arts Film / Media Arts Social Practice	Mathias Lemos Castillo brings extensive experience in arts administration and cultural project management to the grant review panel. His background includes collaborating with diverse artists, curating exhibitions that highlight underrepresented voices, and implementing community engagement programs that bridge cultural divides. With formal training in arts management and practical experience in both grassroots and established cultural institutions, Mathias offers a balanced perspective that values both innovative approaches and sustainable practices. Through MLC Consulting, LLC, Mathias has emphasizes equitable resource distribution within the cultural sector, particularly supporting emerging artists and organizations serving marginalized communities. This professional experience enables him to evaluate grant applications with attention to both artistic merit and community impact, while considering the unique challenges faced by diverse applicants in accessing institutional support.
Melika Sebihi (she/her)	San Francisco	N/A	Visual Arts	Melika Sebihi (she/her) is an arts writer and educator with a BA in Art History from Mills College. She is currently pursuing an MA in Museum Studies at San Francisco State University. She also serves as an Interpretations and Outreach Associate at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, where she collaborates with fellow arts educators to develop and lead inclusive public programming for Bay Area residents visiting the museum. Her art writing and criticism has been featured in Variable West and Roborant Review. Born in Berkeley and raised in Alameda, she is now based in San Francisco on unceded Ramaytush land.
Michal 'MJ' Jones (he/him, they/them)	Oakland	Northeastern University	Literary Arts	Michal 'MJ' Jones (they/he) is a poet, parent, and editor. Their poetry has appeared in the American Academy of Poets, Obsidian, Split This Rock, Muzzle Magazine, TriQuarterly Review, ANMLY, & elsewhere. Their debut collection of poetry, HOOD VACATIONS, won the 2024 Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Poetry. They are also the author of a chapbook, SOFT ARMOR (2023), from Black Lawrence Press. Often addressing the troubling and haunting aspects of life, violence, and identity, MJ's poetry blends lyrical, documentary, and confessional modes.

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Nyjah Tauheed (He)	Berkeley	N/A	Music Dance Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Folk / Traditional Arts	My name is Nyjah Tauheed, and my work sits at the intersection of community development, storytelling, and social impact. I started out as a housing navigator, supporting unhoused people and individuals with developmental disabilities in finding housing and services. Those early experiences taught me how powerful it is when people feel seen, supported, and able to express themselves. As I moved into development and fundraising, I carried that same commitment with me — but from another angle. I've written and managed grants that fund programs for affordable housing, wellness, and creative expression. One of the things I'm most proud of is helping bring arts into housing communities, whether through murals, collaborations with local artists, or cultural programming that gives residents a sense of belonging. For me, the arts are not “extra,” but a vital way people connect, heal, and imagine new futures. I bring to a grant review panel the perspective of someone who has been on both sides of the process: writing and managing competitive grants, and also working directly with artists and grassroots organizations to lift up their voices. I value creativity, equity, and cultural inclusion and support engaging with the community through art.
Phoebe Wu (she/her/hers)	Berkeley	N/A	Visual Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Music	Phoebe Wu is an interdisciplinary artist and UC Berkeley student studying Economics and Music. As a passionate performer and chef, she is the creator of Savoring the Score, an interdisciplinary event that pairs live classical music with a seasonal tasting menu and a self-produced zine, altogether celebrating sensory and emotional storytelling. Each course is thematically designed to mirror key musical moments, creating an immersive experience that invites deep listening, tasting, and reflection. Phoebe leads every aspect of production—from culinary development and food styling to program writing, event logistics, and design. The pilot event at the Women's Faculty Club was described by attendees as “one-of-a-kind” and “emotionally transformative.” As a violinist, Phoebe has performed as a soloist with the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra and served as concertmaster for several major productions. She is also the co-founder of Saplings of Music, an educational initiative providing free music instruction to underserved youth in Taiwan. Phoebe also founded Herban Omnivore, a platform for sustainable culinary innovation and narrative-based dining experiences. She frequently host cooking workshops on campus and interactive dining experiences. Ultimately, Phoebe's work aims to craft multisensory experiences that linger, where music, food, and storytelling as a shared ritual of connection and reflection.
Raquelle Turner (She/Her/Hers)	Berkeley	N/A	Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Visual Arts Film / Media Arts	Raquelle Turner is an Oakland-raised, Berkeley-based artist and cultural worker who uses art and media as tools for storytelling, education, and community building. Her work spans painting, animation, and digital media, and has been shared in Bay Area galleries, and cultural showcases. She has also created commissioned pieces for organizations such as NBC Universal and the Oakland Athletics. Her art focuses on Black history and lived experience, inviting people to learn, and connect through visual storytelling. Beyond her studio practice, Raquelle has collaborated with a wide range of organizations to bring cultural projects to life. She also has experience in social media strategy, event curation, and creative direction, always with a focus on building community and making cultural work accessible. Raquelle earned her B.A. in African American Studies from UC Berkeley, where she explored the intersections of Race, media, culture, and social justice alongside training in multimedia arts and animation. Her perspective is grounded in both lived experience and critical study, and she sees art as a powerful way to challenge narratives, uplift marginalized voices. As a grant review panelist, Raquelle brings a commitment to equity, cultural awareness, and the belief that creative work has the power to transform communities.
Rena Tom (she/her)	Berkeley	N/A	Folk / Traditional Arts Visual Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary	Rena Tom is a fifth-generation Chinese-Californian artist, curator, and researcher whose work lies at the confluence of tactile craft and visual culture. Over the last twenty years, she has been a maker, designer, writer, shopkeeper, gallerist, publisher, instructor, consultant, and cultural producer in the San Francisco Bay Area and Brooklyn, NY. Rena holds degrees in English, mechanical engineering, and craft history and theory. This unusual trifecta results in a love for process, product, and documentation that feeds her research-based art practice. In addition to her art practice, she has curated exhibitions at 120710 Gallery (Berkeley) and Root Division (SF), and leads art and zine-making workshops. She is currently involved with the Bay Area's radical publishing/education scenes, volunteering with Bathers Library and Reprographixx Print Room, and operates Not Great, Not Terrible, a micropublishing project. She has previously served on the board of SF Cinematheque and has been both artist and volunteer at Gray Area (SF).
Rochelle Vaughn (she/her)	Berkeley	Individual	Dance Film / Media Arts Literary Arts Theater	Experienced grant reviewer. Trained grant professional with years of experience working with grant management from pre-award to post award with both scientific and arts projects.

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Sandra Lawson-Ndu (She/Her)	Oakland	N/A	Music Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary	Sandra Lawson-Ndu works as a composer, vocalist, music supervisor and producer for podcasts, visual art, film, and dance. Her work and the work that she's aligned with over the last few years consider how misrepresentation and exclusion in social storytelling contribute to cultural erasure, the myth of monsters, and an overall disconnection with ourselves and our communities. As a musician, her commitment to movement-building has taken the form of storytelling and creating spaces for others to do the same. She believes that by archiving new stories and possibilities onto our timelines, we contribute to building empathy and collectively reinforcing our ability to shape a more liberated world. Last year she worked as the music supervisor for Mind Your Own, a new podcast produced by Lemonade Media that brings together a deeply textured tapestry of African stories. Her focus has deepened at the intersection of creative expression, mental health, and collective wellness, particularly in how shared practices of sound and storytelling can reconnect us to land, place, and one another.
Sarah Fetterman (she/her)	Berkeley	N/A	Visual Arts	Sarah Fetterman (b. 1991, San Francisco) is an Oakland-based artist working in sculpture, installation, and public art. Trained in blacksmithing, woodworking, and choreography, Sarah's practice integrates traditional craft with movement-based performance to explore how bodies hold and express memory. She received her BA from Bennington College and studied at the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited nationally in museums, sculpture parks, and public art contexts, with recent exhibitions at the Kentucky Museum, KY, Russell Day Gallery, WA, and the Urban Dreams Art Project, CA. Sarah has over a decade of professional experience in metal fabrication and project management, collaborating with architects, engineers, and non-profit organizations on large-scale projects. Sarah brings to a grant review panel a perspective rooted in both the lived realities of a practicing artist and the logistical expertise of a fabricator who understands durability, community impact, and public engagement. Her commitment to cultural equity is informed by years of collaborative work and community-based projects. As both an exhibiting artist and arts worker, she is deeply invested in the sustainability of the arts ecosystem in the Bay Area and beyond.
Sarah Travis (she/her/hers)	Oakland	Ashkenaz Music & Dance Community Center	Dance Folk / Traditional Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Music	As the Executive Director of Ashkenaz, current member of the City of Berkeley's Night Life Subcommittee, former President of the Board of The SONA Foundation, and a Founder of The Songwriter Fund, Sarah Travis has an extensive background managing arts organizations. Even more, enjoys leveraging that history to ensure valued/aspiring artists attain the recognition they deserve while propelling community initiatives forward. Starting with learning the fiddle at age 4 and later playing professionally by age 16, Sarah's passion for both music and societal reform became the catalyst for her musical career, leading to her current role as Executive Director of Ashkenaz, a historic non-profit music venue located in Berkeley, CA. Sarah also collaborated to establish The SONA Foundation, an international non-profit aimed at educating music creators, offering funding opportunities, and providing financial programming/mental health resources to empower music artists. This foundation was initially born out of The Songwriter Fund formed in May of 2020, which was heavily recognized for dispersing half a million dollars to music creators suffering from closures in the music industry due to COVID.
Sarah Winski (she/her)	Oakland	City of Napa	Social Practice Visual Arts	I am currently the Public Art Coordinator for the City of Napa and have previously worked as a curator and public programmer for public institutions including the Missouri Botanical Garden (US), Symbols of Jiangsu (China), Camden Art Centre (UK), and University of the Arts London (UK). In my role, I organize the Napa Lighted Art Festival and manage all temporary and permanent public art projects in the City of Napa. I share Civic Arts' conviction that civic engagement through the arts can drive social change, and I believe art plays an essential role in developing sustainable social, cultural, environmental, and financial ecologies. As a young public art professional and East Bay resident, I take seriously the task of selecting artists who explore the inquiries and values present in broader cultural narratives. Professionally, I have extensive experience commissioning and managing projects involving new media, light art, pavement art, murals, performance, and sculpture. I have previously served on selection panels and enjoy the process of rigorous and thoughtful assessment of art and its proposed contexts.
Sharon E. Bliss (she/her/hers)	San Francisco	San Francisco State University's Fine Arts Gallery	Visual Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary	Sharon E. Bliss is an experienced arts administrator and curator who has worked with organizations including the Fine Arts Gallery at San Francisco State University (SFSU), the Ansel Adams Center/Friends of Photography, and the Mission Cultural Center. She has served on nonprofit Boards for SF Camerawork, the SF Arts Commission Gallery and ATA. Her curatorial practice is collaborative and often includes mentoring emerging arts professionals. For the last 24 years her focus at SFSU has been to bring local emerging and mid-career artists in dialogue with regional and global artists and issues.

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Shirin Khalatbari (they/them/theirs)	Oakland	N/A	Visual Arts	Shirin Khalatbari is a dedicated cultural worker and arts advocate with a deep commitment to fostering innovative and accessible artistic practices. Their career has centered on supporting artists at critical junctures, bringing a comprehensive understanding of both creative development and institutional rigor. This background is significantly complemented by direct experience in critical assessment and curatorial decision-making. In 2023, Khalatbari served as a jury member for the Murphy Cadogan award. Prior to this, their commitment to emerging and experimental voices was formalized by their service on the jury for A Between at Root Division in 2022, a role that required careful navigation of artistic vision, logistical feasibility, and community relevance. These experiences have honed a sharp ability to discern value across varied disciplines and stages of an artist's career. The perspective Khalatbari brings to a grant review panel is grounded in a belief in equity and operational viability. They prioritize proposals that not only present compelling artistic ideas but also articulate a clear and responsible plan for execution. Khalatbari advocates for rigorous processes that champion diverse perspectives and sustainable artistic ecosystems, ensuring resources flow to those who can effect meaningful cultural change.
Sun Park (they/them)	San Francisco	N/A	Visual Arts	Sun Park is a visual artist based in San Francisco. Their interdisciplinary practice spans installation, interactive ritual, sculpture, ceramics, drawing, writing, and video. They have exhibited at /room/ (slash), Root Division, Edge on the Square, Aggregate Space, and Alternative Space LOOP, among others. As a 2024 San Francisco Arts Commission Mentorship and Exhibition Program fellow, they exhibited in a two-person show at SFAC Main Gallery. Also a writer and stand-up comedian, Park has performed at the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center's USAAF Festival, Southern Exposure, 500 Capp Street, and Kearny Street Workshop. A 2022 Interdisciplinary Writer's Lab fellow, Park is currently a resident at The Ruby, a creative workspace and community for women, transfemme, and non-binary artists. An educator and arts administrator, Park worked as Gallery Manager at Berkeley Art Center from 2023—2024, has taught art at San Francisco State University and Union College, and has co-lead art and writing workshops around the Bay Area. With Dongji, a collective of Korean diaspora artists, Park has performed at ICA SF and Mills College. Park was part of the inaugural Hanji + Spirit cohort—Korean diaspora artists deepening their creative and spiritual practice—and is currently studying saju (Korean astrology).
Taylor Stoneman (she/her/hers)	Berkeley	N/A	Visual Arts	Taylor Stoneman is a Berkeley-based environmental painter and poet. She is currently a studio artist at Root Division in San Francisco. Through colorful oil paintings probing human dependence on and complicity in wounding and dominating the Earth, her work examines the meaning of wilderness and the dualities of harm found in the extraction of earth's resources. Her work has been juried into exhibitions throughout California and across the country, and her debut solo show, Earthbody, opened at MADSEN Gallery in Los Altos this fall. She also completed a residency at Vermont Studio Center in February 2025. Prior to focusing on her art practice full-time, Taylor worked as a lawyer—most recently at a nonprofit using public records requests to promote accountability in government. She received her JD from Cornell Law School and BSBA in Business Economics from the University of Arizona.
Valerie Imus (she/her/hers)	Oakland	Southern Exposure	Visual Arts Film / Media Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary	Valerie Imus is the Artistic Director at Southern Exposure. In her tenure with the organization since 2011, she has overseen numerous exhibitions, projects, performances, and events for Southern Exposure. Her curatorial projects at SoEx include Hallucinations of Remembrance & Imminence, Metropolis, When and where I enter, Steam Work, You Make a Better Wall Than A Window, How to Move a Mountain, and Hopeless and Otherwise. Formerly, she was the Exhibitions Manager at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Curatorial Associate at the CCA Wattis Institute of Contemporary Art. She has also curated projects at the Oakland Museum of California and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She first became involved at Southern Exposure as an exhibiting artist in 2001. She has collaborated with the collectives The Citizens Laboratory and OPENrestaurant and received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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Abigail Gryder (she/they)	San Leandro	Awesöme Orchestra Collective	Music Theater	AJ is a passionate supporter of Bay Area arts and social justice. They have worked as a grant writer, development director, and performer for several Bay Area nonprofit organizations including Lamplighters Music Theatre, Awesöme Orchestra Collective, and Oberlin Dance Collective over the past 5 years. AJ grew up in Oakland, CA in a family of musicians and is committed to empowering local artists, building community, and advancing equity, inclusivity, and accessibility within the arts.
Aireene Espiritu (she/her/hers)	Oakland	N/A	Music	Aireene Espiritu's songs are a mix of stompin', swayin', timeless and soulful Americana reminiscent of front porch storytelling, of ghosts and the living, times of laughter and tears. Aireene was a soloist with the Glide Ensemble in San Francisco, toured nationwide and internationally, and in 2016, was added to the roster of artists under non-profit label, Little Village. She created A Color-Coded Symphony project, a musical experience connecting the audience's ethnic origins to rhythms of the world and whose aim is to nurture curiosity and openness towards other cultures through music. Her latest project is, The Sampaguitas, singing Filipino folk songs and originals in three-part harmonies.
Beth Fein (she/her/hers)	Berkeley	artist in residence at KALA	Visual Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Dance	Beth Fein is an interdisciplinary artist who lives in Berkeley, CA. She works in her Oakland studio and as an AIR at KALA Art Institute in Berkeley. Her art practice includes installation, sculpture, printmaking, video, and performance. Fein's artistic journey began with clay, photography and dance. Each of these disciplines still reside within her work. From 2005-2016 Fein created and directed an annual conceptual, participatory, public art performance that took place simultaneously around the world (danceanywhere.org) This new genre public art reclaimed public space, inspired creativity and removed barriers; making art accessible to all. Fein incorporates the elements of chance and choice while referencing social justice to locate her work within our chaotic world. Fein served as Vice President of the Board of Directors of Shawl-Anderson Dance Center from September 2006 – March 2010. She has exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work is in the collections of: Yale University Library, Oakland Museum of California, UC Berkeley's Graphic Arts, Bradbury Art Museum, Bancroft Library, Zuckerman Art Museum, Nevada Museum of Art, Taller Grafica Experimental Havana, and San Francisco Art Commission. She has been awarded artist residencies in Cuba, Spain, Argentina, Basel, Switzerland, New York, Vermont and California.
Bhumi Patel (she/they)	Oakland	pateldanceworks	Dance Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary	Movement artist and writer Bhumi B Patel directs pateldanceworks and is a queer, desi, home-seeker, and science fiction choreographer (she/they). In its purest form, she creates performance works as a love letter to her ancestors. Patel is a member of Dancing Around Race, founded by Gerald Casel, and engages with curatorial practices for both performances and written publications. Patel's work has been presented at Movement Research (NY), The Asia Pacific Dance Festival (Manoa, Hawai'i), Human Resources (LA), CounterPulse (SF), among others. Her research has been presented at the Dance Studies Association annual conference, Performance Studies international, the Asia Pacific Dance Festival Conference, the National Women's Studies Association annual conference, the Popular Culture Association annual conference, the International Conference on Movement and Computing and other symposia. Patel been published in Performance Research Journal, the San Francisco Chronicle, Life as a Modern Dancer, Contact Quarterly, and InDance. She serves as Editorial Assistant for Choreographic Practices. Bhumi was a Women of Color in the Arts Leadership Fellow, a 2022-2023 Dance/USA Fellow, and a 2023 YBCA 100 Honoree. Making art is her way of tracing the deeply woven connections in which we live—past, present, future—as a way to build communities of nourishment and care.
Christine Lau (she/her)	San Francisco	Young's People Symphony Orchestra	Music	Christine is a life-long music lover. She started playing the piano at the age of 6 and continued until 20. While attending university as an undergraduate at University of Wisconsin - Madison as an Economic and International Relation majors, she audited into the Music Department to further her piano studies. After working in the management consulting sector for most of her career, she decided to volunteer on a nonprofit Board to give back to the community outside of work. In 2017, Christine started volunteering on the Board of Young's People Symphony Orchestra (YPSO) after meeting the YPSO Board President and Treasurer. She was impressed with YPSO and also wanted to fulfill one of her childhood dreams - to be part of a youth orchestra. Christine continues to enjoy being on the YPSO Board and providing leadership to this sought-after non-profit organization.

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Cristina Cabrera (they/them/theirs)	Emeryville	David Brower Center	Visual Arts	Cristina Cabrera holds BA degrees in Art Practice and Political Economy from UC Berkeley, where they began a rigorous investigation of diverse visual arts modes including painting, drawing, digital projection, and installation. As the Communications and Exhibitions Coordinator at the David Brower Center, they bring their experience as an artist and a strong attention to social and economic issues to the Center's environmentally-focused gallery programming. Cristina was a UC Berkeley Art Practice Honors Studio Awardee and has participated in various exhibitions at the Worth Ryder Art Gallery.
Cristina Edwards (she/her)	Oakland	N/A	Folk / Traditional Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Visual Arts	Cristina Edwards is a visual artist, writer, educator and musician based in Oakland, CA. Born in England, Cristina is the eldest daughter of a Filipina Immigrant and an officer in the US Navy. Her work explores identity, belonging, non-duality, and the inherent life force all beings possess. She practices as a teaching artist, and also works on public art projects and mural restoration. She has created intentional creative courses in a variety of media and focus areas for both youth and adults. Cristina has trained and worked in the environmental nonprofit sector for 14 years, and has expertise in grantmaking from a variety of perspectives. She led the regranting of a variety of NSF grants to environmental education providers in her work at UC Berkeley. She also most recently served as the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Environmental Grantmakers Association, where she cultivated relationships within the grantmaking community.
Eric Avery (they/he)	Berkeley	N/A	Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Theater Social Practice	Eric Avery is an interdisciplinary artist with over fifteen years of professional experience in theatre, interactive performance, and community-based projects. This wide-ranging creative practice has utilized puppets, buildings, food, improvisation, song, installation, participation, travel, humor, text, time, imagination, algorithms, honesty, facilitation, and tape; lots of tape. Since 2018, they have focused on applying a reparatoinist framework to their creative practice, cultural organizing projects, and life. This dedication to relationship-centered process has put Avery in collaboration with partners at non-profit organizations, municipalities, social service agencies, universities, farms, community centers, prisons, art galleries, and private homes. In addition to collaborations, Avery has independently created over 25 original productions. They earned a Bachelor's in Theatre & Film from the University of Kansas and an MFA in Theatre Arts from Towson University. Honors/Awards: Bessie Award (Outstanding Visual Design), Lavender Magazine Best of List (Outstanding Performance), Elliot Norton Award (Outstanding Design), 2024 MAP Grant, Zellerbach: Community Arts, East Bay Fund for Artists, Dresher Ensemble Artist Residency, and more.
Eric Siegel (he/him/his)	Oakland	California Jazz Conservatory	Music Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Visual Arts	For nearly 40 years, Eric has been in leadership roles in art and science museums and botanical gardens. He was honored with the Roy L. Shafer Leading Edge Award for Exceptional Leadership in the Field by the Association of Science and Technology Centers (2014); and his museum, the New York Hall of Science, was recognized with the National Leadership Award by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (2015). The exhibitions and programs he has developed have also won both awards and major national funding. Eric has taught, consulted, and published extensively in the museum field. He has been President of the National Association for Museum Exhibitions; on the graduate faculty at New York University; and Chairman of the Museums Council of New York City. Eric has consulted with groups as diverse as They Might Be Giants and the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab. He has served as a grant review panelist for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, New York State Council on the Arts, National Science Foundation, and National Endowment for the Humanities.
Hanne Williams-Baron (she/her)	Berkeley	N/A	Social Practice Literary Arts Visual Arts	Hanne Williams-Baron is a queer poet and comics artist born and raised in the Bay Area. Based in Berkeley, she facilitates a bi-weekly South Berkeley poetry workshop, and co-organizes the East Bay Alternative Book and Zine Fest. Hanne has facilitated accessible, engaging arts programs for organizations including the Berkeley Public Library, Radical Monarchs, Chicago Food Justice Summit, and Liyang Indigenous Women's Network. She is a member of the California Coalition for Women Prisoners' Writing Warriors program, and co-created the Heartwood Workshop for activist-artists who are committed to systems change work and community building. Hanne is a 2024 graduate of the Sequential Artists Workshop Comics Certificate Program and received her BA in Comparative American Studies from Oberlin College.

Name	City	Organization	Artistic Discipline(s)	Biography
Jeffrey Gan (he/him/his)	San Francisco	Playwrights Foundation	Theater Dance Music	Jeffrey Gan is a performance maker, arts researcher, and cultural advocate. He holds a doctorate in Performance Studies from the University of Texas at Austin, where his dissertation project compared how Indonesian diaspora communities in the Netherlands and California use cultural performance to contest and evade anti-immigrant bias. As an artist, Jeff has dramaturged projects for Marin Shakespeare Company, Charles O. Anderson/Dance Theatre X, and Benjamin Akio Kimitch; his collaboration with Kimitch won a 2023 Bessie Award for Outstanding Choreographer/Maker. Jeff is a dancer and musician specializing in Indonesian classical and experimental forms. He is a company member at Gamelan Sekar Jaya, a renowned Balinese performance ensemble in Berkeley, where he has studied with Balinese culture bearers including Cokorda Istri Putri Rukmini, and I Made Suteja. Jeff has also supported Sekar Jaya's mission of bringing Balinese arts to the Bay Area by serving as grants fellow in 2024 and facilitating arts education programs for students at Title 1 Oakland schools. Jeff is currently the literary manger at the Playwrights Foundation, where he oversees the application process for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival and the Resident Playwrights Program. He has also served as a reviewer for the California Arts Council.
Judit Navratil (she/her/huhu)	Albany	N/A	Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Visual Arts Social Practice Film / Media Arts	Judit Navratil is a transdisciplinary artist working with social VR and extended reality in balance with her embodied practices like somersaulting and tent flying. As an immigrant in various cultures, she explores the potential of phigital care and belonging in compossible spaces. Navratil earned an MFA in Painting at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2008 and an MFA at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco in 2019. She has been exhibiting in Hungary, Canada, France, Korea, and the Bay Area. Her work has been recognized through awards including the Cadogan Art Award, a residency at Cité Internationale des Arts (Paris), and the Parent Award of Kala Art Institute. She is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, and an affiliate artist at the Headlands Center for the Arts.
Meg Hamill (she/her)	Sebastopol	California Poets in the Schools	Literary Arts	MEG HAMILL is the Executive Director of California Poets in the Schools. She holds a BA in Languages and Literature from Bard College and an MFA in poetry from Mills College. She has 25 years of experience in program implementation and management at regional, statewide and national nonprofits including California Poets in the Schools, Save the Bay, and Teach for America. She has published two volumes of poetry. Meg has achieved hundreds of grants over the course of her career and has served as a grants panelist for the California Arts Council. She is a current board member of the Village Charter School in Santa Rosa.
Meg Pohlod (no pronouns)	Oakland	Black Rock Press	Visual Arts	Meg Pohlod is a print artist based in Reno, Nevada and the Bay Area. Currently Meg is the Managing Director and Instructor of Record at Black Rock Press located at the University of Nevada Reno. Pohlod's visual research offers a unique and personal lens from which to view theories of memory and contemporary discourses of disability - trauma - family, what is remembered and how it is manifested. Pohlod has received awards from the California Society of Printmaking, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and been a recipient of the Redfield Fellowship. Meg has exhibited work and been a visiting artist nationally and internationally.
Melissa Wang (she/her/hers)	Orinda	N/A	Visual Arts	Melissa Wang 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 worked in healthcare and academia before segueing to tech. Disillusioned by the industry's response to climate change, she began a professional art practice in 2019, and has since exhibited at Opalka Gallery (in partnership with Collar Works) in Albany, NY; the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN; Torrance Art Museum in Los Angeles, CA; and the de Young Museum in San Francisco, CA with a solo exhibition at Root Division (Frank-Ratchye space) in SF, CA. Her work can be found in public spaces including Brown University in Providence, RI and Meta HQ in Menlo Park, CA. In 2021, she received an Individual Emerging Artist Fellowship from the California Arts Council. She is represented by Wavelength Space in Chattanooga, TN in their flat file collection. In 2020, she also founded her design studio, leveraging 12+ years of experience (including at Meta and Google) to launch artist initiatives. She has led workshops at Meta and Sony and served as a panelist for the California Arts Council, reviewing grants of up to \$1 million.

Name	City	Organization	Artistic Discipline(s)	Biography
Michal Jones (they/them and he/him)	Oakland	N/A	Literary Arts Social Practice	Michal 'MJ' Jones (they/he) is an award-winning poet, parent, and editor living in Oakland, CA. Their poetry has appeared in the American Academy of Poets, Obsidian, Split This Rock, Muzzle Magazine, TriQuarterly Review, ANMLY, & elsewhere. Their debut collection of poetry, HOOD VACATIONS, won the 2024 Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Poetry. They are also the author of a chapbook, SOFT ARMOR (2023), from Black Lawrence Press. Often addressing the troubling and haunting aspects of life, violence, and identity, MJ's poetry blends lyrical, documentary, and confessional modes. From 2022-2024, MJ served as the Editor-In-Chief of Foglifter Journal & Press, an award-winning literary journal publishing radical work by LGBTQIA2-S writers. They have been awarded fellowships from Lambda Literary, Hurston/Wright Foundation, VONA/Voices, & Kearny Street Workshop. They received their MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College in 2021, where they also received the distinguished Community Engagement Fellowship. An engaged literary citizen, they have repeatedly served on individual artist review panels for the cities of Berkeley and San Francisco, and as both assistant and final judge of the Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest for Winning Writers.
Michelle Fleck (she/her)	San Francisco	N/A	Visual Arts	Michelle Fleck is an artist, muralist, educator and parent. She was born in Whittier, CA and has lived and worked in San Francisco, CA since 2009. Michelle studied fine arts at San Francisco State University and graduated in 2009, and continues to show work in galleries across the US and in print internationally. Michelle expanded her practice to include public murals, such as with the San Francisco Arts Commission and during her residency at the Facebook AIR Program. Outside the studio, Michelle is also an educator and runs a summer arts camp program for elementary-aged girls and gender expansive youth, focused on building confidence, community and joy through the arts.
MK Chavez (she/they)	Oakland	Ouroboros Writing Lab & Berkeley Poetry Festival	Literary Arts	MK Chavez is a mixed-race writer, educator, writing coach, and editor living in Oakland, the unceded land of the Chochenyo-speaking Ohlone people. She is the author of Mothermorphosis and Dear Animal (Nomadic Press), as well as several chapbooks, including the lyric essay chapbook A Brief History of the Selfie. Chavez's writing explores mixed-race identity, social justice, environmental resilience, horror cinema, magic, ritual, and creative process. As the co-director of the Berkeley Poetry Festival and curator of Lyrics & Dirges, Chavez creates spaces where the voices of BIPOC and LGBTQI+ communities are celebrated. Chavez has taught at local institutions, including Stanford University, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, and Mills College. She currently teaches in the University of San Francisco's Creative Writing Program. She is executive director of Ouroboros Writing Lab, where she leads writing workshops that support writers and artists in developing their craft. The Lab provides a space for creative exploration and offers Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) consulting services to arts organizations. Chavez's contributions to the arts have been recognized with the Alameda County Arts Leadership Award, the San Francisco Foundation/Nomadic Press Award, the Ruth Weiss Maverick Award, and the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award.
Molly Rose-Williams (they/she)	Berkeley	N/A	Dance Theater Other	Molly Rose-Williams is a Bay Area-based performer, writer, educator, and audio producer. Their performance work melds dance, physical theater, spoken word, and circus, and draws heavily on a childhood spent playing sports and practicing Chinese acrobatics. They have presented on stages throughout California, the Northeast US, Canada, Belgium, and Mexico. When they're not dancing, they work as a creative producer for medical storytelling organization, The Nocturnists, develop food-based curriculum for kids, and write about dance.
Ruby Ferguson (she/her)	Oakland	East Bay Community Law Center	Social Practice Visual Arts	Ruby was born and raised in the Bay Area and is always looking for new ways to invest in her community. Through her various community driven roles, she has grown a profound understanding of the importance of equity in finding liberation and building communities that thrive. In her current role as the Executive Project Manager at the East Bay Community Law Center, one of her main responsibilities is to execute impactful, community events for Berkeley residents to access free legal services. Through this work, she has first hand experience, and has worked through, the nuances that come with event planning in a non profit landscape. One of her favorite parts about creating these accessible spaces for her community, are the partnerships she gets to build with local artists and businesses. A personal goal of hers is to ensure that all of her event partners, vendors, or contractors are locally owned and run by people of color.
sarah (she/her)	Berkeley	Sarah Deeds Architect	Architecture / Design	Sarah Deeds has a degree in visual arts and biology from Brown University and a Masters in Architecture from UC Berkeley. She has taught art and also been a practicing artist her entire life. She is a self-employed architect here in Berkeley focusing on green building and also just careful & thoughtful design. She has worked as a cabinetmaker, carpenter, and furniture builder before starting her architecture practice.

Name	City	Organization	Artistic Discipline(s)	Biography
Sarah Lefton (she/her)	Berkeley	N/A	Film / Media Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary	Sarah is a digital media leader with special expertise in education and children's animation. She is an educator/producer who coaches impact-centric creators including artists, science educators and clergy on how to shine and raise funds. She has produced hundreds of nonprofit animated videos and currently consults with a media literacy nonprofit and a philanthropy investing in Jewish arts and culture. Sarah ran a pair of Jewish cultural Youtube channels for 11 years which have received millions of views, many awards and places in thousands of classrooms. She has created two children's animated series, one for YouTube about Jewish values and one for the Lawrence Hall of Science about global STEM issues like cybersecurity. She loves working with subject matter experts from linguists to astrophysicists.
Sarah Travis (she/her/hers)	Berkeley	Ashkenaz Music & Dance Community Center	Folk / Traditional Arts Music Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Dance	As the Executive Director of Ashkenaz, former President of the Board of The SONA Foundation, and a Founder of The Songwriter Fund, Sarah Travis has an extensive background involving nonprofits and development. Starting with learning the fiddle at age 4 and later playing professionally by age 16, Sarah's passion for both music and societal reform became the catalyst for her to career, leading her to become the current Executive Director of Ashkenaz, a historic non-profit music venue located in Berkeley, CA. Sarah also established The SONA Foundation, an international non-profit aimed to educate creators, offer funding opportunities, and provide financial programming and mental health resources to artists. This foundation was initially recognized for dispersing half a million dollars to music creators suffering from closures in the music industry due to COVID. The foundation, along with Sarah herself, has been featured in Billboard Magazine and Variety for their impact on the music industry during the pandemic. Her motivational energy and reputation for ethical leadership are what shaped Sarah into a fast-rising industry professional – one who is dedicated to instilling positive impacts that society today and future generations of artists can benefit from.
Sean Vaughn Scott (he)	Berkeley	Black Repertory Group	Theater	I was born into Theatre family. We run Black Repertory Group theater. I've run youth programs. I have directed hundreds of adults and thousands of kids and hundreds of Productions. I have written grants to find the multiplicity of projects all theatrical. I've done theatrical projects for violence prevention health education through Theatre, traditional Broadway, musicals, and African-American theater mainstream.
Sima Belmar (she/her/hers)	Richmond	N/A	Dance	Sima Belmar, PhD, is a Lecturer in the Department of Theater, Dance, & Performance Studies at UC Berkeley. She has been a member of the Bay Area dance community since the early 1990s as a dance critic, columnist, podcaster, educator, choreographer, and dancer. From 2019-2022, Sima was writer-in-residence at ODC where she created and hosted the ODC podcast Dance Cast. Her writing has been featured in a variety of local, national, and international newspapers, magazines, and academic journals. She currently dances for Andrew Merrell's Slack Dance and acts as an editor and writing coach for students and artists.
Stephanie Anne Johnson (she/her/hers)	Berkeley	N/A	Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Theater	Stephanie Anne Johnson is an African American educator, theatre worker, and practicing artist. Her panel experience has been with: Berkeley Civic Arts Commission, SF Arts Commission, California Arts Counsel, Bayer Pharmaceuticals , and other organizations. She is a founding faculty member of the Visual and Public Art department - CSU, Monterey Bay. Johnson teaches public art, art and ethics, regional art history, and VPA core courses. Her service to the City of Berkeley includes being on the Civic Arts, and Landmark Preservation commissions. Stephanie Anne Johnson is deeply committed to the well being of our communities here particularly the marginalized, vulnerable, and under resourced people among us.
Susan F Charlip (she/her)	Berkeley	self employed	Film / Media Arts Folk / Traditional Arts Literary Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Theater Visual Arts	Susan Charlip has considerable experience writing arts grants, administering the programs which ensue and supporting artist grantees. With more than 30 years as a teacher and administrator in local public high schools and universities, Charlip has served in arts education in Alameda and Contra Costa County Offices of Ed, developing Graphic Arts curriculum through their high school Regional Occupational Program (ROP), training teachers in credential programs, as well as new and veteran teachers in arts and tech integration, curriculum development, state standards, etc. She was a classroom teacher in English, arts and technology, applying for and overseeing arts grants from the State as well as federal arts programs. She participated in a focus grant committee to decide National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipients in Washington, DC., a project which resulted in social activism through the arts. Charlip has extensive experience collaborating with faculty, staff, community members in building a specialized secondary academy through a grant from the State Department of Education, serving on multiple WASC school accreditation reviews in districts around California. She looks forward to bringing her many years of arts administration experience to the Berkeley arts scene where she has called home since the 80s.

Name	City	Organization	Artistic Discipline(s)	Biography
Tara Baghdassarian (she/her)	Oakland	Mother Armenia Collective	Film / Media Arts Multidisciplinary / Interdisciplinary Music	Tara Ani Baghdassarian is a Bay Area-based filmmaker, educator, and artist who works in mediums ranging from music to stained glass to shadow puppetry. She graduated from UC Berkeley's Art Practice program in 2016, and shortly after moved to her homeland, Armenia, for 5+ years, where she resided during the 2020 Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) War. Since returning to the United States in 2022 and leaving the tech sphere, Tara's work consistently centers cultural preservation and education through collaborative storytelling and community building. In November 2023, she co-founded a Bay Area-based collective, Mother Armenia, with two other diaspora women. Their mission is to build community, highlight Armenian and SWANA cultures, and bring awareness to the oppression and struggles they face. through events spanning educational lectures, film screenings, and concerts, the growing community has collectively raised \$15K in humanitarian aid to Palestinian, Armenian, and Lebanese refugees. Mother Armenia has partnered with many local institutions, including Arab Film & Media Institute and AGBU Arts, and continues to build bridges between cultural spheres.
Will Hammond Jr. (he/him)	Berkeley	N/A	Film / Media Arts Music Theater	I have over 20 years of experience in the music industry, media arts and entertainment; including radio, television and journalism. Additionally, I have significant experience in developing digital storytelling and project-based media with corporations and in the schools all over the San Francisco/Bay Area. I have published songs for various recording artists and production companies in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. Essentially, I love to create; be it in the studio or in the classroom. I am endlessly passionate about the entire creative process and have tremendous experience managing it from conceptualization to execution.