



# PUBLIC SQUARE



SAT,  
AUG 19  
3-7PM

**WHAT DOES EQUITY  
LOOK LIKE?**

**WHY CITIZENSHIP?**



**A DAY OF  
DIALOGUE,  
ART, AND  
INSPIRATION**

**YERBA BUENA  
CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS**

# WELCOME TO YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Our organization was founded in 1993 as a citizen institution that would be home to the diverse local arts community while serving to connect the Bay Area to the world. YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. We believe that culture—a collection of art, traditions, values, human experiences, and stories—is what enables us to act with imagination and creativity, to act socially, politically, and with conviction. Culture instigates change in the world.

We believe that more and different kinds of people need to be defining culture today and that more people need to have access to cultural experiences that are relevant to their lives and their communities. We need new definitions and new experiences that bring people together regardless of their differences in order to make the inclusive and equitable culture we need today. We believe that the arts should be on the front line of change and that cultural institutions exist to spur and support big societal movements. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, we are committed to kindling inclusive culture that cultivates empathy, awakens personal and societal transformation, and reaches for a world fueled by inspiration. The need has never been stronger than now, and there is no better place than YBCA to answer the call. We are so glad that you are here. We are grateful for your cultural participation, and we hope you will come back and enjoy all that YBCA has to offer.

Warmly,

**DEBORAH CULLINAN**  
CEO of YERBA BUENA  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



# PUBLIC SQUARE

## CENTER FOR THE ART OF ACTION

A signature YBCA event, the Public Square brings our community together to explore urgent societal questions that need breakthrough answers. Highlighting the work of our YBCA Fellows, each Public Square uses art and ideas as a tool to inspire social change.

## 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.

### WHAT DOES EQUITY LOOK LIKE?

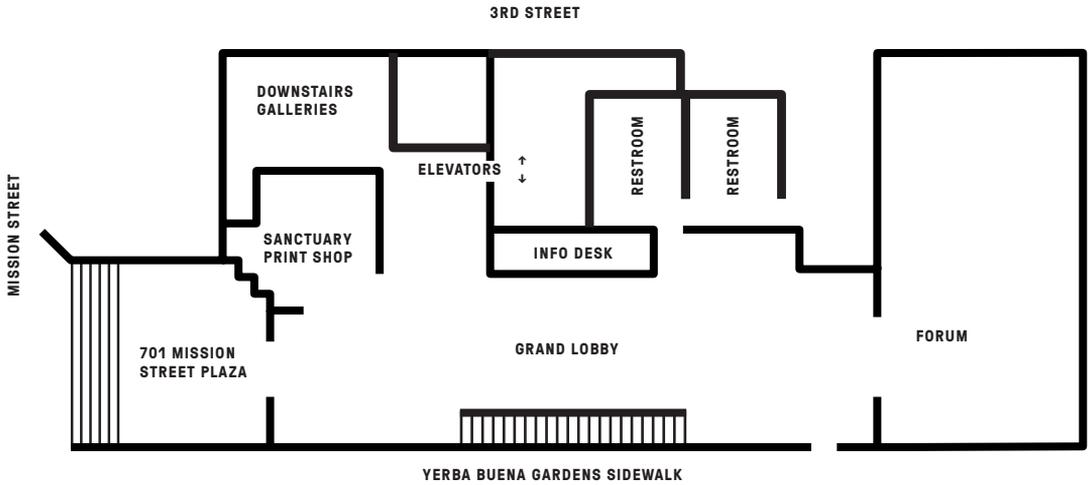
Shalini Agrawal, Kristy Alfieri Higaes, Trisha Barua, A'Darius Bell, Alex Bledsoe, Katherin Canton, Fay Darmawi, Ugo Edu, Saideh Eftekhari, Hunter Franks, Noah Frigault, Malcolm Gin, Juan Carlos Ibarra, Niema Jordan, Mansi Kakkar, Joan Tarika Lewis, Eli Mariantal, Hoi-Fei Mok, Rebecca Novick, Fran Osborne, Mariah Rankine-Landers, Candace Roberts, Jennifer Tacheff, Lauren Marie Taylor, Justin Warren, Marvin K. White, Chelsea Wills

### WHY CITIZENSHIP?

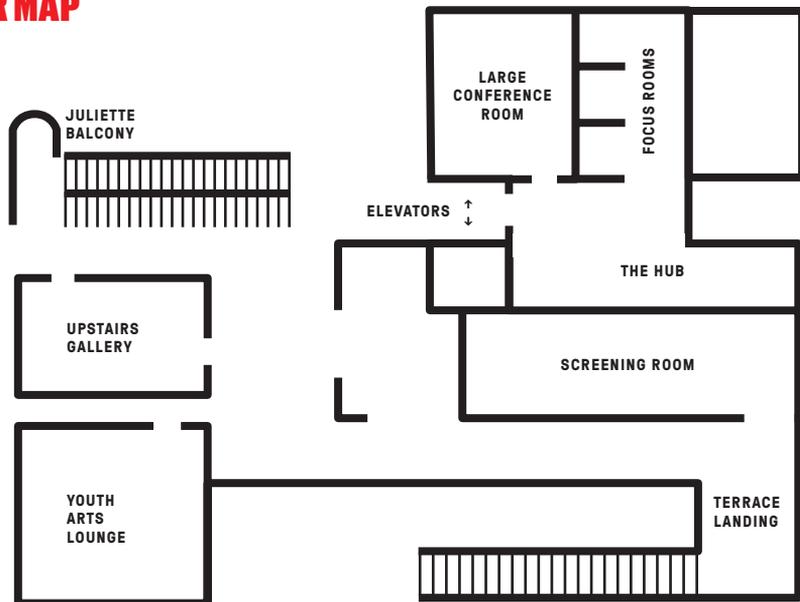
Luiza Berthoud, Lukas Brekke-Miesner, Yueqi Chen, Roberta D'Alois, Amelia Evans, Maria Faini, Cristiana Giordano, Rufaro Gwarada, Chris Hamamoto, Chris Hambrick, Sabereh Kashi, Paul Loper, Candi Martinez-Carthen, E. "Oscar" Maynard, Marléna Mendoza, David Moren, Takeshi Moro, Lex Non Scripta, Rebecca Ora, Katina Papson-Rigby, Devon Sampson, Dorothy R. Santos, Suzanne Schmidt, Jonel Seon, Sameena Sitabkhan, Emma Tramosch, Shamsheer Virk, Miriam Wolodarski

# EXPLORE OUR SPACE

## FIRST FLOOR MAP



## SECOND FLOOR MAP



YBCA galleries are open and accessible with admission to Public Square. Visit our information desk for more information.

## 701 MISSION STREET PLAZA

### FOOD EQUITY AND CULTURAL MEMORY: A PUBLIC FEAST

SHALINI AGRAWAL AND HOI-FEI MOK

In 2016, kindergarteners from Bessie Carmichael Elementary School collected oral and cultural histories of family recipes that were developed into recipe cards by the artist E. “Oscar” Maynard. Those recipes serve as the inspiration for this public meal. In feeding the public, the project highlights the issue of food access and food insecurity in the neighborhood as well as the cultural resources and memories embedded in family recipes. The seeds that are distributed as part of the event reconnect the ideas of growing and cooking one’s own food to resilience, the earth, and self-sustainability. The students are the featured artists, and, like the seeds, they are the rising stewards of resilience for the community. Share a food memory with your fellow attendees while enjoying the feast.

**Collaborators:** E. “Oscar” Maynard and kindergarteners from Bessie Carmichael Elementary School. Special thanks to Bixbee for donating backpacks to the kindergarteners.

### YERBA BUENA BARBECUE, 6-7PM

DEVON SAMPSON

As a tribute to the SOMA street food purveyors, we’ll be serving s’mores during a performance from 6-7PM.

## YERBA BUENA GARDENS SIDEWALK

### GLOBAL DOMINO PROGRAM (GDP)

JONEL SEON AND CHRIS HAMAMOTO

The Global Domino Program (GDP) is an international comm[unity]-building initiative spearheaded by the streetwear brand UPLFTRS. and the Domino Players Association (DPA). The project honors the game’s legacy of multicultural participation by providing free domino sets

and tables in public settings so that all can interact and play.

**Collaborators:** UPLFTRS. and the Domino Players Association

## GRAND LOBBY

### LINEAGE, LEGACY, AND KINSHIP: RECLAMATION AND NEW HYBRID FORMS OF FAMILY

E. “OSCAR” MAYNARD

Take a poster that highlights some of the essential questions about citizenship that this fellowship has engaged in. “Soapboxes” encourages audience members to silence messages of inadequacy, shame, and not being enough. Step onto the box, find your voice, and speak your mind.

### FLAG GENERATOR: UTOPIAN PROJECTS

CHRIS HAMAMOTO, DOROTHY R. SANTOS, AND YUEQI CHEN

Flag Generator examines iconography, symbolism, and graphic languages of nationality. By recombining forms found within the flags of nation-state, provincial, and social groups, Flag Generator proposes new and fluid symbols for identity. An ongoing collaboration by Jon Sueda and Chris Hamamoto, this edition also involves Yueqi Chen and Dorothy R. Santos and responds to the prompt “Why Citizenship?” by recombining the flag languages of utopian and anarchic communities. This project continues in the Youth Arts Lounge, 3-5PM.

**Collaborators:** Jon Sueda, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

### PANTASIA: A MICRONATION

REBECCA ORA

Pantasia is a self-proclaimed independent sovereign state housed within the atrium of YBCA. Both a response to recent desires of so many US residents to live outside of the United States and a reflection upon performances of statehood and citizenry, this micro-nation is a project of design and imagination.

**Collaborators:** Marguerite Kalhor, Ryan Page, Abram Stern (Aphid)

## **NAT/UR/ION/AL ELEMENTS**

KATINA PAPSON-RIGBY AND MARIA FAINI

Elements can interfere with or assist migration efforts, inviting questions of what travels, connects, and transforms across national and political boundaries. While the law renders bodies immobile, so too does the wind, or love, or sound. Where and how does power manifest? and In what spaces or temporalities do certain forces challenge, contain, or undermine it, or restrain or liberate its subjects? Nat/ur/ion/al Elements is a participatory embodiment experiment that taunts, excludes, and invites, resisting both citizen belonging and nationhood.

## **PERFECT CITIZENSHIP**

ROBERTA D'ALOIS

What's your definition of citizenship? What would perfect citizenship look like to you? Come by and post your responses to these and other questions for the Public Square to see.

## **N-400**

DOROTHY R. SANTOS

This interactive fiction experience is based on the N-400 Application for Naturalization form, by which an individual applies for US citizenship.

## **ELEVATOR**

### **FUTURE CITIZENRIES**

LEX NON SCRIPTA

Future Citizenries is an immersive, touch-activated mural and audio installation that invites audiences to imagine the worlds we might build: with our connections to one another as a foundation, voices of science fiction as a guide, and YBCA's elevator as a portal into possibility.

## **TERRACE LANDING**

### **BREAKING ICE: A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO A CITIZENSHIP TEST**

LUKAS BREKKE-MIESNER, YUEQI CHEN, CHRIS HAMAMOTO, AND TAKESHI MORO

Based loosely on the one hundred questions the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) uses to test aspiring citizens, we have created a set of flash cards that replaces the pressure and subjective nature of the test with an opportunity for meaningful sharing among communities. The hundred questions in Breaking ICE were culled from the Citizenship Fellows and encourage participants to engage in critical dialogue around political, personal, fun, philosophical, and hypothetical questions. Our ultimate goal is to explore a brand of citizenship rooted less in documentation and fear and more in the cultivation of communities of belonging.

**Collaborators:** The Art Lab at Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

### **THE PHANTOM MARIACHI PROJECT, 3-5PM**

EMMA TRAMPOSCH

The Phantom Mariachi is a performance character who addresses the displacement of marginalized communities. She silently speaks to the erasure of complex identities and is a symbolic inhabitant of past, present, and future San Francisco. The audience is invited to stage photos with the Phantom Mariachi and become part of the ongoing project.

**Collaborators:** Balitronica Gómez, Princess Vuvu

## **SCREENING ROOM**

### **HOME YET FAR AWAY**

SABEREH KASHI

Home Yet Far Away explores the difficulty of being a bicultural citizen of two countries in political conflict since the 1979 Iranian revolution. When her mother suddenly passes away, Sabereh Kashi,

an Iranian-American immigrant, begins a long journey to find her true home and make sense of her disjointed self. While healing her relationship with her distant father, who raised her to not follow societal gender roles, she comes to a new understanding of the feminine within herself and the society she left behind. This project continues in Focus Room with a Persian tea house.

## **OAKLEAD** ALEX BLEDSOE

A recent Reuters report identified multiple Oakland neighborhoods with higher lead poisoning rates than Flint, Michigan. OAKLEAD explores lead exposure in Oakland, and the correlations between poverty and lead poisoning; socioeconomic status and access to equitable housing and health outcomes.

## **YOUTH ARTS LOUNGE**

### **FLAG GENERATOR, 3-5PM** (CONTINUATION)

### **JOYFUL BELONGING: PERSPECTIVES AND PORTRAITS OF CITIZENSHIP, 5:15-7PM** CANDI MARTINEZ CARTHEN, RUFARO GWARADA

Joyful Belonging: Perspectives & Portraits of Citizenship is a music, written word, and image-based reframing of citizenship rooted in inclusive belonging and centering queer, trans, and gender nonconforming people, immigrants and refugees of color, and disabled kin - most targeted people in our society. Portraits by Ashleigh Reddy and reflections on citizenship and belonging by community members will be curated for sharing in print and online.

## **JULIETTE BALCONY**

### **LANDSCAPE DOCUMENT** LUIZA BERTHOUD

A short story by Brazilian writer and art historian Luiza Berthoud. Illustrations by Juli Ribeiro.

**Collaborators:** Juli Ribeiro

## **LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM**

### **THE INTERROGATION ROOM** SAMEENA SITABKHAN, CHRIS HAMBRICK, MARIA FAINI, AND DAVID MOREN

This immersive performance piece, grounded in whimsy and absurdity, comments on and parodies the power dynamics involved in gaining “citizenship”—entry or membership to a new space.

## **THE HUB**

### **THE MOBILE CRAFTING CLINIC** SUZANNE SCHMIDT

In this drop-in workshop, explore how craft can foster a sense of belonging, construct community, and communicate dissent. Participants learn craft skills for democratizing knowledge and creating new futures. All ages are welcome.

**Collaborators:** The Social Justice Sewing Academy, Rice and Beans Cooperative Preschool, Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network

## **FOCUS ROOMS**

### **GROUND WATER (NOT TIGHTLY BOUND)** PAUL LOPER

Revisiting CITIZENSHIP—arising/ adapting where the need/opportunity is. Sequentializing COLLABORATION—one me, several sites/partners. Bringing art-based practices into “non-art” work environments (key cultural production sites) reanimates the still-evolutionarily-recent interwoven origins of democracy/ the polis and theater/art. Twenty-first-century art as socially and interpersonally engaged processes of pausing, imagination, connection, integration, and play.

**Site Visit Collaborators:** Chris Hambrick, David Moren, Suzanne Schmidt

## CROWDSOURCING CITIZENSHIP

CHRIS HAMBRICK AND MARLÉNA MENDOZA

A multimedia exhibition investigating the tenets of citizenship, featuring travel journals. Visitors rank crowdsourced rights and responsibilities.

## HOME YET FAR AWAY PERSIAN TEA HOUSE (CONTINUATION)

## FORUM

### EQUITY GATE: TRANSFORMATION PORTAL

JOAN TARIKA LEWIS

The Equity Gate represents the point at which a physical and spiritual transformation is made by simply taking the initiative to make that initial step. Enter into a space to change thoughts and behaviors—get rid of self-destructive language, self-hatred, and behaviors that hurt and harm others, while retaining the values of seeking, harmony, balance, and reciprocity. The Ancient African symbol was called MAAT, where its builders designed gates and entrances into sacred spaces. Pass through the Equity Gate and take a step—a leap—of faith, renewing self, family, community, and our world.

### THE THING THAT MAKES THE THING

HUNTER FRANKS

Participants are invited to make their own unique wooden hammer for future personal use as a tool to physically create the neighborhood and city they want to live in.

### BENCH ENCOUNTERS

REBECCA NOVICK

Bench Encounters invites participants to meet one another in a manner that could lead to deeper conversation and action. The project explores what interpersonal interactions can contribute to building a more equitable society.

**Collaborators:** Malcolm Gin

## STREET SHEET

MALCOLM GIN, NOAH FRIGAULT, AND LAUREN MARIE TAYLOR

The Street Sheet is the oldest continuously published street newspaper in the United States. This issue of the Street Sheet reflects on the role of the arts in gentrification and displacement in San Francisco and was created in partnership with artists, homeless services organizations, and arts organizations. The Street Sheet is the public education and outreach tool of the Coalition on Homelessness. Every month, the Street Sheet reaches 32,000 readers through 230 homeless or low-income vendors. Vendors are charged nothing for the papers they receive and keep all money they earn through distribution. All proceeds from this issue of the Street Sheet benefit the Coalition on Homelessness.

## PRINCIPLES FOR EQUITY IN THE ARTS

NOAH FRIGAULT

The Equity Cohort has distilled a useful summary of equity principles that artists, curators, gallerists, art educators, and others in the field should consider to plan their next project in an equitable way.

**Collaborators:** Equity Cohort

## ENERGY AND SOUND HEALING FOR WOMEN, FEMME, AND GENDER-NONCONFORMING PEOPLE OF COLOR, 4:15–5:30PM

TRISHA BARUA AND SAIDEH EFTEKHARI

In this energy and sound healing space, women, femme, and gender non-conforming people of color who lack resources to pay for somatic healing, hold trauma in their bodies, or are overworked are invited to meditate on what equity looks like. At the start of a Reiki session, each collaborator will set an intention related to envisioning equity. Afterward, on carbonless paper, you will write and draw your dreams and prophecies. Keep a copy for yourself and leave another copy in a Reiki Box, which will have healing sent towards it on a regular basis. This ritual highlights intuition as a method for political and personal transformation.

**Collaborators:** Over a dozen artists, educators, and activists

## PUNISHING POVERTY

NIEMA JORDAN

This project examines how poor people in the United States are punished for being poor—and a mix of community- and policy-based solutions to the situation.

## CONVERSATIONS

JENNIFER TACHEFF

Biases thrive in cultures of identity vacuums. Where there is instability, fear follows suit. We isolate. We judge. We defend. This project, operating outside of cozy echo chambers of affirmation, encourages the conversations we're not having.

**Collaborators:** Maya Tacheff

## DARK EMBRACE: REALMS THROUGH ME

UGO EDU AND MARIAH RANKINE-LANDERS

Come and stay a little in the darkness. This is an invitation to explore, welcome the unknown, and reconnect ancestral links as steps toward imagining what equity could look like.

## MEGAPHONE

FAY DARMAWI

Do you have a strong desire to stand up for your values? Introducing Megaphone, the subscription-based “box” service that delivers to your door objects that can be shared out into the world. You can wear, share, or use the artist-designed objects to inspire action for yourself and your peers. Each box is co-curated by ally organizations that are already active in the movements you believe in. Subscribe to Megaphone to amplify and accelerate the change you want to see.

**Collaborators:** Leah Nichols and Nick Ross

## YOU, ME, WE: AN EXPLORATION IN EMPATHY AND EQUITY

JUAN CARLOS IBARRA

You, Me, We is an exploration in empathy and equity. It is an easy-to-learn card game that rewards empathy among the players. It is similar to the game Apple to

Apples, except that You, Me, We is focused on fostering more meaningful relationships with others. The winner of each round is the person who best captures what a player's life experiences mean to them. You, Me, We is fun, interesting—and possibly life changing! For ages ten and up.

## EQUITY.LIVE

KRISTY HIGARES

Equity.live is engaging, inquiring, and documenting how citizens along Oakland's East 14th Street, or International Boulevard, define equity. It begins at Lake Merritt and runs through diverse neighborhoods. East 14th, where citizens of the world have come to East Oakland to live, is a center of kinetic energy, hustle, and community. Equity.live documents the narratives of citizens in three distinct neighborhoods: the Rolling Twenties, Fruitvale, and deep East Oakland. What does equity look like in a public space? This is the beginning of conversations that imagine and instigate equity on our own streets, with our own neighbors.

**Collaborators:** Alex Jay

## GENTRIFRIED CHICKEN

A'DARIUS BELL AND ELI MARIENTHAL

GentriFried Chicken is an experimental platform that uses games and art to generate new forms of engagement around questions of equity and belonging in the city today. Among other activities, it takes old familiar games and remixes them into vehicles for the transmission of vital historical and geographic knowledge.

## RADIO FREE EQUITY

CHELSEA WILLS

Radio Free Equity is a time machine. It is a creative experiment. We, the Equity Cohort, are the embodied time machine linking ourselves to past contexts. The station brings our process to life with stories, conversations, memories remembered, future dreams articulated. The radio station is a place for reflection for the iterative narrative of these tangled lives and concepts of equity. This station is an emergence of a year spent in community discussing equity—

its patterns, issues, and dialogues. This station is an amplification of voices as a way to weave a story about change.

**Collaborators:** Equity Cohort

## FORUM PERFORMANCES

### WHITE NOISE/BLACK MASKS, 3:30 & 5:30PM MARVIN K. WHITE

“White Noise”—the white supremacist, far-right, conservative Christian, systemic project of dominant narrative making and enforcing—silences the stories, strivings, and possibilities of black and marginalized voices. By creating a sonic stage and environment that simultaneously holds the bent, life-cancelling “White Noise” and centers black and marginalized creative, prophetic, and political voices within the white walls/halls of silence, White Noise/ Black Masks metaphorically inverts the meaning of the innocuous display of “white noise machines” typically used to create confidential speaking environments, free of eavesdropping or incrimination. Now the question is: “How high must we turn up the volume to be heard over the din of oppression?”

**Collaborators:** invited guests

### BULLY AND THE BELOVED: SONGS BY CANDACE ROBERTS, 3:45 & 5:45PM CANDACE ROBERTS

A bully finds self-love and stops squashing ants.

### THE DANCE OF EQUITY, 4 & 6PM MANSI KAKKAR

This interactive flash-mob-style dance presentation invites the audience to experience the story of equity and justice using the Indian classical dance form of kathak and its own journey from the streets of India to the nation’s palaces, and now back to the streets of San Francisco. This presentation is brought to you by Chitresh Das Institute and the Social Innovation Collective, both based in the Bay Area.

**Collaborators:** Charlotte Moraga, Irene Davis, Ashwini Balen

## STAFF

### Programs and Pedagogy:

Marc Bamuthi Joseph, *Chief of Program and Pedagogy*

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Amy Vazquez, *Creative Ecosystem Senior Program Manager*

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Kathy Rose, *Production Manager*

Public Square takes cooperation, expertise, and investment from YBCA's entire staff. Thank you!

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Expanding Opportunity for the People of California

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