

## STAFF ROSTER FY19

**Becky Franklin, Assistant Director of Administration** As the Assistant Director of Administration, Becky manages MRAC's grant making systems and processes all funding requests and awards. She also manages the organization's finances, payroll and benefits, reporting, and operations.

For the past 15 years, Becky has worked for artists and arts organizations, and for many years she was a practicing artist. Prior to working at MRAC, she was the Managing Director of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota and served on the Minneapolis Arts Commission. In her free time, Becky enjoys taking her young son with her to arts and community events.

**Masami Kawazato, Program Director** With Jovan Speller, Masami co-directs the Arts Activities Support and Community Arts grant programs. She advises groups on the MRAC grant guidelines, eligibility, and decision-making processes and offers grant workshops to both applicants and grant review panelists, along with providing draft and budget reviews prior to deadlines. Masami encourages you to get in touch if you have any questions about Arts Activities Support or Community Arts.

Outside of MRAC, Masami serves on Hennepin Theatre Trust's Made Here Arts Advisory Panel and is the events coordinator at Bogart's Doughnut Company. She and her husband live in South Minneapolis and enjoy bicycling, cooking, and attending arts events in the Twin Cities.

**Oskar Ly, Community Connections Manager** As the Community Connections Manager, Oskar recruits and supports grant review panelists for MRAC grant programs. This also includes developing and expanding initiatives that engage community networks and advances the work of MRAC's Racial Equity Task Force and programming.

Outside of MRAC, Oskar continues her creative practice as an artist, cultural producer, and project consultant focusing on culture, social enterprise, and community development. She enjoys crafting, sharing food, and conversations.

**Kathy Mouacheupao, Executive Director** Kathy joined the MRAC staff in June 2018 as the executive director of the organization. Kathy embodies a deep community engagement and a career in leadership; she has been an MRAC applicant, panelist, and board member and assumed the role ready to maintain the work of the organization as well as addressing the future aspirations and efforts to expand the community impact of MRAC.

Most recently Kathy served as Program Officer for Creative Placemaking with the Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (TC LISC) and before that she served as the executive director of the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT). She was a 2016 Roy Wilkins Fellow and a 2011 Bush Leadership Fellow. Currently, she is a co-chair for the Asian American/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy MN Chapter and is a member of the Saint Paul Planning Commission and the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL).

**Khin Oo, Office and Panel Coordinator** As the Office and Panel Coordinator, Khin provides support for MRAC by coordinating grant review panels and panelists. She also serves as receptionist and grants administrative assistant.

Khin loves to use her grants administration skills to empower her friends and community. Outside of MRAC, she serves as board treasurer for Release MN8. She also contributes to and designs projects that highlight Asian and Somali artists. She has spent the past decade experimenting with film photography. Her favorite places are her apartment, a cabin up north, and anywhere that serves panna cotta.

**Witt Siasoco, Next Step Fund Program Director** has been actively engaged at the intersection of the arts and civic life through a variety of roles - as artist, arts educator and arts administrator. As an artist, Siasoco has been the recipient of numerous grants from the Minnesota State Art Board, Forecast Public Art, and MRAC. In 2016, Siasoco's public art project This Home is Not for Sale was a recipient of an Americans for the Arts' Public Art Award, highlighting compelling public art projects from across the country. Throughout his 20-year career Siasoco has been an educator and art administrator, including staff positions with Walker Art Center, Intermedia Arts, and Minneapolis Institute of Art. Outside of the arts, Siasoco has been a life long skateboarder and co-founded City of Skate, a non-profit skate organization advocating for word class skateparks in the Midwest.

**Jovan Speller, Program Director** With Masami Kawazato, Jovan co-directs the Arts Activities Support and Community Arts grant programs. She advises groups on the MRAC grant guidelines, eligibility, and decision-making processes and offers grant workshops to both applicants and grant review panelists, along with providing draft and budget reviews prior to deadlines. Jovan encourages you to get in touch if you have any questions about Arts Activities Support or Community Arts.

Jovan has had a dedicated career in the arts as a curator, artist, and consultant. Most recently Jovan has served the local and national arts community as Owner and Managing Consultant at JCS Consulting. Jovan is a recipient of the 2018 McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship, the 2016/2017 Jerome Emerging Artist Fellowship, and the 2015 MN State Arts Board Cultural Community Partnership grant.

**Bethany Whitehead, Program and Communications** Bethany serves as the Program Director for the Arts Learning, Organizational Development, Capital, Management Consulting Fund, and the Management Training Fund grant programs. She also plans

and implements the Arts Management Training program for constituents, offering monthly opportunities to learn and think about the best practices for running an arts organization. In addition Bethany leads the communications efforts for MRAC, including managing the website, social media, newsletters, and print materials.

Bethany has been an engaged arts administrator for the past fifteen years, serving in a variety of roles at Twin Cities arts organizations. She currently serves as the Treasurer for FilmNorth. You'll find her on Sunday nights helping lost travelers at MSP airport, and her other hobbies include travel, reading, sewing, and biking. She holds an MA from Saint Mary's University in arts administration.