

Memorandum

TO: ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Kerry Adams Hapner

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 11, 2022

Approved /s/ Nanci Klein

Date 3/11/2022

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. Sarah Billings**
Street Life Manager, San Jose Downtown Association

2. Dr. Anne Huang

Executive Director of World Arts West

3. Al Perez

Principal/Founder of Creative i Studio and President of the Filipino American Arts Exposition

Sarah Billings

Street Life Manager, San Jose Downtown Association

Ms. Billings manages the San Jose Downtown Association's Street Life Plan and beautification projects such as mural installations, greening and street tree initiatives, and other streetscape improvements that enhance downtown's vibrancy, attract investment and encourage stewardship of downtown San Jose. Ms. Billings has a background in consulting utility forestry, and assuring legal vegetation compliance as a contractor for a major utility company. She is fluent in Spanish and has experience in customer service, public interaction, and government relations. Ms. Billings has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies and Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dr. Anne Huang

Executive Director of World Arts West

Dr. Anne Huang (she/her) is a seasoned arts executive, and a highly regarded, culturally specific capacity building consultant and resource equity advocate. In 2019, Anne was appointed the first person of color, immigrant, and San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival artist to lead World Arts West. Under Anne's equity and inclusion focus, World Arts embarked on a new horizon. For the first time since 1978, World Arts West board and staff are now majority BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and reflect the diversity of its artist community. By centering the voices of cultural artists, Dr. Huang works to empower everyone to make and present revolutionary new artworks and uplift underrepresented voices and stories.

Anne is the former Executive Director of Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC), where she transformed OACC from a struggling arts organization into a leading cultural institution serving 50,000 people per year. She led the OACC in large-scale innovative partnerships, including with StoryCorps, Stern Grove, Independent Television Service, and 100 Families: Art and Social Change with California College of Arts, Center for Art and Public Life. OACC's partnership with KALW and StoryCorps produced the first and only full-length audio documentary about the history of Oakland Chinatown.

Al Perez

Principal/Founder of Creative i Studio and President of Filipino American Arts Exposition

Mr. Perez is principal and founder of Creative i Studio, which specializes in innovative and impactful graphic design solutions for corporate events and corporate identity programs. He has over 30 years' experience translating marketing objectives into creative strategies for Fortune 500, small business and nonprofit organizations. Mr. Perez is currently serving as president of the Filipino American Arts Exposition (FAAE). For the last 20 years, he has led community partners, artisans, performing artists and an energetic team of 200+ volunteers to produce the

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annual Pistahan Parade and Festival at the Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco, the largest celebration of Filipino community, culture and cuisine in the country.

/s/

KERRY ADAMS HAPNER

Director of Cultural Affairs