



Memorandum

TO: ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Kerry Adams Hapner

SUBJECT: Additions to Grant Review
Panelist Pool

DATE: February 14, 2018

Approved

Date

Feb. 14, 2018

RECOMMENDATION

Forward a recommendation to the Arts Commission to review and accept additions to the pre-qualified grant review panelist pool for the Cultural Funding Portfolio: Investments in Art, Creativity and Culture.

BACKGROUND

Arts grant program review panels are comprised of seasoned arts professionals experienced in art-making, arts production, arts management, arts funding or more broadly in not-for-profit management and governance. Arts Commission representatives also serve on the panels to provide local perspectives. In addition, Festival, Parade and Celebration (FPC) grant review panels include a few community members who have first-hand knowledge about festivals and cultural activities in San Jose.

OCA staff is responsible for assembling review panels and draws first from a standing pool of individuals who have been approved by the Arts Commission for inclusion in a pre-qualified pool. The current pre-qualified pool has about eighty individuals, but every year several individuals become inactive due to relocation or job changes. Recommendations for additions to the pre-qualified pool are drawn from periodic solicitations to Bay Area arts and events professionals. Nomination of community members are brought forward based on their familiarity and experience with San Jose arts and cultural activities.

NOMINEES:

OCA staff recommends the following additions to the pre-qualified grant review panelist pool:

1. Jaime Cortez

Independent arts consultant, artist, writer, and arts program manager

2. **Kyle Marinshaw**
Program Officer, Koret Foundation
3. **Jessica Mele**
Program Officer, Hewlett Foundation
4. **Luana Rivera Palacio**
San Jose community member
5. **Tere Romo**
Independent arts consultant and curator
6. **Judy Shintani**
Artist and art educator
7. **Vanessa Whang**
Independent arts consultant
8. **Jace Wittig**
*Founder and Music Director, Gaude;
Conductor, Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley*

Jaime Cortez

Independent Arts Consultant, Artist, Writer, Grantmaker and Arts Program Manager

Mr. Cortez has been involved in Northern California arts grantmaking for eleven years. He has served as the Arts and Culture Fellow at The San Francisco Foundation, and has since worked on a consultant basis for the San Francisco Foundation on several occasions. He also consulted for the San Francisco Arts Commission where he managed a grant program and provided support to grant programs for programming, facilities, and planning for arts organizations and artists. Mr. Cortez has served as a grant panelist and juror for the Center for Cultural Innovation, the Evelyn and Walter Hass Jr. Fund, the Headlands Center for the Arts, and the Alameda County Arts Commission. He has experience evaluating and funding projects and organizations in the visual, literary, performing, media and cross-disciplinary arts. Mr. Cortez is also a working artist, exhibiting art and participating in literary events and readings throughout the Bay Area.

Kyle Marinshaw

Program Officer, Koret Foundation

Mr. Marinshaw joined the Koret Foundation in 2015 as a program officer. In this role, he manages a diverse portfolio of general community grants, with a particular focus on higher education and the arts. In 2016 Mr. Marinshaw helped launch a new \$50 million Higher Education Initiative and in 2017, a \$10 million Arts and Culture Initiative. Prior to joining Koret, Mr. Marinshaw worked at WolfBrown, an arts and cultural management consultancy firm, where he led a range of projects, including program evaluation, strategic planning, market research, and capacity building initiatives. His diverse roster of clients included the Performing Arts Program of the Hewlett Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest, and Chorus America. Previously, he worked for Arlington Cultural Affairs in Arlington County,

Virginia, where he supported a wide range of cultural organizations. Since 2016, Mr. Marinshaw has served on the Steering Committee of the Arts Loan Fund, a program managed by Northern California Grantmakers. He holds an MA in arts management from American University in Washington, DC, and earned his BFA in Dance at the University of Arizona.

Jessica Mele

Program Officer, Hewlett Foundation

Ms. Mele is a Program Officer in Performing Arts at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. She manages a diverse portfolio of grants, with a particular focus on arts education advocacy and policy. Previously, Ms. Mele was executive director at Performing Arts Workshop, an arts education organization in San Francisco. During that time, she was also an active arts education advocate, serving on the executive committee of the Arts Provider's Alliance of San Francisco, the steering committee of the Alameda Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership, and the national advisory council of Teaching Artist's Guild. Earlier in her career, Jessica managed the research projects of Marshall Ganz at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and served as an organizer for the Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers. Ms. Mele holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and French studies from Smith College and a master's degree in education policy and management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In her spare time, she writes, directs and produces sketch comedy as part of Chardonnay, one of two in-house sketch groups at San Francisco's Pianofight Theater Company.

Luana Rivera Palacio

Community Member

Ms. Rivera Palacio has made San Jose her home since 2006. The following year, she opened Hālau Nāpuaokamokihanaoha, a school dedicated to perpetuating Hawaiian cultural arts. In addition to leading her hālau, Ms. Rivera Palacio is education program manager at the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy and a member of the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute. She also volunteers as an EMT with the American Red Cross – Silicon Valley Chapter. Ms. Rivera Palacio believes her purpose is found in the connections between culture, community, and the natural environment.

Tere Romo

Independent arts consultant and curator

Ms. Romo is an independent curator and scholar, she most recently served as the Program Officer for the San Francisco Foundation and prior to that as an arts project coordinator at the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC). Previously, she was the arts director at the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum in Chicago and resident curator at The Mexican Museum in San Francisco, where she organized exhibitions and public programs. Ms. Romo was the program manager for the Organizational Support Program at the California Arts Council, where she developed a Traditional Arts Program and participated in the development of the Multi-Cultural Arts Programs. An art historian, she has published essays on Chicana/o art and is the author of "Malaquias Montoya" (2011), an artist monograph within the UCLA CSRC book series "A Ver: Revisioning Art History." She was also the lead curator for "Art Along the Hyphen: the Mexican-American Generation," one of four exhibitions organized within the

CSRC's "LA Xicano," a collaborative project within the Getty Foundation's regional initiative called "Pacific Standard Time: Art in LA 1945-1980." She holds a Master's degree in art history.

Judy Shintani

Artist and Art Educator

Ms. Shintani founded the Kitsune Community Art Studio in Half Moon Bay and is a teaching artist at Creativity Explored for Disabled Adults and Foothill College, and has taught with the Institute on Aging. Her art focuses on remembrance, connection, and storytelling. She makes assemblages, produces installations, creates performances, and facilitates social engagement activities to generate visual stories that bring vital issues to light. As a Japanese American artist, Ms. Shintani has focused much of her art career on researching and creating works that give voice to internee memories and hidden stories about this time. She has exhibited in California, Washington, and New Mexico, and has been an artist in residence at Santa Fe Art Institute, Creativity Explored for Disabled Adults, and with ISKME's Big Idea Fest. Ms. Shintani was nominated for a Joan Mitchell emerging artist grant. She is a member of the Asian American Women's Artist Association and on the board of the Northern California Women's Caucus for Art. Ms. Shintani has a Masters in Transformative Art from JFK University and a Bachelor's of Science in Graphic Design from San Jose State University.

Vanessa Whang

Independent arts consultant

Ms. Whang is a thought partner to funders and organizations engaged with culture, arts, and their role in social change. Her inquiries grapple with how to achieve social justice in a diverse nation built on the legacies of codified inequality and how a deeper understanding of culture can be a key to finding a path forward. Previously, she served as Director of Programs for California Humanities, responsible for the strategic design, development, and evaluation of programs. In New York, Ms. Whang consulted on cultural equity, changing demographics, and program design and evaluation for the Ford Foundation, Leveraging Investments in Creativity, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and others. In Washington, DC, she served as Director of Multidisciplinary Arts and Presenting at the National Endowment for the Arts. In the Bay Area, Ms. Whang led an arts learning initiative for the East Bay Community Foundation, and worked as a cultural activist, performing arts presenter, and recording musician. She is immediate past president of the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts (Richmond, CA) and board treasurer of The Whitman Institute, a trust-based funder for social good (SF). Ms. Whang has served as Director of Programs for Cal Humanities, California's state humanities council; the Director of Multidisciplinary Arts and Presenting at the National Endowment for the Arts (DC); and as a New York-based consultant to the Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, among others. Earlier in her career, she worked as a community cultural activist and performing arts presenter, a recording and touring musician, and an inept waitress (though she still enjoys serving food to friends and family).


Jace Wittig

Founder and Music Director, Gaude; Conductor, Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley; and former Interim Music Director, Chanticleer

Mr. Wittig is an educator, conductor, baritone, clinician, and arranger based in San Francisco, California. He performed around the world for eight seasons with the Grammy Award-winning ensemble, Chanticleer. During his tenure with the ensemble (five years as a singer followed by three years as Interim Music Director), he performed or directed over one thousand concerts in many of the world's preeminent concert halls, including the Vienna Musikverein, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the National Grand Theatre in Beijing, Los Angeles' Disney Hall, and the Kennedy Center, among many others. Mr. Wittig maintains a dynamic presence in the San Francisco Bay Area choral community. He is a conductor with the Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley, where he directs the Young Men's Division and the elite treble ensemble, Aria. He is also an Artist in Residence at the San Francisco School of the Arts and maintains a private voice studio. In 2015, he served as Principal Conductor for the International Orange Chorale of San Francisco, an acclaimed chamber choir dedicated to the commissioning and performance of new choral repertoire in San Francisco and the surrounding communities. In 2015, Wittig founded GAUDE out of his love for *a cappella* choral music of the Renaissance.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Executive Committee reviewed the additions to the pre-qualified grant review panelist pool at its publicly noticed monthly meeting on February 5, 2018.


KERRY ADAMS HAPNER
Director of Cultural Affairs