

an open letter

**(or waves)
(or swells)**



COVID-19 has changed everyone's life across the globe. This booklet is meant to capture the impact of this moment on the lives of art workers and culture makers, many of whom have already lived a precarious existence. The global pandemic has revealed both the gross inequities of our capitalist system and the resilience of artists to build community in service to those who need it. We highlight key news headlines and stories along with some art resources artists have provided for free to society.

Melissa San Miguel is a Latina curator, visual artist, and activist born and raised in the Mission district of San Francisco to Peruvian working-class immigrants. She has served as a teaching artist, grant panelist and on education and curatorial teams at museums across the country.

Nimah Gobir is an artist and educator based in Oakland. Primarily a painter, her personal studio practice examines race and identity as well as lowering the barriers to art-making through participatory practices.



In some ways I feel like making an artifact of this experience is documenting us afloat in the ocean, feeling big swells and then a great wave.

I think in some ways a lot of us are still under water finding that we can breathe for much longer than we thought possible

Some of us have broken the surface and are trying to get oriented to their surroundings

Some of us are making our way to shore.

Some of us are being pulled to shore or pulling someone else.

Some

In some ways I feel like making an artifact of this experience is documenting us afloat in the ocean, feeling big swells

and then

California Arts Advocates Make Case for Artists as 'Second Responders' to Pandemic

Arts advocates like Baker are planning to pursue these goals by persuading lawmakers that cultural workers are essential to the disaster recovery process. She wants them to be thought of as "second responders," stepping into the fray soon after the mobilization of first responders, like healthcare workers and firefighters.

"A first responder comes in and saves a life," Baker said. "A second responder comes in and helps to rebuild a life."

a great wave.



Cloe Veltman, KQED



“It’s an unprecedented situation,” Deborah Cullinan, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts chief executive and co-chair of the SF Arts Alliance, an informal group of local arts leaders, said in an interview. “It requires us to really reconsider what we do and how we do it and who we do it for.”

The immediate effects on arts workers have been unevenly distributed.



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results show the 145 organizations employ 4,129 of these gig workers, twice the number of full-time staff, and because they lack benefits such as paid sick leave and healthcare, they're especially threatened by the sudden loss of income.

Sam Lefebvre, KQED



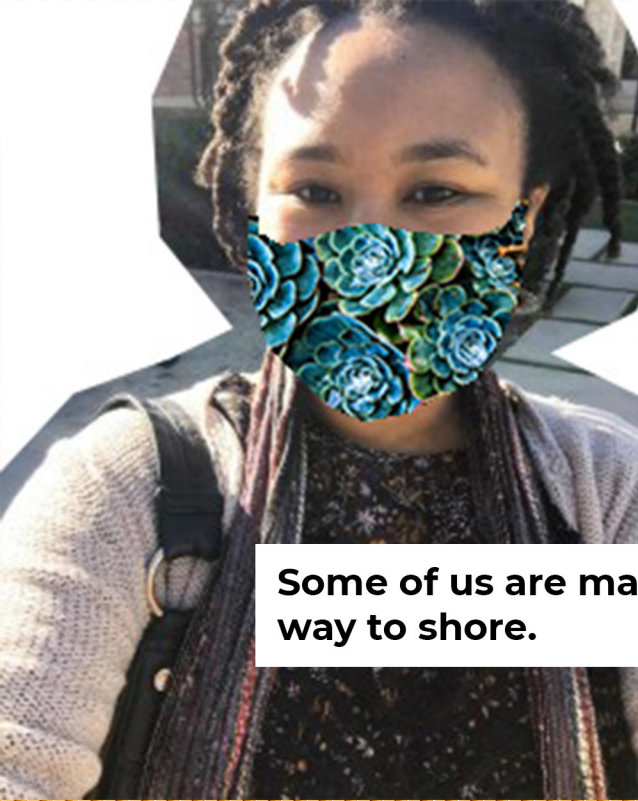
Some of us have broken the surface

to Lay Off or Furlough Museum Staff

**and are trying to get
oriented to their**

surroundings





Some of us are making our way to shore.

Layoffs Hit



**Some of us are
being pulled to
shore**

Collaborative Resources for Virtual Events

<https://bit.ly/CollabVirtEvents>

Debbie Allen - free dance classes:

<https://bit.ly/DebbieAllenFree>

Wendy MacNaughton - free drawing classes:

<https://bit.ly/WMNfreedraw>

El Comalito Collective - free painting parties:

<https://bit.ly/ECCpaintparty>

**Nurturing Independence Through Artistic
Development // NIAD Art Center:**

<https://bit.ly/NIADArtCenter>

or pulling someone else.

Intersection for the Arts - well developed resources

<https://bit.ly/IntersectArts/>

**COVID-19 Bay Area Community Resources +
Up-to-Date Health Information (with different link for
Spanish)**

<https://bit.ly/BayComResources>

COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resource

<https://www.freelanceartistresource.com/>



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