



ALAMEDA COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION

Arts Leadership Award Program

Award Recipients 2003-2025

arts.alamedacountyca.gov

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2025 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Doris Green** of Fremont. Volunteer and Organizational Leader with Fremont Cultural Arts Council and Bay Philharmonic in Fremont.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Jayendra (Jay) Singh** of Hayward. Community Volunteer who supports the arts, education and community nonprofit organizations that serve the Hayward community

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Eric Murphy** of Oakland. Photographer, Exhibition Curator, and Arts Advocate for Oakland and the Alameda County arts community.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Ashara Ekundayo** of Oakland. Black feminist multidisciplinary Independent Curator, Visual Maker, Archivist, Cultural Theologian, and Arts Organizer.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Alex Jaga Sousa** of Oakland. Leader of the Afro-Brazilian artistic community in Oakland and the Bay Area.

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Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **amara tabor-smith** of Oakland. Choreographer, Performance Maker, Cultural Worker and the Artistic Director of Deep Waters Dance Theater.

2024 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Judy Anglin** of Fremont. Board Member and dedicated Volunteer of the Olive Hyde Art Guild.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Dmitry Grudsky** of Newark. Visual Artist, Art Instructor and Community Volunteer.

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Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Lani Llamido** of Hayward. Board Member of the Hayward Arts Council, an Advocate for the Hayward Literacy Plus Council, and Lead Coordinator for the Asian and Pacific Islander Community Initiative of the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD).

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Lorrie Murray** of Alameda. Executive Director for the Bay Area Music Project (BAMP).

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Paul Keim** of Castro Valley. Founder and Director of Smalltown Society in Castro Valley.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Graham Lustig** of Oakland. Artistic Director of the Oakland Ballet Company.

2023 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Chris Carter** of Pleasanton. Executive Director of Livermore Valley Arts, which includes the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Alvin (Al) Minard** of Fremont. Long-time Board Member of the Fremont Cultural Arts Council.

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Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Carol Morgan** of Hayward. Board President of the East Bay Youth Orchestra in Hayward.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Debby Kajiyama** of Alameda and **José Ome Mazatl** of Oakland. Founders and Co-Artistic Directors of NAKA Dance Theater.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Patricia (Pat) Doyne** of Hayward. President of Castro Valley's A.R.T., Inc.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Ellen Lake** of Oakland. Executive Director and Co-Director of Kala Art Institute in Berkeley.

2022 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Dennis Baker** of Pleasanton. Co-Founder and President of the Alliance for the Visual Arts which serves the Tri-Valley region including the Alameda County cities of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Ruey Lin Syrop** of Hayward. Artist, the Curator for the Hayward Arts Council's John O'Lague Galleria at Hayward City Hall, and a Board Member of the Hayward Arts Council.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Tina Blaine** of Alameda. Former Executive Director of Rhythmix Cultural Works located in the City of Alameda, and is a Musician, Composer, and Sound Designer.

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Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Naru Kwina** of Oakland. Rap Artist, Teacher and Founder of Alternative Minds Foundation and its Hip Learning program.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Anne Giancola** of Pleasanton. Artist, Arts Educator and the Visual Arts and Education Manager at Livermore Valley Arts. She is also a City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Commissioner, Founding Member of Alliance for the Visual Arts, and Board Member of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Naomi Johnson-Diouf** of Castro Valley. Artistic and Executive Director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company at the Malonga Center for the Arts in Oakland. Former African Dance Teacher at Berkeley High School who led the Afro-Haitian Dance Program and was the Chair of the African American Studies Department.

2021 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Kala Ghaty** of Fremont. Founder and Director of Kalaamandir Art School in Fremont.

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Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Vanessa Thomas** of Dublin. Co-Founder of the Dublin Arts Collective, Artist and Active Supporter of local organizations.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Carl Larson** of Fremont. Artist and Arts Educator who teaches Tole and Decorative Painting at the Newark Adult School in Newark.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Angela M. Wellman** of Oakland. Musician, Scholar, Arts Educator, Photographer and Activist. Founder of the Oakland Public Conservatory of Music in Oakland.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Gregory Conway** of Castro Valley. Musician and Educator. Executive Board Member of the Jenny Lin Foundation in Castro Valley and the Symphonic Band Director of the Foundation's summer program.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Lisa Bullwinkel** of Berkeley. Founder and Director of the Berkeley Arts and Culture Hotline, Former Chair of the Berkeley Civic Arts Commission, Steering Committee Member of the Berkeley Cultural Trust, and Committee Member of the Community for a Cultural Civic Center in Berkeley.

2020 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Anuradha (Anu) Suresh** of Fremont. Founder and Director of Shruthi Swara Laya in Fremont.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Tetiana Taganska** and **Olga Tymoshchuk**. Co-Founders and Co-Directors of Imaginook in Newark.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Jean Marie Durant** of Oakland. President of Oakland Art Murmur.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Usha Shukla** of Pleasanton. Artist and Member of the Pleasanton Art League and Livermore Art Association.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Ron Lytle** of Emeryville. Freelance Writer, Composer-Lyricist, and Resident Musical Playwright with East Bay Children's Theater.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Michael Socrates Moran** of Oakland. Co-Founder, Co-Artistic Director and Executive Director of Oakland Theater Project in Oakland.

2019 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Bee Chow** of Fremont. Founder of the Cantabella Children's Chorus in Livermore.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Suzanne Gayle** of Hayward. Suzanne Gayle is an Artist and Community Volunteer.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Kendra Barnes** and **Laura Elaine Ellis** of San Leandro. Co-Founders and Co-Directors of the Black Choreographers Festival, Oakland.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **James Gayles** of Oakland. Artist and Community Leader.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Rob Jackson** of Oakland. Founder and Executive Director of Beats, Rhymes and Life in Oakland.

2018 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Paula Chenoweth** and **Mary Galde** of Fremont. Co-founders and Co-Directors of Broadway West Theatre in Fremont.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Jonathan "Bionic" Bayani** of Fremont. Dancer, Performing Artist, Arts Educator, and Event Organizer with Mighty4 Arts Foundation and All The Way Live.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Janet Koike**, of the City of Alameda. Founder and Artistic Director of Rhythmix Cultural Works in the City of Alameda.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Gerald Thompson** and **Winifred Thompson** of Castro Valley. Arts Community Leaders who have worked with A.R.T., Inc. in Castro Valley; the Hayward Arts Council; and many other arts and cultural organizations throughout the area.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Deborah Vaughan**, of Oakland. Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Dimensions Dance Theater in Oakland.

2017 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Denny Stein** and **Mary Bobik** of Fremont. Stein is the President and Bobik is the Vice-President and Gallery Director of the Fremont Art Association.

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Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Carol Zilli** of Fremont. Founder and Executive Director of Music for Minors II in Fremont.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Ami Ferreira**. Arts Educator and Cultural Diplomat with All The Way Live Foundation in Hayward and Member of the Soulshifter artistry collective and world-renowned dance crew "Circle of Fire."

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Greg Morozumi** and **Elena Serrano** of Oakland. Principal Co-Founders of the EastSide Cultural Center in Oakland.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Catherine Ndungu-Case** of Pleasanton. Founder and CEO of Cheza Nami Foundation in Pleasanton.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Joyce Gordon** of Oakland. Founder and Owner of Joyce Gordon Gallery in Oakland.

2016 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Kathleen Breedveld** of Livermore. Artistic Director and General Production Manager for the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre in Livermore.

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Susan Longini** of Fremont. Professional Visual Artist and Program Manager for the City of Fremont's Utility Box Art Program boxART!.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Sergio Suarez** of Hayward. Dance Educator, Urban Street Dancer, and Member of the Beatz N Pieces Crew and Fresh Dynamix Dance Company.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **J.K. Fowler** of Oakland and **MK Chavez** of Oakland. Fowler is the Executive Director and Chavez is the Director of Creative Programming for Nomadic Press in Oakland.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Don Lewis** of Pleasanton. Music Artist, Synthesizer Innovator, Arts Educator and Arts Advocate.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Bruce Beasley** of Oakland. Visual Artist with a prolific career in the areas of sculpture and public art.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Ayodele Nzinga** of Oakland. Artistic Director of the original Recovery Theater and Founding Director of The Lower Bottom Playaz, both in Oakland.

2015 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Judy Lam** of Fremont. Founder and Director of Virtuoso International Flute Ensemble in Fremont.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Paul Ruma** of Union City. Founder and Director of Mighty4 Arts Foundation in Union City.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Susan Dunn** of Alameda. Founder, Development Director and a Board Member for Island City Opera in Alameda.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Bernice R. Bates** of Oakland. Choir Director of the East Oakland Senior Center Performing Arts Choir.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Chris Johnson** of Oakland. Founder of Question Bridge: Black Males and Professor of Photography at California College of the Arts, Oakland and San Francisco.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Sarah Crowell** of Oakland. Artistic Director for Destiny Arts Center in Oakland.

2014 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Linda Ryan** of Livermore. Manager of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's Bothwell Arts Center located in Livermore.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Tom Harland** of Sunol. Artist, Community Volunteer and Founder of Sunol Repertory Theatre in Sunol.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Gary Comoglio** of Alameda. Artist and Founder of Gary Francis Fine Art in Alameda.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Gary Harrington** and **Nancy Harrington** of Pleasanton. Arts advocates, philanthropists, and founders of the Harrington Art Partnership.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Jennifer Burke** of Berkeley. Founder and Director of Young Artists Workspace (YAWS) and Westside Studio in Berkeley.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Michael Hall** of Oakland, Artist and Arts Educator at Creative Growth Art Center in Oakland, Mills College in Oakland and UC Berkeley.

2013 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Jim Schmidt** of Livermore. President of the Board of Directors for the Livermore Valley Opera in Livermore.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Kevin Cato** of Hayward. Director of Instrumental Music at Mt. Eden High School and Martin Luther King Middle School.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Jill McLennan** of Oakland. Artist and Community Activist; Art Educator.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Jean Bidwell** of Castro Valley. Arts advocate, mentor and an accomplished artist who specializes in public art murals.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Karen Cusolito** of Oakland. Founder and manager of American Steel Studios.

2012 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Lisa Tromovitch** of Livermore. Producing Artistic Director and Founder of the Shakespeare's Associates and the Livermore Shakespeare Festival.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Valerie Snart** of Hayward. Former member of the Alameda County Arts Commission. Co-Founder of the Cinema Place Gallery. Board Member of A.R.T., Inc., Hayward Arts Council, and Sun Gallery.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Margo Dunlap** of Alameda. Executive Director of Pro Arts in Oakland. Founding Chair of the Oakland Cultural Trust.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Terry Liebowitz** of Castro Valley. Founding Member and Former President of the Board for the Castro Valley Arts Foundation.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Archana Horsting** of Emeryville. Co-Founder and Executive Director of Kala Art Institute.

2011 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Huma Naqvi** of Fremont. Founder of and Arts Educator for Paint and Brush Art Studio in Fremont.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Marlene Teel-Heim** of Hayward. Former member of the Alameda County Arts Commission; founding chairperson of the Hayward Arts Council.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Bonnie Boller** of Alameda. Artist and Ceramics Instructor at the Alameda Adult School; President of the Alameda Women Artists and Island Alliance of the Arts.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Andrew Johnstone** of Oakland. Professional Muralist, Arts Educator and Director of The Big Picture Arts Project.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Jim Bell** of Berkeley. Arts Advocate and Supporter. In partnership with wife **Bonnie Bell**, a major funder of East Bay arts organizations with a focus on programs for youth.

2010 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Andy Jorgensen** of Pleasanton. Civic Arts Manager for the City of Pleasanton and Founder of the Children's Theater Workshop.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Lilia Reynoso** of Union City. Member, Union City Public Art Board, Member of Ollin Anahuac Traditional Aztec Dance, Board Member of the Art Assoc. of the East Bay, Inc.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Frederick Chacon** of Alameda. Artistic Director of the Altarena Playhouse in Alameda and Director and Drama Program Educator at Alameda High School.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Jimi Evins** of Oakland. Art Program Director and Arts Educator, East Oakland Youth Development Center.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Raymond Patton** (Pat) Parr II of Castro Valley. Member, Castro Valley Arts Foundation Board; Founding Dir. and Co-Artistic Dir., Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Khalil Shaheed** of Oakland. Founder and Director of the Oaktown Jazz Workshops.

2009 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Susan L. Rose** of Pleasanton. General Manager, Fremont Symphony. Founding Board Member of the Foundation for the Arts. Former Member of the Alameda County Arts Commission.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **James Petrillo** of Oakland. Founder and Director of the Multimedia Graduate Program and Founder and Professor of the Electronic Arts Program at CSU East Bay in Hayward.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Debra Owen** of Alameda. Executive Dir., Frank Bette Center for the Arts, Alameda.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Marion Coleman** of Castro Valley. Textile Fiber Artist, Educator, & Lead Organizer of the Bay Area African American Quilters Group.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Judith Smith** of Oakland. Founding Member and Artistic Dir. of AXIS Dance Company.

2008 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Charlotte Severin** of Pleasanton. Artist, Arts Advocate and Arts Educator, and Founder of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and the Pleasanton Arts in the Schools Program.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **John Orosco** of Union City. Director of Instrumental Music at Tennyson High School, Hayward.

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Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Ken Rawdon** of Hayward. Director of Vocal Music at Mt. Eden High School, Hayward.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **TheArthur Wright** of Oakland. Artist and Leader of the Bay Area African-American artists' group, The Art of Living Black.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Matin Abdel-Qawi** of Oakland. Principal of East Oakland School of the Arts.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Tony Taccone** of Berkeley. Artistic Director of the Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

2007 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Gregory Reznick** of Pleasanton. Founder, Pres. of Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Fernando Hernandez** of Hayward. Artist and Art Instructor; Founder and Director of the East Bay Artist Collaborative.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Francisco Zermeno** of Hayward. Co-founder and President of La Alianza de Hayward and Co-organizer of the annual Ballet Folklorico and Mariachi festivals in Hayward.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Favianna Rodriguez** of Oakland. Artist and Activist involved in the Founding and Management of Visual Elements and Eastside Arts Alliance in Oakland.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Julie Finegan** of Pleasanton. Gallery Director of the Adobe Art Center.

Raymond Patlan of Oakland, Artist and Community Activist; Art Educator at Laney College and California College of the Arts.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Sally Joan Baker** of Berkeley. Poetry Instructor; Founder and Producer of Wee Poets.

2006 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients

Alameda County Supervisorial District One: **Lori Stokes** of Fremont. Founder, Director, Producer of Star Struck Theater, Fremont.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Two: **Art Brandenburg** of Hayward. Supporter of Adobe Art Center, Hayward Arts Council, Hayward Forum of the Arts / Sun Gallery, and Hayward Library Literacy Plus Project.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Three: **Laurel True** of Oakland. Founder and Director of the Institute of Mosaic Art and True Mosaics Studio, Oakland.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Four: **Arlene Shmaeff** of Oakland. Director of Professional Development at the Museum of Children's Art, Oakland.

Alameda County Supervisorial District Five: **Nick Bertoni** of Berkeley. Founder of the Tinker's Workshop, Berkeley. Technology Director of the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College.

2004 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipient

Michael Morgan of Oakland. Music Director, Oakland East Bay Symphony.

2003 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipient

Louise Music of Oakland. Director, Alameda County Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership.

The Arts Leadership Award Program began in 2003. No award program was conducted in 2005.