ABBA Rebound Series - Event #3

Planning Meeting with SFAC (Ralph Remington) & GFTA (Vallie Brown, Jason Blackwell)

September 7, 4:30 PM
Arts for a Better Bay Area & SAFEHouse Arts

*Arts for a Better Bay Area (ABBA) - Mission:* Arts for a Better Bay Area (ABBA) was launched in 2015 to focus attention on the support needed to sustain the Bay Area's fragile arts ecosystem.

ABBA’s objective is to develop a network of artists, advocates, and supporters dedicated to building community-wide solidarity to increase support and equitable access to the arts. As a coalition of individuals and organizations we inform and mobilize the arts community through community-driven action.

*SAFEHouse Arts - Mission:* SAFEhouse (Saving Arts from Extinction) for the Performing Arts is an artist’s cooperative with a special focus on contemporary dance and provides creative space for a diverse range of Bay Area artists through residencies, events, skill-building and leadership. Our work is dedicated to promoting arts education and building a vibrant and inclusive San Francisco arts community.
Rebound Series ~ Summer 2020

Rebound - Arts, Equity & Recovery Series

Arts for a Better Bay Area and SAFEhouse Arts are collaborating to help connect and support artists, arts and culture workers around issues of recovery, advocacy and cultural equity and representation.

Please join us for a series of online events and opportunities to connect, communicate, learn and rebound.

Online events and discussions will be framed around:

- Recovery needs and resources
- Developing shared and new resources for the arts
- Equity in arts and culture
- Arts advocacy and accountability
REBOUND - 9/24/21, Arts & Recovery for Smaller Venues and Organizations

Are you confused about the arts reopening in San Francisco? You are not alone. Join us to hear from and connect with local arts leaders working at the forefront of recovery efforts, now.

REBOUND - 12/17/21, Re-imagine San Francisco Through the Arts

Art and culture are represented throughout the Mayor’s Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF) recommendations. Join us to learn what recommendations came out of the City’s ERTF, and how we can use the arts to move forward together.
BIPOC* VOICES
AND REFLECTIONS
ON LOCAL ARTS &
CULTURE

HOW CAN WE MOVE TOWARDS INCREASED
STABILITY, AND A THRIVING LOCAL ARTS &
CULTURE SECTOR?

BIPOC Voices & Reflection on Local Arts & Culture - How can we move towards increased stability, and a thriving local Arts & Culture sector?

Join us with special guests (new City arts leaders & Directors) Ralph Remington (SFAC), Vallie Brown (GFTA), and BIPOC arts & culture leaders as we share details from a community survey and consider solutions and tactics.

October 7th, 4:30-6:00 PM
*4:00pm call time for presenters
Planning Team

Aimee Espiritu, M. Ed., Espiritu Consulting & Program Chair, Arts Education Alliance of the Bay Area
Anna Lisa Escobedo, Engagement Project Manager - YBCA
Ericka Scott, Director - San Francisco African Arts and Culture District
Ernesto Soprani, Independent Cultural Worker, Artist Advocate, Cultural Strategist
Rodney Earl Jackson, Jr., Artistic Director - San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company

Supported by:
Susie McKinnon, MPA, Director - ABBA
Joe Landini, Executive Director - SAFEhouse Arts
Reflections & Survey Data:

BIPOC and other communities reflect that resources and opportunities don’t always feel accessible or achievable. That programs and the language and processes that encompass them, many times, don’t feel they are planned with them in mind.

Is there a way that these communities could organize to continuously share and exchange their thoughts, concerns, and ideas around arts and culture opportunities so that programs are informed of the communities’ needs?
Survey Data - collected July 2021

- Select responses showcased in tables reflect thematic responses to each question - (multiple individuals answering similarly)

- Survey: Approx. 50% identify as BIPOC/LGBTQ+
As we reopen, what do you/your communities need to know about arts and culture recovery in San Francisco/Bay Area?

Ongoing confusion about funding/resource opportunities; venues; pandemic resources

Ongoing concern around inequities in funding and resources/access

Acknowledgement that arts/culture are economic drivers, life healers and connectors (are ESSENTIAL) - we need our City leaders to acknowledge this and follow suit with policy and investment to aid our artists and underrepresented art groups/orgs

Arts and culture recovery includes basic human needs, housing, jobs, healthcare
What are ongoing barriers (prior to and during pandemic times) that your communities face with regards to arts and culture?

Access to funding for artists and smaller institutions; large barriers to funding especially for individuals and smaller orgs - administrative/operational needs; lack of (or short-term) guidance in support to access resources/funding

Arts undervalued in our society and institutions

Access to affordable housing/healthcare/education

How are we tracking issues and the work to overcome?
In order to have conversations about arts and culture that matter to you and your community, what would make the event welcoming/feel inviting?

Being invited; deeper outreach to communities, neighborhoods and artists (not just other orgs)  
Follow through on ideas generated from community

Intention, creating space for a variety of viewpoints and levels of engagement, welcoming and belonging. Being open to sharing and collaboration  
Transparency and clarity of intention and purpose; clear language
Describe how you would like to see BIPOC perspectives centered at the next online event.

Things seem segregated; I would like to champion diversity, and unity, and INTEGRATION

Having BIPOC leaders, planners, facilitators, evaluators - allow BIPOC to guide convo

How might the event flow or structure shift in order to reflect the practice of leading for collective liberation (ie. not just changing representation by having BIPOC presenters but also changing the practice and purpose of gathering). Also how to embody joy in this collective work?

Clear agenda/purpose
Other general comments/thoughts

Would like to see more trainings for artists re: marketing and business development. A focus on creating a sustainable business.

We need to make it more affordable for artists to live and work in SF to support the amazing creativity, activism, and diversity that SF is celebrated for world-wide.

Unless the sector is willing to confront white supremacy culture, and concretely change resources, the recovery is going to be just as inequitable as the events that led us to the pandemic. Not feeling at all hopeful that this event will address this.

Arts and culture have always been marginalized--we are not just recovering from the pandemic, we are recovering from years of indifference and neglect.
COMMUNITY NEEDS

The following are questions the arts and culture community would like the leaders to address and share their thoughts on at the upcoming Oct 7th gathering.
COMMUNITY NEED #1

- Share a brief history/context and foundation of SFAC and GFTA, specifically WHY and for WHOM the institutions were created.
Rebound 3 - Planning

COMMUNITY NEED #2

- Are there upcoming programs or changes to programs that could alleviate our concerns for the BIPOC community, and/or help build more equity into the City’s arts/cultural opportunities?
  - If so, how are you engaging BIPOC arts & culture community members to help build these initiatives?
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COMMUNITY NEED #3

- Can you share any ideas about how to increase equity in SFAC and GFTA resources, while ensuring more accessibility for our BIPOC communities within these initiatives?
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COMMUNITY LISTENING CIRCLES

Possible questions for attendees in breakout rooms:

- What are your thoughts or additional questions you have regarding the statements the City arts leaders shared?
- Share existing tactics or efforts you/your organization/your community is making to build more stability or opportunities? How could SFAC and GFTA support these community driven initiatives?
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RESPONSIVE VISIONS IN REAL TIME

Based on your experience in the arts & culture sector, what intentions would you like to set in your new leadership role to address the recommendations and challenges shared by our communities?
Thank you for your partnership!

BIPOC* VOICES AND REFLECTIONS ON LOCAL ARTS & CULTURE

HOW CAN WE MOVE TOWARDS INCREASED STABILITY, AND A THRIVING LOCAL ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR?

Black & Indigenous People Of Color

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