Arizona

Yvonne Montoya, ELC 2014
Yvonne Montoya is a mother, dancemaker, bi-national artist, and founding director of Safos Dance Theatre based in Tucson, A.Z. She is the artistic director of "Stories from Home," a series of dances embodying the oral traditions of Nuevomexicanos in the American Southwest inspired by her family's histories and stories. Montoya was also recently featured in KQED's If Cities Could Dance. www.yvonnenmontoya.co

California

Jessica Ceballos y Campbell, ELC 2015
A daughter of Mexican immigrants and great granddaughter of Indigenous “American” women, Jessica Ceballos y Campbell is an accomplished literary program curator and also a writer, artist, publisher, editorial and interior designer, community and arts advocate, instigator, agitator, indefinite volunteer, forever student, and cultural wanderer. For more than 20 years, she has built a career centered on exploring the liminal intersections of art and personal narrative, and how those are affected by and inform the spaces we occupy and exist in. Her work has been published in numerous anthologies and journals, and she has published three chapbooks, Gent/Re De Place Ing (2016), End of the Road (2017), and Facilitating Spaces 101 (2018). In 2019, Ceballos y Campbell opened Alternative Field, a multilingual poetry library, reading room, resource center, and literary organization at the intersection of social justice that employs poetry and literary arts to bring awareness to and exercise thought around issues that are central to our existence and our potential.

Laili Gohartaj, ELC 2018
Laili Gohartaj is passionate about equity and access to arts opportunities for people who have been excluded or marginalized, especially in the performing arts field. As a professional fundraiser, Gohartaj works to support arts organizations in the Oakland and East Bay community, while pushing funders to acknowledge and dismantle white supremacy in philanthropy. She also supports the arts community as a grant panelist, volunteer and board member of the Mahealani Uchiyama Center for International Dance, and the Berkeley Art Center. Gohartaj was selected as a San Francisco Emerging Arts Professionals Fellow in 2017. She holds a bachelor’s degree in music, clarinet performance, and a master’s degree in English with a focus on creative nonfiction and poetry. Gohartaj’s creative practice includes pottery, collage, mosaic, glass fusing, writing, and baking. She has shown in exhibitions locally but finds the most joy in the process of creating. When she isn’t making art or supporting the arts, she is often found experimenting with new recipes, tending the flowers in her garden, or out on Lake Merritt, where she rows competitively.

Trisha Lagaso Goldberg, ELC 2011
Trisha Lagaso Goldberg is an artist and independent curator. Her recent curatorial projects include Lands End, which was organized in collaboration with the U.S. National Park system
and featured the work of 27 international artists addressing the climate crisis and its ties to racial equity and forced migration. In 2022, Lagaso Goldberg co-curated the nationally touring exhibition with UC Press catalog — Carlos Villa: Worlds in Collision — the first ever museum retrospective of a Filipino American artist. She lives and works in San Francisco and on the island of O'ahu.

L.T. Martinez, ELC 2021
Luis “L.T.” Martinez (he/él) is a performing artist, arts educator, and creative entrepreneur from Whittier, California. He specializes in theatrical and video production, and is motivated by collaboration and the possibilities of communal progression. Currently, Martinez is honing his stunt craft at the Durmstrang Institute for Magical Learning (Universal Studios Hollywood).

Kai Monet, ELC 2017
Kai Monet (she/her) is a second-generation Filipina-Angelena who is dedicated to a mindful, reflective and constructivist teaching practice. She works as an educator and consultant in museums and arts organizations in Los Angeles. See Monet’s work at www.kaimonet.la.

Mariana Ixchel Moscoso They/Them/Theirs, Sacramento, CA
Mariana Aq’ab’al Moscoso (they/them/their) is a nonbinary indigenous queer of detribalized Achi (Maya), Nicānāhuac, and Afro-Indigenous roots living on the occupied lands of the Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok, known by its colonial name of Sacramento, California. They are a cultural strategist, liberation doula, facilitator, storyteller, cultural practitioner, digital artist, budding graphic designer and zine maker that centers Maya Cosmology. They are a co-visionary of Toj + Tijax: The Ritual of Myth Making, an Indigenous queer healing space, while also working as the associate director of Artist Leadership at The Center for Cultural Power.

Colorado
Alexandria Jimenez, ELC 2015
Alexandria is an artist, educator, and entrepreneur based in Denver, Colorado. She currently works in philanthropy, focused on the K-12 education sector.

Georgia
Brandall C. Jones, ELC 2020 (South Arts)
Brandall Jones is passionate about sharing multicultural stories and history, as well as building community partnerships within the Atlanta community. Jones is proud to be part of the True Colors Theatre Company family and is especially proud of the organization’s commitment to providing career-making opportunities for emerging artists of color in the Atlanta community. Jones has applied his knowledge and experience by serving the Atlanta and South Fulton County areas for years through the development and implementation of a number of arts outreach programs with Fulton County Arts and Culture and the Serenbe Institute for Art, Culture, and the Environment. At True Colors, he continues to make an impact through building community partnerships and developing programs for public conversations and performances. An adamantly believing that all, no matter what their ZIP code or background, deserve access to high
quality arts has been the driving force of Jones’ career. He graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) with a focus in performing arts and arts administration.

Hawai‘i
Nawahine Lanzilotti, ELC 2021
Nawahine Lanzilotti is a kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiian) mixed-race performing artist, educator, and equity professional. Her work seeks to sustain indigenous ways of knowing through place-based approaches. She was a 2021 WESTAF Emerging Leaders of Color cohort member and took part in WESTAF’s 2023 Arts Leadership and Advocacy Seminar (ALAS) in Washington D.C. with the Hawai‘i delegation. She currently works at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai‘i as the diversity, equity, & inclusion coordinator supporting models of culturally resonant equity and leadership.

Julz Bolinayen S. Ignacio, ELC 2017
Julz Bolinayen S. Ignacio is an Ilokano-American nonbinary queer artist and initiated Hilot Binabaylan — a practitioner trained in the traditional healing arts of the Philippines. Ignacio specializes in ancestral healing rituals through tattoo ritual, divination, serenade, energy healing and bodywork. From 2009-2019, they served as an administrative assistant, then program coordinator, then program operations manager for multiple nonprofits in Duwamish Territory (Seattle, Washington) before transitioning to cultural and healing arts full-time. Ignacio continues to lend their administrative and operations knowledge and skills in the cultural arts community and QTBIPOC-owned small businesses at limited capacity.

Idaho
Dayo Ayodele, ELC 2021
Dayo Ayodele sought to address the need for cultural exposure and enrichment for Boise, Idaho and co-founded Global Lounge. He has co-led GL’s launch and creation of artistic programming for the past 11 years. Out of the desire to bring communities together he established the band Afrosonics who create music featuring a collective of musicians from the Middle East, Europe, Africa, South America, and the United States.

Monique N. Michel, ELC 2021
Monique Michel is the director and owner of her 20-year-old dance company, the Ballet Folklorico Mexico Lindo and Folklorico dance studio owner, located in Boise, Idaho. She adores her two adult children and can usually be found dancing herself silly with her number one German Shepherd, Pirate, and/or with copious amounts of caffeine — usually both.

Nevada
Ruby Barrientos, ELC 2021
Ruby Barrientos is a first-generation Salvadoran American artist born and raised in Reno, Nevada. Barrientos is an artist and incorporates their unique artistic voice that they coined as Nuwave Mayan, a style that fuses her Salvadoran Mayan ancestry and heritage in the creation of socially relevant visual art.
**New Mexico**
Delbert Anderson, ELC 2020
Delbert Anderson creates Diné inspired musical pathways. Anderson preserves his cultural music by creating a foundation of new Diné melodies and fuses them through jazz, jam, and funk. Each path serves Indigenous culture through stories, healing, history, and collaboration.

Edward Hakim Bellamy, ELC 2010
Hakim Bellamy is a national and regional Poetry Slam Champion and holds three consecutive collegiate poetry slam titles at the University of New Mexico. He is the co-creator of the multimedia Hip Hop theater production Urban Verbs: Hip-Hop Conservatory & Theater that has been staged throughout the country. He facilitates youth writing workshops for schools, jails, churches, prisons, and community organizations in New Mexico and beyond. Bellamy holds an M.A. in Communications from the University of New Mexico and is the founding president of Beyond Poetry LLC.

**Oregon**
Ashley Stull Meyers, ELC 2017
Ashley Stull Meyers is chief curator of art, science, and technology at the Patricia Valian Reser Center for Creative Arts (Oregon State University).

**Washington**
SuJ'n Chon, ELC 2013
SuJ'n Chon is a writer, photographer, curator, multidisciplinary artist, and co-founder of IDEA Odyssey, a visual arts collective for emerging artists whose work intersects with diversity, culture, and identity. Chon served on WESTAF’s Multicultural Advisory Committee and as consultant for the arts offices of the cities of Seattle and Bellevue, 4Culture and ArtsWA, ArtsFund, and the Wing. Chon received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from New College of Florida and a master’s degree in social work from University of Georgia.

**Wyoming**
Janissa Martinez, ELC 2021
Janissa Marie Analissia Martinez is from Glendo, Wyoming. She loves to write quiet, visceral, character-driven fiction about the rural spaces where she grew up. She writes from perspectives that try to change our understanding of Wyoming and what it means to live in rural spaces. She is currently pursuing her bachelor’s in accounting part-time at the University of Wyoming, working full-time as an office associate, and finding time to spend with her husband and daughter.