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Media Contacts:

Voleine Amilcar: 415.978.2700 ext. 116; vamilcar@ybca.org

Shayna Yasuhara: 415.321.1239 ext. 312; syasuhara@ybca.org

Press materials: ybca.org/press

Latest News: Damon Rich Receives MacArthur 'Genius' Grant

Damon Rich and Jae Shin Hector: *Space Brainz—Yerba Buena 3000* Now on View at YBCA through Jan 28, 2018



Courtesy MacArthur Foundation, Credit: John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Latest news: We are pleased to announce that Damon Rich has been selected as a 2017 MacArthur 'Genius' Grant Winner. The diverse list of 24 recipients, includes historians, musicians, computer scientists, social activists, writers, and architects, each selected based on their “extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction” by the [MacArthur Foundation](#).

Read more about Damon Rich and the ‘Genius’ Grant Winners on [NPR](#) and check out *Space Brainz* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, now through January 28, 2018.

About the current exhibit:

In the second installment of *The City Initiative*, which highlights architects, designers, planners, and artists creating provocative work in urban environments, YBCA features two projects with Damon Rich and Jae Shin, partners in the design studio Hector, where the art center becomes a laboratory for dissecting how power works through built space.

Space Brainz is an exhibition that presents Hector’s recent experiences from contested architecture and planning projects in North American cities. These stories, involving spiked fences, faulty sidewalks, grassroots riverfront development, and other architectural hijinks, are illustrated through Hector’s models, drawings, photographs, and mock-ups. Contained in a unified structure filling the gallery, the exhibition resembles a futuristic city where clashing interests maneuver to shape the world.

In summer of 2017, Hector collaborated with YBCA Youth Fellows and CCA Design Fellows on *Yerba Buena 3000*, an investigation into the social and architectural environment of Yerba Buena and exploration of its possible futures.

Damon Rich and Jae Shin Hector: *Space Brainz—Yerba Buena 3000* is part of *The City Initiative*, a series of case studies by architects, designers, planners, and artists creating provocative work in the urban environment. It is curated by Lucía Sanromán, Director of Visual Arts, and organized by Martin Strickland, Exhibitions Associate. Damon Rich is the first City Initiative Fellow at YBCA.

YBCA Exhibitions 2017–2018 are made possible, in part, by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Meridee Moore and Kevin King, and United Airlines. YBCA Programs 2017–2018 are made possible, in part, by The James Irvine Foundation. Additional Funding for

YBCA Programs 2017–2018 by the National Endowment for the Arts, Abundance Foundation, Grosvenor, and members of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Free First Tuesdays underwritten by Directors Forum Members. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

Ticket Information

***Damon Rich & Jae Shin Hector: Space Brainz—Yerba Buena 3000* opens Friday, June 30, 2017 and is on view through Sunday, January 28, 2018**

****Yerba Buena 3000 will open in October 2017***

Gallery admission: \$10; seniors, teachers and students: \$8; YBCA members: FREE

About the Artists

Damon Rich is a designer, artist, and partner at Hector. He has previously served as Planning Director & Chief Urban Designer for the City of Newark and is the founder of the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), an internationally recognized nonprofit organization that uses art and design to increase meaningful civic engagement. His work has been recognized by the American Planning Association National Planning Award, Cooper Hewitt National Design Award, the Loeb Fellowship in Advanced Environmental Studies at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, the MacDowell Colony, and the United States Pavilion at the 11th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice.

Jae Shin is a partner at Hector whose work combines architecture, urban design, and exhibitions. She has recently served as an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), where she facilitated efforts to define and implement design principles for preserving and rehabilitating New York City's public housing. She holds degrees from Rhode Island School of Design and Princeton University and her projects have received support from the MacDowell Colony and the National Endowment for the Arts. Jae has led design studios at New Jersey Institute of Technology and the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Hector is an urban design, planning and civic arts studio whose recent projects include a memorial for an eco-feminist nun, a riverfront park, a fourteen-foot city model celebrating the

350th anniversary of the founding of Newark, New Jersey, and an experimental exhibition on mortgage finance. Hector's work has been exhibited at the Queens Museum, the Lisbon Architecture Triennale, the Newark Public Library, and the Philadelphia Mural Arts Gallery. Using the slogan "Design for Organizing," Hector attempts to craft things so that people in the future will have a reasonable answer to the question, "Who put that there?" Hector's research into real estate development negotiations has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Graham Foundation for the Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

About the Curators

Lucía Sanromán joined YBCA as director of visual arts in October 2015. Prior to that, she was a sought-after independent curator working in the United States and Mexico. Recent projects include Playgrounds for Useful Knowledge, a collaboration with Philadelphia Mural Arts and Cohabitation Strategies. In 2014 she was co-curator of SITE Santa Fe's signature biennial, that year titled SITElines.2014: Unsettled Landscapes. That same year she presented Citizen Culture: Art and Architecture Shape Policy at the Santa Monica Museum of Art, among other shows. Sanromán was an associate curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego from 2006 to 2011.

Martin Strickland

Martin Strickland is the Exhibitions Associate, Visual Arts at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, where he manages the exhibitions on the second-floor galleries. He is currently collaborating with Lucía Sanromán to launch *The City Initiative*, a series of exhibitions and public programs that focus on the urban environment. Prior to YBCA, Martin worked as the Programs Assistant at the Arts Research Center (ARC), UC Berkeley, as an independent contractor with the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC), and as a community organizer for public health in New Orleans, LA.

About Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation's most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, 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).

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