



Maisha Azadi Sebastiany's professional experience spans from artist to arts administrator, managing local and regional theaters, producing independent films and creating her own web-series. She has over ten years experience in youth development, including curriculum and program design of diversity education, leadership training and arts in education programs at both the collegiate and high school levels.

She served as the Director of New York City's Mayor's Youth Leadership Council and the NYC Youth Council through Coro New York Leadership Center. Maisha is also the founder of Urban Artist Academy which cultivates cultural sensitivity in young actors and writers committed to utilizing film and television media as a platform for social justice. She is an alumnus of Morgan State University and Metropolitan College of New York holding a B.A in Communications/Television Production and an M.B.A. in Media Management. She is a member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA.



Irina Contreras has worked for over 15 years at the intersections of arts, organizing and education. In 2006, Irina co-founded Night Kitchen as a woc-owned wellness catering project. Night Kitchen expanded to center sliding scale consulting for queer and trans BIPOC communities. Irina is a current participant in the NAVEL Collective Residency as well as a former community representative of NAVEL's board where they practice and write about time-banking alongside documenting abolitionist funding strategies.

During the week, Irina is excited to co-guide the Arts Ed Collective's youth development and juvenile justice efforts in County parks and community-based settings. Irina loves 7-inch vinyl, dream diaries, the smell of fresh xerox zines and spending time with a magnificent 3 year old named Ixi. Irina has pursued an art practice that integrates research and restorative justice practices. They hold an MFA/MA from CCA in Social Practice and Visual and Critical Studies.



Nina Crowe serves as the Managing Director of Glendale Arts, the nonprofit arts organization that manages the Alex Theatre and produces events, beyond the Theatre's wall, to support the fundamental components of a vibrant and healthy community. Since coming to Glendale in 2011, Nina has become an active member of the community, serving in a leadership role on a variety of organizations including Glendale Sunrise Rotary, The Character & Ethics Project, and the Civic Advisory Board at Adventist Health Glendale.

In her role with Glendale Arts, Nina is responsible for developing and managing annual and long-range strategic plans for fundraising, resource development, organizational structure, and operations in support of the organization's Mission and Vision. Nina was honored with a "Woman in Business" award in 2019 from Senator Anthony Portantino.



Carlos Eduardo Gacharná, is a Colombian artist who has made a life out of creating interactive spaces for others to explore. His vision for these spaces is to bridge gaps between communities – in the classroom, in the gallery, and across the globe. As a maker he constructs material explorations of matter and light to express contemplative ideas surrounding identity, ritual, and the human touch.

Carlos received a BFA in Ceramics and Glassblowing from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He has dedicated close to 10 years to the field of restorative justice and alternative art education, teaching from libraries to prison camps and everywhere in between. Since moving to Los Angeles County, he's been an active participant of the Art Realm art collective in Long Beach, as well as teaching for ArtworxLA, South Gate Museum, Long Beach Unified School District and Angel's Gate Cultural Center.



Pat Loeb is a union Stage Manager and performing arts storyteller whose career has spanned the globe for many years. Pat's entertainment experience includes: classical singer, teaching artist, theatre director, and performing as a theater, voice-over, film and tv actor. Spending most of her career with BIPOC companies like Deaf West, East West Players and Ebony Rep among others, she has stage managed events, theatre, dance, opera and conventions. Since earning an MFA in Theater Arts at USC, Pat has been committed to creating greater inclusion in the industry, and is excited to introduce youth from underrepresented communities to less visible opportunities.

Pat initially developed a program spotlighting skills needed for vital behind-the-scenes work through the Actors' Fund's Teaching Artist program. She is thrilled to take the next step with a class opening doors for young people in conjunction with Native Voices at the Autry.



Stephanie Monte is an educator and multimedia journalist based in Boyle Heights. Audio engineering sparked her interest when she started playing vinyl on her dad's record player. That inspired her to become a DJ and pursue a career in radio. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from CSULA where she developed early reporting skills and started the first internet radio station.

She later graduated with a Master's degree in Journalism from USC and interned at the Children's Radio Foundation in South Africa where she produced segments with young people living in the townships who shared stories about identity. She worked at 89.3 KPCC on the education desk then started to build a multimedia program for high school students. She is the Youth Programs Director at the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory where she helps create a space for young people to share their narrative in their own words. Navigating as a Xicana has been challenging and she hopes to give my students the tools to break through.



Labkhand Olfatmanesh is a multidisciplinary artist, curator and journalist. She has collaborated with artists, activists, international coalitions and peacekeeping entities such as the United Nations. She serves as a Board Member at Level Ground, a community of highly talented artists and creators in Los Angeles who have a passion for creating immersive art that provokes critical dialogue and empathy.

Her collaborative project entitled 'Bi-Lingering' explores the power of language and the duality of existing between cultures. In particular, she will investigate the way memories and trauma express themselves differently in one's native language vs. their second language. Labkhand's ongoing project "BabyMaybe" is an interactive project which explores the personal and complex stories of people who identify as womxn and their relationship to parenting across age and time. The series comprises film, photography, performance art, social practice and interactive gallery experiences. She is grateful to work in alignment with a platform such as ACTIVATE, which prioritizes and supports communities and voices who are underrepresented.



Cynthia Sanchez is an attorney/mediator specializing in copyright law, policy and enforcement. She has served as an attorney for Warner Music Group; as Legal Deputy Director for Mexico's Ministry of Education/Culture; as Counsel for Policy & International Affairs at the U.S. Library of Congress; and as in-house counsel for Univision Communications Inc., Sony Pictures Entertainment, and Univision Music Group.

She received her J.D. from UCLA, her B.A. from USC, and her Mediation certification from the L.A. County Bar Association, and currently serves as Chair of the Philanthropy Division of the American Bar Association's Forum on the Entertainment & Sports Industries and as a Board member of Levitt Pavilion – L.A., and formerly served as Legal Commissioner for the International Music Council; as an Ambassador to the U.N. Association, as V.P. for the Hispanic Cultural Society, and as V.P. of the California Lawyers for the Arts.



Terry Scott is a cultural organizer, arts producer & consultant with 20+ battle tested years in the Nonprofit Arts Industrial Complex. He is the former board chair of Lesole's Dance Project, a South African dance company, research fellow at Provisions Library for Art & Social Change at George Mason University and Managing Director of Junebug Productions Theater Company in New Orleans.

While Director of Producer Services and Tech at Black Public Media, he served as staff producer for BPM funded filmmakers bringing their projects to fruition and broadcast on PBS. As Senior Coordinator for StoryCorps he produced the mobile recording studio tour, traveling the country collecting stories of everyday people for NPR's Morning Edition. He is currently lead organizer with We Love Leimert and recently co-founded the nonprofit Leimert Park Village, Inc. which facilitates creative placemaking at the intersection of arts, heritage and economic development and a past Arts for LA Cultural Policy Fellow.



Alicia Weyeneth is an Administrator for the Department of Educational Services for the Compton Unified School District. Ms. Weyeneth has obtained two Masters of Education in the areas of Administrative Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction, a B.A and a minor in Visual and Performing Arts. She has served as a teacher, Curriculum Specialist, and school site Administrator. She currently oversees the District's GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) and Arts programs for K-12th. She also works with community partnerships and outreach. Ms. Weyeneth has been a strong supporter of pushing students to higher levels as well as integrating the arts into the curriculum across all content areas with a focus on social-emotional development and cultural relevancy. The blending of these areas has produced work for students that is intriguing, interactive, and educational.

Ms. Weyeneth has presented at state, national and global conferences and has been featured numerous times on a panel of experts in regards to addressing the needs of GATE students as well as sits on the Board of the California Association for the Gifted. She is always looking for ways to develop her craft, learn, and share her knowledge and resources with the various stakeholders she encounters within and outside of the Compton community.