

# Introducing the 2021 Creative Ambassadors

We are thrilled to introduce the 2021 Creative Ambassadors. The role of the Creative Ambassador is to champion the power of creative expression and engage residents in finding their own creative voice. Ambassadors serve a one-year term during which they produce a creative project that invites residents' active participation and celebrates the diversity of San José's cultural communities. Support for the Creative Ambassadors is generously provided by The David and Lucille Packard Foundation. The 2021 Creative Ambassadors include:



**Cynthia Cao** is visual artist primarily known for her prints and watercolors. She is also an Exhibition Designer and Teaching Artist for Chopsticks

Alley Art, a non-profit dedicated to promoting Southeast Asian cultural heritage. Cynthia's creative project, "Taste of Home" includes art-kits and workshops to engage people in sharing their food stories.



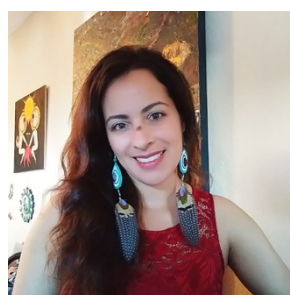
**Ray Furuta** is the Founding Director of the Chamber Music Silicon Valley. His mission is to change Silicon Valley's relationship to

classical music by collaborating across artistic mediums to create multi-sensory experiences. Ray's creative project includes an interactive platform involving multiple artists and organizations.



**Demone Carter**, has played many roles within Silicon Valley's cultural community. He founded Future Arts Now! after-school program, led the

Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute, and is the host of the Dad Bod Rap Podcast. Demone's creative project includes a series of virtual events aimed at demystifying creative expression, within the participatory ethos of Hip Hop.



**Elizabeth Jiménez Montelongo**, is a visual artist, poet, and teacher whose work addresses themes of identity, transformation, and

empowerment. Her artwork is influenced by Mexican, Chicano, and indigenous Mesoamerican history and culture. She is also the creator of the Roots Artist Registry. Elizabeth's creative project includes creative community workshops and an online exhibit.



**Chike Nwoffiah** is an actor, director, educator, award-winning filmmaker, and a member of the Screen Actors Guild. He is the founding director of the Silicon Valley African Film Festival, the only California film festival focused exclusively on films by African filmmakers. Chike's creative project includes a multidisciplinary interactive presentation of the African story and diaspora.