

2016

ANNUAL REPORT



Jeepneys performance at Visions into Infinite Archives opening, curated by Black Salt Collective. Photo by Dan Fenstermacher.

A MESSAGE FROM SOMARTS' EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARIA JENSON

Dear community,

Thank you for your support of SOMArts. I continue to be inspired by the incredible staff members, artists, activists and arts lovers who make our work possible.

2015–2016 was a year of transition for SOMArts, as former Executive Director Lex Leifheit pursued an opportunity in the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Economic & Workforce Development. I joined SOMArts in May 2016, and I quickly learned how much this dynamic team can accomplish. Despite big changes, FY2016 was also a year of groundbreaking programs exploring the legacy of artist-run and DIY spaces in the Bay Area, a season of the SOMArts Curatorial Residency that uplifted intersectional perspectives of diverse artists, and expanded support for social justice movements through the SOMArts Rental Program.

As we look forward to the next year of innovative SOMArts programming, I know that SOMArts will continue to provide space, resources and mentorship to the artists who will change the world tomorrow.



Photo by Kevan Jenson.



A Place of Her Own, curated by Cynthia Tom. Photo by Alexandra Fulks

Our People

Over 31,000
community members attended events
and exhibitions at SOMArts

Over 300 artists
featured in SOMArts produced
events and exhibitions

SOMArts

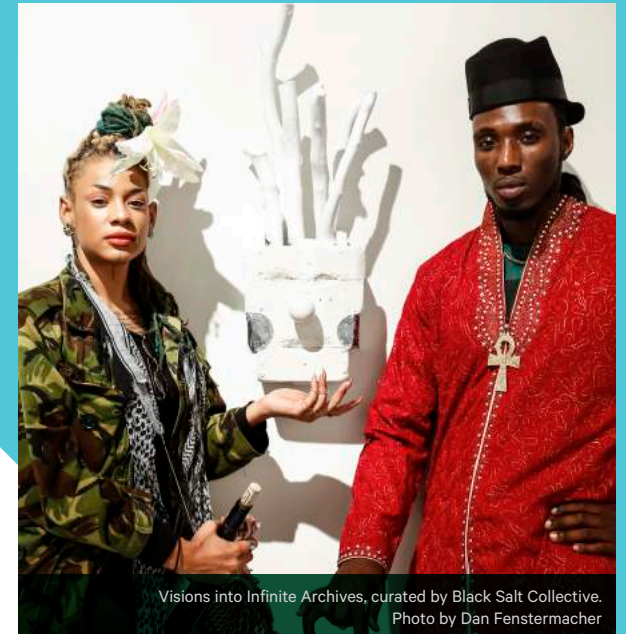
At-A-Glance

Our Team

5 Full-Time

34 Part-Time and On-Call

174 Volunteers and interns



Visions into Infinite Archives, curated by Black Salt Collective.
Photo by Dan Fenstermacher

Our Programs

79 performances

35 multidisciplinary exhibitions

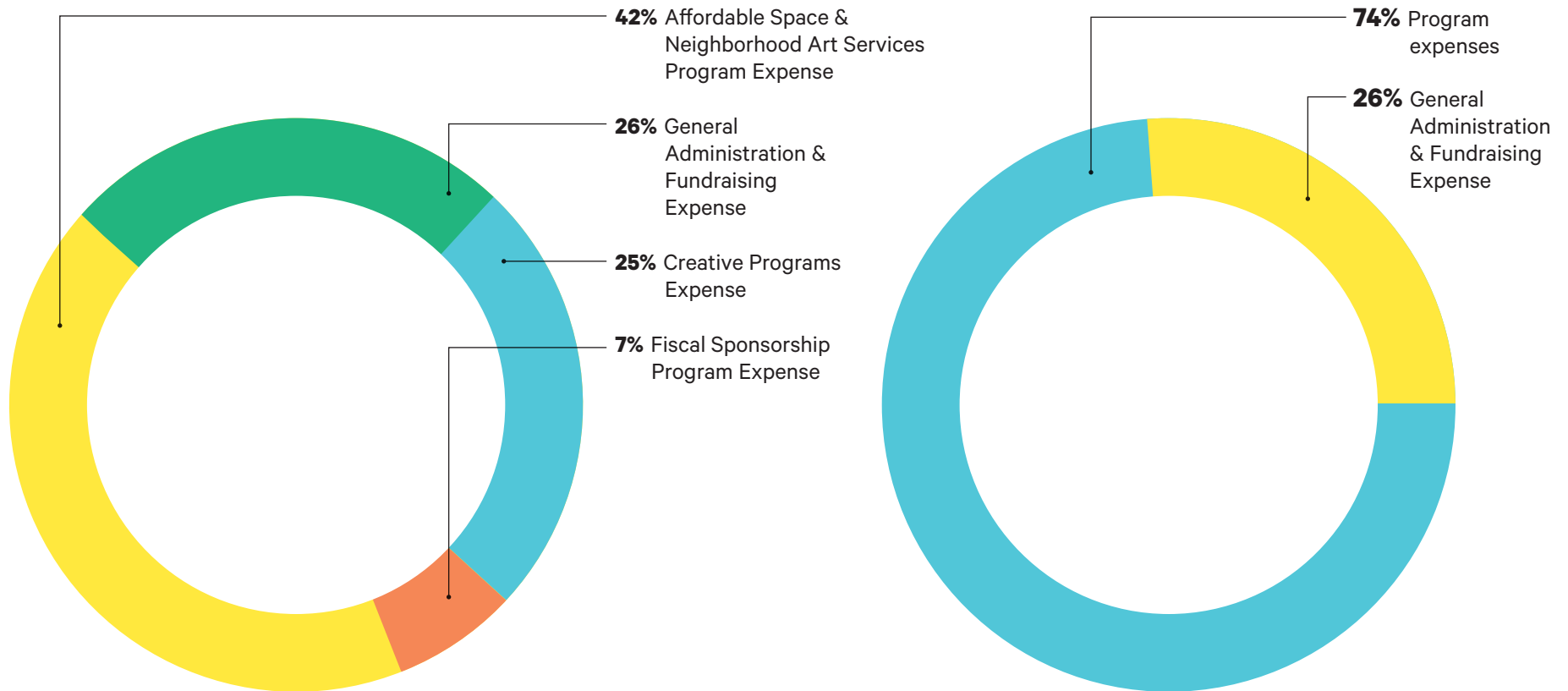
46 commissioned artworks

68 affordable space rental events

FINANCIAL REPORT

TOTAL EXPENSES

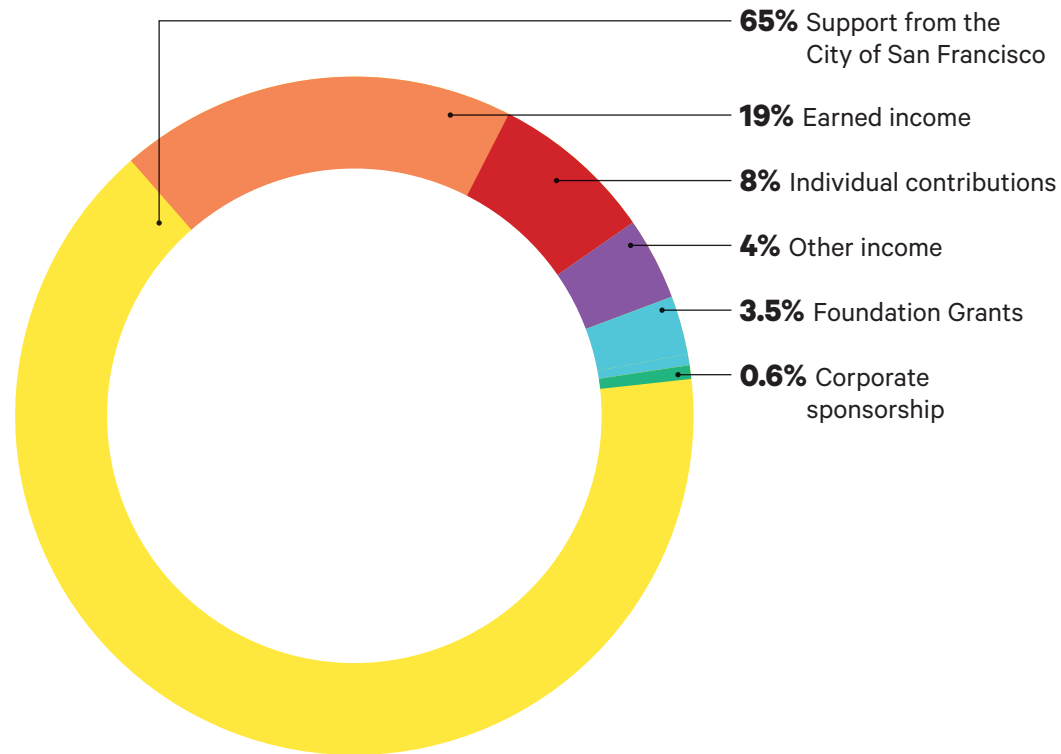
1,711,563



FINANCIAL REPORT

FY2016 INCOME

1,881,663



SOMARTS VOLUNTEERS

SOMArts' volunteers helped make SOMArts' programs possible by donating their time and expertise as graphic designers, gallery greeters, art garden tenders, and event staff. Visit somarts.org/volunteer to learn more about our growing community of art lovers who support SOMArts through volunteer service.



174
VOLUNTEERS

—
915
HOURS

Day of the Dead, curated by René Yañez and Río Yañez. Photo by Chani Bockwinkel.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Our Mission

SOMArts leverages the power of art as a tool for social change through multi-disciplinary events and exhibitions. Equipping artists with the space, mentorship and support they need to shift perspectives and innovate solutions, SOMArts fosters access to the arts and culture for collective liberation and self-determination.



11
FISCALLY SPONSORED
PROJECTS

—

64
EVENTS PRODUCED AT
AFFORDABLE RATES
FOR NON-PROFIT CLIENTS

SUPPORT SERVICES

SOMArts' Rental Program

59% of all events produced by SOMArts' Rental Program incorporated arts and culture. Non-profits benefiting from below market-rate event rentals work on the following social issues:

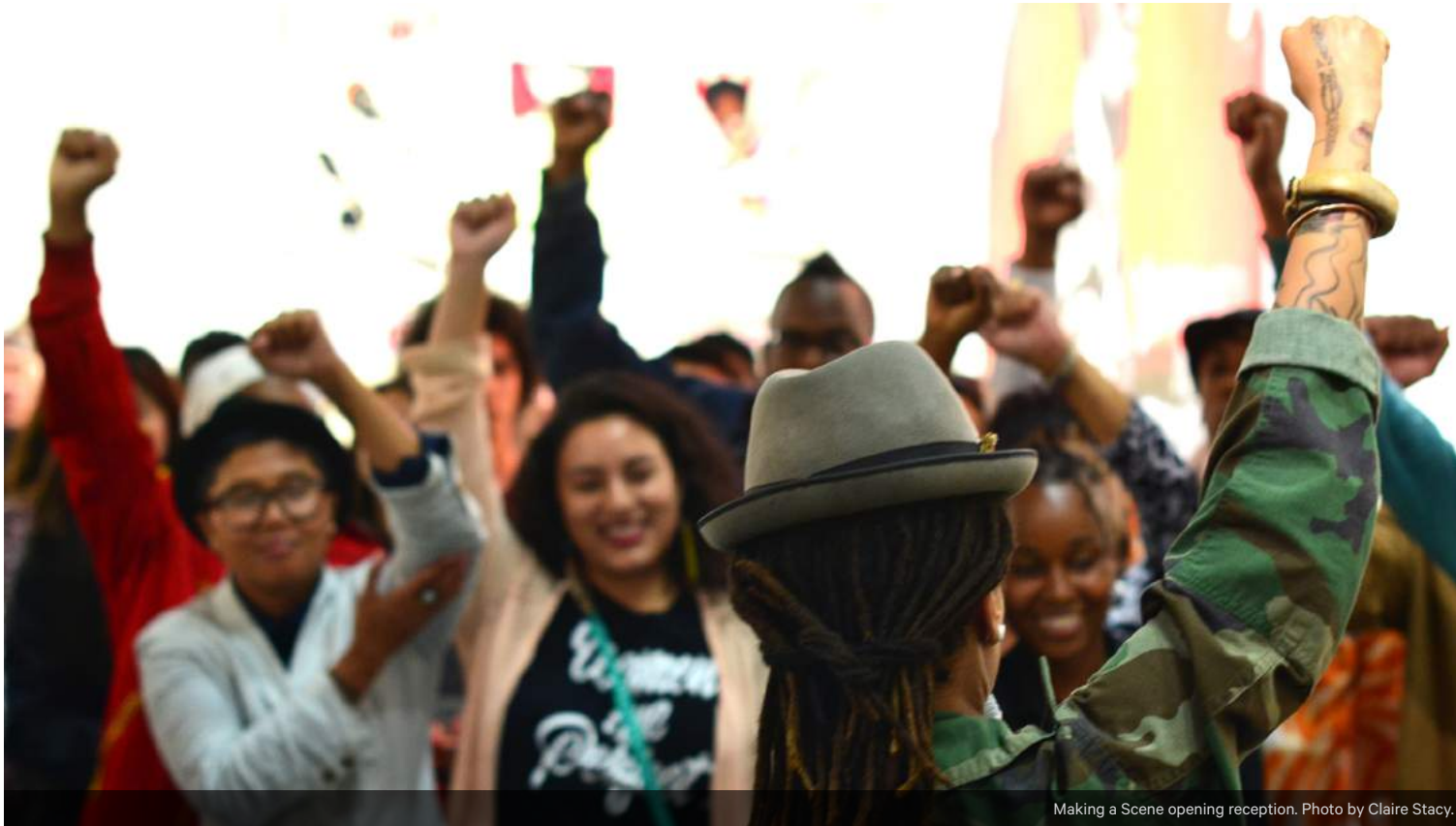
- Animal welfare**
- Arts & Culture**
- Economic & social justice**
- Education**
- Health & Wellness**
- Homelessness prevention & advocacy**
- Immigrant justice**
- LGBTQ rights**

In FY16, SOMArts provided vital support to over 100 Bay Area non-profits and small arts organizations through our affordable Rental Program, fiscal sponsorship program, and free and low-cost professional development opportunities for artists. By sharing SOMArts' space and resources with local artists and social change-makers, we believe we have the power to build stronger and more resilient creative communities in the midst of gentrification that threatens artist and non-profit displacement from the Bay Area.



Jeepneys performance at Visions into Infinite Archives opening, curated by Black Salt Collective. Photo by Dan Fenstermacher.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Making a Scene opening reception. Photo by Claire Stacy.

Making a Scene

In FY2016, SOMArts received critical support from the National Endowment for the Arts to produce Making a Scene in our Main Gallery. Celebrating the rich history of artist-run, independent and alternative spaces in the Bay Area, the exhibition received overwhelmingly positive community response at a time when rapid gentrification is placing alternative spaces at risk of displacement. In conjunction with Making a Scene, SOMArts' fifth annual Night Light: Multimedia Garden Party featured over 50 visual and performing artists installed throughout SOMArts' space in homage to the Bay Area's rabble-rousers, trouble-makers, independents and outliers. SOMArts' Ramp Gallery provided an opportunity for 11 emerging artists to showcase their work in SOMArts' lobby — providing a low barrier to entry for artists whose work has never been shown in a gallery context.

BY THE NUMBERS

85

artists featured
in Making a Scene and
Night Light 2015

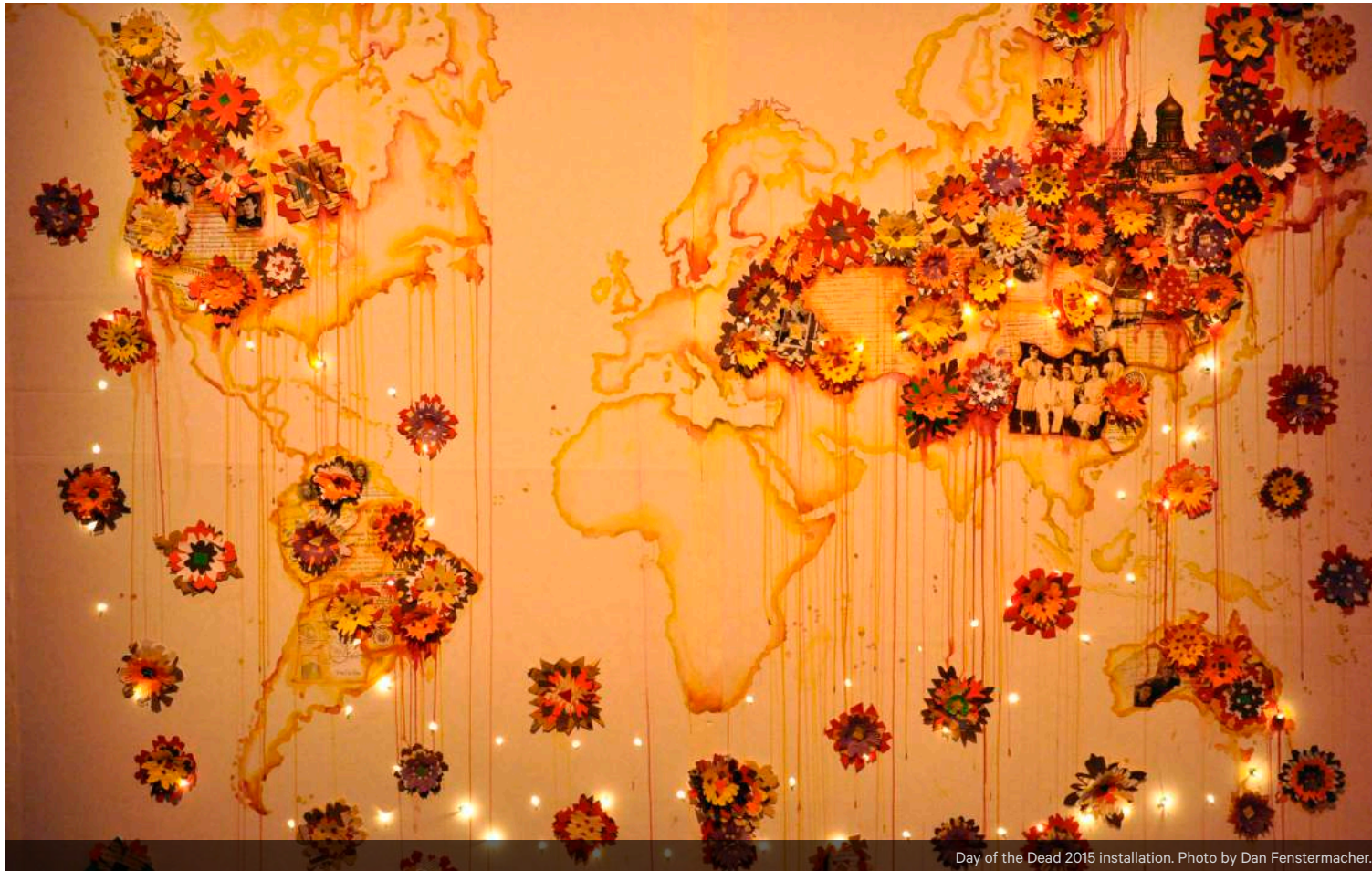
11

artists featured
in the Ramp Gallery

2500

community
members attended
Making a Scene
and Night Light 2015

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Day of the Dead 2015 installation. Photo by Dan Fenstermacher.

BY THE NUMBERS

80

artists featured
in Today is the
Shadow of Tomorrow

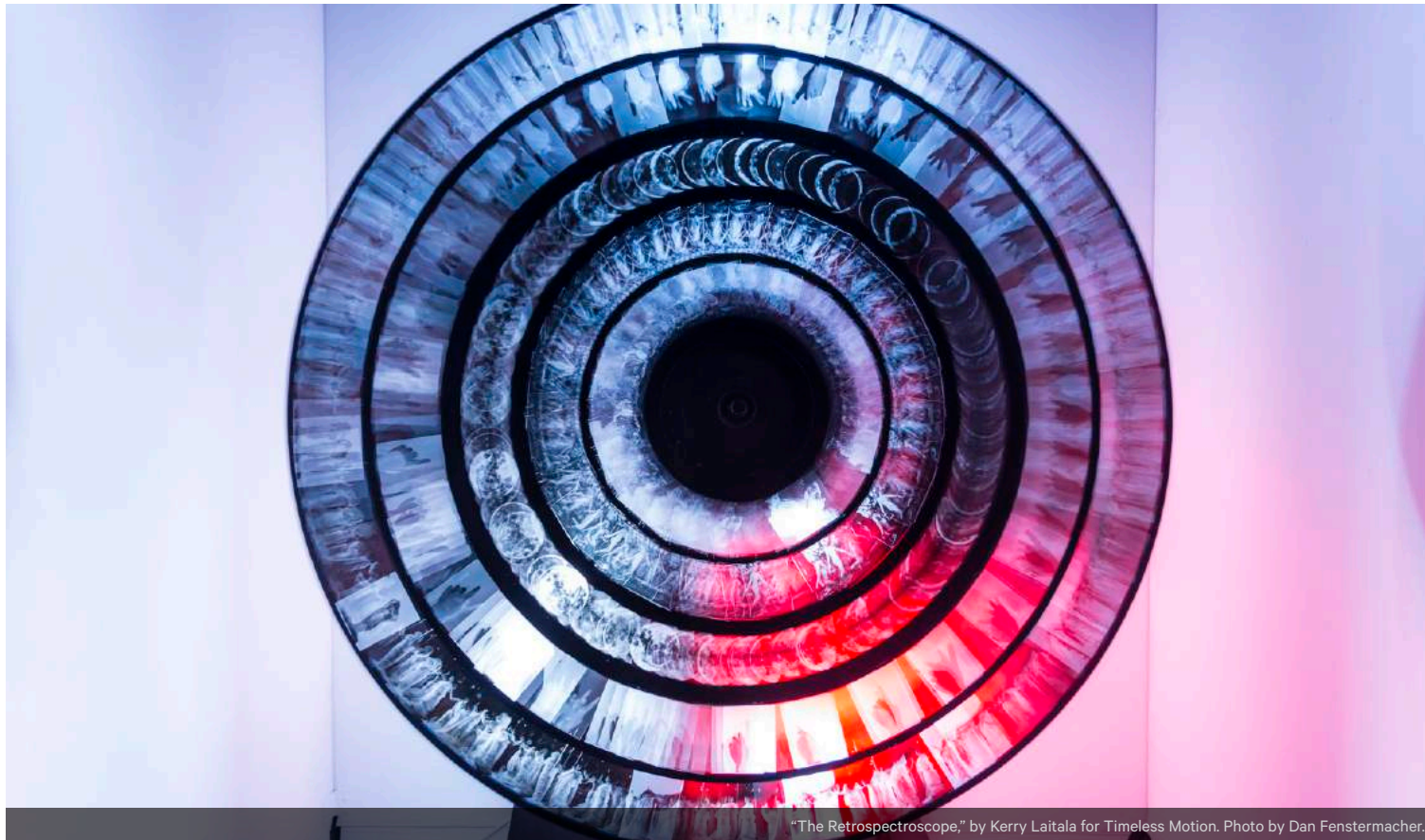
3200

community
members visited
the exhibition

Day of the Dead 2015

Chosen by father and son curators René & Río Yañez, the theme of SOMArts' renowned annual Day of the Dead exhibition in October 2015 invited artists and audience members to respond to institutional racism and violence and honor those who have unnecessarily lost their lives by looking toward the future we want to create. Today is the Shadow of Tomorrow: Día de los Muertos exhibition featured over 80 Bay Area artists and hosted over 3,000 visitors from across the Bay Area.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



"The Retrospectroscope," by Kerry Laitala for Timeless Motion. Photo by Dan Fenstermacher.

BY THE NUMBERS

65

artists featured in
3 exhibitions

2100

community members
attended 9 free
events in conjunction
with the exhibitions

SOMArts Curatorial Residencies

The 2015-2016 season of the SOMArts Curatorial Residency Program extended the opportunity to three residents to execute their bold vision for SOMArts' Main Gallery. Curatorial residents Black Salt Collective, Kerry Laitala, and Cynthia Tom curated interdisciplinary exhibitions that showcased over 60 artists representing diverse Bay Area arts and cultural communities. Challenging the status quo in terms of discipline, representation, and community engagement, the work incubated by the SOMArts Curatorial Residency in FY2016 furthered SOMArts' commitment to making bold, socially engaged art accessible to all.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The News: November 2015. Photo by Meike Gugel.

BY THE NUMBERS

63

artists performed
in 10 performances

730

community
members attended
The News for free

The News Queer Performance Series

In collaboration with San Francisco performer and curator Kolmel W. Love, SOMArts produced 11 evenings of new queer performance at The News in FY2016. Over 50 performers participated in The News, providing an opportunity for emerging and established Bay Area artists to show wildly experimental or in-process works and receive feedback in a critically engaged community context.

FUNDER ATTRIBUTIONS

\$25-\$99

Brian Bress
Meg Frodel
Juliet &
Dean MacCannell
Jill Manton
Joyce McClure
Kenneth Mierow
Kimberly
Newton-Klotwyk
DJ Siegman
Rachel Ryan
LaVette Virden

\$100-\$149

Debra Bok
Paul Dillinger
Iris Fluellen
Brian Freeman
Judith Guerriero
Scott Kildall
& Victoria Scott
Claudia Leung
Pam Peniston
Carol Savary
Roula Seikaly

\$150-\$499

David Bartley
Amanda Chaudhary
Jacob Foster
Nickolos Gomez
Joel L. Goodrich
Rhodessa Jones
Lex Leifheit
& Dan McKinley
Carolyn Mugar
David Suisman

\$500 and above

Kit Cameron
Peter Sizgoric
Amanda Strong
Sherry Suisman



Timeless Motion opening reception, curated by Kerry Laitala. Photo by Dan Fenstermacher.

380

artists featured



\$36,415

total paid to artists

“SOMArts uniquely elevates levels of community consciousness. SOMArts provided us with a brilliant opportunity to mix with many communities, exposing us to to new audiences and unprecedented press.”

CYNTHIA TOM, CURATOR, A PLACE OF HER OWN

SOMARTS: A CULTURAL CENTER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

As the Bay Area continues to change, SOMArts will remain a space for historically marginalized artists and their communities to connect and create. Located in the heart of San Francisco's SoMa neighborhood, SOMArts is uniquely poised to provide a platform for experimental and socially conscious artwork, ensuring that arts and culture experiences remain accessible to people from across the Bay Area.

SOMARTS AUDIENCE

- 22% Oakland
- 17% Mission District
- 12% Haight-Ashbury
- 9% The Sunset
- 6% Potrero Hill/Dogpatch
- 6% Castro
- 6% Berkeley
- 4% Mid-Market/Tenderloin
- 4% Richmond District
- 3% Oceanview
- 2% Chinatown
- 2% Outer Mission/Excelsior
- 2% Glen Park
- 2% Filmore
- 1% Richmond, CA

