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Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Announces Appointment of New Board Members and Extension of Civic Engagement Initiatives and Visual Arts Programming



Karen Wickre & Jeff Chang Join YBCA's Board of Directors YBCA Secures \$1.8 Million in Combined Grants for Multi-Year Extension

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2, 2017 – Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) today announced the appointment of **two new board members, Karen Wickre and Jeff Chang**. This addition bolsters an already dynamic Board of Directors, made up of **Bay Area leaders in business, tech, philanthropy and cultural arts**. Karen Wickre, a veteran in tech, brings 15+ years of experience in executive roles at **Google and Twitter**. Jeff Chang is an **award-winning author and Executive Director** at the **Institute for the Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University**.

These appointments occur as YBCA recently secured **combined grants totaling over \$1.8 million** from the **National Endowment for the Arts, The James Irvine Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts**. The awarded funds will support YBCA's Civic Engagement initiatives and visual arts programming over the next three years.

"We are thrilled to have Karen Wickre and Jeff Chang join our incredibly talented Board of Directors here at YBCA," says **Deborah Cullinan, CEO of YBCA**. "We are grateful to have Jeff and Karen's expertise and guidance, as we continue to **engage our diverse community** and to **be a center for creative expression and inspiration** during these challenging times."

"Now more than ever, **we are dedicated to the critical role YBCA plays in civic and public life** and are happy to have such a diverse group of leaders on our Board that support our mission."

About Karen Wickre

A veteran technology professional and 30+ year San Francisco resident, Karen is an author, editor, columnist, and communications consultant. After nearly 15 years in editorial roles at Google and Twitter, in 2016 she created KVOX Media to help business clients with their communications strategy. A long-time news obsessive and media consumer, Karen is a co-founder of Newsgeist, an annual unconference supporting new approaches to news and information. She is also a board member for the International Center for Journalists the News Literacy Project.

You can find her at [@kvox](#) on Twitter.

About Jeff Chang

Jeff Chang is the Executive Director at the Institute for the Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University. Jeff writes extensively on culture, politics, the arts, and music. His first book, [Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation](#), garnered many honors. His latest book, [We Gon' Be Alright: Notes on Race and Resegregation](#) was published in September 2016. Jeff has been a USA Ford Fellow in Literature and a winner of the North Star News Prize. He was named by *The Utne Reader* as one of "50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World," by KQED as an Asian Pacific American Local Hero, and by Yerba Buena Center for The Arts as one of its 2016 YBCA 100 honorees who are among those "shaping the future of American culture." Jeff also co-founded [CultureStr/ke](#) and [ColorLines](#).

Website: www.jeffchang.net

About Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, film/video and civic engagement. YBCA venues include the Forum, Screening Room, Galleries and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787) or go to www.ybca.org

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