
Operating Grant Panelist Bios

Debbie Chinn*Executive Director, Opera Parallele*

Ms. Chinn is Executive Director of Opera Parallele. Over the past 25 years, she has held executive leadership positions at Carmel Bach Festival, CENTERSTAGE (the State Theater of Maryland), California Shakespeare Theater, Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, and the San Francisco Symphony. She began her career at the American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), University of San Francisco, and Center Theatre Group of the Music Center of Los Angeles where she specialized in volunteer event management and institutional fundraising. Ms. Chinn is currently the Board President of Theater Bay Area, the largest regional theater service organization in North America. She has also served served on the board of the Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET) is a past Board President of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras. Ms. Chinn attended the University of Southern California where she studied theater under the artistic direction of John Houseman.

Adam Fong*Program Officer, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation*

Mr. Fong joined the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in 2018 as a Program Officer in Performing Arts. He manages a diverse portfolio of grants supporting artists and communities throughout the Bay Area. He co-founded two Bay Area service organizations: Emerging Arts Professionals, a network dedicated to the development and growth of next generation arts and culture workers; and Center for New Music, a hybrid supporting and presenting organization that fosters contemporary music. Mr. Fong has held positions with organizations including Other Minds, Music at Kohl Mansion, and the San Francisco Opera and has served as co-chair of the funding advisory committee for the city of Oakland's Cultural Funding Program and as a member of the Emerging Leader Council of Americans for the Arts. He remains active as a composer, with his work having been performed internationally. Mr. Fong holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the California Institute of the Arts, as well as bachelor's degrees in music composition and creative writing, and a master's degree in English from Stanford University.

Smita Garg*Arts Commissioner, San Jose Arts Commission*

Ms. Garg is a Bay Area visual artist and art educator with over 25 years of teaching experience. With a BFA (Applied Art) and a doctorate in Arts Education, she loves to study and create art programs with a focus on equity and inclusivity. Her work with students ranging from kids to adults, covers academic, creative/expressive as well as therapeutic aspects of art making. In her teaching practice, Ms. Garg draws in influences from various subject areas, cultures, and art forms. Her research papers have been published and presented at national and international conferences. Ms. Garg serves as the Vice-Chair for the Public Art Committee of the Arts Commission. Recently she founded The Coalition of Artists and Activists for Compassionate Communities, with key local artists. She is also founder and former chairperson of the Campbell Union High School District Educational Foundation. Additionally, she has served as Vice Chair of the Moreland Educational Foundation. Apart from her love for visual arts, Ms. Garg is also passionate about music, cinema, writing, and the healing arts. Due to conflicts, Ms. Garg will be recusing from evaluation of the following Operating Grant application(s): Starting Arts.

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René de Guzman

Senior Curator of Art, Oakland Museum of California

Mr. de Guzman is the Director of Exhibition Strategy and Senior Curator of Art at the Oakland Museum of California. His recent projects include the upcoming exhibition RESPECT: Hip-Hop Style & Wisdom and the groundbreaking exhibition All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50 (2016), which drew record-breaking attendance for OMCA. Mr. de Guzman directed The Oakland Standard, an artistic innovation initiative that looks at new ways to engage audiences through creative practices. He joined the Museum in 2007 to complete renovation and reinstallation of the Gallery of California Art. Previously, he helped start Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) a multidisciplinary contemporary art center in San Francisco. During his 15-year tenure at YBCA, he provided early support for some of the Bay Area's leading artists. His career is marked by a commitment to community and artistic experimentation. Mr. de Guzman earned his BFA in art practice at the University of California, Berkeley and his artworks are in collections including the Berkeley Art Museum and the San Jose Museum of Art. He is currently Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Division of the Curatorial Studies Program at the California College of the Arts.

Renee Hayes

Associate Director (Retired), Grants For The Arts - San Francisco

Ms. Hayes served as the Associate Director of Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund (GFTA) for 22 years. Dedicated to promoting San Francisco by supporting the arts, GFTA has awarded over \$336 million to San Francisco nonprofit arts organizations. Ms. Hayes is the co-founder of the Creative Capacity Fund ("CCF"), a statewide funding initiative dedicated to strengthening the capacity and vitality of the California nonprofit arts sector by providing professional development grants to arts administrators and artists. She has been involved in arts philanthropy for more than 30 years and has served as an advisor and grant panelist for foundations, nonprofit leadership programs and civic arts agencies (co-chair of the Berkeley's Civic Arts Commission). She is currently on the Board of Directors of Freight and Salvage in Berkeley, California. Prior to her GFTA position, Ms. Hayes worked as a Career Counselor/Job Developer for the University of California at Berkeley and in private practice, specializing in creative careers. She is a nationally certified counselor and life coach. Ms. Hayes also has an active music career with diverse musical performance and recording experience in a variety of genres. She has recorded two recordings with her award-winning whimsical soul a cappella group, The Irrationals, and recently released a solo CD, Renewable Soul.

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Gina Hernandez-Clarke

Director of Community Engaged Learning, Stanford Arts Institute

Ms. Hernandez-Clarke is the Director of Community Engaged Learning at Stanford Arts Institute. She has held several senior leadership positions in the arts at Stanford, including Executive Director of the Institute for Diversity in the Arts and Director of Arts in Undergraduate Education in the Office of the Vice-Provost. Prior to her posts at Stanford University, Ms. Hernandez-Clarke worked in arts development at the Arts Council of Santa Clara County, City of Long Beach, and various non-profit organizations. She has also worked as a freelance creative producer for independent film, video and live performance projects. A participant in the Smithsonian Latino Center Museum Studies Program, Ms. Hernandez-Clarke teaches courses in Latino visual and performing arts and community-based and public art. She holds an M.F.A in Theater, Film and Television (UCLA), received her B.A. in History from Stanford University and is currently pursuing a masters in liberal arts at Stanford University. Due to conflicts, Ms. Hernandez-Clarke will be recusing from evaluation of the following Operating Grant application(s): Teatro Vision.

Richard James

Arts Commissioner, San Jose Arts Commission

Mr. James is active in San Jose cultural life and has served on boards of various arts and philanthropic organizations. He is retired from a 30 year career with the City of Palo Alto as the Director of Community Services where he oversaw parks, recreation, human services, and a multi-faceted arts program. He also has experience as a college lecturer, theater manager and producer of the largest theatrical trade show in North America. Mr. James holds a masters in theater from San Jose State University as well as an MBA degree. He began his long career in the arts as a set, lighting and sound designer working in many of San Jose's cultural facilities.

Virginia Wright

Principal, Wright & Associates

Ms. Wright is principal of Wright & Associates where she consults with arts organizations, grant-makers, and government agencies with a focus on marketing and strategic planning. She has served as Development Director for the Carmel Bach Festival and as the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Symphony. Ms. Wright has also held management level positions at KUSP-FM Radio, Arts Council Silicon Valley, The Global Fund for Women in Menlo Park and the Soviet American Performing Arts Exchange in San Francisco. She received her BA from San Francisco State in International Relations and her MBA from Santa Clara University. Due to conflicts, Ms. Wright will be recusing from evaluation of the following Operating Grant applications: New Ballet and San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild.