



FY22 Proposal Evaluation
Creative Communities San Diego Panelist Bios

CCSD Panel 1- March 8, 2021

Kelly Purvis

Sr. Management Analyst/Arts and Culture, City of Coronado/City Manager's Office

Kelly Purvis was hired as the first Contract Arts Administrator for the City of Coronado and staff liaison to the Coronado Cultural Arts Commission. She joined the team in December of 2013. In February 2019 she was hired as a Senior Management Analyst for Coronado and continues to work in support of Arts and Culture and the Cultural Arts Commission. A local arts supporter and longtime community volunteer, Purvis assists the Cultural Arts Commission in fulfilling its mission to strengthen, coordinate and connect the arts with the citizens of Coronado. Purvis served as the first director of development for the Coronado Historical Association and did event coordination for the San Diego political fundraising firm of Dorsee Productions. Volunteer experience includes work with her alma mater the University of Southern California, Coronado Unified School District, P.E.O., International and the City of Coronado. A strong proponent of preservation, Purvis served on the City's original Residential Standards Improvement Committee as well as the Vice-Chair of the City of Coronado R-4 Standards Committee. She was named the San Diego Save Our Heritage Organization "Preservationist of the Year" in 2007 and was honored by the University of Southern California in 2012 with an Alumni Service Award.

Jake Sinatra

Manager - Special Projects & Communications, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Jake Sinatra is an arts administrator, creative, and marketing professional based in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the manager of special projects & communications at Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC). Serving Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, Ohio, CAC is one of the largest local public funders of arts and culture in the nation, investing more than \$207 million in more than 436 organizations since 2007. Jake joined CAC in 2012 and since 2015 has managed the public funders communications, public relations and marketing efforts. Jake works across disciplines to lead projects in grantmaking and organization-wide. Jake has served since 2016 as the appointed alumni advisor of the Kappa-Phi Chapter of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity in Berea, Ohio. He is

a founding member of the Alliance for the Great Lakes Young Professional Council Cleveland, a member of the 2016 class of Downtown Cleveland Alliance City Advocates, and has served as a board member of Young Nonprofit Professionals Network Cleveland. Jake graduated magna cum laude from Baldwin Wallace University's arts management degree program with a Bachelor's in management and marketing, and a minor in music. His personal creative pursuits include piano, songwriting, poetry, and mixed media art and design.

Beth Chee

Director of Marketing, Birch Aquarium at Scripps

Beth Downing Chee is an experienced marketing and communications professional who has spent nearly 20 years representing some of San Diego's top brands in tourism, arts and higher education. She currently serves as the director of marketing for Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and is thrilled to represent the aquarium during such an exciting era of growth and change. In past roles, she has represented San Diego State University, Legoland California, Sea Life Aquarium and La Jolla Playhouse. She was also president and founder of Downing Street Public Relations, which focused on small, local businesses with great stories to tell. She holds a degree in journalism with an emphasis in public relations from Humboldt State University and loves being surrounded by creative and dynamic people.

Mario Echeveste

Visual artist and Architect, Instituto Municipal de Arte y Cultura Tijuana

I am licensed in two careers: architecture and visual arts from the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California. For the last 16 years, I have organized, fundraised, planned logistics, acquired city permits, and more for the Festival de la India Tijuana, a public street festival. This free event takes place in Downtown, Tijuana and explores the art and culture of India. The event includes classical dance and music, kids' areas, free vegetarian meals, yoga philosophy and meditation. For the last seven years I have worked at museums designing art exhibits and working with curators and artists from around the world. The exhibitions, which have taken place in Tijuana and Mexico City, vary in discipline and include photography, multimedia, painting, sculpture, stamp, and installations. As a practicing artist, I have been awarded many scholarships and my work has been included in biennales and art contests. I've also exhibited my work in many local and international art shows. Recently, I began working with the Instituto Municipal de Arte y Cultura Tijuana as the coordinator for local art galleries. My duties include outreach, curating, and installing art exhibits at 8 different galleries around Tijuana.

Lynette Tessitore,

Senior Planner, City of Chula Vista

Ms. Tessitore has worked in the space of community building for over 20 years. She has a diverse professional background that includes, arts administration, land use and planning, and economic development. In addition to years of experience in public administration and community service, her professional background includes real estate finance, municipal program development, and cultural resource management. Ms. Tessitore currently holds the position of Senior Planner at the City of Chula Vista. She has worked with a variety of community stakeholders, the business community, and social impact organizations, at the local, national, and international level, to ensure that diversity and inclusion are embedded in the heart of programming and decision making. She has worked collaboratively and extensively to transcend social and economic barriers to equity through grass-roots community building within the region. She has developed and managed award winning programs which include the development of the City of Chula Vista's first Cultural Arts Master Plan and the City's first plan to address social justice issues. In addition to her professional work, Ms. Tessitore volunteers her time in the community, and serves on various cultural and philanthropic boards and commissions. Most recently, Ms. Tessitore was recognized as a Community Crusader by San Diego Magazine. She holds a Bachelor's of Arts from the University of California San Diego in Political Science with a minor in both Economics and Urban Studies. Ms. Tessitore also holds a Master's of Arts City Planning with an emphasis in Public Administration and several certifications in public engagement, organizational impact, and project management.

CCSD Panel 2- March 9, 2021

Eileen Truong

Director of Finance & Operations, Hyde Park Art Center

Raised in San Diego, Eileen recently moved back from Chicago to be closer to family. She is currently the Director of Finance & Operations at Hyde Park Art Center, which works to stimulate and sustain the visual arts in Chicago through education, exhibition and residency programs. Her work includes leading and supporting a variety of areas, including finance, human resources, administration, IT and DEIA. Eileen has served as a Steering Committee member of the Emerging Leaders Network with the National Guild for Community Arts Education, and associate board member for Links Hall. She earned a MA in Humanities with a focus on Art History & Cultural Policy from the University of Chicago and a BA in Art History with a minor in Accounting from UCLA.

Victor Payan

Founding Director, Media Arts Santa Ana / Arts Consultant

Victor Payan is an award-winning artist, arts administrator and arts consultant whose work promotes social justice, community empowerment and tolerance through engaging and playful public performances that educate, enlighten, empower and entertain. He is Founding Director of Media Arts Santa Ana (MASA) and co-founder of OC Film Fiesta film festival. He is recipient of the Creative Capital Award, The Idea Fund and the CCI Investing in Tomorrow Grant. A native of El Cajon, he has worked with arts organizations and events throughout San Diego, including Balboa Park, Normal Heights, North Park, Barrio Logan, Golden Hill, Hillcrest and the College area. His work has been featured in exhibitions, screenings, and performances at the MCA San Diego and other venues internationally. He served as Director of Programs for the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC), Diversity Consultant for California Presenters, and Latino Specialist for the Bowers Museum. He has presented at the NALAC and National Performance Network conferences and was selected to participate in the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics convenings in Chile, Montreal and Mexico City. Victor has served as a grant panelist for the California Arts Council, L.A. County Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, San Antonio Arts Commission and Artist Foundation of San Antonio. He has also served as a consultant for the City of Costa Mesa Arts and Culture Plan and as a steering committee member for the City of Santa Ana Arts and Culture Master Plan.

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Dennis-Michael Broussard

Community Supporter/Event Producer/Nonprofit Specialist, Silk Road Productions

I have been a part of the Asian American community in San Diego for over 10 years, helping cultural organizations with their missions or events. I have been producing cultural events on a large scale for over 10 years - i have represented the Japanese, Filipino, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Burmese, Thai, and other communities in their arts and cultural organizations and events, including dance, performance, singing, and visual arts.

Jake Sinatra

Manager - Special Projects & Communications, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

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laude from Baldwin Wallace University's arts management degree program with a Bachelor's in management and marketing, and a minor in music. His personal creative pursuits include piano, songwriting, poetry, and mixed media art and design.

CCSD Panel 3- March 11, 2021

Gerda Govine Ituarte

Consultant/Poet

Govine Ituarte is the author of four poetry collections. In December 2018 she moved to Jamul from Pasadena. She exhibited, created, read, performed and initiated poetry workshops at Art Produce Gallery; Bonita Museum and Cultural Center; California Center for the Arts Museum, El Cajon and Escondido City Council Meetings; El Gatito Gallery; and The Front. She served as a member of the City of San Diego first Poet Laureate Selection Committee and a judge for the San Diego Regional Poetry Out Loud competition. In 2016 Govine Ituarte established the Pasadena Rose Poets comprised of ten published poets and initiated a four-week lunchtime poetry reading series for the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division funded by an NEA grant. In February 2017 she created poetry readings at Pasadena City Council meetings and served as Editor of the Pasadena Rose Poets first poetry collection 2019. She lived in Tijuana and co-founded and co-directed with artist husband Luis Ituarte La Casa del Tunel: Art Center 2003-2010. Poem Mask | Unmasked was published in The San Diego Union Tribune Arts + Culture, section, September 27, 2020. Five poems are included in an anthology, "When the Virus Came Calling: COVID-19 Strikes America." She served as board member of numerous non-profits and wrote grants. She is the owner of G. Govine Consulting specializing in equity and inclusion utilizing poetry to round sharp corners of difficult conversation. Govine Ituarte earned an M.A. and Ed.D. from Teachers College Columbia University.

Laura Hoffman

Self, Grant Consultant

I am an avid supporter and participant in arts and culture activities in San Diego. In addition to this exposure to many of the City's offerings, my background and availability contribute to my ability to serve as a Commission Advisory Panelist. My professional background includes a 15+ year career in proposal development and grant award management, in the arts and the bio and health sciences. My professional tenure includes the role of the Grants Officer for the Phoenix Art Museum. In this role, I submitted numerous grants and secured funding from the National Endowment of the Arts and other private and public funders to support exhibitions and family, community, and festival programming. I was honored to be appointed by the mayor of the City of Tempe, Arizona as a Tempe Municipal Arts Commissioner and elected as an executive member-- as the Chairperson of the Grants Committee. In this role, I managed all aspects of arts funding from organizing community panels, training the panelists, and developing funding recommendations based on the panel reviews. The Tempe grants program supported organizational/infrastructure funding and project grants. As a Commissioner, other

responsibilities included evaluating artists and their work for the public art program and being on the jury for the Tempe Arts Festival. I was also selected and served as a panel member for the Phoenix Arts Commission grant program. San Diego is now my home and I am very excited to bring my extensive and relevant experiences to serve the City as a panelist, and to advance diversity in the arts in our community.

Audrey Gamez

Education Director, C4 Atlanta

Audrey Gamez brings 13 years of education experience to her role as Education Director for C4 Atlanta. She is a sought after speaker for local panels and events. Audrey has also presented nationally at the Association of Performing Arts Service Organization Conference and the Artists Thrive Conference on advocacy and professional development for artists. Audrey was a member of the 2018 Points of Light American Express Leadership Academy. At C4 Atlanta, prior to her role as Education Director, she was previously a facilitator for the Ignite class. Before coming to C4, Audrey served as Education Coordinator for MASS Collective. Audrey began working in arts administration as an intern with WonderRoot in 2014. An active volunteer, Audrey has worked with several community and arts organizations around Atlanta. In addition to her responsibilities with C4 Atlanta, Audrey continues to work as a professional singer and music educator, maintaining a private voice studio. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Texas and Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University.

Justin Morrison

Consultant, Teacher and Performing Artist

Justin Morrison has a background in Dance, Film, Photography, and Information Technology. For four years he has served as Lecturer in the Department of Music & Dance at San Diego State University. Justin has lived and worked as a practicing artist in San Francisco, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Seoul, Korea, and Brooklyn, NYC, before returning to San Diego to become an artist-in-residence at Space 4 Art, a live/work collaborative space in Downtown San Diego. He is a dancemaker, choreographer and director active in the field of transmedia performance, incorporating dance, film and technology via performance and installation works in collaboration with visual artists and composers. He is a frequent and active collaborator in projects spanning the Tijuana and San Diego border, teaching dance and producing performance in Mexico with his creative partner Victor De La Fuente. Justin also works as a photographer, videographer and filmmaker, and is the founder of WWWERK, a media and technology co-operative with over 15 years' experience managing web, video and technology-based projects. More information at: justinmorrison.net

Eddie Matthews

Instructional Designer and Adjunct Professor, Point Loma Nazarene University

My name is Eddie Matthews, I moved to San Diego in 2011 for college and fell in love with the city. During my undergraduate degree at Point Loma Nazarene University, I interned at the San Diego Union Tribune and learned about the artistic communities that comprised San Diego's identity, eventually writing a Sunday Arts profile of the jazz program at Francis Parker School. In 2016, while pursuing an M.A. in Education, I researched the learning barriers facing high schoolers in City Heights and outlined solutions in my thesis. To better understand the artistic process, I enrolled in a Ph.D. in Creative Writing program at Swansea University, in Wales, and wrote my dissertation novel about the economic disparities between Tijuana and San Diego. I worked as an editor and marketing officer at the Welsh independent publisher, Parthian Books, where I edited *Ironopolis*, a novel that was nominated for the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction. While in Swansea, I also worked for the Cultural Institute, a branch of the university devoted to enriching Welsh culture and amplifying Welsh voices both internally and abroad. I would like to do the same for San Diego. I believe that we can build a stronger artistic community by discovering new voices and commissioning projects that strengthen collaborations between San Diego and Tijuana, working to unify the artistic centers of these two cities into one San Diego-Tijuana community.