



State of the Arts Summit 2020

October 16, 2020

Welcome

Fabian Fuentes | Manager, Youth Orchestra Los Angeles, LA Phil
2020 Arts for LA Activate Delegate

Artist Spotlight

Tonantzin Carmelo | Actor, Musician, and Native Dancer

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Amy Aquino | Actor, Arts for LA Board Chair
Mayor Eric Garcetti | City of Los Angeles

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Ryan Smith | Chief External Officer, Partnership for LA Schools

Field Update: Housing Policy, Placekeeping, & The Arts

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Monica Harte, Andrea Lofthouse Quesada | 2020 Activate Innovators

Artist Spotlight

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Laura Zucker Fellow Presentation

Nahal Jalali | 2020 Laura Zucker Research Fellow

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Danielle Galvan Gomez, Kalya Palisoc, Mya Dodson | Snap Foundation Youth Advisory Council

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Kristin Sakoda | Director, LA County Department of Arts and Culture

Danielle Brazell | General Manager, Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles

Joan Weinstein | Director, Getty Foundation

Strategy Report Back: Creative Career Pathways

Cordelia Istel | Director of Organizing, Arts for LA

Elena Muslar | Associate Director, Creative Professions and Strategic Initiatives, LMU

Elida Ledesma | Executive Director, Arts for Healing and Justice Network

Meia Johnson | Arts Education Program Manager, LA County Department of Arts and Culture

Strategy Report Back: Arts Funding for Equity

Lucia Torres | Executive Director, Las Fotos Project

Miranda Wright | Executive Director, LA Performance Practice

Karen Mack | Founder and Executive Director, LA Commons

Artist Spotlight

Kristina Wong | Performance Artist, Comedian, Writer, and Elected Representative

Closing Remarks

Gustavo Herrera | Executive Director, Arts for LA



Collette Williams Alleyne has over a decade of experience in alternative and arts education. After starting with Opportunities for Learning as an Academic Recovery Teacher, she entered into the position of Area Curriculum Advisor followed by a promotion to Assistant Principal, Regional Supervisor, and Educational Programs Project Coach. In the past three years as Director of Instruction for Opportunities for Learning and Options for Youth, she established partnerships with local schools to offer summer programs to students to reduce the learning loss that occurs during summer months. Her goal was to provide experiences for stakeholders that would encourage success in school and life. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education with a Multiple Subject Credential from the University of New Orleans, a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Pepperdine University and a Clear California Administrative Credential. Before moving to California, Collette was an Instructor for New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, NOCCA|Riverfront, and Adjunct Instructor at Dillard University of New Orleans. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. As an artist and artist educator, Collette has performed and co-directed various companies throughout Los Angeles and in her hometown of New Orleans. She is currently a member of the Duarte Unified Arts Taskforce and regularly participates in Arts and Education programming committees to provide input on the direction of arts resources available to local district students. She believes that all students should have the opportunity and tools to excel.

Amy Aquino is an American television, film, and stage actress. She is a graduate of Harvard and Yale University, and has for 30 years appeared on stage, film and in dozens of television series such as Amazon's current *Bosch*, *Brooklyn Bridge*, *ER*, and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband Drew McCoy where they have actively supported many arts and education institutions, including Inner City Arts (including the establishment of the Eamon Cannon Comedy Class), the Virginia Avenue Project (a free after-school performing arts and arts mentoring program in Santa Monica), the Cornerstone Theater Company, the Boston Court Theater, and Arts for LA. Amy is also Vice-President of her neighborhood association and an active strategist and spokesperson in the historic preservation movement in her neighborhood and LA as a whole, was a founding board member of the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council, and a member of the Hollywood Community Police Advisory Board. Since 1994 Amy has been a strong force in the Screen Actors Guild's – and later SAG-AFTRA's - executive leadership. She has served as vice president, national secretary-treasurer, chair of the finance committee, and as a member of multiple negotiating, strategic planning and national executive committees. She shepherded the revamping of SAG's communications and outreach, and was critical to the achievement and implementation of the SAG-AFTRA merger. Amy is intrigued with taking her volunteerism to the next level with Arts for



LA. She is interested in developing broad arts policy and learning more about our government relations efforts and interactions with the schools. She has a wide and strong network of friends and

colleagues in the creative industries and looks forward to including that network in the Arts for LA family.

Betty Avila is a native of Los Angeles and raised in Cypress Park. Her work has centered on the intersection of the arts and social justice, with particular focus on community building, public space, and youth empowerment. She has held positions with the Getty Research Institute, The Music Center and the Levitt Pavilion MacArthur Park. She sits on the boards of the Center for Cultural Innovation and Arts for LA, and is a founding board member of People for Mobility Justice (formerly Multicultural Communities for Mobility), an organization that supports low-income communities of color that bike, walk and use public transit in Los Angeles County. Betty sat on the inaugural Advisory Committee for Los Angeles County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative as an appointee of Supervisor Hilda Solis that resulted in the recommendation of cultural policy and was unanimously approved by the County Board of Supervisors. In 2017, Betty was named one of C-Suite Quarterly Magazine's NextGen 10 in Philanthropy, Arts and Culture and an Impact-Maker to Watch by City Impact Labs. She received her B.A. in Literature at Pitzer College, has an M.A. in Arts Management from Claremont Graduate University, and is a 2008 Fulbright Fellow to Korea.

Julie Baker is a passionate arts professional. Prior to becoming Executive Director of Californians For The Arts in October of 2018, Julie Baker served on the board for four years as chair of the membership committee and Confluence, an arts advocacy conference. She is the owner of Julie Baker Projects, a full-service arts consulting firm. From 2009-2017, Julie Baker served as the Executive Director of The Center for the Arts, a non-profit performing arts venue and California WorldFest, an annual music and camping festival based in Grass Valley, CA. Baker worked in New York City at several prominent art galleries and the international auction house Christie's before becoming the President of her family's art marketing agency, Gerngross & Company Inc. From 1998-2001, she worked as a Senior Executive Producer for Tristream, a 20- person web development and marketing/branding company. From 2001-2009 she owned and operated Julie Baker Fine Arts a gallery of emerging artists, and for 2 years co-founded Flow, an art fair in Miami. She currently serves on the board of CHIRP, California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project.

Danielle Brazell is the General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), reporting directly to the Mayor and leading a full time staff of 35. Ms. Brazell works with the progressive arts agency's Community Arts, Public Art, Grants Administration, and Marketing and Development Division Directors to oversee a \$56 million portfolio of facilities, programming, and initiatives providing arts and cultural services in Los Angeles. Prior to being appointed to this



position in the summer of 2014, Ms. Brazell was the Executive Director of Arts for LA. Under her stewardship, Arts for LA became a formidable coalition advancing the arts in the largest county in the country. Her additional professional experience also includes working as the Artistic Director of

Highways Performance Space and as the Director of Special Projects for the Screen Actors Guild Foundation."

Tonantzin Carmelo, began her career as a native dancer and musician, recording 3 CDs with Canyon Records. She honed her acting craft in a myriad of professional theater productions, and is a member of the LA based professional theater company Native Voices, most recently as Lisa Yellowtree in the world premiere production of Carbon Black. Her maternal native ancestry comes from the original people of Southern California (Tongva and Kumeyaay) and her musical gifts come from her father, who is a professional Latin musician. She received her BA from UC Irvine in Environmental Analysis and Design with a minor in Dance. She established herself as a leading actress with her break-out performance as Thunder Heart Woman in the Emmy-winning Steven Spielberg miniseries Into the West, and made her mark as a motion-capture/voice-over artist playing the villainous Kendra Daniels in the EA Game franchise Dead Space, which sold over two million copies. She is an award-winning and multifaceted actor who is cast in Westerns, Sci-fi, and everything in between. Highlights for Carmelo this year include three feature films: Child of Grace, Medicine Men, and Entertainment, where she plays opposite John C. Reilly. She adds to her voice-over credits by taking on the lead role of Roxanne in Ubisoft's The Crew. Carmelo also topped the "The Hot List" of must-see native actors in the national news publication Indian Country today. Her diverse body of work includes lead and supporting roles in over a dozen indie feature films, most notably in the festival favorites Imprint, Unearthed, and Shouting Secrets. Carmelo has a background in theater and took the stage as Victoria Roubideaux in Eventide at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and as Ms. Yellowtree in Carbon Black at Native Voices at the Autry. Her prime-time television guest-starring credits include CSI, Dragnet, and Dark Blue and American Dad!. Along the way she has garnered numerous awards and nominations including a coveted Screen Actors Guild nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in Dreamworks' Into the West; Best-Actress awards and nominations for Imprint at the Hoboken International Film Festival (nomination), American Indian Film Festival (two nominations, and one win), and many others. Maxim Magazine also named her character Kendra Daniels on a list for the Hottest Video Game Babes of the year. In her spare time she sings lead and back up vocals with the band Trio Del Alma.

Amy Eriksen is dedicated to expanding arts education instruction in public schools and a passionate community builder. She holds a BA in Music Education from the University of Redlands and a Master of Arts in Organizational Management. As the Executive Director at Angels Gate Cultural Center, Amy works with various partners to provide high quality arts classes and experiences for all ages. Her arts career has taken her to the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, the Music Center in



Los Angeles, and she spent many years cultivating her arts leadership skills at Idyllwild Arts for both the summer academy and boarding school. Amy is the Chair of the Human Relations Commission for the City of Long Beach where she works with twelve commissioners to inspire and support social

justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster mutual understanding and respect for all. She also works as a cultural partner with the Los Angeles County Arts Ed Collective. When she has time to relax, she enjoys creating community board games days at Elinor's in Long Beach.

Fabian Fuertes holds the position of Manager, YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles) with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and is a 2020 Arts for LA, Activate Arts Delegates Alum. His passion for arts education and social justice inspires his work in creating a profound societal renewal in our generation and the next. As a native Angelino and first-generation Latinx, he is proud to be a part of an organization that designs and delivers world class learning opportunities to under-resourced communities. Through YOLA, Fabian is a part of a team that serves more than 1,300 young musicians across four sites in LA County, providing them with free instruments, intensive music instruction, academic support, and leadership training. Through the 2020 Arts for LA, State of the Arts Summit, Fabian is excited to explore personal blind spots, transcend ineffective patterns, enable transformation, and continue his pursuit in creating a world in which the beauty and challenge of art inspire any person to fulfill their greatest potential.

Mayor Eric Garcetti is a fourth-generation Angeleno and the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles. Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley — the son of public servants and the grandson and great-grandson of immigrants from Mexico and Eastern Europe — Mayor Garcetti's life has been shaped by a deep commitment to the core values of justice, dignity, and equality for all people. These ideals have fueled the Mayor's relentless drive to fulfill our common obligation: to give children and families of every race, faith, background, and income the chance to get a good education, live on safe streets, earn a decent wage, breathe clean air and drink clean water, receive affordable medical and child care, and build a future of their own choosing. Angelenos are experiencing the remarkable results of his vision and leadership: the Mayor led and won a campaign to pass the boldest local infrastructure initiative in American history, funding a once-in-a-generation expansion of public transportation. He launched the L.A. College Promise, one of the most ambitious higher education access programs in the nation — serving more than 15,000 students, many of whom are overcoming poverty and are the first in their families to pursue the dream of higher education. He is confronting a homelessness crisis by leading an unprecedented regional alliance committed to getting people off the streets and ending chronic homelessness. He put more money in workers' pockets by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and cut business taxes to help drive a historic economic recovery that has created a record number of jobs in legacy industries like entertainment and aerospace. And in 2018, he formed a historic partnership with the philanthropic sector to refurbish nearly 350 athletic courts across the city — to support his plan for universal sports and fitness programs that are both free and local for all children in Los Angeles. The Mayor's leadership is making an extraordinary impact on the national and international stages: he rallied more than 400 mayors in cities across America to adopt the Paris Climate agreement after the Trump Administration pulled out of the pact. He led the first National Day of Action on Immigration, and has put unprecedented local resources toward providing Dreamers and others with legal aid to fight deportation. He signed America's strongest earthquake



retrofit law to protect thousands of people's lives from natural disasters. And he successfully led the bid to bring the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games to the United States for the first time in more than 30 years. He has lived and worked in Europe, Asia, and Africa and appointed Los

Angeles' first Deputy Mayor for International Affairs to expand L.A.'s global ties and bring more jobs, economic opportunity, culture, education, and visitors to the city. While Mayor Garcetti has taken on these enormous challenges, he has also reimagined how city government delivers the most basic services. Since July 2013, L.A. has paved 14,750 lane miles of road; cut the average pothole repair time by half; implemented a \$1.4 billion plan to repair every sidewalk in every community, and greatly expanded the number of trees in neighborhoods across the city. He created Clean Streets L.A. — a block-by-block assessment of 9,100 miles of streets that identifies neighborhoods with the most needs, and prioritizes delivery of resources. Under his leadership, L.A. has been rated the nation's best-run city by the Bloomberg What Works Cities initiative and become the number-one solar energy city in America. The Mayor's government service began on the L.A. City Council, where he spent four terms as Council President before being elected Mayor in 2013 and winning re-election in 2017 by the widest margin in the history of Los Angeles. Beyond his time at City Hall, Mayor Garcetti has served his country as an intelligence officer in the United States Navy Reserve, and taught at the University of Southern California and Occidental College. The Mayor received his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University, and studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and later at the London School of Economics. He is also a jazz pianist and photographer. He and his wife, First Lady Amy Elaine Wakeland, are the proud parents of a daughter, Maya, and have been foster parents for more than a decade.

Amanda Gorman, at 20-years-old, Harvard junior, is called "the next great figure of poetry in the U.S." In 2017 she made history by becoming the first ever Youth Poet Laureate of the United States of America. In this role she has spoken at the Library of Congress, the United Nations x Mashable Social Good Summit, WE Day, and venues across the country. As a native from Los Angeles, prior to her national position she served as the inaugural Youth Poet Laureate of L.A. and later the West. In these capacities she met Michelle Obama at the White House, conducted a library tour, and published *The One for Whom Food Is Not Enough*. She is Founder and Executive Director of One Pen One Page, which promotes literacy through free creative writing programming for underserved youth. She has been a HERlead Fellow in Washington, D.C, and London, and a UN Youth Delegate in NYC. She's performed alongside Jennifer Aniston, Morgan Freeman, and Lin-Manuel Miranda to advocate for youth leadership and arts education, and spoken alongside Al Gore and Secretary Hillary Clinton for environmentalism and women's rights. Featured in *The New York Times*, *The Today Show*, *MTV*, *Teen Vogue*, *Seventeen Magazine*, *TIDAL*, *Essence's Woke 100 list*, *Time for Kids*, *Yahoo Style*, the *Google Assistant*, and more, her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Glamour Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Elle UK*. A model on the side, she's been a face in two national campaigns for Eileen Fisher and Helmut Lang. She is a recipient of the Making a Difference Award from Black Girls Rock and BET, recognition from the Scholastic Inc. and YoungArts, a Genius



Grant from OZY Media, and a College Women of the Year Award from Glamour Magazine. This fall she was selected from a competitive 20,000+ applicant pool to be one of the newest contributors to the New York Times

newsletter The Edit, tailored to college students and recent graduates. Currently a Harvard junior in the top of her class, she studies Sociology and Spanish. She is running for president in 2036.

Denise Grande oversees the Los Angeles County Arts Education Collective, spearheading regional efforts to advance arts education for LA County's 1.5 million public school students. This involves promoting a common agenda, shepherding a 200+ partner coalition that engages over 100 arts organizations and 70 school districts, guiding communications efforts and spearheading research to inform strategy and track progress. Previously, Ms. Grande was Director of Programs and Strategic Partnerships for the Metropolitan Opera Guild at Lincoln Center in New York, annually serving 160 schools across 7 states. During her 20 years at The Music Center in Los Angeles, she played a leadership role in arts education program design, implementation, research and evaluation. Ms. Grande received her BA from UCLA in dance and was a Coro Fellow through the California Arts Council's Arts Leadership Fellow Program.

City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson proudly represents the Eighth District of Los Angeles and chairs the city's Planning Land Use and Management committee. City Councilmember, Harris-Dawson has introduced policies that combat homelessness, create quality jobs, clean streets, and encourage community policing. Within his first 18 months as a Councilmember, he authored Proposition HHH, a \$1.2 billion bond for permanent supportive housing, the largest investment towards ending homelessness in the nation and has authorized more affordable housing than anywhere in the city in his first two years in office. The Eighth District is home to over 248,000 people and the Councilmember proudly represents the district with the highest concentration of African Americans in the city. Never afraid to discuss issues of race and equity, Councilmember Harris-Dawson understands how decades of systematic disinvestment have harmed our communities and believes the people of South LA are its greatest resource. As a long-time community organizer in South LA, Harris-Dawson relies on his deep roots and relationships to build public trust and collaborative solutions. Councilmember Harris-Dawson graduated from Morehouse College and joined the Community Coalition in 1995. Beginning in 2004, Councilmember Harris-Dawson succeeded US Congresswoman Karen Bass as President and CEO of Community Coalition - one of the most progressive non-profits in the city. Councilmember Harris-Dawson has received various community commendations, recognition, and awards such as the coveted *Do Something "BRICK" Award*, *The Wellness Foundation Sabbatical Award*, the *NAACP Man of Valor Award*, *Durfee Foundation's Stanton Fellowship*, and *Liberty Hill Foundation's Upton Sinclair Award*. He also served as a board member for the Liberty Hill Foundation. He holds a certificate in Nonprofit



Management from Stanford's Graduate School of Business and is an Aspen Institute Pahlara Fellow. Marqueece grew up in South Los Angeles and proudly resides there with his wife Karrie. They strongly believe in the community's power to create a better tomorrow by organizing and working together.

Gustavo Herrera was appointed as Arts for LA's Executive Director in December 2018. Prior to working with us, he was the Western Regional Director for Young Invincibles (YI), where he was responsible for leading YI's California offices, including its West Coast expansion. As director, he set strategic direction and advanced YI's policy priorities on health care, higher education, jobs, and civic engagement for the region. Before starting at Young Invincibles, Gustavo was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of L.A. Plaza de Cultura y Artes (LAPCA), overseeing the day-to-day operation of a county museum, including the oversight of a master plan committee responsible for strategically developing three acres of additional museum campus. From 2010-2012, Gustavo led the Maestro Foundation, a classical music and performance arts foundation, as the Director of Organizational Development. Between 2007-2010, he assessed and recommended business growth strategies in the US marketplace for the global Fortune 500 Company, American Honda Motors, Co. Gustavo holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from American Jewish University and a dual Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies with an emphasis in socio-politics and economics and Art History from the University of California Santa Barbara. Gustavo served on the Board of Directors of the Create: Fixate Arts Organization (2006-2010). He is a current Strong Workforce Implementation Advisory Board Member for the California Community Colleges, Advisory Board Member for the California Physician's Alliance and founding Board Member of Silverlake Forward.

Emma Howard is the Director of Planning for Councilmember David Ryu representing Council District Four. Previously, Emma has worked as a planner for the County of Los Angeles and the City of New York. As Cultural Community Associate at the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, she worked to build community capacity in the neighborhood of East Brooklyn and worked on New York City's first Cultural Plan. Prior to her work in NYC she worked as a Regional Planner with the County of Los Angeles. During her 8 years with the County, she prepared land use ordinances and policy, including the Significant Ecological Areas Program, community standards districts, hillsides and ridgelines ordinances, and small business regulations. Ms Howard has a decade of experience in public outreach, an M.A. in Community Development and Planning and is a certified Creative Placemaker. Creative Placemaking is an emerging field in using the intersections of arts and the land use planning process to achieve outcomes that enhance communities physically, socially and creatively. She has been a proud resident of Koreatown since 2008.

Cordelia Istel is an organizer, educator, and administrator with over a decade of experience working at the intersection of cultural programming and social justice. Before joining the Service Employees



International Union as an External Organizer, she served as Director of Programs for a non-profit theater company engaging climate justice in urban environments, Manager of the Met Opera's Education Department, and also helped create the United States Department of Arts & Culture - a national network of activists using arts-based strategies to address urgent issues facing their communities. In addition to her advocacy, Cordelia continues to make performance-based work and

has toured/presented in LA, NYC, SF, Mexico City, Paris, and Brussels. She is a graduate of Yale University (degrees in Political Science and Theater Studies) as well as the California Institute of the Arts (School of Theater). In her spare time, Cordelia cooks, hikes, and attempts overly-ambitious craft projects with varying levels of success.

Nahal Jalali is a visual artist, writer, and strategy consultant focused on advancing social change through the arts. She is currently working on finalizing her first book on the intersection of art and public policy. The book is a collection of more than twenty accessible and compelling stories illustrating the benefits of arts and cultural programs across a variety of sectors, locations, and issue areas. Nahal is also a Senior Consultant in Deloitte's Government and Public Services practice where she advises public and social sector clients on innovation, strategic growth, and social impact strategy. Prior to joining Deloitte, Nahal served as a Deloitte Data Analytics Fellow, a Research Assistant for Georgetown University's Initiative on Innovation, Development, and Economics (GUI2DE), and as the Communications Specialist for a nonprofit organization managing more than fifty development projects across India and Nepal. Nahal earned her Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University where she wrote her graduate thesis on individual preferences for public funding of the arts in the United States. She also has a personal ceramic arts practice and is a member of the CLAY CA studio in Chinatown.

Meia Johnson serves as an Arts Education Program Manager at the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Ms. Johnson guides work of the Creative Pathways for Youth initiative (formerly Teen Arts Pathways), one of five initiatives currently funded as part of Cultural Equity & Inclusion Initiative (CEII), which aims to prepare youth for careers in the arts and creative industries, by creating access to work-based learning and leadership opportunities for junior high and high school students, particularly students of color, low-income students, LGBTQ students, disabled students, current and former foster youth, and youth on probation, as well as others who experience barriers to participation in the workforce. Ms. Johnson is committed to cultural equity and inclusion and seeks to identify, align and leverage resources for providing youth, ages 15-24 years old, with concrete entry points into the creative economy. Ms. Johnson has extensive experience in designing, implementing and administering workforce development programs for youth. Ms. Johnson's experience also includes community planning, nonprofit management and organizational development consultation. Ms. Johnson is a senior faculty member and subject-matter expert within



the School of Business at the University of Phoenix. She has a bachelor's in journalism, a bachelor's Pan African Studies and a Master's of Public Administration from California State University, Northridge.

Lyric Kelkar, is a Senior Associate of Policy and Research, producing research on topical issues afflicting under-served communities across Los Angeles. Her outlook on the urban landscape has

been shaped by her experience in public works consulting and policy advocacy. She applies a design-thinking approach to research social challenges in the built environment and drives equitable policy and community development solutions. Lyric holds an M.S. in Design and Urban Ecologies from Parsons School of Design and a B.A. in Urban Studies and Planning from UC San Diego.

Shawn Kravich is the Executive Director for the Snap Foundation. Previously, he worked as Director of the Los Angeles HIV Law + Policy Project, overseeing the legal services collaboration to meet the legal needs of the over 60,000 people living with HIV in Los Angeles County. He also served as the Executive Director of the Calley Foundation, and taught at Loyola Law School. He holds JD from UCLA in Critical Race Studies & Public Interest Law and Policy, as well as a BA from USC in International Relations, Political Science, and Art History.

Elida Ledesma is a Southern California native, she received a Bachelor's of Arts in Communications and Spanish from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Master's of Public Health, with a concentration in Community Health Sciences, from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Prior to working with the Arts for Healing and Justice Network she worked as a research assistant for the UCLA Department of Medicine on the RISE project, which examined adolescent risky behavior. Currently, Elida serves as the Associate Director of the Arts for Healing and Justice Network overseeing program evaluations, the creation of a shared theory of practice, on-going training for members and county agencies, in addition to managing daily operations. Elida was also selected as a 2016-2017 Arts for LA Activate fellow, completing the Arts Education track. Her passion lies in helping and advocating for underrepresented and vulnerable populations.

Karen Mack is founder and Executive Director of LA Commons, an organization dedicated to promoting Los Angeles' diverse neighborhoods through locally based, interactive, artistic and cultural programming. LA Commons has implemented community art projects, tours and classes in communities throughout LA and in partnership with organizations such as the Central American Resource Center, the South Asian Network, Thai Community Development Center and UCLA. The organization has also partnered with the National Endowment for the Arts, LA Dept of Cultural Affairs, LA County Arts Commission and organizations from around the country to implement and document effective, community based creative place making programs. Prior to work with LA



Commons, she served as a Public Service Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where she researched the role of culture in community building. Her appointment at Harvard followed work as the Vice President, Program Development and Planning at Community Partners. She holds an MPA from Harvard University and an MBA from the John Anderson School of Management at UCLA. She is a past president of the board of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative and of the City's Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Rochelle Mills, President and CEO, is responsible for guiding IHO's vision and implementing its mission to create thriving, economically vibrant communities anchored by high-quality housing. During her tenure with IHO, she has helped the portfolio grow 350%. Rochelle is hands on across the organization and oversees housing development, new program initiatives, business development and stakeholder relations, and legislative, advocacy and policy interests. Rochelle brings a diverse background in architecture, design, construction administration, community planning, writing, and cultural tourism. She is immediate past President of the Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing (SCANPH), and serves on several public and nonprofit boards, services committees, and leader groups including The Kennedy Commission, CA Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies (CAL-ALHFA), Lanterman Housing Alliance, and Arts for Los Angeles.

Elena Muslar is the Associate Director, Creative Professions and Strategic Initiatives at Loyola Marymount University. Inspired by her experiences in arts administration, creative producing, and cultural engagement, she is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of creative professionals. She is on the Advisory Board for Emerging Arts Leaders/Los Angeles, a member of WOCA – Women of Color in the Arts, and was in the first cohort of the California Presenters' Next-Gen Leadership Diversity Program. As an Advisory Committee Member for the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative, through the LA County Arts Commission, Elena received a commendation from the LA County Board of Supervisors for her dedication to community affairs and civic pride. She has published articles through Americans for the Arts, Western Arts Alliance, and HowlRound. Elena earned a B.A. in Theatre Arts (with minors in Dance, African-American Studies, and an emphasis in Education) from LMU and an M.F.A. in Theatre Management & Producing from CalArts.

Kristin Sakoda is the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, which provides grants and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, runs the largest arts internship program in the country, coordinates public-private arts education initiatives, supports creative career pathways, commissions civic artwork, produces free community programs, and advances cultural strategies to address civic issues across sectors. As an arts executive, attorney, and former Broadway performing artist, Ms. Sakoda has over 20 years of experience in the cultural field. Prior to the Department of Arts and Culture, she served as Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, where she led a wide range of strategic,



programmatic, legislative, and policy initiatives. During her tenure she was instrumental in diversity and inclusion, capital projects at cultural facilities, public art, creative aging, and affordable workspace for artists. She has appeared on national and international stages with the Urban Bush Women dance company, and musicals *Rent* (national tour) and *Mamma Mia!* (Broadway). She holds a J.D. from NYU School of Law where she received the Jack J. Katz Memorial Award for Excellence in Entertainment Law, and a B.A. from Stanford University in American Studies with a specialization

in Race and Ethnicity, and a secondary major in Feminist Studies. Under her leadership, the Arts Commission will become the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture in 2019.

Cheyenne Sauter, born and raised in SGV (San Gabriel Valley), has been a nonprofit professional for over 20 years. Her true calling lies in working with and supporting artists, and in July 2013 Cheyanne joined Art Share L.A. as an Interim Director to revitalize the nonprofit. Over the past 6 years, she grew the organization to the beast it is today, supporting over 700 visual & performing artists annually. Cheyanne loves managing the six staff members to offers diverse programming that engages hundreds of emerging artists to create, exhibit, and share their work with thousands of art lovers annually. Cheyanne has served as a member of the executive team for the Cultural Stakeholders Committee, whose goal was to provide visibility for the arts and preserve and promote Los Angeles' cultural and heritage. She currently sits on the boards of the Los Angeles River and Business Association (LARABA) and the Arts District Business Improvement District (ADLA).

Mark Slavkin is Director of Education for the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. The Wallis is dedicated to engaging arts learners of all ages, from K-12 school partnerships, to courses for young artists, to a range of activities to engage adults as audience members and as art-makers. Mark served as Vice President for Education at the Music Center: Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County from 2001-14. He directed a wide range of programs and services that helped advance arts education in schools and communities across Los Angeles County. He also played a key role in the development of the Los Angeles County Arts Education Collective. He continues to co-chair the Leadership Council for this initiative. Mark chairs the Board of Directors for the California Alliance for Arts Education, the statewide policy and advocacy organization.

Ryan Smith is the Chief External Officer for Partnership for LA Schools. Prior to joining the Partnership, he was the Executive Director of the Education Trust-West and Vice President of Strategic Advocacy for the Education Trust, an education civil rights organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps. At The Education Trust-West, he worked on producing actionable, accessible research and advocacy tools that reached state policymakers and on-the-ground



community advocates and education leaders alike. Ryan also led the team's development and production of *Black Minds Matter: Supporting the Educational Success of Black Students in California*, and *The Majority Report: Supporting the Educational Success of Latino Students in California*. Before Ed Trust, he served as the Director of Education Programs and Policy for the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, where he was responsible for the education program and policy efforts for the organization. After having the honor of launching the Partnership's Family and Community Engagement Team and founding the Parent College Program, he returned as their Chief External Officer. In this role, he is responsible for strategic and operational oversight of the

Partnership's development, communications, policy and advocacy, and family and community engagement initiatives. Recently, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond appointed him as a Co-Chair of his Closing the Achievement Gap Initiative. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from UCLA, and is also pursuing a Doctorate of Education (EdD) from UCLA. He served as an Annie E. Casey Children and Family Fellow and a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs. In his spare time, he enjoys museums, traveling, volunteering, and overall angelic trouble-making.

Lucia Torres is the Executive Director of Las Fotos Project. Like many of the students at Las Fotos Project, she began her community organizing and advocacy work as a teen. Her passion for community led her to UCLA where she received her B.A in Chicano/a Studies, and went on to receive her Masters in Public Administration from CSUN. For nearly 20 years, she has dedicated herself to supporting young people through education, grassroots organizing and building youth development programs in the communities of Sylmar, Pacoima, Boyle Heights and South Central Los Angeles. Lucia is also a freelance writer and has a background in media and communications; she has used these skills to support emerging nonprofits with creating communications, marketing and development strategies that have increased their impact and reach.

Pat Wayne has served as the Program Director of CREATE CA, California's Statewide Arts Education Coalition since 2015. Prior to joining CREATE CA, Pat was Deputy Director of Arts Orange County, the county-wide arts council. She has held the positions of Manager of Community Programs for the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Deputy Director of the Columbus Arts Council (Ohio), and Managing Director of MoMing Dance Center (Chicago) and Merrimack Regional Theatre (Boston). Pat has a teaching credential and a Master's degree in Performing Arts Administration.

Joan Weinstein is director of the Getty Foundation. Since joining the Getty she has directed grant initiatives internationally related to art history, conservation, and museum practice, and was co-director of *Pacific Standard Time: Art in LA 1945–1980*. Throughout her career she has been active in professional organizations in the fields of art history, philanthropy, and preservation and has



served on a number of nonprofit boards. She is currently a trustee of the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. Dr. Weinstein began her career teaching art history at the University of Pittsburgh and is the author of several books and numerous articles on the history of modern art in Weimar Germany. She holds a PhD in the History of Art from the University of California, Los Angeles, and studied at the Phillips-Universität Marburg in Germany.

Kristina Wong was featured in the New York Times' Off Color series "highlighting artists of color who use humor to make smart social statements about the sometimes subtle, sometimes obvious ways that race plays out in America today." She is a performance artist, comedian, writer and elected

representative who has been presented internationally across North America, the UK, Hong Kong and Africa. She's been a guest on late night shows on Comedy Central and FX, and an actor on film and TV. She starred in her own pilot presentation with Lionsgate for truTV. Her commentaries have appeared on American Public Media's Marketplace, PBS, VICE, Jezebel, Playgirl Magazine, Huffington Post and CNN. She's been awarded artist residencies from the MacDowell Colony, New York Theater Workshop, the San Diego International Airport and Ojai Playwrights Festival. Her work has been awarded with grants from Creative Capital, The MAP Fund, Center for Cultural Innovation, National Performance Network, a COLA Master Artist Fellowship from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, eight Los Angeles Artist-in-Residence awards, and Center Theatre Group's 2019 Sherwood Award. She's created viral web series like How Not to Pick Up Asian Chicks and just launched the second season of the award winning Radical Cram School. Her rap career in post-conflict Northern Uganda is the subject of her last solo theater show The Wong Street Journal which toured the US, Canada and Lagos, Nigeria (presented by the US Consulate). Her long running show Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest looked at the high rates of depression and suicide among Asian American women and is now a concert film. Her newest performance project is "Kristina Wong for Public Office"—a simultaneous real life stint as the elected representative of Wilshire Center Koreatown Sub-district 5 Neighborhood Council and rally campaign show. That show's national tour was sidelined by the pandemic and has pivoted to streaming performances. Kristina's current pandemic project is the Auntie Sewing Squad, a national network of volunteers sewing masks for vulnerable communities. The experience of erecting this remote factory in ten days at the start of the pandemic is the subject of Kristina's current performance "Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord" which she is developing as a New York Theater Workshop Artistic Instigator.

Miranda Wright is a Los Angeles-based theater producer, and Executive Director of Los Angeles Performance Practice, an infrastructure and artists' network of independent artists and companies who create groundbreaking theatrical experiences through innovative approaches to collaboration, technology, and social engagement. Through LAPP, Miranda produced and curated Live Arts Exchange (LAX), a contemporary performance festival in collaboration with 105 local artists.



Specializing in international collaboration, Miranda has produced work with artists and organizations in Havana, Kigali, Kampala, and Prague. Most recently, she produced the English language premiere of *You Should Have Stayed Home, Morons* (dir. Manuel Orjuela, Colombia) presented by RADAR LA as a site-responsive travelling performance, and the U.S. premiere of Deborah Asiimwe's *Cooking Oil* at the ATX: Art + Innovation Center featuring an ensemble from Kampala, Kigali, and Los Angeles. Miranda is Associate Producer at AUTOMATA, and co-Founder of The Center for Sustainable Practice in the Arts. She is the recipient of the 2014 Richard E. Sherwood Award.