

Joint Committee on the Arts

Informational Hearing

California and the Humanities: Building Bridges and Amplifying Voices

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol – Room 2040 – Sacramento

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

PANEL 1: DEFINING THE HUMANITIES



William Deverell, Ph.D.

Director, Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West (ICW)

Bill Deverell is a professor at the history department at USC, where he also directs the Huntington- University of Southern California Institute on California and the West. The Institute is an intellectual partnership between the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences at USC and the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Professor Deverell also directs the USC Libraries Collections Convergence Initiative.

Professor Deverell has written works on political, social, ethnic, and environmental history, and he is currently at work on a book exploring the history of the post-Civil War American West. With David Iglar of University of California, Irvine, he recently published the *Blackwell Companion to California*, and with Greg Hise, he published the *Blackwell Companion to Los Angeles*. With Tom Sitton, he wrote *Water and Los Angeles: A Tale of Three Rivers*.

Deverell's research concentrates on the history of the 19th and 20th century American West, and he has written extensively on the history of Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Stanford University and did his doctoral training at Princeton.

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/icw>

PANEL 2: ARTISTS AND STORYTELLERS ON A MISSION



James Q. Chan
Producer/Director, Good Medicine Picture Company
Forever, Chinatown

James Q. Chan is a San Francisco-based Producer and Director. His Emmy® Award Nominated documentary, *Forever, Chinatown*, is a meditation on memory and community seen through the lens of artist Frank Wong and the miniature dioramas of his childhood Chinatown, winner of five film festival awards, national public television broadcast (World Channel, PBS), selected for the American Film Showcase, the premier film diplomacy program between US State Department and USC School of Cinematic Arts.

James began his career as a talent agent prior to his film training alongside two-time Academy Award-winning filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman (*The Times of Harvey Milk, The Celluloid Closet, Howl*). His collaborations have premiered at film festivals and television around the world and his projects have received support from funders such as California Humanities, CAAM, and ITVS.

James is the founder of Good Medicine Picture Company and a recipient of a Certificate of Honor from the SF Board of Supervisors for his work in amplifying stories from the APA community, immigrant voices, and tenant struggles. His refugee and working class background, love for nature shows, memories of his mother's cooking shape his sensibilities in all of his stories.

<http://goodmedicinefilms.com>



Anjanette Maraya-Ramey, MA, CNP
Dancer and Choreographer
Executive Director, The AjA Project
BorderClick

Anjanette Maraya-Ramey is a Certified Nonprofit Professional and holds a Master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of San Diego, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance Performance and Choreography from CalArts. Anjanette served as Director of Development and Consensus Organizer for Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, Grants and Donor Relations Manager for ARTS: A Reason To Survive, Company Manager for La Jolla Playhouse, Theater Operations Manager for the Jewish Community Center, and Managing Director for CYT San Diego. She served as a grant panelist for California Arts Council, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, and the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, and is completing a professional certificate in Fundraising and Development from UCSD Extension. Anjanette is a founding member of San Diego Dance Connect and remains actively involved in the local dance community as an independent choreographer and guest teaching artist.

Anjanette's work in philanthropy includes having served as a grant maker for the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture as the Senior Manager of Arts and Culture Funding Programs, in which she was responsible for guiding the policies and procedures for the annual distribution of approximately \$10 million in public funding to over one hundred arts nonprofits. Anjanette's race, equity, and social justice work includes training from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, Race Forward/Center for Social Inclusion, and serving as a volunteer People Power organizer for ACLU.

Anjanette is a first-generation Filipina-American artist and community activist, born and raised in South San Diego where there was limited access to arts and culture. This is why Anjanette is devoted to serving as a change agent and advocate for marginalized communities of color – utilizing the arts as a catalyst for social change. As the Executive Director for The AjA Project, Anjanette is responsible for leading a team of passionate arts administrators and artists, and for all institutional advancement efforts including fundraising, board development, public relations, community partnerships, and financial oversight.

<http://ajaproject.org/about>



Donté Clark
Spoken Word Artist, Community Activist and Actor
Romeo is Bleeding

Donté Clark is a poet and emcee out of Richmond, California, consistently performing across schools, conferences, poetry readings and hip hop shows globally. He was accepted to the VONA program, a prestigious week-long conference for writers of color. More recently Donté can be seen shining on the big screen. His appearance in films like award winning *Kicks* and the new web-series *The North Pole* only catch a glimpse of Donté's creative reach. The future is promising.

Donté's primary focus is ending the violence that has plagued his community and impacted him deeply- he uses his art and curriculum as a call to action. In the last few years, Donté hosted a town hall on violence in Richmond and took the lead with planning and writing the majority of the script for *Té's Harmony*. He continues to spark such critical dialogue and encourages everyone to do the same.

<http://www.romeoisbleedingfilm.com>



Chris Brown

Deputy County Librarian, Santa Clara County Library District

War Ink

As deputy county librarian for the Santa Clara County Library District, Chris Brown is responsible for community library development.

In this role, Chris focuses on providing the district with opportunities for transformative learning: programs that invite active engagement, critical reflection, and discussion to gain new perspectives and deeper meaning. Libraries provide the ideal conditions for this kind of learning, both through self-directed exploration of reading material and resources and through programs, gatherings, and events.

Transformative learning is at the heart of two projects spearheaded by Chris. The *Discover & Go* program offers library cardholders free or low-cost tickets to cultural attractions. Through this program, community members from all backgrounds have the opportunity to experience museums, theaters, aquariums, zoos, and science centers they might not have visited otherwise. *Discover & Go* was awarded the 2012 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

War Ink is a virtual exhibit that combines original video, photography, and audio interviews to present the stories of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in their own words. *War Ink* was featured on KQED's *Forum*, PBS's *NewsHour*, and in the *Washington Post* and won the American Library Association's prestigious John Cotton Dana Award for its positive impact on the veteran community.

In 2016, Chris was named a *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, an honor intended to recognize individuals who represent "the outsize impacts that librarians can have." He has also won the California Library Association PRExcellence Award and a National Association of Counties Achievement Award.

Chris holds an MLIS from San Jose State University and an MPA from the University of San Francisco. He has also participated in the Training Group workshops at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

<http://www.warink.org>



Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy
Associate Chair of English Department and Faculty Director/Prison Program,
California State University Los Angeles
Words Uncaged

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy is an associate professor of English Literature at California State University (CSULA), Los Angeles.

He is the faculty director of CalState LA's Bachelor in Arts program at Lancaster State Prison, *WordsUncaged*, which he founded, and the *Paws for Life project*, all programs which provide a platform for men sentenced to life sentences in California prisons to dialogue and critically engage with the world beyond the prison walls.

Born in England, Bidhan received his Ph.D. from Goldsmiths College, University of London. Trained in postcolonial studies and the twentieth century British novel, Bidhan has published articles and book chapters on Hanif Kureishi, Muslim identity and the novel, literary representations of South Asian ethnicity, Buddhism and literature, Christopher Isherwood's *A Single Man*, as well as the travel writing of V.S. Naipaul. His recently published monograph is entitled, *A Passage to Globalism: Globalization and the Negotiation of Identities in South Asian Diasporic Fiction in Britain*.

Bidhan's interest in Christopher Isherwood, who taught at CSULA during the 1960's, represents another area of research inspired by the history of the English department at CSULA. His current research project on Isherwood, *Spiritual Modern: Christopher Isherwood and Vedanta*, investigates Isherwood's fifty year engagement with Vedanta, focusing upon Isherwood's role in interpreting, translating and re-imagining traditional Indian philosophical texts for a Western audience.

www.wordsuncaged.com



Miriam Pawel

Author; (former) Journalist, *Los Angeles Times* and *Newsday*

Democracy in the Fields

Miriam Pawel is an author, journalist and independent scholar. Her most recent book, *The Crusades of Cesar Chavez: A Biography*, won the 2015 Robert F. Kennedy Book Prize, the California Book Award, and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award. Her previous book, *The Union of Their Dreams - Power, Hope and Struggle in Cesar Chavez's Farm Worker Movement*, was a groundbreaking narrative history told through eight participants in the movement.

As a journalist, she spent 25 years as an award-winning reporter and editor on both coasts, directing coverage that won Pulitzer prizes at *Newsday* and at the *Los Angeles Times*. She has been an Alicia Patterson Foundation fellow, a John Jacobs fellow at the Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, and was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship to complete the Chavez biography. Her upcoming book, *The Browns of California: The Family Dynasty that Transformed a State and Shaped a Nation*, will be published in September by Bloomsbury.

<http://miriampawel.com>

PANEL 3: PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS: INSPIRING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS



John F. Szabo
City Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library
Board Member, California Humanities

John F. Szabo is the City Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, which serves over four million people—the largest population of any public library in the United States. He oversees the Central Library, 72 branches and the Library’s \$172 million budget. In 2015, the Library received the nation’s highest honor for library service, the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, for its success in meeting the needs of Angelenos and providing a level of social, educational and cultural services unmatched by any other public institution in the city. Under his leadership, the Library’s major initiatives include those related to immigrant integration and citizenship, improving financial literacy and providing health resources and programs. He has expanded the library’s reach into the city’s diverse communities through partnerships with several community-based organizations.

He has more than 25 years of leadership experience in public libraries, previously serving as the director of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, Clearwater (FL) Public Library System, Palm Harbor (FL) Public Library and Robinson (IL) Public Library District. Throughout his career, Szabo has championed innovative library services that address critical community needs in areas including health disparities, workforce development, adult literacy, school readiness and emergent literacy for preschoolers.

Szabo received his master’s degree in information and library studies at University of Michigan and his bachelor’s degree in telecommunications from University of Alabama. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees of OCLC and on the Board of Directors for California Humanities and the University of Southern California Center for Library Leadership and Management. He has previously served on the Executive Board of the Urban Libraries Council and as president of the Florida Library Association.

<https://www.lapl.org/>



Nina Simon
Executive Director, Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History

Nina Simon has been called a “museum visionary” by *Smithsonian Magazine*, a *Silicon Valley Business Journal* “40 under 40,” and Santa Cruz County Woman of the Year for her innovative community leadership. She is the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, where she led an institutional turnaround based on grassroots community participation.

Nina is the best-selling author of *The Participatory Museum* (2010), *The Art of Relevance* (2016) and the popular Museum 2.0 blog. Previously, Nina worked as an independent consultant and exhibition designer with over one hundred museums and cultural centers around the world.

Nina began her career at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. She lives off the grid in the Santa Cruz Mountains with 14 people, 27 chickens, 5 dogs, and 1 zip line.

<https://santacruzmah.org>



Oliver A. Rosales, Ph.D.

**Professor of History and Faculty Coordinator/Social Justice Institute, Bakersfield College
Board Member, California Humanities**

Oliver A. Rosales is Professor of History and Faculty Coordinator of the Social Justice Institute at Bakersfield College. He earned his Ph.D. in History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Oliver is currently Project Director for *Energizing the Humanities in California's San Joaquin Valley*, a \$99,989 professional development program for community college faculty funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), as well as *Digital Delano: Preserving an International Community's History*, a \$12,000 project also funded by NEH.

His research focuses on labor and civil rights history in the American West. He is a contributing author to *Beyond the Civil Rights: African American and Latino/a Activism in the Twentieth-Century United States* and *The Chicano Movement: Perspectives from the Twenty First Century*.

He serves as an advisory board member to California Humanities and various governance committees for the Organization of American Historians. His manuscript, *Mississippi West: Race, Politics, and Civil Rights in Bakersfield, 1947-1984* is under review for publication by the University of Texas Press.

<https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/social-justice-institute>

PANEL 4: STATE OF THE HUMANITIES: DO THEY MATTER?



Katrina Woodworth, Ed.D.
Senior Principal Researcher, SRI Education

Katrina Woodworth, Ed.D., conducts research on K–12 school improvement efforts, specializing in evaluating programs and policies designed to improve educational outcomes for underserved students. Recent studies of efforts to raise the achievement of underserved students include an evaluation of an International Baccalaureate program that aims to increase low-income student participation in the IB Diploma Programme and an evaluation of the McKnight Foundation’s Pathway Schools Initiative, a comprehensive PreK through third-grade effort to improve literacy outcomes in the Twin Cities area. Recent studies of teacher professional development focus on supports for educators to teach to college- and career-ready standards and feature randomized controlled trial designs.

Woodworth has also conducted large-scale inventories of policies and practice, including a decade-long examination of the status of the teaching profession in California (known as *Teaching and California’s Future*), a Hewlett Foundation-supported study of the status of arts education in California that culminated in a suite of reports entitled *An Unfinished Canvas*, a Bechtel Foundation-supported study on the status of science education in California, and most recently, for California Humanities, an examination of the status of humanities education in California’s K-12 schools.

Woodworth holds doctoral and master’s degrees in education from Harvard University.

<https://www.sri.com>



Neha Balram
Community Engagement Coordinator, California Humanities

Neha Balram is the Community Engagement Coordinator at California Humanities and has been with the organization since 2014. She earned her BA in History with a concentration in US History from the UC Irvine. One of her most rewarding experiences has been serving a four-year term on the Community Services Commission for her hometown, Hayward, CA.

Prior to joining California Humanities, Neha pursued her interest in music journalism at an independent music magazine. In her current role, Neha is able to weave her passion for building stronger communities through civil dialogue and cultural expression particularly through the Oakland headquarters exhibit series *The Art of Storytelling*.

<http://calhum.org>



Julie Fry
President and CEO, California Humanities

Julie Fry joined California Humanities as its President and CEO in 2015. Previously, Julie served as a Program Officer for the Performing Arts Program at The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park, California.

She has extensive experience working and volunteering with arts and culture organizations and philanthropic institutions in the US and the UK, and has been deeply involved in arts education advocacy at the national, state, and local levels.

Julie earned her BBA in Economics and French from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, an MBA in International Finance from the University of St. Thomas (Houston), and is one thesis away from an MA in Historic Preservation from Goucher College (Baltimore). She serves on the boards of the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the California Alliance for Arts Education.

<http://calhum.org>

