
DATE: August 19, 2026
TO: Youth Committee & BED Committee
FROM: LaTosha Stockholm, Administrator
RE: ARTSCCC Measure X Youth Services

BIOGRAPHY OF SPEAKERS

Jeremy Phillips

Youth Arts Connection Lead Workshop Artist & Facilitator
ARTSCCC



Growing up in Oakland, California, Jeremy Phillips brings over 16 years of experience working with the youth, graduating from California State University, East Bay, with a B.S. degree in Recreation, and a concentration in Youth Development Programming. He has received awards from mayors to representatives including Senator Nancy Skinner for his exceptional work with Bay Area youth. Jeremy is highly motivated with a proven record of generating and building relationships, supervising, and managing projects from concept to completion, designing educational strategies, and coaching youth to success. Jeremy Phillips has dedicated his life to helping youth and giving back. As a former troubled youth himself, he has a unique perspective on understanding and connecting with young people. Being seen as a mentor and role model for young people is an honor beyond his

wildest dreams. He is the Youth Arts Connection Lead Workshop Artist & Facilitator and Poetry Out Loud coach for ARTSCCC (Arts Contra Costa County).

Website: www.stu212music.org

Instagram: @stu212music

José Córdón

Youth Arts Connection Lead Workshop Artist & Facilitator
ARTSCCC



Entrepreneur and poetic artist José Córdón, known as CordonConcepts, is a sought after spoken word poet, Antioch's Poet Laureate, and founder of Grassroots Poetry. His upbringing in a church-going immigrant home taught him the value of faith, work ethic, and service. In that spirit, Cordon has helped develop and launch 2 art and culture programs in Contra Costa County along with his own nonprofit. His captivating poetry has been viewed millions of times across social media and has been shared with the US Treasury, Google, and several universities and organizations nationwide. He's been featured in billboard campaigns, documentaries, and in an award-winning short film. Cordon combines his experience as a community organizer and son of immigrants to deliver original, moving,

and educational poems that are changing the way people think about poetry. His poetry can be found on social media, YouTube, and music streaming platforms. He is the Youth Arts Connection Lead Workshop Artist & Facilitator and Poetry Out Loud coach for ARTSCCC (Arts Contra Costa County).

Instagram: @cordonconcepts

Jenny Balisle

Executive Director
ARTSCCC



Artist for over twenty years, her artworks have exhibited from local to international venues. Balisle was the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission Chair, Public Art Advisory Committee Chair., and Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County Managing Director. She is the Executive Director of ARTSCCC (Arts Contra Costa County).

Jenny E. Balisle earned a B.A. in Art and Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a M.F.A. from the Academy of Art College in San Francisco. Exhibits include the de Young Museum Artist-in-Residence, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Chicago

Cultural Center, Korean Cultural Center, Harvard University, Farmington Museum, Museu Brasileiro São Paulo, and Shanghai Oil Painting & Sculpture Institute Art Museum.

Her work has been featured in such publications as *The Huffington Post*, *WOMENCINEMAKERS*, *A5 Magazine*, *ZYZZYVA*, *The Drum Literary Magazine*, and *Sculptural Pursuits Magazine*. Public art includes *The Cube Art Project*, *Hearts in San Francisco*, and *South San Francisco Utility Box Mural Project*.

Balisle works as an artist, administrator, curator, and advocate.

Website: www.jennyebalisle.com

Esther Rojas Soto

Program, Marketing & Community Outreach Manager
ARTSCCC



Esther is a Bay Area ceramic artist and arts administrator based in Richmond, California. Primarily a ceramic artist, she incorporates her STEM education into her multidisciplinary creative practice. Her work has been exhibited across the state, including at the Village Theatre Art Gallery, the California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramic Arts, the June Steingart Gallery, and the Palo Alto Art Center. In her role as Program, Marketing & Community Outreach Manager at the Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (ARTSCCC), Esther leverages a multifaceted background spanning sales, curation, media management/archiving, and publishing. She curates *Art Passages* quarterly exhibitions, assists the *Poetry Series Program* workshops led by artist CieraJevae Gordon at John A. Davis Juvenile Hall, and supports overall program administration. Driven by a commitment to social justice and arts advocacy, Esther works to expand community access to the transformative, healing power of the arts.

Instagram: @milagroelbarro

Key Topics Covered by ARTSCCC

- Districts 3 and 5 Measure X Youth Services
- Spoken word, poetry, music, and artistic workshops serving youth ages 12-18