

**Joint Committee on the Arts**  
**Senator Ben Allen, Chair**

**Informational Hearing**  
**“The Arts and Creative Industries:**  
**An Updated Assessment of California’s Creative Economy”**

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Panel 1: Updated Assessment on the Creative Economy in California**



**Randall Lavender**  
**Acting Provost**  
**Otis College of Art and Design (Los Angeles)**

Randall Lavender is Acting Provost at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. Mr. Lavender earned his M.F.A. in Sculpture at Claremont Graduate University and a B.A. in Ceramics at California State University, Fullerton. He joined the Otis faculty in 1983 following faculty appointments at Vanderbilt University, Claremont Graduate University, and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. A nationally and internationally exhibited artist, his works in oil on panel and sculptural tableaux are included in dozens of public and private collections and have been featured or reviewed in numerous books, catalogues, and articles. He served as Associate Chair and Professor in Otis Foundation’s (first-year) program for more than a decade before joining the College’s Senior Team. There he has served as Interim co-Provost, Vice Provost, and now as Acting Provost. He has published original research, essays, and articles on art in higher education, educational psychology, contemporary culture, and best college art/design teaching practices in leading art education journals, including *Studies in Art Education*, *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, and *Foundations in Art Theory (F.A.T.E.) in Review*.



**Robert A. Kleinhenz, Ph.D.**  
**Chief Economist, Kyser Center for Economic Research**  
**Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation**

Robert A. Kleinhenz, Ph.D. is the Chief Economist at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). Dr. Kleinhenz directs the Kyser Center for Economic Research, which conducts research on the regional, state, and national economies. He has over 25 years of experience and expertise in the private and public sectors, academia, and working as a private consultant. Dr. Kleinhenz has spoken to local, state, and national audiences and is a frequent contributor to media coverage on the economy, including coverage in news outlets throughout California along with the Wall Street Journal, CNBC, Bloomberg News, and NPR.

Prior to joining the LAEDC, he served as Deputy Chief Economist at the California Association of REALTORS®. He also taught economics for over 15 years, most recently at California State University, Fullerton. He is a member of the National Association for Business Economics (Vice Chair, Regional Roundtable), the National Association for Business Economics, Los Angeles Chapter (Past President, Treasurer), and the Real Estate Research Council of Southern California (Current Executive Board Member and Treasurer).

Dr. Kleinhenz has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a Master's degree and Doctorate from the University of South California, all of which are in Economics.



**Donn K. Harris**

**Executive and Artistic Director, Oakland School for the Arts  
Chairman, California Arts Council**

Donn K. Harris is the Executive and Artistic Director of the Oakland School for the Arts (OSA), a public charter school with an immersive arts program, serving over 750 students. Prior to this, Mr. Harris was the principal of the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts (RASOTA) in San Francisco. Mr. Harris holds an MA in Theater Arts from California State University at Los Angeles and received his teaching, Special Education, and Administrative Services credentials from San Francisco State University. In 2005, Mr. Harris helped create The Academy of Arts and Sciences, a San Francisco Unified School District school designed to serve underrepresented students with comprehensive and unique arts programs, including a ground-breaking World Music program still thriving today.

Mr. Harris is committed to the arts and arts education as they are key leverage points from which students and citizens can be propelled into the new creative economy. As a member of the Board of Directors with the national Arts Schools Network (ASN), Mr. Harris has served as the chair of the Arts Leadership committee, which has engaged arts leaders throughout the country in professional development and creative programming. Mr. Harris served as the ASN treasurer from 2012-2013 and became the organization's second Vice President on January 1, 2014.

Innovation, creativity, and access to the arts continue to be a key thread in Mr. Harris' ongoing work. The Circus Arts program at The Oakland School for the Arts won the Arts Schools Network's 2011 Innovation Award. As a board member of The Engineers Alliance for the Arts, Mr. Harris has helped to bring creative interdisciplinary programs to schools throughout the Bay Area. At OSA, an innovative recruitment initiative was launched to pair younger students at schools without arts programs with OSA students, who mentor and prepare students for entry into arts schools. A similar program at RASOTA from 2005-2008 resulted in increased diversity at the school. Mr. Harris has continued this work as a member of the CAC.

Harris was appointed to the California Arts Council in December 2013 by Governor Brown and was elected as Council Chair in January 2015. His term expires January 2017.

## **Panel 2: Linking the Arts to California's Workforce**



**Denise Grande**  
**Director, Arts Education**  
**Los Angeles County Arts Commission**

Denise Grande is Director of Arts Education at the LA County Arts Commission, where she heads *Arts for All*, the county-wide initiative dedicated to making the arts core in K-12 public education. Prior to the Arts Commission, Ms. Grande was Director of Programs and Strategic Partnerships for the Metropolitan Opera Guild at Lincoln Center. During her twenty years at the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County she played a leadership role in arts education program design, implementation, research, and evaluation. She received her BA from UCLA in Dance and was a Coro Fellow through the California Arts Council's Arts Leadership Fellow Program.



**Bill Cusato**  
**Director, Operations Center Integration Team**  
**Commercial Aviation Services**  
**Boeing Commercial Airplanes**

Bill Cusato is Director of the Customer Support Operations Center Integration Team for Commercial Aviation Services. His team is responsible for leading 24/7 urgent technical support for Boeing customers worldwide, leading and integrating Boeing activity for significant airplane-specific issues, and managing operational guidance for aircraft out-of-service events.

Mr. Cusato joined Boeing in November 2014 after 22 years at FedEx Express where he led the team responsible for aircraft checks and line maintenance for the Western United States. He was a chairman of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Aircraft Recovery Task Force and led aircraft recovery and accident investigations.

Mr. Cusato's early career at FedEx included structures engineering for several aircraft types and manager of structures engineering.

Bill began his aviation career as a senior modification services coordinator for McDonnell Douglas, serving as a technical advisor to operators and supervising repair and modification teams across the globe.

Mr. Cusato has a Masters of Science in Industrial Safety from the University of Southern California (USC), a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering Technology from California State Polytechnic, Pomona, a Certificate in Aircraft Accident Investigation from USC, Airframe and Powerplant aircraft mechanic's license. He is also a privately licensed pilot.



**Robert Bullwinkel**  
**Visual and Performing Arts Program Manager**  
**Fresno County Office of Education**

Robert Bullwinkel is the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Program Manager for the Fresno County Office of Education which is comprised of 34 school districts and nearly 200,000 students. Under Mr. Bullwinkel's leadership, the VAPA department has grown to include seven full-time arts professionals working to provide high quality arts education and professional learning for students and teachers around the state. Since taking the position in 2006, Mr. Bullwinkel has initiated a number of high profile new programs and partnerships including Any Given Child and Partners in Education with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Link Up! With Carnegie Hall and iAccess, a \$1.4 million Federal grant-funded initiative. Mr. Bullwinkel founded the Fresno County Youth Choir, the Stages High School Theatre Troupe, the Fresno Arts Network, the Arts Every Day professional learning program, the TechArts.org website, the Artist in Residence program, and an annual Arts Summit attended by over 400 participants.

He serves on the boards of the Fresno Art Museum and the Fresno Philharmonic. Mr. Bullwinkel is also the author and director of numerous publications and video programs in the arts.

On the state and national level, Mr. Bullwinkel was also director of Communication and Curriculum for the San Francisco Symphony's Keeping Score education initiative and co-directed their summer institute. Mr. Bullwinkel works with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) on their statewide Arts Initiative to create professional development materials and videos to help teachers bring the arts into classrooms. Another statewide leadership role is with the CREATE CA initiative with the California Arts Council, the California Department of Education and the California Alliance for Arts education, of which Mr. Bullwinkel is a founder and board member.

Mr. Bullwinkel taught in public schools for 25 years, primarily focused on creating artistic excellence in at-risk, inner-city schools. Mr. Bullwinkel's choirs and theatre groups at these schools took top honors at arts festivals around the state, nation, and globe, including the

National Invitational Choir Festival (New York), the Royal Music Festival (London), and the Concorso Corale Internazionale (Italy).

Mr. Bullwinkel served as a Mentor Teacher for Fresno Unified Schools and as a Master Teacher for Fresno State and Fresno Pacific Universities. He was the Fresno Unified Teacher of the Month and Year and received the Fresno Public Education Foundation Outstanding Educator Award and the California Schoolmaster of the Year Award. In 2005, Mr. Bullwinkel was named Outstanding Choral Music Educator by the Fresno/Madera chapter of the California Music Educators Association. He is also the past recipient of the “Schoolmaster of the Year” state award. In 1992, Mr. Bullwinkel was the Fresno County Teacher of the Year and a finalist for the California Teacher of the Year.



**Teri Deaver**  
**Vice President, Consulting and Strategic Partnerships**  
**Artspace Projects**

Teri Deaver joined Artspace in 1997. With a background in the performing arts, she has a particular sensitivity to the plight of artists seeking affordable space. She began her tenure at Artspace as an asset manager for the organization’s rapidly growing portfolio, and over the years has lent her hand to predevelopment and development activities including the Riverside Artist Lofts in Reno, NV and the most recent advances toward the realization of the Hollywood Arts Center in Los Angeles, CA.

In her current role as V.P of Consulting and Strategic Partnerships she shares the knowledge of Artspace with communities nationally as they embark on the creation of sustainable arts development projects including affordable live/work and mixed-use facilities, creative incubators, studio and non-residential creative spaces and facility expansions. Additionally she oversees Artspace’s unique Arts Market Survey as a comprehensive process that ensures all new projects address the needs and interests of a local community. She believes that including affordable space that is designed and managed to support and encourage creativity and connectivity, into comprehensive city development strategies, is essential to the health and vibrancy of a community.

### **Panel 3: Creative California: Artists, Makers, and Innovators**



**Nikolai Gregory Galle**  
**Co-founder, Future Partners**  
**Partner, mach49**

Greg has over 30 years of experience applying design thinking to a broad array of private, public, and civil sector innovation challenges. These challenges include product, service, process, systems, policy, experience, engagement, talent, professional development, and culture innovation.

In 2014 he joined mach49, a Silicon Valley incubator serving Global 1000 businesses, as partner and head of Rapid Ingenuity Practices.

Greg co-founded Future Partners, a Silicon Valley Innovation firm, in 2012 to teach Rapid Ingenuity Practices to individuals, teams, and organizations around the world.

In 2001, he co-founded founded C2 Group, a brand strategy firm to help leaders from technology start-ups, Fortune 500 companies, and the world's top business management consulting firms develop, build, and protect their brands.

Greg served seven years as the Director of Brand and Marketing Strategy for Wells Fargo Nikko Investment Advisors, Barclays Global Investors, and Barclays PLC, where he was responsible for brand development, product and business innovation, and service and experience delivery across 200 businesses in over 70 countries.

He spent five years as the Director of Design and Analysis for Aaron Marcus and Associates (AM+A), a pioneering user interface design and knowledge visualization firm where his clients included NASA, Apple, Hewlett Packard, Motorola, NCR, and Intel. Prior to AM+A, he served two years as Creative Director for The Understanding Business (TUB) and Richard Saul Wurman, founder of TED.

Greg serves on the board of Not For Sale, is an advisor to Fuse Corps, and a board member emeritus of Hope Street Group. In 2014 Greg was named to the GOOD 100. His work has been recognized with awards from The Clio Awards, Communication Arts Magazine, ID Magazine, NY Art Directors Club, New York Arts Festival, and Western Art Directors Club among others. He holds a BFA in Communication Design from The Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design.



**Forest Stearns**  
**Art Director and Illustrator**  
**Planet Labs**

Forest Stearns is a prolific illustrator and facilitator with a passion for drawing everywhere. As the Art Director for Planet Labs, Stearns uses orbiting satellites and internationally located radomes as his unique artistic canvases. With the Planet's engineering team, he has collaborated to execute the largest outward facing art exhibit in space. Stearns believes that artistic creativity in tech & engineering stimulates the imagination and opens the viewer's mind to different ways of thinking, and thus provides the perfect environment where scientific theory can collide and collaborate with artistic abstraction. Being a freelance illustrator for over 20 years, Stearns has created exciting artwork for local and international organizations alike. He thrives on working with diverse teams to find creative synergies to illuminate scientific concepts, cultural narratives, and natural phenomena. He has a MFA from the Academy of Art in San Francisco. He resides in Berkeley, CA with his partner and daughter.

Specialties: Making art on spaceships; Art direction for retail experiences; Superior line-quality Illustration; Team leading in projects; Live art; Mural painting; Hand lettering; Graffiti, Apparel design; Children's book illustration and storyboarding; Conceptual portraiture; Toy and product design; and Editorial illustration. He has a drawing style known for bold and bright animals, figurative work, characters, and graphic images.



**Juan Devis**  
**Senior Vice President**  
**Content Development and Production**  
**KCETLink**

Juan Devis is a creative leader in public media. Mr. Devis is currently the Senior Vice President of Content Development and Production for the largest independent television network in the United States, KCETLink. In this capacity, Mr. Devis developed strategic partnerships with funders, organizations and independent production houses to ensure a new slate of content for two stations, KCET + LINK TV; securing funds and maintaining an editorial vision and cohesiveness for the company's new mission.

Mr. Devis has also charted the stations' new Arts and Culture Initiative and is the Executive Producer of the Emmy Winner *Artbound* consisting of a television series, an online networked cultural hub and the creation of programmatic partnerships with cultural institutions. In addition, Mr. Devis developed and is the Executive Producer of a slate of new series that are either in development, production or pre-production. Some of these include the Emmy nominated *Live @ the Ford*, *Studio A*, *Border Blaster*, *Departures*, *City Walk*, *Ocean Stories*, *RePlan It* and others.

For more than a decade, Mr. Devis has worked with a number of non-profit organizations and media arts institutions in Los Angeles serving as producer, director, educator, and board member. He is a founding member and current board member of the LF Charter School for the Arts, an innovative arts-integrated charter public school serving the population of North East Los Angeles.

Mr. Devis' film, television, and interactive work has been screened and exhibited around the world. Juan Devis was presented as a major "influencer" in Los Angeles by the *L.A. Weekly* news publication, and his transmedia series *Departures* was celebrated by the *New York Times* as a new twist on public media. Mr. Devis has won numerous awards for his work; including Emmy, Webby, Los Angeles Press, and National Arts and Entertainment Journalism Awards, the Japan Prize, and others.