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Media Contact:

Voleine Amilcar: 415.978.2700, vamilcar@ybca.org

[Public Square Video](#)

**Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Presents
PUBLIC SQUARE**

Saturday, June 2, 2018, 2–6 PM

*An annual pop-up featuring visual and performance art, dance, and music for an
afternoon of art and community*



Gentrified Chicken, Public Square 2017. Photo by Tommy Lau

Regular admission: \$10; free to YBCA members of all levels

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street, San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (May 18, 2018) – Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents *Public Square*, an annual pop-up of thought-provoking workshops, visual and performance art, dance, and music designed to spur conversation through art-inspired investigations. Featuring the works of the latest cohort of YBCA Fellows—60 Bay Area artists, thinkers, and creative citizens—Public Square unveils year-long projects they have conducted in response to urgent explorations of truth, creative dissent, and the necessity of public imagination. The campus-wide event takes place **Saturday, June 2, 2018, 2–6 PM**, and features more than **25 projects**, including a choose-your-own-adventure queer ritual, a meeting with the “first” female president, and more!

Remarks **Marc Bamuthi Joseph, YBCA’s Chief of Program and Pedagogy**, “We believe that among our civic responsibilities, YBCA and other cultural institutions should actively aggregate provocative questions and incubate creative responses. Public Square is a dynamic example of this cycle of inquiry and incubation. It is a festival, a showcase, and a town hall, all rolled into one.”

Each Fellows cohort has been studying a provocative question and exploring ways to spark community engagement and action around it: How do we find and empower TRUTH? Where is our PUBLIC IMAGINATION? Can we make CREATIVE DISSENT matter?

Among the projects that will be presented in response to these questions is **Anna Sergeeva’s** short film *If I Were The President*. Her nationwide art project has been asking a diverse array of youths under 18 years old what they would change if they were president of the United States. The aim is to collect half a million youth voices and deliver them to the White House in 2020.

Truth Is Somewhere in the Middle is a sound, video, and sculpture installation by **Annie Albagli, Erica Molesworth, and Johanna Hoffman** that shows, through historical footage and storytelling, how the physical and cultural landscape of YBCA and downtown San Francisco have changed over time.

Since January 20, 2017, **Margaret McCarthy** has been imaginatively serving as the first female US president. At the Public Square, her administration will stage a press conference to

announce her new immigration policy. **100% Open Immigration** reveals what a borderless nation might look like.

A Day of Movement toward Utopian Sports by **Justin Carder** involves public dialogue, interactive performances, and moments of critical thinking. This Public Square project kicks off the Bay Area Center for Utopian Sports, whose mission is to imagine new sports for a new world. The project features contributions from **Grace Rosario Perkins, Sarah Hotchkiss, Heavy Breathing, INCITE: Journal of Experimental Media, Unity Skateboards, Takming Chuang + Bradley Smith, Jordan Karnes**, and more.

Additional projects include **Courtney Ferris's *Make It Your Own: San Francisco Builds the City It Wants and Deserves***, which asks what your ideal San Francisco looks like; ***This Exhibition Will Change Your Life*** by **Claire Fitzsimmons**, asking whether cultural institutions are our new spaces for mental well-being; ***This Is Where We Meet*** by **Justin Carder, Jesikah Maria Ross**, and collaborators **Leora Fridman, Charlie Macquarie, Tara Masden, Devon Montgomery, Kelvin Pitman, Meera Velu, and Akande X**, taking participants on an interactive speculative journey to envision the future; ***Re/space*** by **Kayla Jones, Thuy Tran, Britney Frazier, Sammay Dizon**, offering up an immersive anti-oppression healing environment that uses multisensory experiences to cleanse and replenish attendees' internal landscapes to generate new capacity to imagine; ***Original Sin*** by **Juliana Delgado Lopera, Sarolta Jane Cump, Alex Werth**, and collaborator **Reina de Aztlán**, looking to offer salvation in the face of capitalism, white supremacy, and hetero-patriarchy; and ***(Inter)vulnerability*** by **Lorrie Chang, Annie Albagli, Jeremy Villaluz, Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo, and Rachel Wyley**, inviting participants on a story journey into a culture of vulnerability, with the hope of empowering truth and fostering collective action.

Regular admission: \$10; free to YBCA members of all levels

10% off admission for seniors, students, teachers, nonprofit employees, public transit riders, military service members, and library card holders. [Tickets](#)

About YBCA Fellows

The YBCA Fellows program brings together creative citizens from across the Bay Area—artists and everyday people alike—to engage in a yearlong process of inquiry, dialogue, and project

generation. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is the Bay Area's creative home for civic action. We believe that culture precedes change, and that it is the responsibility of arts organizations to spur and support societal movement. Each Fellows cohort explores and responds to one or more questions that emerge from our annual YBCA 100 Summit, using art and culture to inspire community transformation. Fellows projects are presented during the annual Public Square and can take the form of performance or visual presentations, writings, screenings, visual arts, workshops, and beyond. These projects provide platforms to share new ideas and information and drive new possibilities into the public imagination.

2017–18 Truth Fellows: Stella Adelman, Annie Albagli, Christy Chan, Lorrie Chang, Raphael Cohen, Courtney Donovan, Katie Faulkner, Johanna Hoffman, Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo, Sam Lew, Erica Molesworth, Vivienne Muller, Nkechi Njaka, Adrienne Skye Roberts, Erik Schmitt, Vivien Sin, Ania Troszkiewicz, Jeremy Villaluz, Rachel Wyley

2017–18 Public Imagination Fellows: Justin Carder, Sarolta Jane Cump, Juliana Delgado Lopera, Samantha "Sammay" Dizon, Courtney Ferris, Claire Fitzsimmons, Britney (Brit) Frazier, Yolanda Hippensteele, Cynthia Hua, Kayla Jones, Margaret McCarthy, Paul Pillitteri, Jesikah Maria Ross, Zoe Samudzi, Anna Sergeeva, Kate Spacek, Thuy Tran, Alex Werth

2017–18 Creative Dissent Fellows: Takming Chuang, Beatriz Escobar, Beth Grossman, Shelley Hoyt, Patricia Leal, Yula Paluy, Randy Reyes, Imri Rivas, Joanna Ruckman, Caroline Sinders, Bradley Smith, Lia Sutton, Anna Xu

Credits

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support. YBCA Programs are made possible in part by The James Irvine Foundation, with additional funding by National Endowment for the Arts, Grosvenor, and Members of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. The Creative Ecosystem is supported by generous grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Surdna Foundation, Panta Rhea Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. YBCA 100 is supported in part by Meyer Sound.

About Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), located in San Francisco's Yerba Buena cultural district, is one of the nation's leading multidisciplinary contemporary arts centers. With a belief that contemporary art is at the heart of community life, YBCA brings audiences and artists of all backgrounds together to express and experience creativity. The organization is known for nurturing emerging artists at the forefront of their fields and presenting works that blend art forms and explore the events and ideas of our time. As part of its commitment to the San Francisco Bay Area, YBCA supports the local arts community and reflects the region's diversity of people and thought through its arts and public programming. To learn more visit:

<http://www.ybca.org/>

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