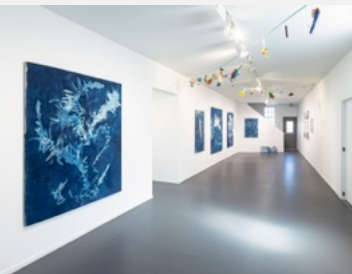


2021-2022

# ARTISTS AT WORK LOS ANGELES COUNTY

THE OFFICE performing arts + film partnered with the LA County Department of Arts and Culture to implement Artists At Work (AAW) in Los Angeles. This program spanned the geography of the Los Angeles County, with Culture Hubs that are deeply rooted in their respective communities and predominantly are led by or serve Black, Latinx, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.



AAW LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTISTS: MARCUS KUILAND-NAZARIO, MARU GARCIA, MYISHA ARELLANO, MICHELLE GLASS, TAYLOR GRIFFITH, NANCY WOO, DREW ARRIOLA-SANDS, JESSA CALDERON, AUDREY CHAN, JASON CHU, RENE FISHER-MIMS, KAYLA SHELTON, REGINALD B. MCKINLEY II, VOJISLAV RADOVANOVIĆ, KARINA CEJA AND ERICK INIGUEZ

The implementation of Artists At Work in Los Angeles County is made possible by the generous support of The Mellon Foundation.

# MARCUS KUILAND-NAZARIO

## 18TH STREET ARTS CENTER | SANTA MONICA CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Los Angeles native Marcus Kuiland-Nazario is a cross-disciplinary artist, arts educator, performance curator and producer. He is a founding artist of 18th Street Arts Center, Highways Performance Space and Community Health Project, a harm reduction street based needle exchange program (formerly Clean Needles Now). Kuiland-Nazario's works are long-term research based cross-genre projects exploring extreme states of emotion such as grief, anger and loss influenced by the cultural and spiritual traditions of the African Diaspora and movies. His performance works have been included in national and international festivals.

Throughout the year Marcus has been working on Sea Change Lab, a mobile, multi-site, interdisciplinary, contemporary art program, in association with the 18th Street Arts Center and Santa Monica Cultural Affairs. Sea Change Lab is a mobile, interdisciplinary, contemporary art lab developed by artist and curator Marcus Kuiland-Nazario inspired by the Covid Pandemic. It is funded by the City of Santa Monica's art of Recovery initiative. Sea Change Lab provides time, space and money to artists during COVID and public programs, Directed by Marcus Kuiland-Nazario.



# MARU GARCÍA

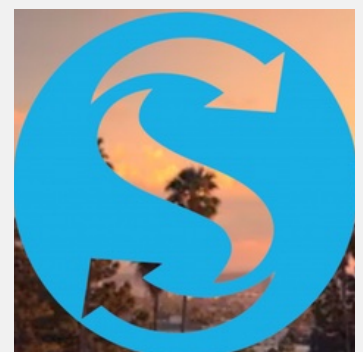
## 18TH STREET ARTS CENTER | SUSTAINABLE WORKS



Maru García is a transdisciplinary artist and researcher working across art + science + environment. Her areas of interest are explorations on biosystems, interspecies relationships, and the capacity of living organisms (including humans) to act as remediators in contaminated sites. She has participated in conferences, solo and group exhibitions in North America, Europe, and Asia. She holds an MFA in Media Arts (UCLA), M.S. in Biotechnology, B.S. in Chemistry (Tec de Monterrey, Mexico).

Throughout the year, Maru worked with Culture Hub 18th Street Arts Center and Social Impact Initiative, Sustainable Works on her project, 'Radical propagations/ propagaciones radicales'.

'Radical propagations/ propagaciones radicales' is a project that explores actions that create healing, resilience, and regeneration in the Los Angeles community. It involves curating an exhibition with the same name and organizing other community-based activities, like the Pile-2-patio mulch sculpture and the maintenance-propagation sessions.



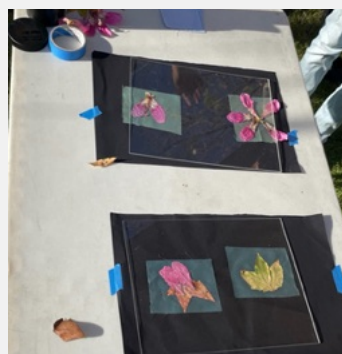
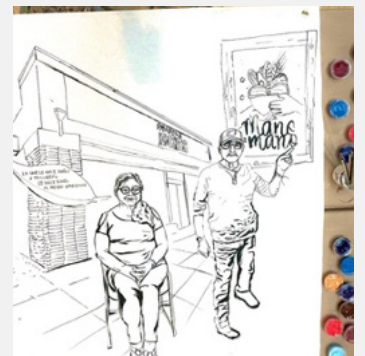
# MYISHA ARELLANO

ARMORY CENTER FOR THE ARTS | NAACP PASADENA BRANCH #1054 |  
THE PASADENA COMMUNITY JOB CENTER



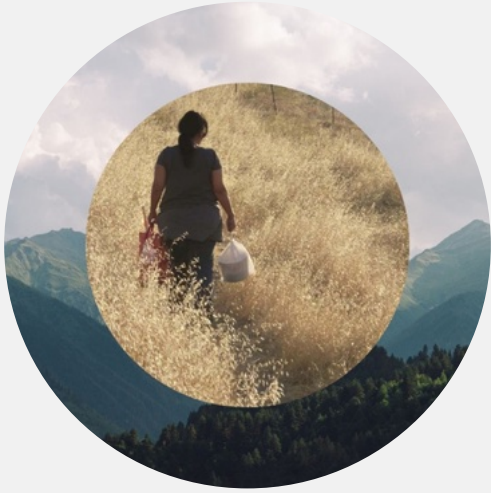
Myisha Arellano is a muralist, educator, digital and scenic painter based in Los Angeles from Mexico. Their work pulls from imagery of nature, policy, and human experience resulting in alternate reality forms. Since 2010, Myisha has designed and led multiple private and public murals. Their approach to public art is rooted in community engagement, which leads them in collaborations with various organizations throughout LA.

Myisha Arellano and fellow AAW Artist Michelle Glass led a series of community engagement and workshops in community spaces throughout Northwest Pasadena and at events hosted by Culture Hub, Armory Center for the Arts and Social Impact Initiatives, the NAACP Pasadena Branch #1054, and the Pasadena Community Job Center. Workshop participants at each site were guided by Michelle and Myisha in creating their personal mixed media 'story' panel by using images, words and symbols to create collaborative tapestry projects. These workshops took many forms and mediums.



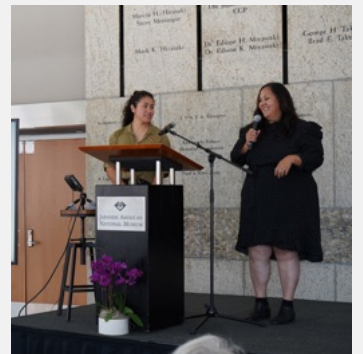
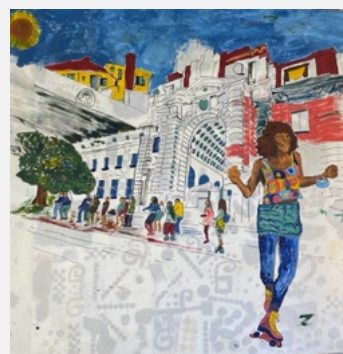
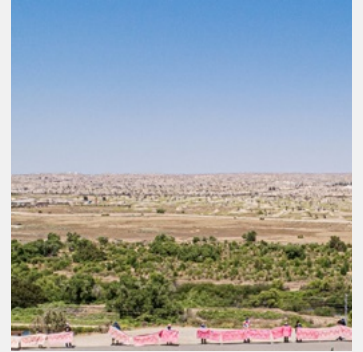
# MICHELLE GLASS

ARMORY CENTER FOR THE ARTS | NAACP PASADENA BRANCH #1054 |  
THE PASADENA COMMUNITY JOB CENTER



Michelle Glass is an artist working in Public Art + Social Practice and creates community engaged art in Central and Southern California. She creates art that considers the geographic and social/historic attributes of a site, acknowledges the contributions and histories of diverse groups, amplifies the voices of the people, and provides an opportunity for collective actions.

Michelle Glass and fellow AAW Artist Myisha Arellano led a series of community engagement workshops in community spaces throughout Northwest Pasadena and at events hosted by Culture Hub, Armory Center for the Arts and Social Impact Initiatives, the NAACP Pasadena Branch #1054, and the Pasadena Community Job Center. Workshop participants at each site were guided by Michelle and Myisha in creating their personal mixed media 'story' panel by using images, words and symbols to create collaborative tapestry projects. These workshops took many forms and mediums



# TAYLOR GRIFFITH

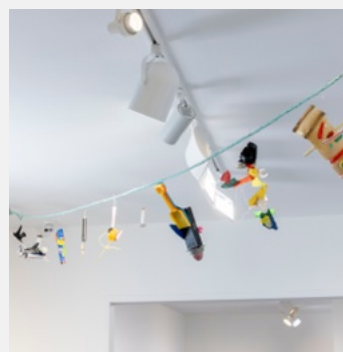
ANGELS GATE CULTURAL CENTER | ALTASEA AT THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES



Taylor Griffith is a multi-disciplinary artist from Oakland, California. His work calls into question the relationships between natural systems and changing human interactions with the landscape. Taylor takes a multi-medium approach to the interdisciplinary nexus of art and ecology. He works in photography, sculpture, time based media, and printmaking. He collaborates with scientists, artists, and organizations to get out in the field, collecting imagery, audio recordings, notes, and samples that then come into the studio to be distilled down into a body of work.

Taylor Griffith's practice combines his ocean-dive research with methods of photography and sculptural installation, to examine the state of oceanic ecosystems. Throughout the term, Griffith worked from studio space at AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles in order to develop his large-scale cyanotype series of kelp species.

Griffith also encouraged public discourse about the state of coastal ecosystems in the limited series, Intertidal Encounters. Facilitated by Griffith and hosted by AGCC, this series invited artists and scientists to engage in public discourse about the impact of human activity upon our oceans and planet.



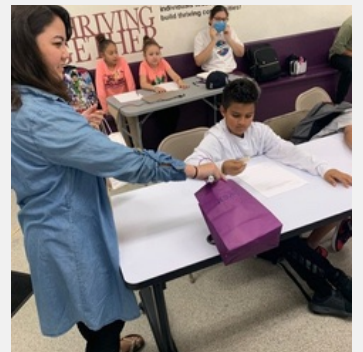
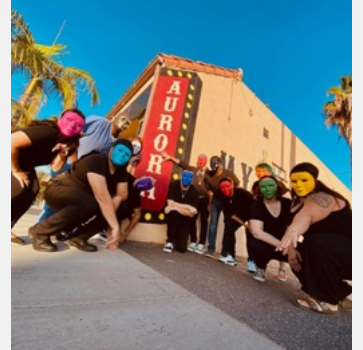
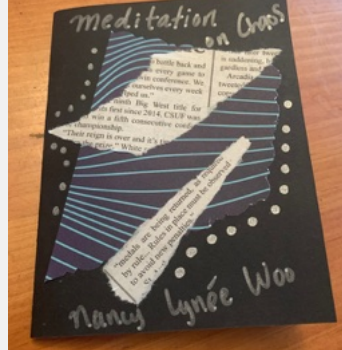
# NANCY LYNÉE WOO

ANGELS GATE CULTURAL CENTER | SBCC



Nancy Lynée Woo is a poet, educator, and community organizer. She has co-founded a handful of arts organizations, including the Long Beach Literary Arts Center, and briefly ran a social justice-based literary press. As an organizer, she has produced innumerable arts events, including writing workshops, public readings, and arts festivals.

Nancy worked with Culture Hub, Angels Gate Cultural Center and Social Impact Initiative, SBCC. In addition to graduating from her Masters program, publishing her debut poetry collection, *I'd Rather Be Lightning*, and working on her personal practice, Nancy also held a series of community facing events with her organizational partners.



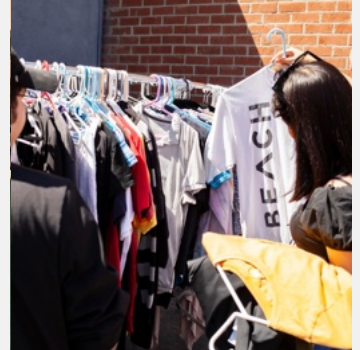
# DREW ARRIOLA-SANDS

CHICXS ROCKERXS SOUTH EAST LOS ANGELES (CRSELA)  
LATINO EQUALITY ALLIANCE



Drew Arriola-Sands is a musician, artist and currently the lead singer of L.A. queercore punk band Trap Girl. Drew is also the founder and main organizer of Transgress Fest which is the first music festival in the U.S. to center around trans identifying musicians that has run every year since 2016. Drew is also a writer of the popular zines "Im a trap girl" and "The transgender experience" part 1&2. Drew's past projects include The Andrea Dangerfield Band and Commando from San Francisco.

In partnership with Culture Hub, Chicxs Rockerxs South East Los Angeles (CRSELA) and Social Impact initiative, Latino Equality Alliance, Drew held various community events that centered queer and gender-expansive youth of color in East and South East parts of Los Angeles.





# JESSA CALDERON

CHICXS ROCKERXS SOUTH EAST LOS ANGELES (CRSELA)  
SACRED PLACES INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



Jessa Calderon is of the Tongva and Chumash Nations which are original peoples in areas of Southern California. She is a singer, songwriter and hip hop artist as well as a massage therapist, energy worker and hypnotherapist.

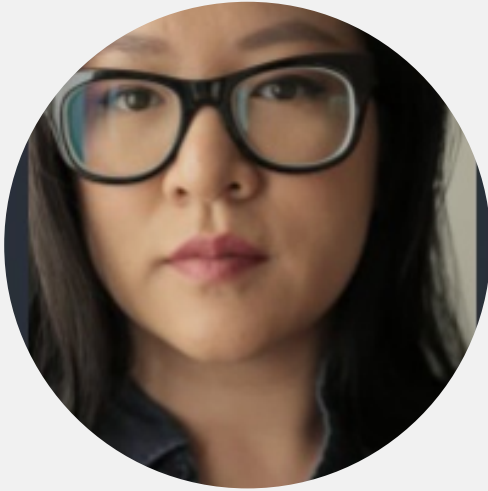
In partnership with Culture Hub, Chicxs Rockerxs South East Los Angeles (CRSELA) and Social Impact Initiative, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People, Jessa worked with the community to bring environmental justice and healing awareness. Throughout the year, Jessa led a series of songwriting workshops with youth from CRSELA that focused on crafting lyrics that creatively express the personal and community effects of larger ecological disasters. The workshops culminated in an event with all participants to celebrate and perform the songs that came out of the workshop series.

Jessa also released her first book, *SisterHood*, about "a group of young girls from the hood that stand with each other and love each other through it all—they encourage one another to keep going. Together they cry, learn, heal, grow mentally and spiritually, and survive."



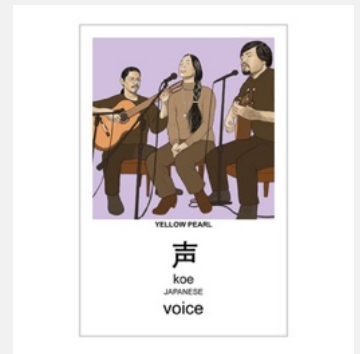
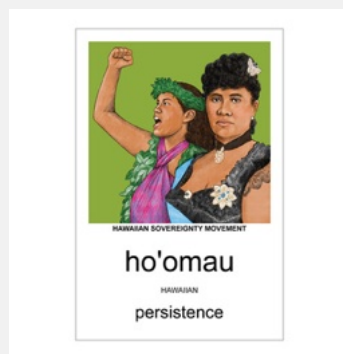
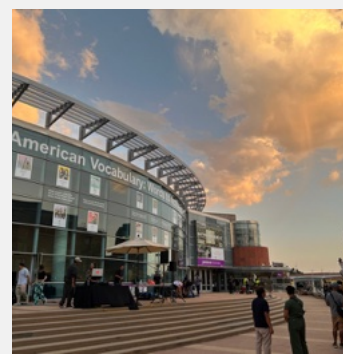
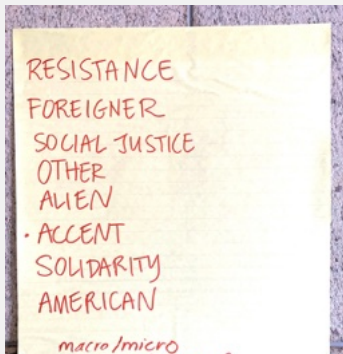
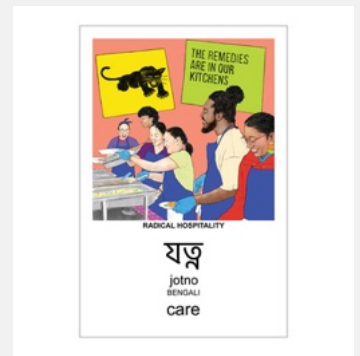
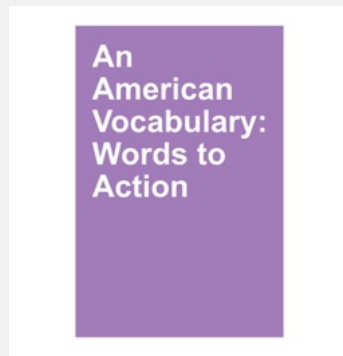
# AUDREY CHAN

NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY AT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM | ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE - LA



Audrey Chan is a Los Angeles-based artist, illustrator, and writer. Her research-based projects use drawing, painting, public art, and video to challenge dominant historical narratives through allegories of power, place, and identity.

Throughout the year with Artists At Work, Audrey worked with Jason on *An American Vocabulary: Words to Action*, a set of flashcards that portray figures, events, and practices rooted in community, care, and action. Through these words and images, the artists invite the viewer to participate in a shared vocabulary of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) agency and unity in the fight for justice, healing, and understanding. AANHPI communities often have a complex relationship with language, both English and heritage tongues. These cards symbolize the ways AANHPI communities have had to translate their inimitably American histories across linguistic, cultural, and imaginative gaps.

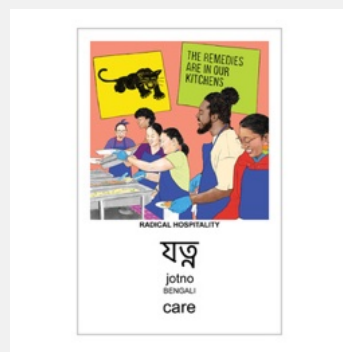
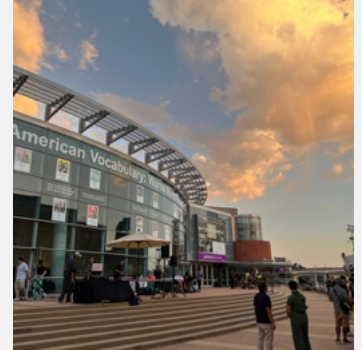


# JASON CHU

NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY AT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM | ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE - LOS ANGELES



jason chu worked collaboratively with fellow AAW artist Audrey Chan in partnership with Culture Hub, National Center for the Preservation of Democracy at the Japanese American National Museum and Social Impact Initiative, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California. Together they developed An American Vocabulary: Words to Action, a set of flashcards that portray figures, events, and practices rooted in community, care, and action. Through these words and images, the artists invite the viewer to participate in a shared vocabulary of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) agency and unity in the fight for justice, healing, and understanding. jason chu is an Asian American rapper/activist who makes music to "speak hope and healing in a broken world", blending introspective lyricism with high energy live performances. His most recent album, Face Value, is a 15-track concept album on Asian American history in partnership with Atlanta rapper Alan Z, featuring collaborators including Ronny Chieng, Ruby Ibarra, Dante Basco, Michelle Myers (Yellow Rage), AJ Rafael, Zeda Zhang, and more. Touring extensively as a rapper, educator, and activist, jason brings a social and historical consciousness to stages and classrooms around the country and globally.



# RENE FISHER-MIMS

LA COMMONS | WELLNEST LA



Rene Fisher-Mims established S.H.I.N.E. MUWASI (in the hands of God), with an intent & purpose to spread the knowledge of West African Drum culture to women in the community. With a vision of healing, empowering, caring, and inspiring women to play the instruments of their African descent, SHINE wishes to pass on the wisdom to those who desire to gain awareness of this culture through teaching, and performing in different areas. Performances for concerts, black history programs, churches, shows, and private parties are many tools used by SHINE in an effort to show the wonderful joy of women drummers and musicians.

Throughout the year Rene has worked in partnership with Culture Hub, LA Commons and Social Impact Initiative, Wellnest, to host a series of music and discussion-based workshops, centered around individual and community healing. Using her knowledge of West African drumming, she guided the workshops so the participants could fully experience the healing power of music.



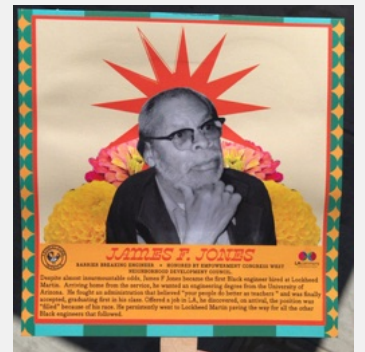
# KAYLA SHELTON

LA COMMONS | COMMUNITY INTELLIGENCE



Kayla Shelton is painter, illustrator and collagist based in South Los Angeles. She has always been drawn towards portraiture, the human form and exploring interpersonal relationships in form. Her creative expression was born from her desire to record the culturally rich surroundings of her upbringing. This passion grew into adulthood, where she is now using portraiture to explore black identity, community and history. The inspiration she drew from her surroundings prompted her to pursue a career in the arts, where she could continue telling the stories of her people

Kayla Shelton worked in partnership with her Culture Hub, LA Commons and Social Impact Initiative Community Intelligence to capture the generational wisdom of elders in Leimert Park Village. Throughout the year Kayla conducted interviews with 5 long-term residents and community leaders, which culminated in large scale portraits of each interviewee and three distinct Zines based on their conversations.



# REGINALD B. MCKINLEY II

THE LANCASTER MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY | ART IN RESIDENCE



Reginald B. McKinley II is a Los Angeles-based multidisciplinary artist, social commentator, and equity consultant. His research-based projects use domestic objects and photos to illuminate life as explored through the transitioning of times, temperaments, tenets, and technology. He received his MA from University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, MBA fellowship from UCLA Anderson, and BA's, with honors, from Morehouse College. His work has led to being on CNN, NPR, BBC, NBC, ABC and guest lecturing across the US and in Brazil. Reginald's core beliefs are that acknowledgement and exposure precedes visibility.

Working with Culture Hub, The Lancaster Museum of Arts and History and the City of Lancaster Department of Public Works, Reginald has researched and investigated issues including income inequality and waste management. Spending time with the Public Works' Team of Illegal Dump Eliminators (TIDE), Reginald documented their routes and talked with team members about their thoughts on illegal dumping in the city of Lancaster. With this information, Reginald is creating a report for the city administration and Dept of Public Works with data and recommendations they can use in the future.



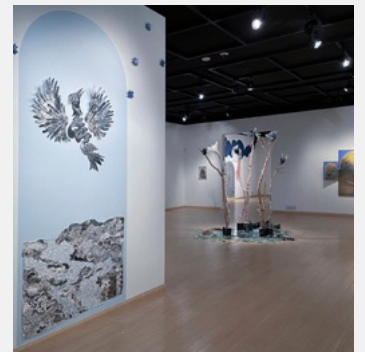
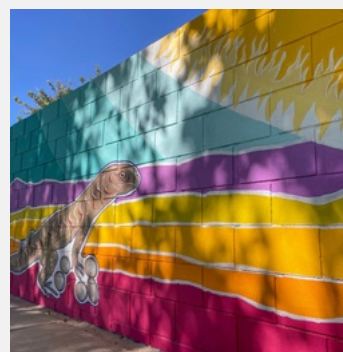
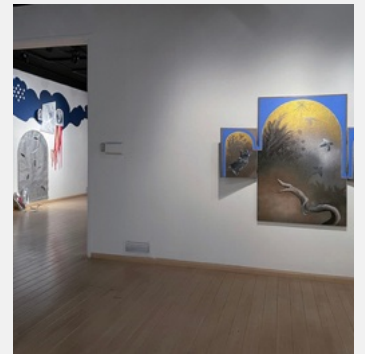
# VOJISLAV RADOVANOVIĆ

THE LANCASTER MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY | ART IN RESIDENCE



Vojislav Radovanović is a Serbian visual artist, art director, and filmmaker based in Los Angeles, CA. A witness in his youth to turbulent political unrest and war in the Balkan region, his work advocates for beauty, environmentalism, mental health, and societal transmutation. Since his first solo exhibition in the National Museum of Valjevo at age fifteen, he has participated in over 200 group exhibitions.

Vojislav worked with Culture Hub, Lancaster Museum of Art and History and Social Impact Initiative, Art in Residence to create murals along Skytower Park using community input. Ahead of the creation, Vojislav led workshops to gather community input about their wishes and hopes for the park, which were then incorporated into the final design. The general public and neighborhood around Skytower Park in Lancaster participated in painting the two murals which span the north and south edges of a park totaling 300 feet in length, featuring a daytime and nighttime theme with local wildlife.



# KARINA CEJA

TIA CHUCHA'S CENTRO CULTURAL | PLAZA COMUNITARIA SINALOA



Karina Ceja is a Queer Xicana artist and grassroots community organizer raised in Pacoima, CA. via Michoacán, Mexico. She is currently the Project Coordinator of the Celebrating Words Festival, the longest-running arts and literacy festival of the San Fernando Valley. She is the owner of Brown Grrl Fly, a handmade jewelry and art business rooted in culture and creative expression. Ceja is deeply committed to the creative empowerment of future generations and witnessing how creating with our hands can lead to many paths of success and healing.

In partnership with Culture Hub, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural and Social Impact Initiative, Plaza Comunitaria Sinaloa, Karina organized and held jewelry workshops for adults and elders in the community through Plaza Comunitaria Sinaloa's programs.





# ERICK INIGUEZ

TIA CHUCHA'S CENTRO CULTURAL | PUKÚU CULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES



Erick Iniguez is a recent newlywed who was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley by parents who migrated from Mexico. He is a proud transfer student of Los Angeles Valley College and attended UC Santa Barbara, and a former Student Advisor and Case Manager who redirected focus to art and photography, while still maintaining connection with his community. He has been a fellow for: Arts for LA: ACTIVATE, Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) and the National Association of Latinx Arts & Culture Leadership Institute (NALAC). His approach is to capture images that indict systems of oppression that effect the world, document the lives of people of color and collective visual narratives.

In partnership with Culture Hub, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural and Social Impact Initiative, Pukúu Cultural Community Services, Erick held a series of photography workshops for the youth affiliated with his social impact partner Pukúu. These photography based workshops focused on helping the youth to tell their own stories visually. Some of these workshops were held out in the field, including the Angeles National Forest, with a focus on reclaiming and reconnecting with spaces, traditional names and indigenous history through landscape photography and field trips. Erick also held workshops on Zines that have culminated in a final collective Zine.



# DIEGO ÁLVAREZ

AAW LOS ANGELES COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE FELLOW



Having worked in museums and art galleries for the past six years, Diego Álvarez has noticed the disconnect between visitors and the art hanging on the walls. When most visitors enter art spaces, they feel out of place, as if they do not belong there. The imposing architecture along with the art, can make visitors feel isolated. This is what motivates him to work on projects that give a platform to and elevate artistic voices that have been relegated to the periphery. Strongly influenced by growing up in the city of Lynwood, California to immigrant parents from Guatemala, Álvarez's practice is a reflection of the environment where he was raised. The issues his community faces — like immigration, socio-economic inequity, police brutality among others — are further motivation to raise the voices that are silenced and ignored.

Diego explains, "working with AAW this past year was a privilege. I feel so fortunate to have been a witness to the incredible journeys these 16 artists took. From the initial meetings we had, where they talked about their ideas, to the amazing culmination of their projects, I feel so grateful to have been a part of it. This experience gave me the opportunity to grow and learn. It also gave me a window into how I can contribute to the arts as not only an arts worker, but also as an engaged citizen."

