

**Curatorial Advisory Team
Announced for Minnesota Street Project Foundation**



January 17, 2024, San Francisco, CA – Minnesota Street Project Foundation (MSP Foundation) is thrilled to announce the inaugural 1201 Curatorial Advisory Team, who will guide the programming of the MSP Foundation’s 1201 Minnesota exhibition warehouse, a unique 20,000 square foot space dedicated to an artist-first approach for the presentation of accessible world-class art. The Foundation’s five founding members (JD Beltran, Rimma Boshernitsan, Julie Casemore, Ashara Ekundayo, and Glen Helfand) of the Curatorial Advisory Team begin their roles immediately without term limits.

A non-collecting institution, the Foundation is committed to collaborative partnerships that generate world-class exhibition programs for the Bay Area, amplify artists voices, and provide a unique platform for partnerships and collaborations.

“Each of our founding Curatorial Advisory Team members brings a breadth of valuable professional experiences and a keen understanding of the impact art can have in our lives,”

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notes Rachel Sample, Director, Minnesota Street Project Foundation. “Their commitment to the Foundation as advisors will enrich and expand the spectrum of opportunities for the Foundation’s 1201 exhibition warehouse program, one which is committed to partnerships and exhibitions that represent catalyzing moments for artists and to breaking down barriers between art, artists, and audiences.”

JD Beltran, Center for Creative Sustainability



JD Beltran is an award-winning artist, filmmaker, curator, journalist, author, and designer whose artwork and films have been screened and exhibited internationally including at the Walker Art Center, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the MIT Media Lab, the Kitchen NYC, Ars Electronica, the Getty Institute, the M.H. DeYoung Museum, and the International Film Festival Rotterdam. She has curated and co-curated major international exhibitions including *Sophie Calle: Missing*, and *Isaac Julien: Playtime* at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture and is the author and curator of the Master Public Art Plan for the Yerba Buena Downtown Arts District. Her award-winning artwork has been commissioned for public art projects worldwide and she was awarded a Creative Capital/Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Fellowship, a Public Art Network Award for creating one of the top public artworks nationally, and residencies at Skowhegan, the Pilchuck School, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, Stochastic Labs, the Workshop Residence, and the Lucas Artists Residency at Montalvo Arts Center. She’s also achieved artist grants from Skowhegan, Artadia, the MIT Media Lab, the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Workshop Residence, Stochastic Labs, and Ars Electronica. She continues to serve as a Commissioner on the San Francisco Arts Commission where she has served for the past fourteen years (since 2009), and was appointed as its President for 8 years, from 2011 to 2018. She is a professor in Design at San Francisco State University.

Rimma Boshernitsan, DIALOGUE



Rimma Boshernitsan is founder and CEO of DIALOGUE, an interdisciplinary strategic advisory firm that provides the thought partnership leaders need to build future-facing organizations. Prior to founding DIALOGUE, she was a strategic advisor to CEOs of emerging businesses and Fortune 500 companies (Apple, Aesop, Levi’s, Lyft, Kraft Foods, and Chevron). Rimma speaks globally on the importance of dialogue and its relation to human behavior. She regularly writes about the intersection of business, technology,

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and human connection for the likes of Forbes, Fast Company, and Inc.. She sits on the board of trustees at Headlands Center for the Arts and on the SECA Council Board at SFMOMA, and is also an advisor to Stanford's Women in Design Program.

Julie Casemore, Casemore Gallery



Julie Casemore is the gallery owner of Casemore Gallery established in 2015 with the commitment to a unique program concentrated on new methods of photography. With a specific interest in reasserting underrecognized historical work from artists in the San Francisco Bay Area, her gallery has exhibited reexaminations of several bodies of work including Raymond Saunders, Steve Kahn, Sonya Rapoport, and Larry Sultan and Mike Mandel's 'Newsroom' project circa 1983.

Ashara Ekundayo, Artist As First Responder



Ashara Ekundayo is an independent curator, artist, creative industries entrepreneur and organizer working internationally across cultural, spiritual, civic, and social innovation spaces. Through her company AECreative Consulting Partners she places artists and cultural production as essential in equitable design practices, real estate development, and movement-building. Her intersectional worldview offers both an Afrofuturist and radical Black feminist framework to the public sector by centering the lives, traditions, and expertise of Black womxn of the African Diaspora. Currently, Ashara serves as Chief Creative Catalyst at the Bay Area Girls & Womxn of Color Collaborative and sits on the Advisory Board of the Oakland Public Conservatory of Music and the Regional Advisory Board for Arts Web Alameda County. Her newest creative projects include *BLATANT* - a multi-disciplinary, monthly forum presented in collaboration with the Museum of the African Diaspora as well as a published maga(zine) offered in conjunction with her platform **Artist As First Responder** which excavates, documents, and archives the stories of present-day and next generation cultural workers whose art practices heal communities and save lives. Ashara recently launched a mutual aid fund for Black Bay Area creatives and is co-founder of *Black [Space] Residency*, a physical container for imagination, inquiry, activity and rest.

Glen Helfand, curator & educator

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Glen Helfand is a writer, curator, and educator who has engaged the Bay Area art scene for decades. He is an Associate Professor and Chair of Graduate Curatorial Practice at California College of the Arts. His writing has appeared in *Artforum*, *The Guardian*, *Photograph*, and many other publications. He has organized exhibitions for the Asian Art Museum San Francisco; San Francisco Art Institute, Mills College Art Museum; deYoung Museum, and others.

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About Minnesota Street Project Foundation

Established in 2019, the Minnesota Street Project Foundation's mission is rooted in our unwavering dedication to the visual arts in every facet. We operate on the belief that the future of philanthropic support for the arts requires an alternative model. By providing space and infrastructure for the creation and exhibition of the contemporary arts we generate sustainable support for the Bay Area arts communities. Our programming enables new arts initiatives, collaborations, public exhibitions, and capacity building grants.

Located in San Francisco's Dogpatch district, Minnesota Street Project Foundation is part of the contemporary art campus that is home to Minnesota Street Project, a for-profit enterprise that includes over a dozen art galleries, art non-profits, the acclaimed Besharam restaurant, and the affiliated Minnesota Street Project Art Services. 100% of Art Services' profits are used to support the artists, galleries, and institutions that comprise the Project and the Foundation.

To request interviews or more information, contact
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