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Artist Power Center

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Launches New Digital Community Hub Platform to Help Bay Area Artists

City-Funded Artist Power Center aims to strengthen the voice and work of local artists

San Francisco, February 16, 2022 – Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (“YBCA”) proudly announces the launch of the [Artist Power Center](#), a new web app for artists to harness economic opportunities, amplify their voice and work, and build community with peers and organizations. Bringing diverse resources together in one space, Artist Power Center is a digital meeting platform and marketplace that strengthens the work of artists and creatives.

To celebrate the release of the Artist Power Center, [YBCA will host a virtual launch event](#) on **February 19th at 11am PT via the OhYay digital platform** and live streamed on the [YBCA YouTube Channel](#). The launch features a fireside conversation between YBCA Chief of Program and Ethio-Jazzicist **Meklit Hadero** and **Emory Douglas**, revolutionary graphic artist and former member of the Black Panther Party. The web app will go live publicly on the same day. For now, people can register for the waitlist or check back on the 19th to make a free account.

“A strong and diverse arts community is an essential part of San Francisco’s identity and crucial for our City’s economic recovery,” said **Mayor London Breed**. “After two years of trying to stay on top of the ever-changing opportunities that helped sustain them, artists now have a one-stop shop, a centralized platform that makes it easier to connect with fellow artists and access the resources and tools they need to continue creating their work. This investment is part of our continued commitment to supporting the arts in this City.”

With support from the City of San Francisco Arts Commission, YBCA designed and launched the app in partnership with San Francisco-based art and cultural organizations **Dancers’ Group, ArtSpan, Theatre Bay Area, and the Intersection for the Arts**. These partners provided critical feedback to ensure that the Artist Power Center uplifts a dynamic, growing cohort of artists, activists, and arts organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

“Sharing knowledge, awareness, and connectivity with intentionality has the potential to make us all stronger,” said **Allison Snopek, Executive Co-Director for Intersection for the Arts**. “This includes the artists seeking growth and support, the organizations offering opportunities and programming, and the communities that surround us all. We’ll need everyone to get involved and engaged in order for this new resource to serve the Bay Area to the best of its ability.”

Artist Power Center centers American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian and Asian American, Black and African American, Disabled, Indigenous and Indigena, Latinx, LGBTQIA2S+, MENASA, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities of artists in the Bay Area. Ultimately, the app aims to boost the economic, social, and political power of artists, culture-bearers, and creative workers, who are essential to the health and well-being of our communities.

“YBCA is incredibly excited to continue helping artists connect with meaningful opportunities and resources,” said **Sara Fenske Bahat, YBCA’s interim CEO**. “Together with the Mayor’s office, we are affirming the importance of having a vibrant artistic community, not only in our city but nationwide. This digital meeting platform and marketplace builds space for our Bay Area artists and culture-keepers to inspire greater connection and a more equitable use of technology in creative communities across the world.”

Development and expansion of the Artist Power Center platform was made possible with a (\$250,000) grant from San Francisco Arts Commission’s Arts Impact Endowment (AIE) fund.

“We are proud that the Artist Power Center platform was developed with support from the Arts Impact Endowment fund,” said **San Francisco Arts Commission Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington**. “We look forward to seeing all the amazing works of art that makers who utilize this platform will create, as well as the grant and job opportunities they will access.”

ABOUT YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS: Opened to the public in 1993, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is San Francisco’s center for art and progress. By centering artists as essential to social and cultural movement, YBCA is reimagining the role an arts institution can play in the community it serves. Our mission is to generate culture that moves people.

About The Arts Impact Endowment: The Arts Impact Endowment (AIE) fund was established by Proposition E (2018). The AIE program is administered through the San Francisco Arts Commission’s annual grants programs and is guided by the Cultural Services Allocation Plan.

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