

# Memorandum

**TO:** ARTS COMMISSION

**FROM:** Kerry Adams Hapner

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** January 12, 2022

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Approved /s/ Nanci Klein

Date 01/12/22

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**SUBJECT: ADDITIONS TO GRANT REVIEW PANELIST POOL**

## **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 San Jose 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. Tamara Alvarado**

*Program Officer, David and Lucile Packard Foundation's Local Grantmaking Program*

**2. Jason M. Blackwell**

*Director of Community Investment at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts*

**Tamara Alvarado**

***Program Officer, David and Lucile Packard Foundation's Local Grantmaking Program***

Ms. Alvarado serves as a Program Officer in the David and Lucile Packard Foundation's Local Grantmaking Program leading the cultural and civic investments in the Vibrant Communities portfolio spanning the five Bay Area counties that the program serves: San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito. She was previously the executive director of the Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation, a San José, California-based foundation that focuses on youth and arts. In the past, Ms. Alvarado has held executive, board, and director positions at various local, regional and national arts and community organizations, including the School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza; the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute at 1stAct Silicon Valley (now SVCREATES); Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA); and Western State Arts Federation (WESTAF). Ms. Alvarado holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature with an emphasis in Chicano Studies from Stanford University. She has been a traditional Aztec dancer for over 20 years and is a member of Calpulli Tonalehqueh Aztec Drum and Dance.

**Jason M. Blackwell**

***Director of Community Investment at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts***

Mr. Blackwell is the Director of Community Investment at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, where he leads YBCA's regranting and artist relief efforts. Before joining the YBCA team, he was the Associate Director for Grants for the Arts for the City and County of San Francisco, the largest arts funder in San Francisco. There he was integral in retooling their General Operating Support grant program to have an equity lens, specifically around racial and geographic equity. Mr. Blackwell, previously, worked for the James Irvine Foundation, where his portfolio included the Arts Engagement Initiative, Research and Development Initiative and the Immigrant Integration and Protecting Immigrant Rights Initiative. During his time at the foundation, he served as a principal member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, assisted the foundation in its statewide community listening efforts, and was integral to the foundation's work in the equity sector. Prior to the Irvine Foundation, he worked at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and at numerous performing arts institutions in Los Angeles and New York City in areas of development, capital projects, and programming. Jason earned a master's of professional studies in Arts and Cultural Management from Pratt Institute and attended business school at The College of William and Mary for his undergraduate studies.

/s/

KERRY ADAMS HAPNER  
Director of Cultural Affairs