

## YBCA - Board of Directors - Minutes

YBCA



### Board of Directors

Monday, March 31, 2025 3:30 p.m - 5:30 p.m. (Pacific time)

### Attendance

#### Members

**Present:** Robin Abad Ocubillo (Co-Chair), Katie Colendich, Amy Eliot, Maria Kim, Nazli Parvizi, Malia Simonds (Co-Chair), and Alan Seiffert.

**Absent:** David Chai, Corinne Sklar, and Seve Ghose (Ex Officio).

**Additional Attendees Present:** Mari Robles (YBCA CEO), Valrie Sanders (YBCA CFO), Chris Griffin (YBCA General Manager), Lauren Macmadu (YBCA Head of External Relations), and Ben Dietschi, DeVos Institute of Arts and Nonprofit Management.

### I. Welcome

Robin and Malia welcomed the members of the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (“**YBCA**”) and called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was held in-person at the YBCA in San Francisco, California and telephonically via Zoom. All directors could hear each other and be heard. Robin and Malia served as Co-Chairs of the meeting and Katie served as Secretary of the meeting.

### II. Committee Reports

Katie provided an update from the Audit Committee of the Board and reported on progress of the annual audit, which has been reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee and will be presented to the Board for approval at today’s meeting. The Board asked questions and discussion ensued.

### III. CEO Report

Mari introduced Valrie, the YBCA’s new CFO to YBCA to the Board and meeting attendees.

## Priorities & reflections

Mari reported on her first weeks in role and that she has been on a listening tour since joining the YBCA.

- Reflected on the newness of being the new CEO at YBCA, but also the newness of the environment around us in the city and government (local and federal).
- Mari reported on her initial priorities, including building a strong senior leadership team. She shared she is thinking about support and capacity planning and making sure we have leadership on all teams in support of the strategic plan.

## Staffing Updates

Next, Mari reported on staffing updates, including the open searches for YBCA's Chief Development Officer and Chief Curator roles. Both roles are in the third stage of interviews and timing is planned to be able to extend offers by the end of April. The Board asked questions and discussion ensued.

## Upcoming Programs

Mari reported on how her and the team are thinking about how to create a moment that reinvigorates how we position YBCA. Chris reported on the programming for the summer season, including:

- Opera Parallel performing the resetting of the opera Harvey Milk Reimagined. We're excited to welcome Opera Parallel. Hoping to have a small exhibition in the theatre lobby in conjunction with the show. Also generally speaking, deepening our relationship with Pride in other ways.
- Bronx Revolution – history of hip hop celebration made by Zaccho Dance Theatre. Purposefully programmed for Juneteenth weekend, but not programmed on Juneteenth to not conflict with city-wide planned events. Connected to hip hop celebrating 50 years.
- Hosting Threads of Pride on June 24th, which will showcase 5-10 local queer fashion designers.

Mari and Chris encouraged the Board Please to join us for these events, we would love to see Board members in attendance and visiting the galleries.

Lauren reported on planning for upcoming exhibition programming:

- Bay Area Then (August 7 – January 31) – thinking about the Bay Area arts ecosystem in the 90's. Thinking about the art schools that were present that helped feed the ecosystem and some of the artists that received a lot of the accolades at that time. Effort to try to include names that are lesser known but are really important and influential to that period. Connecting it to our current moment and how we can continue to make sure we are a thriving hub of culture.
  - Opening planned for First Thursday to be a part of and support the city's effort with First Thursday events.
- SOMA Pilipinas (August 7 – December 14) – Will be opening a show called *Makibaka: A*

*Living Legacy.* This exhibit thinks about the cultural district through art – showcasing artists who have worked in the area and/or are currently working in the area.

## **V. Public Comment**

The Board opened the meeting to public comment and reminded the public of the public comment period rules and expectations:

- The public comment period will last up to 20 minutes and speakers will be called in the order in which they signed up.
- During the public comment period, the public may address the Board on any item relating to the operations of, or services provided by, the YBCA.
- This is an opportunity for public comment and not a Q&A.
- Speakers may address the Board once for up to two minutes. Time limits shall be applied uniformly.
- The Board asks and appreciates that attendees show respect and consideration for others at the meeting.

Members of the Staff and public in attendance provided comments to the Board.

## **VI. Closing Remarks**

The Board concluded the public comment period by thanking everyone for attending today and for their continued support of the YBCA.

All members of the public and the YBCA staff left the meeting, except for Mari, Valrie, Chris, and Lauren.

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