

CREATIVEWORKFUND

Supporting New Work by Bay Area Artists

A program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, also generously supported by
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2014

MEDIA CONTACT

Laura Gigounas
415.203.2802
laura.gigounas@gmail.com

**CREATIVE WORK
FUND CONTACTS**

Frances Phillips, Director,
Jean Wong, Coordinator
415-402-2793

**CREATIVE WORK FUND ANNOUNCES \$518,000 IN GRANTS TO
BAY AREA LITERARY AND PERFORMING ARTISTS**

Fund Celebrates 20th Anniversary

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The Creative Work Fund is pleased to announce the awarding of 13 grants totaling \$518,000 to literary and performing artists throughout the Bay Area to create new works through collaborations with nonprofit organizations. The 2014 grantees, each receiving grants ranging from \$30,000-\$40,000, will create poetry installations, interactive websites, music, theatrical and dance performances, as well as books and multi-disciplinary works.

Creative Work Fund is celebrating its 20th anniversary on September 1, and, since its inception in 1994, has contributed almost \$11 million to advance art-making by Northern California artists in a variety of disciplines. The 2014 grants were awarded to artists in the disciplines of literary and performing arts.

"Over the past 20 years, the Creative Work Fund has funded over 300 projects that have brought local artists and nonprofits together to work on challenging projects," said the Fund's director, Frances Phillips. "Central themes for this year's grantees include the region's rapid growth and displacement of nonprofits and families, specific qualities of Bay Area neighborhoods, and cross cultural collaborations. We are excited to see the work of these 13 outstanding 2014 grantees come to fruition over the coming years. "

From Sonoma to San Jose, the 2014 grant projects feature partnerships between artists and nonprofit organizations to create works that highlight social, historical and cultural issues. For more information about the Creative Work Fund's 2014 awardees, their collaborators and projects, please see the attached project descriptions. A complete list of the awardees follows.

2014 Literary Arts Awardees & Collaborators

Denise Newman (San Francisco) with University of California Botanical Gardens (Berkeley); **Linda Norton** (Oakland) with Peralta Hacienda Historical Park (Oakland); **Barbara Jane Reyes** (Oakland) with San Francisco State University Poetry Center and the University Corporation, San Francisco State, fiscal sponsor; **Suzanne Rivecca** (San Francisco) with Homeless Youth Alliance (San Francisco) and Tides Center, fiscal sponsor; **Erica Lorraine Scheidt** (Berkeley) with Teacher Salary Project (San Francisco) and Intersection for the Arts, fiscal sponsor; **Michael Warr** (San Francisco) with Bayview Hunters Point YMCA (San Francisco).

2014 Performing Arts Awardees & Collaborators

John Calloway (San Francisco) with Community Music Center (San Francisco); **Chitresh Das** (San Rafael) with 3rd i Films (San Francisco), **Shinichi Iova-Koga** (Oakland) with Dancers' Group (San Francisco); **Bernard Krause** (Sonoma) with Alonzo King LINES Ballet (San Francisco); **Sean San Jose** (San Francisco) with The Cutting Ball Theater (San Francisco); **Erika Chong Shuch** (Berkeley) with Kitka, Inc. (Oakland); **Van-Anh (Vanessa) Vo** (Fremont) with Asian Americans for Community Involvement (San Jose).

Grants are highly competitive and are recommended to the Fund by committees of accomplished panelists. The literary arts review panelists were: Tamim Ansary, writer; Juan Felipe Herrera, California Poet Laureate; Fiona McCrae, director and publisher, Graywolf Press; Clifford Mayotte, Voice of Witness Education Program Director; and Harryette Mullen, poet and Professor of English, University of California, Los Angeles. Also advising the literary arts selection process were writer Sabina Chen and editor Oscar Villalon.

The performing arts review panelists were: Luis Alfaro, Chicano writer and performer; Kristy Edmunds, artistic and executive director of the Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA; Georgiana Pickett, executive director of the Baryshnikov Art Center; Matias Tarnopolsky, executive and artistic director of Cal Performances; and Byron Au Yong, composer. Also advising the performing arts selection process were Cynthia Mei, Managing Director, San Francisco Classical Voice; Rob Bailis, Director of External Relations and Artistic Initiatives, Cal Performances; and Ellen Sebastian Chang, theater writer and director.

ABOUT CREATIVE WORK FUND

The Creative Work Fund was initiated in 1994 by four Bay Area foundations that wanted to contribute to the creation of new art works and to support local artists. It is now a program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund that is supported by a generous grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. For the 2013-2014 grant cycle, the Fund invited literary and performing artists and nonprofit organizations from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano or Sonoma counties to apply.

For more information about the Creative Work Fund, please call 415.402.2793 or visit www.creativeworkfund.org. The Fund is currently inviting letters of inquiry for projects featuring media artists or traditional artists and is hosting a series of informational seminars throughout the Bay Area. For more information, please visit www.creativeworkfund.org/applicant-seminars.

###

CREATIVEWORKFUND

Supporting New Work by Bay Area Artists

A program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, also generously supported by
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

2014 GRANTS IN LITERARY AND PERFORMING ARTS

Literary Arts

Denise Newman (San Francisco) with University of California Botanical Gardens (Berkeley)

The University of California Botanical Gardens covers 34 acres across Strawberry Creek and above the Berkeley campus. It offers walks along water that flows all year, shelter in creaking bamboo stands, fragrant gigantic-flowered magnolias, fog-dripping old redwood groves, and, up the wooded canyon, big views to the eastern skyline and to the Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge to the west. Few know of the garden and it is little-visited. Building off of previous projects featuring artists in the garden, poets Denise Newman and Hazel White are collaborating with the garden administrators and gardeners to create a poetry installation and transmedia project in hopes of deepening visitors' interactions with the site and encouraging more visitors. Their "Seeing What Happens..." project will be composed of interactive installations at four sites in the garden; a virtual platform (blog posts, tweets); and seasonal tours of the installations. Poet Denise Newman teaches collaboration and alternative poetry practices at California College of the Arts. She currently is completing the translation of a book of short stories by Danish author Naja Marie Aidt. Hazel White's first book, *Peril as Architectural Enrichment*, was a finalist for the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association Book of the Year Award. For more information about the University of California Botanical Garden, visit <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu>.

Linda Norton (Oakland) with Peralta Hacienda Historical Park (Oakland)

Writer Linda Norton is collaborating with staff and visitors to Peralta Hacienda Historical Park (Peralta Hacienda) to explore how mass incarceration affects the daily lives of people living in the blocks around the Peralta Hacienda historic house and park. Based in the Fruitvale District of Oakland, Peralta Hacienda offers exhibits, film screenings, tours, and other public events that present and interpret the history of the Peralta rancho alongside stories of the Fruitvale community today. Lead writer Linda Norton is an archivist and senior editor at the Bancroft Library's Regional Oral History Office. She has a long history of working with documentary and found objects in her collages and exhibits. Her debut publication, *The Public Gardens: Poems and History* (2011), was a finalist for an *LA Times* book prize. For *Home and Away: Oakland California's Prisons, and the Geography of the Heart*, she will work at the Peralta Hacienda park and offsite to explore the connections between those who remain in the neighborhood and those who are "away," behind bars. She will conduct outreach and interviews in collaboration with Peralta staff and community, create a community wall map and exhibition, and write a book. For more information, visit www.thepublicgardens.blogspot.com.

Barbara Jane Reyes (Oakland) with San Francisco State University Poetry Center and the University Corporation, San Francisco State, fiscal sponsor

Kuwentohan (Talkstory) is a collective project in which eight poet-artists will participate in a four-day residency, followed by a sustained correspondence among the writers, and a new work of poetry by Barbara Jane Reyes. Alongside Reyes, the participating American but polyglot poets from disparate cultural and geographic backgrounds are: Javier O. Huerta, Aimee Suzara, Jennifer Foerster, Ronaldo V. Wilson, Lee Herrick, Craig Santos Perez, and Angela Narciso Torres. At the time of the residency, the writers will be paired for four readings at San Francisco cultural sites in areas historically home to immigrant families. Following their initial exchange and presentations, the writers will correspond through the mails, with their letters providing raw material for Reyes's book of poetry. Her finished work will be presented in a performance near the end of 2016. Born in Manila, Philippines, and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Barbara Jane Reyes has been an active member of local Asian American, Filipino American, and independent literary communities. She is the author of three books of poetry—most recently *Diwata* (Boa Editions, 2010), and received the 2012 Global Filipino Award in Poetry. The Poetry Center, based at San Francisco State University, has presented poets and writers in live performance for 60 years. The Center video-documents nearly all programs and manages archives housing decades of recordings that now are being migrated online to the Poetry Center Digital Archive. For more information about Barbara Jane Reyes and/or San Francisco State University Poetry Center, visit www.barbarajanereyes.com; <http://www.sfsu.edu/~poetry>.

Suzanne Rivecca (San Francisco) with Homeless Youth Alliance (San Francisco) and Tides Center, fiscal sponsor

Fiction writer Suzanne Rivecca is collaborating with Homeless Youth Alliance (HYA) to create a work of fiction about homeless youth in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury neighborhood. For more than 40 years, the Haight has been a mecca for marginalized kids, who struggle against hard drug use, sexual violence, police harassment, and starvation. HYA offers the only comprehensive youth-targeted health and human services remaining in the neighborhood. Since it lost its lease in early 2014, it has operated as a mobile organization, offering youth support and resources on the streets, in the parks, and in temporary donated offices. Suzanne Rivecca will immerse herself in HYA's direct services, accompanying its outreach team twice each week to Golden Gate Park, as they engage and build relationships with youth. She also will accompany counselors and youth on interviews for transitional and permanent housing or benefits, court hearings, and appointments, ultimately transforming her immersion in HYA's work into a work of fiction. Suzanne Rivecca is a long-term San Francisco resident with six years' experience working with social services organizations that serve the homeless. Her short story collection, *Death is Not an Option*, was published in 2010 by W.W. Norton. For more information about Homeless Youth Alliance, visit www.homelessyouthalliance.org/.

Erica Lorraine Scheidt (Berkeley) with Teacher Salary Project (San Francisco) and Intersection for the Arts, fiscal sponsor

Erica Lorraine Scheidt and the Teacher Salary Project are collaborating to create *Who Do You See Now?: Teacher Stories*. The publication will juxtapose writer Scheidt's personal story of becoming a high school teacher with stories about teaching from Bay Area educators and the

public. In fall 2014, Scheidt will begin a year in the Mills College Single Subject Humanities Credential Program while also collecting oral histories from those on the path to becoming teachers, those leaving the profession, those still teaching, and those who, for myriad reasons, would never consider teaching as a creative or fulfilling profession. Scheidt seeks to break open ideas of teaching as a career choice. Her stories will be published in a beautifully printed, design-driven paperback book. Scheidt's previous book, *Uses for Boys* (St. Martin's Press) was a 2013 Best First Novel for Youth from American Library Association's Booklist. She is a long-time volunteer at 826 Valencia and a founding team member of Chapter 510, the Made-in-Oakland literacy project focused on developing students' creative and expository writing skills. Scheidt's partner, Teacher Salary Project, is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness of the United States' national policy of underpaying and under-valuing educators. For more information, visit The Teacher Salary Project, www.theteachersalaryproject.org.

Michael Warr (San Francisco) with Bayview Hunters Point YMCA (San Francisco)

In *Tracing Poetic Memory in Bayview Hunters Point*, poet Michael Warr will capture aspects of everyday life and experience, past and present, in his childhood neighborhood through an interactive Website that incorporates spoken word, text, animated graphics, and still and digital images in video format. In his old neighborhood, Warr will trace his family history and examine what has changed and how the community is changing again. He is collaborating with videographer, graphic arts producer, code writer, gamer, and animation artist Mark Sabb. Through the Bayview Hunters Point YMCA, he will conduct face-to-face interviews with intergenerational residents, and record participating teens and seniors interviewing one another. The Bayview Hunters Point YMCA serves youth and families through diverse programs, including a Family Resource Center, on-site alternative high school, collaborations with the Department of Public Health, and a Teen Center. Established in 2008, the Teen Center offers an afterschool program with creative opportunities for youth, such as its well-equipped Multimedia Studio. There youth can hone their digital production skills and also contribute to this project. Michael Warr is the author of *The Armageddon of Funk* (2012), which was honored by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and received the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature. Visit the following sites for more information: Michael Warr, www.armageddonoffunk.com; Bayview Hunters Point YMCA, www.ymcasf.org/bayview/.

Performing Arts

John Calloway (San Francisco) with Community Music Center (San Francisco)

Composer John Calloway is collaborating with the Community Music Center to create “Music with a Mission,” a suite of musical works examining the history of the Mission District. The work will involve professional artists, students and partners of the Community Music Center; and other Mission District public school students, who will participate in the artistic development, open rehearsals, and final performances at Brava Theater. Calloway also will work with lyricists Carlos Baron and Camilo Landau to explore social and cultural movements important to the Mission District. Their process includes interviewing Mission District artists who directly participated in local historical changes, and stories gathered from the artists’ research will serve as raw material for the lyrics and dramatic thread of the work. Multi-instrumentalist John Calloway, a cornerstone of the Bay Area Latin jazz scene playing flute, piano, and percussion, has worked with many of the Bay Area’s jazz innovators, including more than three decades as collaborator and arranger for five-time Grammy nominee John Santos. Community Music Center is a San Francisco nonprofit organization with the mission of making music accessible to all people, regardless of their financial status. Since its founding in 1921, the organization has been based in a building on Capp Street in the Mission District and operates satellite programs in other neighborhoods. For more information, visit <http://www.johncalloway.com> or Community Music Center, <http://sfcmc.org>.

Chitresh Das (San Rafael) with 3rd i Films (San Francisco)

3rd i Films is collaborating with Pandit Chitresh Das to create a film element for his collaboration *Yatra: Journey from India to Spain* with flamenco artist Antonio Hidalgo Paz. Filmmaker Alka Raghuram and videographer Kathleen Dargis, associated with 3rd i, will work closely with Pandit Das and Paz to explore historic roots between kathak and flamenco and then integrate multimedia segments throughout the live performance. Pandit Chitresh Das is one of today’s leading master kathak artists—a performer and creative force who composes and choreographs his own work and develops works for the Chitresh Das Dance Company. He participates in innovative collaborations that lead to new work, and he presents and trains dancers in the rigors of the traditional kathak solo. Antonio Hidalgo Paz, performs and co-produces performances with various leading flamenco companies—as well as his own company—and frequently appears on international television. 3rd i Films links local and international South Asian media and performance artists with Bay Area audiences, and promotes interactions within the region’s diverse South Asian communities. Its primary activity is organizing the annual SF International South Asian Film Festival. *Yatra: Journey from India to Spain* will premiere in late September 2014 at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater. The following sites provide background information:

Chitresh Das Dance, www.kathak.org; Alka Raghuram, www.alkaraghuram.com; Kathleen Dargis, www.kathleendargis.com; 3rd i Films, www.Thirdi.org.

Shinichi Iova-Koga (Oakland) with Dancers' Group (San Francisco)

Choreographer and inkBoat director Shinichi Iova-Koga and Dancers' Group will collaborate on creating a site-specific dance performance to honor iconic Bay Area choreographer Anna Halprin. To premiere when Ms. Halprin turns 95 years old, *Object, object, object, object, object, object, object to Structure (95 Dances for Anna Halprin)* [working title] will reference, depart from, and pay homage to Halprin in its structure and concepts. Iova-Koga's piece will incorporate 95 different scores that he will solicit from a wide range of visual and performing artists—including one or more from Halprin herself. Participants will receive a template that incorporates Halprin's RSVP (Resources, Score, Valuation, and Performance) approach, which each partner will interpret in his or her own way. The scores will serve as source material for *Object*, which will be performed by eight inkBoat members, most of whom have an ongoing relationship with Anna Halprin. Selecting the performance spaces and deciding how spaces will be used are part of the collaboration with Dancers' Group. Shinichi Iova-Koga has produced multiple works as director of inkBoat and in collaboration with other artists. Founded in 1982, Dancers' Group is the primary dance service organization of the San Francisco Bay Area. The project will premiere in August 2015 in multiple admission-free performances over two or more weeks. The site-specific venue(s) will be highly visible San Francisco locations. Please visit the following sites for more information. Shinichi Iova-Koga, www.inkboat.com; Dancers' Group, www.dancersgroup.org

Bernard Krause (Sonoma) with Alonzo King LINES Ballet (San Francisco)

Musician Bernie Krause is collaborating with Alonzo King on a new ballet, choreographed by King and set to an original composition by Krause that incorporates natural soundscapes. Born in 1938, Krause is the founder of Wild Sanctuary, an organization dedicated to recording and archiving natural soundscapes. He is a musician, author, composer, and bio-acoustician, who coined the term “biophony,” the notion that each creature has a niche sound—a bandwidth—that gives it the aural space to communicate. For this project, Krause and King will work together to define the relationship between the soundscapes, the composition, and the dancers. Krause also intends to partner with past collaborator and fellow composer, Richard Blackford. Founded in 1982, Alonzo King LINES Ballet is a San Francisco-based dance company that supports King in choreographing works of illuminating beauty and sharing them with the widest possible audience. One of the pre-eminent contemporary ballet choreographers in the world, King attracts a diverse range of artistic collaborators. The ballet will premiere at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in May 2015 and become part of LINES's touring repertoire. For more information, visit Bernard Krause, www.wildsanctuary.com; Alonzo King LINES Ballet, www.linesballet.org.

Sean San Jose (San Francisco) with The Cutting Ball Theater (San Francisco)

Playwright and director Sean San Jose is collaborating with The Cutting Ball Theater on *Superheroes*, a story of the crack-cocaine epidemic in 1980s San Francisco. The play is partially inspired by Gary Webb's groundbreaking investigative journalism into the Bay Area drug ring that had been selling tons of cocaine to Los Angeles street gangs for nearly a decade and funneling profits to the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Contras. The Cutting Ball produced a workshop of an early draft of the play in 2013, and now are working with San Jose to refine the piece and transforming its spoken-word narrative into a complete theatrical experience. Its development process includes open process workshops in the Tenderloin and Bayview Hunters Point. Andrew

Saito, artist-in-residence at The Cutting Ball, will act as dramaturg and The Cutting Ball's co-founder Rob Melrose will direct. Choreographer Rashad Pridgin is creating a movement vocabulary for each character and the ensemble. Sean San Jose is a writer, director, performer, and director of the ensemble Campo Santo. In his role as the long-time director of Intersection for the Arts' performance program, he has collaborated with more than 500 artists. The Cutting Ball Theater was founded in 1999 with a mission to develop and produce experimental new plays and re-visioned classics with an emphasis on language and images. For more information, visit The Cutting Ball, cuttingball.com.

Erika Chong Shuch (Berkeley) with Kitka, Inc. (Oakland)

Choreographer Erika Chong Shuch is collaborating with Kitka, a vocal arts ensemble that is dedicated to music rooted in Eastern European women's vocal traditions, to create *Iron Shoes*, a contemporary neo-feminist folk opera combining singing, movement, text, humor, and environments of light. Also collaborating are members of The Erika Chong Shuch (ESP) Performance Project, composer Janet Kutulas, and production designer Allen Willner. *Iron Shoes* will transform source material drawn from Eastern European fairytales, imagining the meeting of three young women who are inspired by characters from three separate Slavic tales. In the original stories, each maiden has been doomed to wander the earth in iron shoes, though for different reasons. Only when each has worn out three pairs of these shoes can she hope to find ease, happiness, and authentic love. Erika Chong Shuch melds theater, dance, music, and design to formulate original performance works with her own company, The ESP Performance Project, and others. Founded in 1979, Kitka produces concerts, recordings, and educational programs, developing new audiences for music rooted in Eastern European women's vocal traditions. While Kitka has produced vocal-theater projects in the past and its music often has been used to accompany choreography, Kitka has never worked with a choreographer with the intention of becoming moving singing storytellers in an original work. For background on Erika Chong Shuch and Kitka, visit www.erikachongshuch.org or www.kitka.org.

Van-Anh (Vanessa) Vo (Fremont) with Asian Americans for Community Involvement (San Jose)

Composer and musician Van-Anh Vo is collaborating with Asian Americans for Community Involvement to create *The Odyssey—from Vietnam to America*, a multi-disciplinary production about the Vietnamese boat people's spiritual odyssey and the emotional suffering they endured. Also collaborating will be electronic musician and composer Philip Blackburn. Van-Anh Vo, one of the finest performers of Vietnamese instruments in the United States and an emerging composer, has won national recognition and awards in Vietnam and the United States, including Emmy awards and an Oscar nomination. Asian Americans for Community Involvement, founded in 1973, brings to the project decades of engagement with and services to Southeast Asian refugees, including medical care, mental health services, emergency shelter, and advocacy. It will work with Vo on conducting interviews, historical research, and Vietnamese American community participation. Vo already has conducted 17 interviews, including a six-hour videotaped conversation with Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh and his assistant Sister Chan Khong. In her composition, Vo will use Vietnamese traditional instruments as the core sound, complemented by electronic music and Western instruments. Vietnamese folk songs, especially lullabies, will be an important part of the raw musical materials. *The Odyssey's* premiere at

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in September 2015 will coincide with the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

The following sites provide background material: Van-Anh (Vanessa) Vo, www.vananhvo.com; Asian Americans for Community Involvement, www.aaci.org.