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Yerba Buena Center for the Arts announces the

2017 YBCA 100

An annual list of provocateurs, instigators, and innovators
shifting culture through new ideas, arts, and advocacy



2016 YBCA 100 honoree, Destiny Arts Center, performs at the 2016 YBCA 100 Summit. Photo courtesy Susana Bates

Honorees include 100 Days Action, Abdi Soltani, Barry Jenkins, Boots Riley, Bryant Terry, Chance the Rapper, Issa Rae, Jill Soloway, Jordan Peele, Lateefah Simon, Lil Buck, Rashad Robinson, The Stud Collective, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Trevor Noah and more!

**Annual YBCA 100 Summit to take place Saturday, October 28, 2017
Tickets on sale starting June 6, noon, atybca.org/ybca-100**

Summit to include keynote talks, panel discussions, music, spoken word, and dance by honorees

Jill Soloway, Zahra Noorbakhsh, Jose Antonio Vargas, Boots Riley, Lil Buck, Saul Williams, Staceyann Chin, and more!

SAN FRANCISCO – (June 6, 2017) [Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](http://Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA)) today announced its YBCA 100, an annual list of the 100 people, organizations, and movements that are shaping the future of culture. Now in its fourth year, YBCA 100 celebrates the provocateurs, instigators, and innovators who are using their creative platforms to motivate social change. The outcome of this year’s nomination process—led by YBCA staff, members, YBCA Fellows, and the board—is a diverse list of media makers, entertainers, technologists, chefs, artists, entrepreneurs, humanitarians, and activists. It is an intermingling of notable names and emerging artists still under the radar.

Select honorees will take part in the annual YBCA 100 Summit on **Saturday, October 28, 2017**, an entire day devoted to exploring how art and culture can create societal change. Open to the public, the event will include keynote addresses by **Jill Soloway**, creator of the groundbreaking Amazon series’ ***Transparent*** and ***I Love Dick*** and **Abdi Soltani**, executive director of the ACLU of Northern America, with talks and panel discussions with journalist, filmmaker, CEO of Define American **Jose Antonio Vargas**; activist and BART board president **Lateefah Simon**, and others. The day’s events will also include performances by dancer **Lil Buck**, award-winning poet **Saul Williams**, and more. **For the complete list of the YBCA 100 honorees**, [click here](#).

Individual tickets for the YBCA 100 Summit start at \$20 and are available starting Tuesday, June 6 at noon. For more information, visit: <https://ybca.org/ybca-100>

“We are always seeking the change makers, the creative minds, who are asking the questions and making the provocations that shape our culture, and of course our own work here at YBCA,” remarks **YBCA Chief of Program and Pedagogy Marc Bamuthi Joseph**. “The recognition of these change makers informs YBCA’s curatorial practice and programming efforts. They are sources of inspiration who surface throughout the calendar in our performance and exhibition spaces.”

Remarks YBCA CEO Deborah Cullinan: “The YBCA 100 list represents a cross-section of people whose work has the power to create cultural movement. YBCA’s vision is to create a community that thrives on inspiration. These individuals have struck our imagination in profound ways and deeply influence YBCA and the community at large through their provocations. We can’t wait to celebrate them in October.”

2017 YBCA 100

Among the local honorees who represent the Bay Area ecosystem are: curators, artists, and community organizers **Melonie and Melorra Green**; the community organization **Smart Bomb Oakland**; business co-op **The Stud Collective**; cultural architect, artist, and educator **Zakiya Harris**; executive director of the Museum of the African Diaspora **Linda Harrison**; founder and executive director of the Center for Media Justice **Malkia Cyril**; performer and community organizer **Boots Riley**; activism collective **100 Days Action**; executive director of the ACLU of Northern California **Abdi Soltani**; design collective **Futurefarmers**; artistic director of CounterPulse **Julie Phelps**; president and CEO of the Delancey Street Foundation **Mimi Silbert**; artistic director of Deep Waters Dance Theater **Amara Tabor-Smith**; executive director of Color of Change **Rashad Robinson**; documentary filmmaker and journalist **Daphne Matziaraki**; the art and community space **Omi Gallery**, and more. Whether through the arts, policy change, or community organizing, these honorees are making fundamental and impactful change in Bay Area communities and beyond.

The YBCA 100 list also includes nationally recognized writers and journalists who are bravely and boldly responding to and pushing culture forward: editor of *Teen Vogue* **Elaine Welteroth**; author **Colson Whitehead**; editor in chief of Marvel Comics **Axel Alonso**; journalist and producer **Maria Hinojosa**; comedian and television host **Trevor Noah**; **Radio Ambulante**; and journalist **Jorge Ramos**.

Rounding out the list are storytellers who are expanding representation in film and television: author, scholar, and TV host **Reza Aslan**; writer and producer **Kenya Barris**; filmmaker **Barry Jenkins**; actor, writer, and director **Issa Rae**; writer and director **Jill Soloway**; actor, writer, and rapper **Donald Glover**; comedian, director, and writer **Jordan Peele**; and filmmaker and activist **Raoul Peck**, among others.

2017 YBCA 100 Summit

The list comes to life when selected honorees take part in the annual YBCA 100 Summit on Saturday, October 28, 2017. The summit brings together hundreds of Bay Area thought leaders from different sectors—including art, philanthropy, business, activism, technology, and education—to name and interrogate the urgent questions facing our community. The day will include panel conversations and talks by journalist, filmmaker, CEO of Define American Jose Antonio Vargas; founder and executive director of the Center for Media Justice Malkia Cyril; and activist and BART board president Lateefah Simon. Special keynote addresses will be given by Jill Soloway, creator of the groundbreaking Amazon series' *Transparent* and *I Love Dick*; Abdi Soltani, executive director of the ACLU of Northern California; and Deborah Cullinan, YBCA's CEO. The day will also include a number of high-energy performances by dancer Lil Buck; award-winning poet Saul Williams; spoken-word poet and LGBTQ activist Staceyann Chin; and Iranian-American comedian Zahra Noorbakhsh.

Watch key moments from the 2016 YBCA 100 Summit [here](#).

Past YBCA 100 honorees are a diverse community of artists, activists, entrepreneurs, and organizations from across the globe, including filmmaker **Ava DuVernay (2014)**, lawyer and activist **Van Jones (2015)**, and rapper and poet **Daveed Diggs (2016)**. A number of past honorees have since gone on to present work at YBCA. Architect, urbanist, and professor **Teddy Cruz (2016)** debuted [*Visualizing Citizenship: Seeking a New Public Imagination*](#) in March 2017, and last fall contemporary artist **Tom Sachs (2015)** presented

[Space Program: Europa](#) to great acclaim. This June, Cuban political artist **Tania Bruguera (2016)** will present [Talking to Power / Hablándole al Poder](#), a survey exhibition that presents all of her long-term, socially engaged art projects to date. As part of the 2016–17 performing arts season, acclaimed choreographer **Michelle Dorrance (2016)** presented [The Blues Project](#). Artist **Lars Jan (2016)** and Bessie Award–winning artist **Okwui Okpokwasili (2016)** are set to perform acclaimed works in the upcoming 2017–18 season.

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. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787). For more information, visit ybca.org.

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