

Community Investments  
FY22-23 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA)  
Program Overview



**San Francisco Artist (SFA) Grant Program Overview**

San Francisco Artist grants support artists who are continuous residents of San Francisco for two years at the time of application. This grant funds personal artistic projects that stimulate the creation and presentation of art throughout the City's neighborhoods. Projects must include a public benefit to San Francisco, its neighborhoods and/or communities within the grant window. Applicants are encouraged to define a public benefit that best fits their project, either virtual, in person, or otherwise imagined and realized by the artist.

This category is open to all genres - encouraging cross-genre, traditional practice, folk art, and community-based artists to apply. We continued our success with grouping applicants who self-identify as having five years or less experience either in their overall career or proposed project genre. These applicants were reviewed by a separate panel and had a 50% funding success rate this round. All panels this year were multi-genre, which led panel discussion to focus on the structures behind a project and the personal goals of the artist, rather than limited genre concepts. Staff continued to provide category specific technical assistance and a webinar focused on work samples, along with increased outreach to applicants through the Cultural Ambassador program. The SFA category is excited to recommend 31 new grantees which represent 44% of the total funded applications.

**Panel Composition**

Three multi-genre two-day peer review panels convened virtually between March 7 and March 22, 2023, to discuss and rank the SFA applications. Panelists reviewed the applications according to the criteria published in the SFA 2022-23 guidelines.

The racial demographics of the panelists include African American, Asian American (Chinese and Korean), Black, Filipinx, Latinx, Southeast Asian and white. Panelists were eight women and six men who identify as bisexual, gay, heterosexual, and queer. The panelists brought expertise in film making, documentation, spoken word, new and traditional music, theater, visual art, poetry, fiction, printmaking, mixed media, traditional and modern dance, social practice, coding, comics, and graphic design.

**FY22-23 SFA Funding Recommendations**

The Arts Commission received 99 SFA applications. During the eligibility check, five applicants were deemed ineligible due to open grants in the category and one applicant had a City employment conflict.

Panelists reviewed 93 applications according to the stated review criteria. SFA funding recommendations include 69 applicants for a total of \$1,373,800. An additional \$40,000 in San Francisco Public Library funds brings the total number of grantees to 71 for this year, for a total allocation of \$1,413,800.

Recommended projects are rooted in storytelling, both personal and communal, and are collaborative as well as unique to San Francisco. A number focus on historical documentation, local ecologies, and queer identity. A few are second iterations or

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phases of previously successful work such as Tina D'Elia's one woman show and Andrea Rodriguez's salsa love story. Successful projects include a site-specific work at Ocean Beach, multi-lingual works in fiction, poetry, and theater, a festival to share indigenous land practice across cultures, and a musical focused on the Palestinian refugee experience.

Staff worked to increase panel accessibility based on last year's success, by including ASL interpretation at all three public panels without an accessibility request in advance. With panelists, staff worked to increase comfort and familiarity with the practice of visual descriptions for audio only listeners and hope to have additional language access in the future.

SFA applicants had an overall funding success rate of 75%. Applicants that scored lower had minimal information or did not answer the questions asked in the application. Some struggled with their ability to self-identify in the racial equity narrative section of the application.

In summary, staff increased accessibility to this category, which is reflected in the number of new grantees and the ASL interpretation at all virtual panels. Through focused outreach and carefully curated panels, staff created spaces that allowed for rich discussion and produced an exciting group of projects deeply rooted in the unique cultural narrative of San Francisco.

## Community Investments

### FY22-23 San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) Funding Recommendations

Applicant Pronouns Grant Amount	Average Score	Project Description
<b>Aguirre</b> <b>Decline to state</b> \$18,500	92.6	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a large-scale visual arts and storytelling project that explores the injustices and health disparities experienced by imprisoned community members. This work is rooted in and informed by abolitionist, harm reduction, and embodiment science approaches and will be used to spark conversations and writing between policymakers, advocates, and the community towards the goals of ending mass incarceration and mitigating suffering through geriatric parole and other release programs.
<b>Alexander Lee</b> <b>Morris Davis</b> <b>He/him/his</b> \$20,000	80.8	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support and inspire San Francisco residents. I will process my rolls of still film and Super 8, culminating in a public exhibition.
<b>Alicia Escott</b> <b>She/hers/her,</b> <b>They/them/theirs</b> \$20,000	85.4	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support work made about the coastal ecologic community of Ocean Beach; to be shown along The Great Highway while it is closed to vehicle traffic, and within the greater local vicinity. Culminating in a "field guide," this work seeks to engage and educate visitors about this unique community, but approach the topic in unfamiliar, unexpected and engaging ways through the language of contemporary art.
<b>Alita Edgar</b> <b>She/hers/her</b> \$20,000	89	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a collaborative process where emerging artists and curious non-artists of recycle materials to create costuming, props and sets for a culminating performance. The work will be devised by lead artist Alita Edgar, Shadow Parks Department art team, ecologists and other contributors, and heritage hatmaker Abigale Dwelle. This process of research, investigation, conversation and origination builds long-lasting bridges between community partners and diverse participants.

Alleluia Panis She/hers/her \$20,000	96.8	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Alleluia Panis in developing Anting Anting Soul Dance, a site-responsive project exploring the talismanic power of movement and dance through a multidisciplinary ritual performance.
Allison Lovejoy She/hers/her \$20,000	78	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the composition and premiere of the musical composition "Elijah Lovejoy: Champion of Freedom" for Chorus, Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble.
Alyssa Mitchel She/hers/her Fiscal Sponsor (Dancers' Group Inc.) \$16,800	82	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the artists involved in this project. The performance integrates a cast of six dancers, a guitarist, a cellist and a Bay Area muralist. All six shows are free.
Amal Bisharat She/hers/her \$20,000	88	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the continued development of a Musical which is a Palestinian refugee story adapted from the internationally best-selling novel <i>Mornings in Jenin</i> by Susan Abulhawa.
Andrea Rodriguez She/hers/her \$20,000	97.2	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Phase Two and expansion of a full-length production of "La Rumba No Para" (The Rumba Doesn't Stop), a salsa love story about growing up in San Francisco, La Misión. Directed and choreographed by Andrea Rodriguez, the piece traverses through the streets surrounding 24th Street, where a melding of family secrets, culture, Latinx music and dance are explored through the themes of love, loss, and addiction.
Anne Albagli She/hers/her \$20,000	88.8	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the research, editing, and production of a video and sculpture-based installation and accompanying salon series, that investigates the relationship between geology, Deep Time, and material infrastructure instrumental to personal histories in times of crisis.
Annie Sprinkle She/hers/her \$20,000	92.4	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an oral history project to generate LGBTQ and BIPOC interviews that preserve the City's cultural equity movements. This nonfiction project will comprise ten interviews with artistic leaders who transformed San Francisco's arts community during the 1980s and 1990s and solidified the City's reputation as a national center of cultural production. I will record the interviews, edit and publish them online. Additionally, I will organize a free panel discussion.

<b>Anthony Jimenez</b> He/him/his \$20,000	90.2	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Crossing Paths," an interactive mural installation. It will be portraits of people I've met in the community who have had a profound effect on me. I will welcome the public to interact with the mural (by painting, writing, drawing) with the question "Who here has had an impact on you?" write, draw, or paint about that individual.
<b>Arthur Koch</b> He/him/his \$18,500	81.4	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support community murals in the Portola District.
<b>Aureen B Almario</b> She/hers/her \$20,000	91.2	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Bulong, a multidisciplinary theater workshop performance using shadow puppetry and live theater inspired by lived experience. Written and directed by veteran puppeteer of ShadowLight Productions, Aureen Almario.
<b>Benjamin David Barnes</b> He/him/his \$20,000	83.8	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support performances for up to five San Francisco musicians. These performances will happen in public cultural areas, venues, and on street corners in San Francisco. We will play cultural music including classical, jazz, rock, and bluegrass and all of their sub-genres. I'll take the lead in contracting excellent musicians to perform with me and I will beautify the neighborhoods with cultural enrichment.
<b>Briana Grogan</b> She/hers/her, They/them/theirs \$20,000	81.2	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the completion of Briana Grogan's *On Survival which explores the complications that came with the prolonged death of her mother, Klamaria. Grappling with the disidentification of Black womanhood and stringing lyric to memories of her mother, Grogan catapults the asterisk; creating a microcosm of connection through grief. In elegy and ode, these poetics dare to ask one thing: how do you protect yourself from something that's hurting while healing you?
<b>Carol Queen PhD</b> She/hers/her, They/them/theirs \$20,000	76.8	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the writing of Queen's memoir, spanning her youth in Oregon (where she co-founded one of the nation's first LGBT youth groups after coming out) through her decades in San Francisco--studying sexology at the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, working in the sex industry, Good Vibrations, launching a writing career and the Center for Sex & Culture, and becoming a voice for sex-positivity.

<p><b>Carolyn Ho</b> She/hers/her \$20,000</p>	<p>94.2</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of "Blue: Xanh: Son: Language in Freefall" (working title), a poetic collection preserving the Vietnamese history of the author's mother, ongoing postwar assimilation, and the cultural confrontation of raising a bi-racial son in an era of racial and social reckoning. San Francisco Arts Commission funds will specifically support the author's creative work, collaborations with other writers of color, and the publication of her first book.</p>
<p><b>Charles Slender-White</b> He/him/his \$20,000</p>	<p>90.2</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation and presentation of QAF (Queer Athletic Futurity). QAF is a family-friendly contemporary dance about LGBTQ+ people in sports. In addition to the performances, QAF includes a work in progress showing, post-performance discussions, and a 'come play on stage' component following the matinee performances.</p>
<p><b>Christine Huhn</b> She/her/hers \$20,000</p>	<p>87.8</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support my project photographing and documenting the natural and cultural history of Angel Island State Park. This work will culminate in an exhibition accompanied with artist talks and community outreach.</p>
<p><b>Chuck Wilt</b> He/him/his, They/them/theirs \$20,000</p>	<p>90.2</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development and San Francisco premiere performances of 'Mirrors'. Mirrors is a performance project including four chapter works that collectively involve dance, drag, live music and set design, and brings representation to Queer and gender queer performers. Mirrors asks questions to intentionally deepen themes of Queer intimacy, experiences within the gender spectrum, and what it means to uncover our authenticity and experience life outside societal norms.</p>
<p><b>Chun Yu</b> She/hers/her \$20,000</p>	<p>95</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the bilingual poetry anthology and event series "Together in Poetry" as part of the Two Languages / One Community (TLOC) project co-founded by poets Chun Yu and Michael Warr, using poetry and translation to exchange culture and build understanding and solidarity between Chinese American and African American communities.</p>
<p><b>Clara Hsu</b> She/hers/her \$20,000</p>	<p>96.2</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of "Night Friends," a theatrical play in the Cantonese language. The play is written by Clara Hsu and centers on the present day's Chinese American immigrant's experience, with a dose of magic realism.</p>

<b>Conrad J. Benedicto</b> <b>He/him/his,</b> <b>They/them/theirs</b> \$20,000	88	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of Kulintang Dialect 2.0: Kulintang Dialogue. This an album of my latest compositions accompanied by a series of community concerts and intimate musical gatherings. It will celebrate the idea of a deeply rooted but distinct Filipino American kulintang tradition and engage the community in an exploration of the tension between tradition and innovation.
<b>Cornelius</b> <b>They/them/theirs</b> \$20,000	93	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of Two Rooms, an experimental queer collaborative performance of two simultaneous dance theater solos. Funds will cover artist commissions and studio rental fees for research and performance, presentation. Utilizing Drag tactics within choreography and theater, this work offers audiences agency of spectatorship, offering a chance to shift rooms or witness video projecting the alternate space in each respective room.
<b>Duygu Gun</b> <b>She/hers/her</b> \$20,000	88.4	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the post-production of the documentary - Balkancisco: Balkan Music scene in the Bay Area and to distribute it throughout the Bay Area and beyond to demonstrate the vibrant scene here and how music travels across borders.
<b>Eddy Navia</b> <b>He/him/his</b> \$20,000	89.4	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to produce one formal theater concert and six weeks of community concerts featuring a collaborative new symphonic work adapted from two-time Latin Grammy nominee Eddy Navia's Bolivia-inspired original compositions and performed by Symphony musicians, SUKAY, and traditionally costumed Bolivian and Andean dancers. This project will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of Eddy Navia as a composer and professional performing musician.
<b>Elizabeth Rivera</b> <b>She/hers/her,</b> <b>They/them/theirs</b> \$20,000	96	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to create a one-day festival called "Magsuli: Return Back to the Earth and Land." The festival will connect marginalized communities to the Earth through music, dance, and indigenous art-making. The festival will be created in collaboration with the Bangka Canoe Journey, Souldarity Wave Arts and Cultural Collective, and The NEST Indigenous Cultural Arts Center.
<b>Emily Hansel</b> <b>She/hers/her,</b> <b>They/them/theirs</b> \$20,000	86.75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support artist fees for "Study Hall," a new choreographic work by Emily Hansel and her collaborators. The project will begin with a series of workshops focused on cultivating healthy, equitable workplaces for dancers. A highly collaborative choreographic process will follow, where takeaways from the workshops will both guide the workplace culture and inspire movement generation. The project will culminate in three public performances.

<p>Emma Logan She/hers/her Fiscal Sponsor (Earplay) \$20,000</p>	<p>79.2</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a new composition by Emma Logan for the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. The collaboration will feature multiple public lectures for various communities in San Francisco leading up to the premiere of the piece.</p>
<p>England Hidalgo He/him/his \$20,000</p>	<p>86.6</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the research, production, installation, and exhibition of a recent body of work that is being developed right now titled, The Igorot Village. Most research will involve going to libraries to access articles and journals about the 1904 World Fair, the 1905 Igorot Village in Central Park, Market Street in San Francisco, and critical perspectives on anthropology and museology and its relationship to colonialism and imperialism.</p>
<p>Esha Reddy She/hers/her, They/them/theirs \$20,000</p>	<p>89.8</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support an 18-month period of Get On My Lawn! experiences. Inspired by living in intentional communities and tethered to my professional experience in design research and experience design, Get On My Lawn is a series of collaborative and immersive pop-up experiences that are designed to surprise participants in unexpected spaces, foster play and belonging, and support sharing of resources to collaborators (especially BIPOC and queer artists).</p>
<p>Eugenie Chan She/hers/her Fiscal Sponsor (Intersection for the Arts) \$20,000</p>	<p>90</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation and free-to-the public, on-demand streaming of The Truer History of the Chan Family (THCF), a digital vaudeville, with two sing-a-long watch parties at Chinatown community centers. THCF presents an untold history of the American West, as seen through the lens of a Chinese American family in San Francisco, where they began as Gold Rush sex slaves trafficked from China, then turned traffickers themselves.</p>
<p>Gazelle Samizay She/hers/her \$20,000</p>	<p>98.2</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the installation "Compassionate Exclusion," one of the rooms of my "Chelah: 40 Years Later" project, an immersive gallery installation inspired by my own experiences evacuating artists from Afghanistan in Fall 2021, forty years after my own family's exodus. Through this participatory installation, "Compassionate Exclusion" will allow viewers to connect with the experiences of displaced Afghan artists, and the injustices of the US immigration system.</p>



<p><b>Geralyn Montano</b>  <b>She/hers/her</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>97.8</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of "Grandmother Spider's Family of Wo/Man," a visual art project featuring paintings and sculptures that draw upon Native American mythology celebrating the centrality of women as leaders and community caretakers.</p>
<p><b>Gina Stella dell'Assunta</b>  <b>She/hers/her,</b>  <b>Other</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>86.4</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support artist and venue fees for the continued development and production of MIRROR-TOUCH, a new solo multidisciplinary theatrical production.</p>
<p><b>Greta Snider</b>  <b>She/hers/her,</b>  <b>They/them/theirs</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>80</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support production of a 15-minute film exploring the incursion of a looming climate crisis into emotional landscapes. This project is prompted by concerns of climate change, land use, shorelines, and contemplative space. Employing eco-processing techniques--film processing with developers made from plants, bay water, and sea salt - I am using the film's stained and bubbling emulsion to reflect the fragility of ecosystems.</p>
<p><b>Harvey Magsaysay Lozada</b>  <b>He/him/his</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>77.4</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "The Low &amp; Slow Movement" short film documentary, photo exhibition and Zine release. "The Low &amp; Slow Movement" will highlight the journey of the San Francisco Low Riders journey as an "SF Low Rider", their struggles with police brutality, and show present-day contributions to confronting stereotypes of the Low Riding Community by holding space in the community.</p>
<p><b>Helen Shewolfe Tseng</b>  <b>She/hers/her,</b>  <b>They/them/theirs</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>89.4</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development of Trickster at the End of a World, a graphic novel exploring migration, adaptation, folk magic, trickster archetypes, climate change, and the artist's relationship with urban coyotes as a learning naturalist. This project began as a talk and will be expanded into a book designed and illustrated by the artist.</p>
<p><b>Idris Ackamoor</b>  <b>He/him/his</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>92.2</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a series of concerts, talk-backs, and workshops entitled, "Don't Drop Dead On Stage: A Musician and Performing Artist Survival Guide," offering a HALF-CENTURY of experience and learning regarding music business, retirement, grants, estate planning, social security, and touring. Performances of Idris Ackamoor and The Pyramids will anchor the series and attract participants.</p>

<b>Jeremy Chan</b> <b>He/him/his</b> \$20,000	90	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support my choreographing of an original yosakoi dance piece that highlights the history of resilience and activism within the Japanese American community, including the leveraging of the history of the Japanese American incarceration to protest against further civil rights injustices.
<b>Jethro Patalinghug</b> <b>They/them/theirs</b> \$20,000	92	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Jethro Patalinghug's immersive multimedia art installation "Be Jeweled- a drag activism retrospective." The retrospective examines trans queer visibility and resilience. Additionally, the installation will explore current movements and struggles within LGBTQIA+ communities. During the retrospective, Patalinghug will screen five documentary films and engage in a conversation with the audience.
<b>Jon Jang</b> <b>He/him/his</b> <b>Fiscal Sponsor</b> <b>(Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center)</b> \$20,000	85.75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a new 25 minute multimovement music work entitled, Bringing Them Back Home, performed by a ten piece jazz ensemble with a poet and taiko (Japanese drums) to celebrate the contributions by the Issei (first generation Japanese immigrants) and the Nisei (second generation Japanese Americans) in Monterey during the early half of the twentieth century.
<b>Julián Delgado</b> <b>Lopera</b> <b>They/them/theirs</b> \$20,000	94.25	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "QUEENA" a literary hybrid book written in Spanglish based on Adela Holiday, a transgender Cuban immigrant who fled Castro in 1980 and became a San Francisco legend.
<b>Julz Kelly</b> <b>They/them/theirs</b> \$20,000	76	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a twelve-piece photography series that explores the queer subconscious using the Jungian therapeutic modality called Sandplay. Kelly will intuitively place figurines, toys, miniatures, and custom-made objects in original sandboxes, arranging the symbols to create surrealist dreamscapes that act as non-verbal expressions of Kelly's memories. Kelly will present the twelve photographs in an interactive solo exhibition in San Francisco.
<b>Kirti Bassendine</b> <b>She/hers/her</b> \$20,000	87.25	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a photography and short film project. I will interview and document six participants from the ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone. It will weave together still photography, narrative storyboards, and short film video interviews that will be presented as an exhibition and event with in-person presentations and demonstrations at a public San Francisco venue.

<b>Marga Gomez</b> She/hers/her, They/them/theirs \$20,000	93	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the development and final production of "Green, Brown and Rainbow" an intergenerational performance piece set in San Francisco during ten impactful years, 1976 to 1986. I will perform several of the play's characters and an emerging BIPOC performer will play the other roles.
<b>Margaret Timbrell</b> She/hers/her \$20,000	84.25	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of a solo exhibition of new work including: research hours, childcare, studio rent, materials, marketing supplies, art fabrication, framing and to pay honorariums to 3 panelists for a panel about San Francisco birds and entropy.
<b>Maryzelle Ungo</b> She/hers/her \$20,000	91.6	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a series of four different vibrational sound therapy sessions centering on communities in need of mental health support.
<b>Michelle Marie Robles Wallace</b> She/hers/her \$20,000	75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support painting the portraits of DEVOTION, a multi-media work that reclaims power for the feminine divine within Catholicism and Christianity. I will document how Christianity stripped Mother Mary of power. I will paint portraits of earth/mother goddesses who preceded Mother Mary and who had the power of creation and destruction within them. I will paint a portrait of Mother Mary with symbols of their power.
<b>Olivia Ting</b> She/hers/her \$20,000	97	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a spatial audiovisual projection installation utilizing motion sensors to translate an audio excerpt of Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Ode to Joy) into vibratory haptic wearables for deaf and HOH (Hard of Hearing) to experience sound. The wireless wearable, wraps around the neck and shoulder of the wearer, allowing agency to move around a space with projections of abstracted visuals of music conducting and signed interpretation of Ode to Joy.
<b>Pam Benjamin</b> She/hers/her, They/them/theirs \$20,000	83.25	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Mutiny Radio's storefront facility rent and monthly overhead so that I can continue serving and supporting stand up comedy artists in San Francisco and the greater Bay Area with weekly open mics as well as podcast artists, DJs, and free speech live streaming on <a href="http://www.mutinyradio.fm">www.mutinyradio.fm</a> and will also support the budget for the 8th comedy festival.
<b>Patricia Diart</b> She/hers/her \$20,000	75.75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a photography/essay book on The Cape. This performance/installation piece was made 30 times throughout the United States; seven times in San Francisco. I will also use the funds to give presentations at three public libraries, and two to three bookstores in San Francisco.

Patrick Makuakāne He/him/his \$20,000	94.75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "RITUAL," a hula dance theater production that explores the power of ritual for connection and well-being. At its core, ritual is performative, whether for the gods, yourself or your community. "RITUAL" will embrace this inherent fluidity and present through hula, traditional rituals adapted for contemporary usage, as well as new rituals that are innovative and applicable for modern
Quentin Navia - SUKAY- Peña Pachamama She/hers/her \$20,000	83.25	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of a documentary of the more than 30-year history of Peña Pachamama as it moves towards Legacy status in San Francisco. It's the story of two professional musicians who journeyed unknowingly, with no experience, investors or resources, into the competitive restaurant business here where 90% of even experienced restaurateurs go out of business in their first year. Final documentary will be presented with a concert series.
Ranko Ogura She/hers/her \$20,000	88	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Land of KAMUI": an on-stage dance performance based on the myth of the Ainu tribe. This performance represents their faith, ritual, and devotion to Kamui, the god of nature through a collaboration of contemporary dance, Butoh, and Ainu folk dance. I, as an artistic director, explore the mode of storytelling that unifies film, animation, and dance performances together with traditional costumes and musical instruments.
Rebeka Rodriguez Mondragón She/hers/her \$20,000	90.75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Femmes,Thems & Butches, a photography project using portraiture to explore how queers use style and sartorial signifiers as beacons for connection and how intimate settings function as a safe space to construct identity. The photographs will explore how queer bodies channel personal and social narratives. The portraits will contribute to an aesthetic history illustrating the infinite ways we discover ourselves and seek connection with one another.
Richard Marriott He/him/his Fiscal Sponsor (Circuit Network) \$20,000	79.75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Bahaya" (Danger), a 70 minute song cycle dealing with environmental devastation from the perspective of a third world island nation.
Ryan Gordon He/him/his \$20,000	80.75	San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support musicians, and create a new outlet for San Francisco musicians to express modern 'jazz'/music in a new and creative way. Furthermore, it is my hope that after the term of this grant, this project will continue to grow and evolve and become a cultural institution that benefits the locals and tourists of this city for years to come.

<p>Sara Shelton Mann She/hers/her Fiscal Sponsor (Circuit Network) \$20,000</p>	<p>87</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support Sara Shelton Mann's "7x/within the void" a new site-specific interdisciplinary dance performance. The performance is scheduled to take place in conjunction with Sara's 80th birthday.</p>
<p>Shannon Kurashige She/hers/her \$20,000</p>	<p>88.5</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation and performance of LONG AGO NOW, an evening-length, immersive, site-responsive dance theater piece. It will use choreography, live music, and spoken text to explore how the stories we inherit as children evolve to become part of our personal mythology and shape how we perceive the world and our power within it.</p>
<p>Sherene Melania She/hers/her \$20,000</p>	<p>90.25</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a new partnership with the Hope Giver Campaign. The Hope Giver Campaign, whose demographic focus is primarily Arab, has a mission to inspire individuals battling cancer, disabilities, and mental health issues. I plan to present our partnership by showcasing an adapted version of my signature production, The Little Lantern Ballet©.</p>
<p>Steve Youn He/him/his \$20,000</p>	<p>83.5</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support production of "Beyond the Gap," a 60-minute documentary exploring the educational achievement gap affecting young African-American males in the public education. Graduates of Washington High School in the San Francisco Unified School District, share empowering stories of success to inspire other young African-American men and students of color. This film examines solutions for educators, administrators, community members and families.</p>
<p>Susannah Smith She/hers/her, They/them/theirs \$20,000</p>	<p>97.5</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the completion of the feature documentary WE BELONG (working title). For 18 rowdy years, the Lexington Club was the only women-centered queer bar in the gay mecca of San Francisco. Against the backdrop of the bar's final months, WE BELONG tells the story of the bar, the patrons that found safety and strength in its walls, and with it two decades of queer community history.</p>
<p>Takeshi Moro He/him/his \$20,000</p>	<p>88.75</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation of large-scale photographs of historic bonsai cultivated by first-generation Japanese-American immigrants. I documented these bonsai before they were dispersed and no longer accessible to the public. I will exhibit the photographs to showcase their unique aesthetics as well as to celebrate the immigrant journey from the late 19th century to the present through these trees.</p>

<p><b>Tina D'Elia</b>  <b>She/hers/her</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>91</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the live stage version of Tina D'Elia's new solo theatrical show called "The Breakup! A Latina Queer Torch Song." The development of the production will culminate with a world premiere performance. Funds will be used to support the Lead Artist, writing development, dramaturgy coaching and Direction.</p>
<p><b>Toshio Meronek</b>  <b>He/him/his,</b>  <b>They/them/theirs</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>78.5</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the production of 'The Queer Microinsurrections of LAGAI (1978--Tomorrow),' a seven-episode audio series that joins the work of young queer artists and activists in San Francisco and the group most inspiring to them: the dozen surviving members of LAGAI ("lah-gay"). LAGAI remarkably continue their underground, theatrical performances spotlighting global injustices 45 years after the group's inception, escaping common snares such as burnout and personality conflicts that doom so many liberatory movements.</p>
<p><b>Tracy Grubbs</b>  <b>She/hers/her</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>84.25</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support "Looted," a multimedia installation drawn from 100 live-action videos showing the re-painting and wiping away of paintings that have been taken out of circulation, stolen or misplaced from locations around the world. The project is part of the present collective and will include painting workshops, and free offerings to the public of gifted paintings placed in neighborhoods throughout San Francisco.</p>
<p><b>trixxie carr</b>  <b>She/hers/her</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>77.5</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support the creation and performance of a new multimedia theatrical work 'manisacriestrixx', by trixxie carr, exploring feminine power and society's fear of it through the lens of drag performance, and the intersection of emotion and science. Using space as a metaphor for artistic creation, this piece will delve into the relationship between creation and the vacuum of space, and assumptions about female identity and its expressions.</p>
<p><b>Violeta Luna</b>  <b>She/hers/her</b>  <b>Fiscal Sponsor</b>  <b>(Galeria Studio</b>  <b>24)</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>92.5</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support production development and presentation of my project Bodies In Transit (Cuerpos en tránsito) including artist fees, set, props, and costume materials and construction, as well as sound and video design.</p>
<p><b>Wawi Amasha</b>  <b>She/hers/her</b>          \$20,000</p>	<p>87.75</p>	<p>San Francisco Arts Commission funds will be used to support a series of "Return to Nature workshops," a deep look into the wisdom of Africa proverbs and how they can be used to heal ourselves and our planet. By tapping into these proverbs, I aim to encourage participants to reflect on their lifestyles and how they impact our planet and how they can make changes to improve their livelihood by living symbiotically with nature.</p>





FY23 SFA I: 5 Year (SFA)  
Panelist Biographies

**Andy Xue** Filmmaker via music, I made films and soundtracks.

Films:

<https://www.indieboomff.com/circumambulation.html>

<https://vimeo.com/293854302>

Music:

<https://perfectgeisha.bandcamp.com/>

<https://fkrac.bandcamp.com/>

**Shaka Shaw (he/him)** San Jose based digital artist Shaka Shaw grew up drawing and studying the work of comic book and comic strip artists alike. While he did not ultimately pursue this passion as a career, his interest re-emerged in 2020, after a vision-saving cornea transplant and picking up digital art (iPad/Apple Pencil). Currently, Shaka is the creator of a comic strip called “Fresh Hell” (@freshhellcomic on Instagram) and does commissions, fan art, and other artwork separately. “By day”, Shaka is a Software Quality Assurance Engineer with over a decade’s worth of experience, having recently completed contracts at both Apple and Google.

**Lynora Lawless (she/her)** As a masters in publication design, I am skilled in the rubrics for communication arts for the digital and print platforms.

**Aramis O. Hamer (she/her)** Aramis O. Hamer is a visual artist and muralist living in Seattle, WA. Her subject matter is inspired by spirituality, music, nature, divine femininity, and the complexities throughout the Black culture. From a very young age she always loved to create, but at the age of fifteen she discovered her love for acrylic paints. With the supportive art community in the Pacific Northwest, Aramis has been able to exhibit her colorful creations at many different exhibitions in the greater Seattle area- including the Paramount Theater, Martyr Sauce Gallery, Climate Pledge Arena, and more.

**Na Mee (she/her)** is a multidisciplinary poet, teaching artist, and organizer living on Lingít Aaní, Juneau, Alaska. She is passionate about the power of art to tell our stories, bring people together, and activate positive social change. She/her work has appeared in such places as The Roundhouse in London, Literary Hub, Freeman’s: Change (Grove Atlantic), and Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines (PM Press). She has received awards for both art and activism, including three Rasmuson Foundation awards, an Alaska Literary Award, the Equilibrium Spoken Word Immersion Fellowship, and the Carla Tipone Award for Activism. She is a WESTAF Leader of Color, a Kundiman Fellow, and a Pushcart Prize nominee.





FY23 SFA II (SFA)  
Panelist Biographies

**Romson Regarde Bustillo (he/him)** Romson Regarde Bustillo is an interdisciplinary artist with a foundation in mixed media printmaking. He has taught at Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle Art Museum, and the University of Washington's Interdisciplinary Visual Arts Program.

Bustillo was awarded the Seattle Print Arts Larry Sommers Art Fellowship in 2016. In 2017 he was co-recipient of the Garboil Grant. An award that considers artists "...engaging audiences outside the aesthetic industrial complex." He received Arts-Individual Projects Grants from 4Culture in 2018 and 2020 in support of his immersive installations and collaborative interventions. He is the recipient of an Artist Trust Fellowship(2019) and the Artist Trust Innovator Award(2020). In 2022 he was awarded a Northwest Film Forum's Collective Power Fund/Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New Works Category.

**Devin Cunningham (he/him)** I started performing at a young age in school and church plays; I wrote my first play based on the fruits of the spirits when I was 11. I studied professional acting at PCPA- Pacific Conservatory Theatre, graduating in 2016. I have worked professionally as an actor since 2016 in the San Francisco/ Bay Area and have worked with various companies such as Shotgun Players, Pear Theatre, and the Lower Bottom Playaz. I am the current Associate Artistic Director of African-American Shakespeare Company. I will be making my directorial debut with the company this winter as the director of Cinderella, the company's winter show.

**Aarushi Gupta (she/her)** Dance is based on the language of beats. My hands and feet came to life at the age of four through Indian Classical dance, Kathak. This dance tells a story employing hand movements and body gestures. Kathak dance is analogous to an ocean with limitless depths that are infinite. It runs in my arteries and veins. Like a gentle rain on barren land, dance revives me. No matter how beautiful a flower may be, it doesn't attract people unless it has fragrance. By sharing Kathak with the world, Kathak has become quintessential for me. Any country's culture can be interpreted through its art, because art is an imitation of an imitation. As chairwoman of Shri Aarushi Inc I envision to spread kathak dance throughout the country and the world and have a show aired on TV on channel 29 as the show producer I wish to educate and communicate about arts and culture.

**Brennan J DeFrisco (he/him)** I am a poet, teaching artist, grant writer, program coordinator, and workshop facilitator, serving K-12 classrooms and incarcerated youth through writing and performance workshops. I've spent the last 8 years supporting and coordinating various arts programs and nonprofits throughout the Bay Area, including California Poets in the Schools, Poetry Out Loud, Young Audiences of Northern California, Bay Area Creative, Emeryville Community Grant, and the arts commissions of San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa. I've edited

and published a variety of student poetry anthologies, including the forthcoming 2022 California State Anthology with California Poets. I've also served as a panelist for the South Carolina Arts Commission Spoken Word Fellowship, been published by Nomadic Press, and hold an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University Los Angeles. I look forward to continue serving the Bay Area arts community as a poet, teacher, and community member.

**Jocelyn Reyes (she/her)** is a Latin American contemporary choreographer and dance filmmaker based in San Francisco. A first generation LA native, Reyes holds a B.S. in Cognitive Science and a B.A. in Dance from UCLA, and is the artistic director of REYES Dance. Reyes' works are informed by her childhood experiences with poverty, domestic abuse, and religion within the context of Latin American culture. She blends athleticism, everyday gestures, humor and storytelling to question traditions, belief systems, and toxic behavioral patterns, in order to heal and reimagine healthier ways of relating to ourselves and others. Since 2017, she has self-produced three evening length works, presented choreography in many festivals and curated events, and presented film work in the San Francisco Dance Film Festival. Reyes was a 2022 Joe Goode Performance Group co-production artist and a 2022 recipient of the San Francisco Arts Commission and the CASH Grant Award. She is currently a resident artist with ODC's 2023 Queer & BIPOC Space Initiative and the Drescher Ensemble Residency Program.



FY23 SFA III (SFA)  
Panelist Biographies

**Alexa Burrell (she/her)** Alexa Burrell was born in San Francisco, CA. She is a multimedia artist, filmmaker, theater designer and musician.

**Kate Stilley Steiner (she/her)** I have 30+ years experience working in the arts in San Francisco. I am the co-founder of the documentary media non-profit Citizen Film - alongside my partners Sophie Constantinou and Sam Ball. We make documentary media that supports cultural and civic engagement. We collaborate with SF arts organizations to help tell their stories, and are committed to supporting the arts to build social cohesion and community sustainability. We have run a successful internship program for 20 years, providing young documentarians hands on learning experience and exposure to how to make a career in the media arts.

I have also been closely affiliated with the Golden Gate Symphony Orchestra and Chorus since it's start. I sing in the chorus, consult on the marketing and public engagement, and curate multimedia events that designed to support the organization's commitment to throwing open the doors of San Francisco's classical music halls to underrepresented audiences.

**Addie Woolridge (she/her)** Addie Woolridge a best selling author and classically trained opera singer with a degree in music from the University of Southern California, and she holds a master's degree in public administration from Indiana University with a focus on nonprofit management and public administration. She has more than a decade of nonprofit and university management experience most recently working at Stanford University. She is also a writing craft instructor and formerly a music teacher.

**Aaron Tabada (he/him)** A graphic designer with over a decade experience in photo manipulation/retouching, magazine publication, and extra large format printing. An artist specializing in editorial/poster illustration, storyboard illustration, and watercolor. Over 5 years professionally working in branding and marketing--freelance, design studio, and in-housed marketing department.