

# CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the Mayor  
Honorable Libby Schaaf  
Mayor

(510) 238-3141  
Fax (510) 238-4731

## Letter of Appointment

October 25, 2022

The Honorable City Council  
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Second Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear President Bas and members of the City Council:

Pursuant to City Charter Section 601, the Mayor has appointed the following person as a member of the following board or commission, subject to City Council confirmation:

### **Cultural Affairs Commission**

**Jim Santi Owen**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by Michael Orange.

**Charles McNeal**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by Arnell Pleasants.

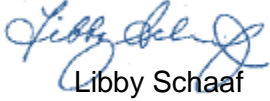
**Iliana Lipsett**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by Roy Chan.

**Vanessa Whang**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by herself.

**Jennifer Easton**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by herself.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Libby Schaaf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "S" at the end.

Libby Schaaf  
Mayor

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## Profile

Jim

First Name

Santi Owen

Middle Initial

Last Name

 Email Address

 Street Address

 City

 Suite or Apt

 State

 Postal Code
Home: (415) [REDACTED]

Primary Phone

Home: (415) [REDACTED]

Alternate Phone

Jim Santi Owen Music, Inc.

Employer

Principal

Job Title

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

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Cultural Affairs Commission: Submitted

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## Interests & Experiences

**Please tell us how your qualifications and participation will relate to the requested board and/or commission's mission.**

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My name is Jim Santi Owen. I am a professional musician, producer, educator, and grant maker with a specialty in North and South Indian percussion, cross-cultural artistic collaborations, and childhood music education. I have five generations of family history in Oakland dating back to the 1880s. I have lived in the Bay Area since 1991 with the bulk of my time as an Oakland resident (West Oakland, Grand Lake/Rose Garden, and the Oakland/Emeryville border). I have served for two terms (6 years) as the Chair of the Funding Advisory Committee (FAC) of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Division. Prior to that, I served for three years as a panelist for the Zellerbach Family Foundation's Community Arts Program and have served on panels for the San Francisco Arts Commission and Oakland Unified School District's Visual and Performing Arts Grant Program. In September, I will be stepping down from my position at FAC. During my 6-year tenure there I have become intimately acquainted with the trials facing individual artists and arts organizations in Oakland as they compete with one another to be awarded what little money there is available in Oakland's chronically underfunded Cultural Affairs Division. In addition, I know the struggles of the staff and management of that understaffed and overworked department who have sought my council as Chair of FAC. This experience, my 30+ year career as a performing and teaching artist, and my track record as both a grant awardee and a grant maker in the public and private sectors equip me with a unique set of knowledge and experience that I would like to bring to Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission if I am honored to be chosen as one of its commissioners. I thank you for your consideration and welcome any questions or concerns.

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***Please submit your resume or curriculum vitae. You may upload a document. (A Word format is preferred.) Alternatively, you may paste the text of your resume in the field provided below.***

[Jim Santi Owen -  
\\_Bio\\_and\\_Resume\\_-\\_2022.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

**Please paste the text of your resume or curriculum vitae below.**

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**Please click the acknowledgement below.**

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**Service on City of Oakland boards, commissions, and committees may require filings of the FPPC's Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700). Upon appointment and determination of filing status, I will comply with all filing obligations.**

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I Agree \*

## Jim Santi Owen

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██████████ Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94610  
415. ██████████  
[www.jimsantiowen.com](http://www.jimsantiowen.com)  
██████████@gmail.com

Jim Santi Owen is an American percussionist, educator, producer, performer, grant writer and funder based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Drumming since the age of eight, Owen began an intensive training in the North Indian percussion instrument *tabla* in 1991, studying under *Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri* at the Ali Akbar College of Music, the California Institute of the Arts, and in India. In 1995, Owen began studying South Indian percussion instruments including *mridangam*, *ghatam*, *kanjira* and *morsing* with master percussionist *T.H. Subash Chandran*, and the temple drum, *thavil*, with *K. Sekar*. At Cal Arts, Owen studied Jazz with *Charlie Haden*, *James Newton*, and *Tootie Heath* and African drumming and dance from the *Ladzekpo Brothers*. He studied North Indian music and *tabla* accompaniment from *Ustad Ali Akbar Khan* and the art of accompaniment for the North Indian dance known as *Kathak* from *Pandit Chitresh Das*. Owen holds a Bachelor's of Humanities from New College of California and a Master's degree in World Music from California Institute of the Arts. He served as the Music Director for the *San Francisco World Music Festival* from 2009 to 2014 and is on faculty at *Dominican University*, *The California Jazz Conservatory*, *LINES Ballet School*, *the California Institute of the Arts*, and the *Ali Akbar College of Music*. Owen served a 3-year term as a panelist on the *Zellerbach Family Fund's Community Arts Panel* and sits on arts panels for the *San Francisco Arts Commission*. He is currently serving his second three-year term as *Chair of the Funding Advisory Committee* for the *Cultural Affairs Division of the City of Oakland* and is Co-Chair of Development for the *Swapan Chaudhuri Foundation*.

Jim Santi Owen has performed extensively with world-class musicians from a myriad of cultural and musical backgrounds. These include his gurus, *Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri*, *Subash Chandran*, and *K. Sekar* with whom he performed both in India and the U.S. Other internationally renowned artists with whom Owen has performed include: Jazz legend *Pharoah Sanders*, Nubian musician *Hamza el Din*, Double violin virtuoso *Shenkar (L. Shankar)* guitar innovator *Stanley Jordan*, Kathak dance master *Pandit Chitresh Das*, *sitar* maestro *Kartik Seshadri*, renowned Persian vocalist *Sharam Nazeri*, drum set virtuoso *Steve Smith*, minimalist composer *Terry Riley*, Jazz saxophonist *Joseph Jarman* (Art Ensemble of Chicago), Israeli *oud* player *Yair Dalal*, young *sarode* maestro *Alam Khan*, *tabla* virtuoso *Bikram Ghosh*, *kanjira* exponent *Ganesh Kumar*, Indo-Jazz fusion artist *George Brooks*, didgeridoo master *Stephen Kent*, devotional singer *Jai Uttal*, avant-garde pianist *Myra Melford*, Italian percussionist *Alessandra Belloni*, Tibetan artist *Techung*, *Gamelan Sekar Jaya*, Burmese *pot-waing* player *Kyaw Kyaw Naing*, *Rova Saxophone Quartet*, Cuban pianist *Omar Sosa* and *bansuri* flute exponent *Steve Gorn*. Owen has also appeared on numerous recordings in America and has recorded in India with *ghatam* maestro *T.H. Vikku Vinayakram* and *kanjira* wizard *Selva Ganesh*.

Owen's work as a composer/producer is featured on *Facebook's Sound Collection* which has released over 150 of his original and traditional world music tracks highlighting the classical music of North and South India, folk musics of Rajasthan and Bengal, traditional music of Ghana, and classical traditions of Iran and the Middle East.

As Music Director for the San Francisco World Music Festival, Owen directed a Youth World Music Orchestra and collaborated with master musicians from China, South Korea, Tibet, India, Spain, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mali, Azerbaijan, and Burma, and indigenous musicians from the Thao culture of Taiwan and the Costanoan Rumsen Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area.

In 1999, Owen received a fellowship from the *American Institute of Indian Studies* (A.I.I.S.), which enabled him to spend two and a half years living in India conducting research on classical and folk percussion ensembles. During this time, Owen was based alternately in Kolkata and Chennai but traveled extensively throughout India to document drumming traditions in Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and West Bengal. In addition to the A.I.I.S. fellowship, Owen has been awarded five grants from the Zellerbach Family Fund, a fellowship from The National Gugak Center of South Korea, an Isadora Duncan Award, a Black Box Award from the SF Weekly, and numerous grants to support his work as Music Director of the San Francisco World Music Festival (please see below).

The San Francisco dance community has embraced Owen as an award-winning composer and performer. Owen has worked with numerous dancers and choreographers, including the *San Francisco Ballet*, *Pandit Chitresh Das*, *Alonzo King*, *Kim Epifano*, *Joanna Haigood* and *Zaccho Dance Theater*, *Yannis Adoniou*, *Keith Hennessey*, and *K.J. Holmes*. He has studied and taught Contact Improvisation and other body-based improvisational forms. From 1994 through 1998, Owen collaborated with dancer/musician Jules Beckman on an evolving form of dance, voice, and bucket drumming called Percussion Theater, which he continues to teach. Owen is currently on faculty with Dominican University, the San Francisco Dance Conservatory, LINES Ballet School, LINES Pre-Professional Program, and the ODC Children's Program where he teaches music, drumming, and performance to hundreds of young dancers. He served as Music Director/Composer for the Indian/Jazz Dance theater show, *Hindu Swing* and recently premiered a dance/percussion piece for Kathak dance and body percussion with *Farah Yasmeeen Shaikh* at the International Body Music Festival.

As an educator, Owen has extensive experience working with students ranging in age from pre-school to the post-graduate level and beyond. Trained and certified in an approach to children's music and dance education known as Orff-Schulwerk, Owen has taught music to children in numerous schools throughout California and around the world including Synergy, the San Francisco School, Park Day School, Marin Country Day School, and the Greenwood School. He has taught master classes for youth and adults in Hong Kong, Spain, and India. Owen was a featured clinician at the 2002 and 2007 AOSA (American Orff-Schulwerk Association) National Conferences and the 2000 NCOSA (Northern California Orff-Schulwerk Association) mini-conference. He has been a guest clinician, an art specialist for youth, a director of a K-8 music program and a lead teacher with Cal Art's Community Arts Partnership. At the university level, Owen is on faculty at Dominican University and the California Jazz Conservatory. He has been a guest instructor with the Experimental Performance Institute of New College of California and has taught at Cornish University, California State University, Sacramento, and Cal Arts. Owen has twice been a featured performer and clinician at the Seattle World Rhythm Festival, California State University Sacramento's Day of Percussion, and the Percussion Arts Society's Day of Percussion.

Owen co-directs the award-winning Indian percussion ensemble *Tabla Rasa* with whom he produced San Francisco's first Festival of Sacred Drumming, Dance, and Song in 1998 and the beloved Sacred Drums of India concerts.

**Selected Employment:**

2021

California Institute of the Arts, World Music Faculty, Valencia CA

2018-Present

Jim Santi Owen Music, Inc., President and CEO, Oakland, CA

2016-Present

Funding Advisory Committee Chair, Cultural Affairs Department, City of Oakland, Oakland, CA

2015-2018

Park Day School, Middle School Music Director, Oakland, CA

2015-2016

The Altschool, Expert Network, Music Specialist, San Francisco, CA

2013-2015

Community Arts Panelist, Zellerbach Family Foundation, San Francisco, CA

2009-2014

Music Director, San Francisco World Music Festival, San Francisco, CA

2010-Present

Faculty, The California Jazz Conservatory, Berkeley, CA

1986-Present

Freelance Performing Musician, Teacher, Clinician, Director, and Producer

2006-Present

Dominican University, LINES BFA Program, San Rafael, CA

2004-Present

LINES Ballet Summer Program, San Francisco, CA

2005-2014

Lines Ballet, LBSET Program, San Francisco, CA

2005-2006

San Francisco Dance Conservatory, San Francisco, CA

2006

San Francisco School, Orff Music and Dance Specialist, San Francisco, CA

2005-2006

San Francisco Arts Education Project, San Francisco, CA

2005-2006

Oakland Youth Chorus, Orff Music and Dance Specialist, Oakland, CA

2003-2005

California Institute of the Arts, Teaching Assistant in South Indian Percussion and World Music Survey, Valencia, CA

2003-2005

California Institute of the Arts, Community Arts Partnership, Lead Teacher, Valencia, CA

2003-2005

P.S. Arts, Orff Music and Dance Specialist, Los Angeles, CA

2002-2003

Creative Arts Charter School, Director of K-8 Orff Music Program, San Francisco, CA

2001-Present

Ali Akbar College of Music, Faculty, San Rafael, CA

1995-1998

Orff Music and Dance Specialist - Synergy, San Francisco School, Park Day School, Marin Country Day School, and the Greenwood School.

### **Selected Education:**

2016/2018

Orff-Afrique Certification - Music, Dance, and Orff-Schulwerk in Ghana, Accra, Ghana

2003-2005

California Institute of the Arts, MFA in World Music Performance, Valencia, CA

2002-2003

New College of California, BA in Humanities, San Francisco, CA

1991-Present

Ali Akbar College of Music, Ongoing Study of North Indian Classical Music, San Rafael, CA

1994-2001

Study of Classical Indian percussion, India

1995-2001

Mills College, Orff-Schulwerk Certification, Oakland, CA

1991-1992

California Institute of the Arts, Undergraduate Jazz and World Music Studies, Performance, Valencia, CA

1987-1990

Fresno City College, Jazz and Humanities, Fresno, CA

1989

California State University, Fresno, Upper Division Poetry Studies, Fresno, CA



**Selected Fellowships, Awards, and Grants:**

2017

Isadora Duncan Special Award, *Shiva*, with The Chitresh Das Dance Company

2016

Alliance for California Traditional Artists Master/Apprentice Grant with Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri

2016

San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music Commission

2016

Center For New Music Curatorial 2-year Residency Fellowship

2013

National Gugak Study Fellowship, Seoul, South Korea

2012

National Gugak Study Fellowship, Seoul, South Korea

1998-2001

American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Senior Performing Arts Fellowship, Study and Research of Percussion Ensemble in India

1998

Black Box Award, Best New Score for Dance

1996

Isadora Duncan Award, Best New Score for Dance

1998/2002/2003/2013/2014/2015

Zellerbach Family Fund

2009-2014

The following foundations funded Owen's work as Music Director for the San Francisco World Music Festival:

Arts Loan Fund, Bothin Foundation, California Arts Council, Grants for the Arts, Wattis Foundation, Sam Mazza Foundation, Westaf, Sun Culture Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, Christensen Fund, Bill Graham Memorial Fund, March Foundation, Morgan Family Foundation, Panta Rhea Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Fresno Regional Foundation.

**Professional Affiliations:**

2019-Present

Recording Academy Member

### **Selected Productions:**

2017-Present

Producer of Original & Traditional World Music for Facebook's *Sound Collection*

2009-2014

San Francisco World Music Festival

2000-2005

Sacred Drums of India

1998

Festival of Sacred Drumming, Dance, and Song

1998

World Music Sundays

### **Selected Publications:**

2002

"Sophisticated Simplicity: North and South Indian Rhythmic Concepts as Applied to the Orff-Schulwerk," Orff Echo, fall 2002, Volume XXXV, Number 1.

### **Selected Workshops:**

2020-Present

Introduction to Indian Vocal Percussion,  
Freight and Salvage Produced Online Course

2018

San Francisco International Orff Course  
World Music Course, San Francisco, CA

2017

California Institute of Integral Studies, Spirituality and Indian Classical Music, San Francisco, CA

2017

Northern California American Orff-Schulwerk Association Mini-Conference, Indian Rhythmic Concepts, Hidden Valley, CA

2015

Master classes for Youth and Teachers, Mumbai, India

2013-2014

Master classes for Youth and Teachers, Beijing, China

2013

Master Classes for Music Educators, Barcelona and Madrid, Spain

2012

Master classes for Youth and Teachers, Hong Kong

2010  
Master Classes for Orff Teachers, Washington D.C.

2011  
Master Classes for Orff Teachers, Idaho

2007  
AOSA National Conference, San Jose, CA

2006  
Bay Area Tap Festival, Indian Rhythmic Concepts

2006  
Bay Area Orff Certification Course, Drumming Skills and Indian Rhythmic Concepts

2006  
Doug Goodkin's Jazz Course, Jazz Drumming

2006  
Kripalu Sacred Pulse Festival, Indian Rhythmic Concepts

2004-2012  
LINES Ballet School, Drumming for Dancers

2005 – 2006  
San Francisco Dance Conservatory, Drumming for Dancers

Spring 2006  
San Francisco School, Time, Technique, and Theory

June 2005  
Percussive Arts Society, Indian Rhythmic Concepts

2003 - 2005  
New College of California, Percussion Theater Workshops for the Experimental Performance Institute

2003  
Cornish University, Master Classes for the Dance and Music Departments

2002 and 2004  
California State University, Sacramento, Indian Rhythmic Concepts

2002  
AOSA National Conference in Las Vegas, NV, Indian Rhythmic Concepts

2000  
Northern California American Orff-Schulwerk Association Mini-Conference, Indian Rhythmic Concepts, Hidden Valley, CA

### Profile

Charles \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ Mc Neal \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name Middle Initial Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Suite or Apt

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code

Mobile: (510) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: (415) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Phone Alternate Phone

Mc Neal Consulting \_\_\_\_\_ Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer Job Title

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Cultural Affairs Commission: Submitted

### Interests & Experiences

**Please tell us how your qualifications and participation will relate to the requested board and/or commission's mission.**

I have been an Oakland resident for over 20 years. My background is in education, arts, culture and diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. I would like to see the City function better in support of Oakland residents.

*Please submit your resume or curriculum vitae. You may upload a document. (A Word format is preferred.) Alternatively, you may paste the text of your resume in the field provided below.*

[McNeal-Resume-2022.pdf](#)  
 Upload a Resume

**Please paste the text of your resume or curriculum vitae below.**

Please click the acknowledgement below.

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Service on City of Oakland boards, commissions, and committees may require filings of the FPPC's Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700). Upon appointment and determination of filing status, I will comply with all filing obligations.

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I Agree \*

# CHARLES CHIP MC NEAL, M.ED., PH.D.C.

Oakland, CA 94609

+1.510 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

[www.askcharles.com](http://www.askcharles.com)

[Mc Neal - LinkedIn](#)

Twitter @Oaklandartsman

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## LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION, CULTURE & EQUITY

*Excellence | Strategy | Vision*

Accomplished senior executive, educator, Transformative Learning Specialist and equity expert with substantial experience in organizational development, strategic planning and change management. Outstanding communicator and adjudicator, distinguished for dynamic leadership, and creative vision. Employs proven strategies that engage and inspire, facilitating the achievement of key business objectives. An exceptional executive coach with a track record of successful project management with focus on learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, with demonstrable results.

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- 
- |                              |                                |                                   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Non-Profit Leadership      | ▪ Critical Dialogue            | ▪ Transformative Learning         |
| ▪ Organizational Development | ▪ Change-Agent                 | ▪ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion |
| ▪ Curriculum Development     | ▪ Arts Education & Integration | ▪ Anti-Racist, Anti-bias Training |
| ▪ Executive Coaching         | ▪ Cross-Cultural Competency    | ▪ Civic & Community Engagement    |
- 

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

8/2019-Present

#### **Director of Diversity, Equity and Community**

- Chief equity officer for the Association – works collaboratively with executive leadership to set and advance strategic priorities and policies related to equity, diversity, inclusion, access, and company culture.
- Researches and develops specialized training in anti-Black racism, anti-bias, and cultural competency using evidence-based best practices to drive results. Contributes subject matter expertise in executive communications on DEI topics.
- Provides specialized guidance on Board development, training and membership diversification.
- Research, Design and Produce equity-driven *creative programming* as required.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

8/2014-2019

#### **Senior Program and Curriculum Specialist**

- Provide expert advice, coaching, and instruction in best practices in teaching and learning
- Researches and develops specialized training content in all art forms, and change-management
- Advise organization on best practices in equity and diversity

**MC NEAL CONSULTING**

9/1985– Present

#### **Arts, Education, Equity & Non-profit Consultant**

- Instructional coach and mentor for in-service and pre-service educators, teaching artists, and school leaders and executives
- Provide instruction in arts integration methodologies aligned with State and National Core Arts Standards.
- Advise on critical pedagogy, culturally responsive teaching strategies, multicultural education, curriculum development, education equity and social justice. Addresses all aspects of diversity, equity and inclusion practices.
- Advise for-profit, non-profit, individuals, and government agencies on best practices in all aspects of DEI & B

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

2010– present

#### **Guest Lecturer - Arts Integration & Social Justice**

- Provide specialized professional development for pre-service teachers in Stanford Teacher Education Program (STEP).
- Instruct in arts integration methodologies, dance pedagogy, and social justice, and SEL practices.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

4/2010– 2020

#### **Policy Advisor, Professional Expert, & Senior Faculty**

- *Professional Expert* and Transformational Learning Coach for the Integrated Learning Department.
- Researcher, policy advisor, instructional coach and mentor for artists, educators, principals and classroom teachers.
- Senior Faculty for the Integrated Learning Specialist Program utilizing Teaching for Understanding pedagogy, Studio Habits theory and practice, Social Justice, Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Social-Emotional learning techniques.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

7/2012-2017

#### **Senior Guest Faculty – Future of Learning Institute (FoL)**

- Provide specialized instruction and facilitation as part of Future of Learning Institute (FoL), Harvard Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Use design-thinking and human-centered pedagogy to address globalism, digital divide, and 21st century learning by transforming collective thinking around educational place-making and practice.
- Develop and implement arts integration and cultural content as desired for adult learning.

**Director of Education**

- Envisioned, created, operationalized, and directed the San Francisco Ballet Center for Dance Education.
- Expertly devise and manage sixteen cultural programs, and twenty-five employees for the San Francisco Ballet Center for Dance Education, including the award-winning Dance in Schools and Communities program.
- Provide key organizational strategy in arts education, community relations, audience development and outreach initiatives, and serve as an organization spokesperson for public and media relations. Provide instruction in dance, music, and drama and serve as talent adjudicator for SF Ballet School.

**Consulting Clients include:**

UC Berkeley	The California State Department of Education
Harvard University	The Edinburgh International Arts Festival (Scotland)
Stanford University	San Francisco Arts Commission
San Francisco Conservatory of Music	Manhattan School of Music

**Presenter – Director, Master Artist Educator & Creative Lead**

- [Create/CA Leadership Committee](#), Equity Co-lead, advocates on arts education for Social Justice 2017-present
- [London International Conference on Education](#), [Keynote Presenter](#) 12/2019
- California Arts Council, Funding Panelist 4/2019
- Co-Chair & Host - Alameda County Office of Education's Integrated Learning Summer Institute 2012-2017
- [The Kennedy Center – Turnaround Arts](#) Summer Leadership Retreat National Conference, Presenter 6/2016
- Project Lead, creative contributor and editor, San Francisco Ballet interactive [Nutcracker iPad App](#), 2014
- Presenter - National Dance Education Organization Conference in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014
- Keynote Speaker and Presenter – Creative Scotland's [ArtWorks Scotland National Conference](#) in 2012
- Creative Director - Cultural Connections through Dance at the de Young Museum, S.F., CA in 2010.
- Director and Presenter - Dance-IT Family Workshop Series, SF Public Library, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 2008.
- [Co-Creator and Lead Designer - Dance-IT](#) (Dance and Information Technology): A multimedia interactive movement and digital media installation project at UC Irvine in 2008.
- Director – Bay Area National Dance Week Children's Showcase, Union Square Park, S.F., CA in 2006
- Master Artist Educator – Arts leadership Workshop for School San Francisco Unified School District Principals, 2005

**EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

1997, 1999, 2003, 2010, &amp; 2012

**Guest Lecturer & Master Artist Educator**

- Inaugural artist educator and scholar – Led creative team of artist & educators in 'World Dance & Music' residencies.
- Multicultural civic engagement arts workshops for all ages throughout Edinburgh, Scotland metropolitan area.
- Led and organized a team of artist & educators in 'World Dance & Music' residencies, including special needs
- Developed Community Lecture Series and taught workshops for students, teachers & families.
- Led professional development program for UK artist-educators through Practitioner School of the Edinburgh Festival.

**VOICE OF DANCE**

3/1998– 8/2002

**Columnist, Editor & Master Educator**

- Authored, developed and researched the weekly advice column on the voiceofdance.com website designed to educate and provide guidance to pre-professionals, specializing in education, job search, career and training recommendations.

**THE CALIFORNIA ARTS PROJECT: THE CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 4/1990– 7/1995****Master Artist Educator**

- Instructed and presented for pre- and in-service teachers for the Subject Matter Project: The California Arts Project, which received co-sponsorship from the University of California.

**EDUCATION, TRAINING & AWARDS**

PH.D. CANDIDATE AT CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRAL STUDIES (2022)

MASTER OF EDUCATION: CURRICULUM &amp; INSTRUCTION, LESLEY UNIVERSITY (2012)

BACHELOR OF ARTS - PSYCHOLOGY, BACHELOR OF ARTS - SOCIOLOGY, EXCELSIOR COLLEGE (2009)

EDUCATION EQUITY, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE STUDIES (2017-2020)

TEACHING TOLERANCE (SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER) – ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-BIAS TRAINING (2014-2017)

TEACHING FELLOWSHIP, FUTURE OF LEARNING INSTITUTE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (2012)

MUSEUM OF PERFORMANCE AND DESIGN (PERFORMING ART LIBRARY AND MUSEUM) – CERTIFIED ORAL HISTORIAN (2010)

CERTIFIED ARTS INTEGRATION SPECIALIST, ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION (2010)

[MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC – EQUITY ARTIST SCHOLAR](#) (2020-2021)[YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC'S DISTINGUISHED MUSIC EDUCATOR](#) AWARD (2015)

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION (2010)

SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S DREAM CATCHER (2009)

LEVI STRAUSS &amp; CO. AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ARTS TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS (2004)

### Profile

Jennifer \_\_\_\_\_ Easton \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name Middle Initial Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Suite or Apt

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code

Home: (510) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: (718) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Phone Alternate Phone

San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer Job Title

Art Program Consultant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Job Title

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Cultural Affairs Commission: Appointed

### Interests & Experiences

**Please tell us how your qualifications and participation will relate to the requested board and/or commission's mission.**

As someone raised in this city, I seek opportunities where I can use my knowledge and experience to support the evolution of Oakland as a place of humanity, equity and access. I believe the arts can and do lead this dialogue, and this critical function needs deeper support within the structure of the Oakland's governance, and by the community-at-large. Art cannot be relegated to definition of entertainment, its methods and roles are vast and its impact deep and critical. The Oakland Cultural Plan is an important document that supports this dialogue and engagement strategy. As an Arts Commissioner for the last 2 1/2 years, I have collaborated with the other commissioners to build support and awareness of the value that arts and culture bearers bring to the soul of Oakland. As my resume indicates, I have been an arts administrator for many years. I have deep experience working within city governance, and with non-profit arts organizations. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue as an Arts Commissioner, to continue to uplift the voices of fellow commissioners, artists, and arts organizations and educators in our community. Thank you for the consideration.

***Please submit your resume or curriculum vitae. You may upload a document. (A Word format is preferred.) Alternatively, you may paste the text of your resume in the field provided below.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Upload a Resume

**Please paste the text of your resume or curriculum vitae below.**



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Please click the acknowledgement below.

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Service on City of Oakland boards, commissions, and committees may require filings of the FPPC's Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700). Upon appointment and determination of filing status, I will comply with all filing obligations.

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I Agree \*

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## Profile

Ilana

First Name

Lipsett

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Street Address

[REDACTED]

City

[REDACTED]

Suite or Apt

[REDACTED]

State

[REDACTED]

Postal Code

Mobile: (415) [REDACTED]

Primary Phone

Mobile: (415) [REDACTED]

Alternate Phone

Institute for the Future

Employer

Senior Program Manager

Job Title

## Which Boards would you like to apply for?

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Cultural Affairs Commission: Submitted

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## Interests & Experiences

**Please tell us how your qualifications and participation will relate to the requested board and/or commission's mission.**

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Much of my past work has focused on centering culture as a catalyst for equitable community and economic development, and I would be honored to serve my city and community through being a member of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission. I attended the Community Dialogue at the Eastside Arts Alliance as part of the Cultural Development Plan's process, and was deeply inspired by the conversation and intentionality behind the plan. My experiences and expertise in cultural work and community engagement would benefit the Commission's work in furthering equity and belonging in Oakland. I have worked across sectors - government, real estate, non-profit, the creative community, tech - to create cultural programming and cultural commons in physical locations and public spaces. This has included: - Co-founding and running [freespace], an award-winning initiative to turn vacant spaces into temporary cultural, community, and civic engagement hubs. [freespace] was almost entirely participant-driven, hosting hundreds of free cultural and civic engagement events - from arts programs for local youth and unhoused adults alike to civic hackathons - that served the community in San Francisco's SOMA neighborhood. - Working with the SF Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) to map underutilized spaces in the Tenderloin, and creating a pilot program to bring cultural programs to low-income adults to activate those spaces, and co-authoring a downtown development plan with OEWD staff. -Supporting placemaking and placekeeping initiatives such as the Market Street Prototyping Festival. -Creating a role for myself at a real estate company as the Outreach and Engagement Director, which included co-creating and running The Hall, the phase-zero activation project of a vacant building. The Hall housed nascent food businesses, free weekly music for the community, art shows, and programming that brought together diverse communities for fundraisers, social impact projects, and community meetings. Through this space I also ran a participatory community engagement process for our Percent for the Arts requirement, running a grassroots engagement initiative to gathering community input into the building's art piece. -Working with a group of refugees in a camp in Uganda create an outdoor amphitheater in which they could host cultural programming to foster a sense of belonging and community in an inhospitable environment. I helped identify funding, worked with government and international aid agencies to enable this project, and provided capacity-building support to community groups to help them host talent shows, an inaugural women's day festival, and events to bring together and showcase cultures from the 9 different nations represented in the camp. All of this work has focused on engaging people to reimagine the future of their city, listening to their stories, and inviting them to participate and share their own unique expression with their neighbors, their community, or their city. I have seen that participation is critical to fostering a sense of belonging - when people help create something, they will feel a sense of ownership and belonging. I would be honored to serve the Oakland community through the Cultural Affairs Commission. Thank you for your consideration!

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***Please submit your resume or curriculum vitae. You may upload a document. (A Word format is preferred.) Alternatively, you may paste the text of your resume in the field provided below.***

[Ilana Lipsett\\_resume\\_Oct\\_2022.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

**Please paste the text of your resume or curriculum vitae below.**

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Please click the acknowledgement below.

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I Agree \*

# ILANA LIPSETT

## CONTACT

✉ [REDACTED].com

☎ 415 [REDACTED]

🌐 [REDACTED].com

I am working to enhance our collective capacity to create a resilient, inclusive, and fun future that works for all. I use participatory design and futures thinking to help companies, cities, and communities reimagine their relationship to place, to each other, and to the future. I build bridges between government, community, business, and nonprofits by creating programs and experiences that bring people together.

## SELECT EXPERIENCE

## EXPERTISE

- Program design & management
- Participatory design
- Workshop design & facilitation
- Event management & production
- Strategic foresight & futures thinking
- Creative placemaking
- Community engagement
- Grassroots & political organizing
- Coalition & partnership development
- Curriculum design
- Public policy
- Public speaking
- Strategic planning
- Real estate development
- Economic development

### SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

2019 - Present

Institute for the Future

- Craft and deliver virtual and in-person workshops on futures thinking and strategy to clients including governments, Fortune 500 companies, foundations, and coalitions
- Manage distributed research and programmatic teams
- Run a fellowship program for a cohort of 7 fellows across the country
- Lead research and consulting projects: responsible for project scoping, research design, team management, client communications
- Co-created and teach a design futures course to 100 director-level participants in 75 companies worldwide
- Guide internal initiatives on climate, racial justice, and culture

### PARTICIPATORY DESIGN AND ENGAGEMENT

2012 - present

- Manage a creative consultancy that provides participatory design and creative placemaking strategies for governments, nonprofits, philanthropy, real estate, and international development agencies
- Build, organize, and facilitate cross-sector collaborations and programs
- Develop and manage community engagement strategies, workshops, pilot programs to support economic development
- Speak at national and international conferences, panels, and events
- Support local communities, entrepreneurs, social enterprise with capacity-building, leadership development, and program management

### IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR

2014 - 2018

Tidewater Capital

- Designed and implemented stakeholder engagement initiatives, participatory design workshops and programs, placemaking programs, built coalition of support for real estate firm's projects
- Oversaw public art program, from community engagement to artist selection
- Created and oversaw social impact programs, including nonprofit partnerships, affordable housing efforts, sustainability, philanthropy; produced annual social impact report
- Represented the company in presentations, talks, and forums
- Managed programs and community-building at interim use space, supported 14 new businesses at this space

# EXPERIENCE, CONT'D

## CO-FOUNDER

2013 - 2014

[freespace]

- Created initiative to transform vacant buildings into temporary community, cultural, and arts centers
- Scaled from 1 month experiment to global movement with 14 international locations
- Engaged with community members, arts and cultural organizations, and government
- Facilitated workshops to develop governance protocols and organizational strategy
- Developed and managed communications, outreach, strategy
- Honored at the White House as a Champion of Change in civic innovation

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2011 - 2014

San Francisco Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development

- Conducted community outreach, facilitated focus groups, prepared analysis and presented to interagency government groups
- Drafted neighborhood economic revitalization strategy
- Developed and ran pilot programs to support local economic development
- Facilitated collaborations between business, tech, non-profits, and community groups

## POLITICAL DIRECTOR

2008 - 2010

Service Employees International Union, Local 32BJ

- Developed strategy and ran grassroots lobbying and campaign efforts for public policy and electoral campaigns related to labor, workforce development, and working people's issues
- Created and ran trainings for workers, built cross-sector coalitions, worked closely with elected officials, government agencies, nonprofits, community leaders to advance workers' rights
- Managed a team, including members of the union, to campaign for policy reform

## LEAD ORGANIZER AND POLICY ADVOCATE

2005 - 2007

DC Employment Justice Center

- Developed and ran policy campaigns to enact paid sick days, living wage laws, and workers' compensation reform
- Led coalitions of nonprofits, unions, small business, community leaders, and workers to advance pro-worker policies
- Drafted and analyzed legislation
- Ran free legal clinic for low-wage workers

# OTHER EXPERIENCE

**Urban Land Institute:** Serve as an expert on a national advisory services board to help identify strategic and practical solutions to land use and development challenges

**Farming Hope:** Board member for food-focused social enterprise that provides job training to hard-to-employ adults. I support the Executive Director and founder with fundraising, strategy and operations.

**ReAllocate:** Board member for non-profit that connects resources and talent with global need. I provide operational support to the Executive Director and founder to execute on his vision, develop strategic plans, and manage fiscal sponsorships for social entrepreneurs

**Big Ideas Contest:** I am a mentor and judge for annual competition that encourages students to develop innovative solutions to urgent needs

# EDUCATION

## MBA, Sustainable Management

2012

Presidio Graduate School, San Francisco, CA

## B.A. with Honors in History

2004

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA



City Attorney's Office

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR LIBBY SCHAAF

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**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF JIM SANTI OWEN, CHARLES MCNEAL, AND ILIANA LIPSETT, AND REAPPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER EASTON AND VANESSA WHANG TO THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 601 of the City Charter provides that members of City boards and commissions shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the affirmative vote of five members of the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 11323 C.M.S., amended by Ordinance Nos. 11778 C.M.S. and 13561 C.M.S., establishes the Cultural Affairs Commission as a professionally qualified citizen committee responsible for advising the City regarding all matters affecting arts and cultural development in the City of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 13561 C.M.S provides that all terms shall commence on October 1 and end on September 30, and for the initial appointment only, four members shall be appointed for a three-year term, four members shall be appointed for a two-year term, and three members shall be appointed for a one-year term, and thereafter, all appointments shall be for three years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 13561 C.M.S. provides that no person shall be appointed to serve as a member of the Cultural Affairs Commission for more than two consecutive three-year terms plus any initial term of less than two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Mayor Libby Schaaf has appointed Jim Santi Owen, Charles McNeal, Iliana Lipsett, and reappointed Vanessa Whang, and Jennifer Easton to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission; now therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED:** That pursuant to City Charter section 601, the City Council hereby confirms the Mayor's appointment of:

**Jim Santi Owen**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by Michael Orange;

**Charles McNeal**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by Arnell Pleasants; and

**Iliana Lipsett**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by Roy Chan; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That pursuant to City Charter section 601, the City Council hereby confirms the Mayor’s reappointment of:

**Vanessa Whang**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by herself; and

**Jennifer Easton**, to serve a three-year term on the Cultural Affairs Commission beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025 filling the seat previously held by herself.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California