

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Wed, May 19,
2021, 2:12 PM

to Joan.Jasper, Maw

Hi Joan,

I'm writing at the recommendation of Kim Shuck.

I'm the co-director of Clarion Alley Mural Project - <https://clarionalleymuralproject.org/> - and we have a really great project that we've been working on over the past year called Wall + Response, co-curated by me and poet Maw Shein Win, which features 16 Bay Area poets responding to four walls/murals on Clarion Alley. Kim is one of the participating poets, as is current SF Poet Laureate Tongo Eisen-Martin.

In addition to the four online events that we've had over the past year (final event is June 25th at 7pm, hosted by The Booksmith / The Bindery), we are creating a limited edition of 50 print portfolios of screen print broadsides, printed by Sun Night Editions (Oakland) with the portfolio box designed and handmade by book artist Asta Nakata.

We would really love to have an exhibition of the portfolio if possible. Ideally we'd like to do it in the fall of 2021. Our first choice is the SF Public Library.

I've attached the doc with info and image of the project, including the portfolio in progress and biographies of the participants.

You can also view two of the online events here:

Poets Karla Brundage, Jennifer Hasagawa, Tureeda Mikell and Kim Shuck responding to the Black Panther mural What We Want! here:

<https://clarionalleymuralproject.org/if-you-missed-it-watch-wall-response-series-two-event/>

and

Poets Jason Bayani, Celeste Chan, MK Chavez, and Paul Corman Roberts responding to the mural Affordable Housing / Vivienda Asequible by the SF Print Collective working with the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) here:

<https://clarionalleymuralproject.org/if-you-missed-it-watch-wall-response-series-three-event-affordable-housing-vivienda-asequible/>

Please let us know if it might be possible to do an exhibition with SFPL and/or if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Megan

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Thu, May 20,
2021, 7:12 AM

to me

Thanks so much for this but we are booked through 2022. Sorry. I am going to send this to Susan Goldstein to see if maybe she wants to host it in the special collections department? Lets see.

Thanks!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

May 20,
2021, 7:14
AM

to me

Sorry! Before I share it with Susan please complete this exhibit proposal form. There might be another place in the library for you but a smaller space the big galleries are all ready booked. It sounds like a great project.

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

May 20,
2021, 6:30
PM

to Maw, Joan

Hi Joan,

Thank you so much for considering this project for exhibition. Attached is the form. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Megan & Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

May 21,
2021, 8:48
AM

to me

Thank you! I will review this and lets see what we can do!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Jul 7, 2021,
10:46 AM

to me

Sorry for being so long getting back to you. This is a fantastic proposal! I am hoping to get my exhibits committee together to review proposals in August so I will be in touch then. Thanks so much for thinking about the SFPL!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Jul 7, 2021,
1:26 PM

to Maw, Joan

Thank you so much Joan, we look forward to hearing from you after you meet.



Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Aug 10,
2021, 2:00
PM

to me

Megan,

Thanks so much for sending us the exhibit proposal. I am hoping to get my exhibits committee together at the end of the month. You sent me some photos but they are in black and white. Do you have any color photos? If you can send me some jpegs – please do not use drop box – that are low res that would be great. I just need maybe 4. IF you want to snail mail them you can send them to:

Joan Jasper
SFPL
100 Larkin St.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Thanks!

Joan Jasper
Curator
San Francisco Public Library
415/557-4595

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Aug 12,
2021, 12:56
PM

to Maw, Joan

Hi Joan,

Thank you for following up. This has been such a great project and we would really love to work with you and SFPL.

Attached are several images:

1. The poster portfolio box that Asa Nakata designed and is hand making - open
2. The poster portfolio boxes closed
3. The mural page print for Justice for Luis Gongora Pat
4. Aileen Cassinetta signing the Justice for Luis Gongora Pat mural print
5. Youssef Alaoui signing the Arab Liberation mural print
6. Filming Kim Shuck reading on Clarion alley

You can checkout more on the project on CAMP's website:

<https://clarionalleymuralproject.org/off-site-projects/wall-response/>

And we received some great press in the [Chronicle's Datebook](#) and [Local News Matters](#).

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Looking forward,
Megan & Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Aug 12,
2021, 12:59
PM

to me, Maw

Thank you!!!! I am meeting with my boss and Monday and telling her we HAVE to do this and then hope to get my committee together at the end of the month – but a bunch of people are on vacation but hope to meet soon and have an answer to you in September.

I think it would be great here and I know we can do a lot of fab programs, too.

Thanks so much for bringing this to us!

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Aug 12,
2021, 1:12
PM

to Joan, me

Dear Joan,

Thanks so much for your wonderful feedback.

Megan and I are excited about the possibility of working with SFPL!

Warmly,

Maw

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Oct 21,
2021, 3:58
PM

to Joan, Maw

Hi Joan,
Hope you are doing well.

We're writing to follow up to see if you have any news on the *Wall + Response* exhibition and possible dates. All of the *Wall + Response* artists and poets are very excited about this extension of the project and have been asking about the dates.

We also wanted to let you know that the portfolios are finished and ready for purchase - they came out really beautiful. Please let us know when would be a good time to bring it by.

In community,
Megan + Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Oct 22,
2021, 9:26
AM

to me, Maw

Unfortunately, the exhibit did not get approved for one of the main galleries. I am stunned it did not get approved. They thought it was a little too much text. BUT our 4th floor wants it! Not sure if it will go into Art& Music area or if it will be in the 4th floor lobby area. I promise you we will make it look good. I am also waiting to hear when they want it.

So as soon as I have more info why don't we connect and we can do a walk through. I promise you we will make it look great.

Thanks for your good work and patience!!!!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Oct 22,
2021, 3:06
PM

to Joan, Maw

Hi Joan,

Thank you for letting us know. Of course Maw and I are really disappointed; however, way more so for all of the participants, who have been excited and looking forward to this. It is surprising that there was concern around too much text - given it's a library (hahaha) - and the text represents the work of some of the most incredible, groundbreaking poets in the Bay Area, including five poet laureates - two being the current SF poet laureates (Tongo and Genny) and our previous SF poet laureate Kim Shuck ... and the art work they're responding to, represents some of the best of the Bay Area (Emory Douglas, Twin Walls, Art Forces, SF Print Collective/Art Hazelwood).

That being said, we do appreciate your support of the project and being a cheerleader for us - thank you! We are honored to be able to present the work on the 4th floor and we do trust it will look great.

Yes, please let us know when would be a good time to do a walk through, and we look forward to coming together for that.

In community,
Megan & Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Fri, Oct 22,
2021, 3:10
PM

to me, Maw

I cannot tell you how disappointed I am over this and really surprised. I think it is the perfect fit – but I got voted down. We did have a lot of good exhibit proposals so I guess something had to go. But I am excited that the 4th floor art & music want to take this on. I am just waiting to hear when and exactly where. I promise we will make it look good and we will be able to fit a lot in this space. My design team is very clever.

So I will keep you posted. BUT PLEASE feel free to check in with me on this!!! You are not being a pest! I am taking medical leave all of December so if I don't get back to you then I am not avoiding you, just not here.

I need knee replacement surgery. Getting old is a bitch ☺

But we will have you here!!!!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Fri, Oct 22,
2021, 3:16
PM

to Maw, Joan

Thank you Joan,

Yes, we're excited about the 4th floor too. We will check back in, if we don't hear from you.

Good luck with the knee replacement surgery! Ugh, yes, agreed, getting old is a bitch ... can definitely relate to that.

Sending you good energy!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Oct 22,
2021, 3:18
PM

to me

Thanks for the good energy!!!!!! I hope to here soon exactly where and when so to be continued...

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Thu, Nov 4,
2021, 9:28
AM

to me

I finally heard back from my folks and we can have your exhibit on the 4th floor anytime. We would love you to come in and we will walk you through the space and talk about layout so let me know a good date/time. Next week is out but the week of Nov. 15 could work. And if you could bring a portfolio of the work, too, even if it is just copies that would be a big help.
Thanks!

Joan Jasper
Curator
San Francisco Public Library
415/557-4595

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Nov 4,
2021, 1:40
PM

to Joan, Maw

Hi Joan,
Thank you so much for this news! Could we come in for the walk through on Friday, November 19th at 11am? That works for both Maw and I. And yes! I can bring the portfolio set aside for the library to purchase - they're \$500.

In community,
Megan + Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Thu, Nov 4,
2021, 1:46
PM

to me

Great! The SFPL is not open until noon so meet me at Grove St entrance which is at Hyde st and we will go from there.
Yes bring the portfolio. I cannot buy it!!!! But please bring it as we want to see it. You should talk to Susan Goldstein susan.goldstein@sfpl.org. She manages rare books and if she is not the right person to buy it, she will know who is. Excited to see it and very excited to work with you.

Thanks a bunch!!!!!!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Thu, Nov 4,
2021, 2:11
PM

to Joan, Maw

Yes, 12 noon works. And I will contact Susan Goldstein.

See you on the 19th!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Thu, Nov 4,
2021, 2:17
PM

to me

No PLEASE meet me at 11!!!!!! *I want to go to lunch at noon.* But we are not open so I will meet you on Grove ST at 11 to get you in.
Thanks!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Thu, Nov 18,
2021, 9:06
AM

to me, Hannah, Jesse, Everett

Megan,

We are excited to see you and your crew here tomorrow. Please meet me at the Grove St. entrance at 11:00. It is at Grove/Hyde. It will look closed but there should be a door open. I will be there but if security stops you tell them you are meeting with me. We will show you the space and go from there.

If you can bring your portfolio of the poems/art that would be great – if it isn't to big.

Thanks so much! See you soon!

Joan Jasper
Curator
San Francisco Public Library
415/557-4595

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Thu, Nov 18,
2021, 9:48
AM

to Maw, Joan, Hannah, Jesse, Everett

Hi Joan,
We're looking forward to seeing you all too.

Yes, we'll bring the portfolio.

Looking forward, see you at 11am tomorrow!

In community,

Megan & Maw

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 18,
2021, 1:04
PM

to me, Joan, Hannah, Jesse, Everett

Hello Joan,

I'm so looking forward to meeting you all tomorrow too!

Sending warm gratitude,

Maw

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Sat, Nov 20,
2021, 3:54
PM

to me, Joan, Hannah, Jesse, Everett

Dear Joan, Hannah, Jesse, and Everett,

It was lovely to meet you yesterday.

Megan & I are so excited to work on this exhibit with you all.

Here are a few links about Wall + Response:

<https://clarionalleymuralproject.org/off-site-projects/wall-response/>

<https://www.meganwilson.com/sub/2021/10/11/wall-response-print-portfolio>

<https://www.meganwilson.com/sub/2021/9/13/final-wall-response-prints-from-sun-night-editions>

Thanks again!

Warmly,

Maw & Megan

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Mon, Nov 22,
2021, 8:27
AM

to Maw, me, Hannah, Jesse, Everett

Thank you! I am just waiting to hear back from my art & music dept. about dates and then I will check with you to make sure those dates can work and then work on scheduling some programs. We are hoping for maybe March/April but waiting to see.
Thanks!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Nov 22,
2021, 11:36
AM

to Joan, Maw, Hannah, Jesse, Everett

Echoing Maw, thank you Joan, Hannah, and Jesse for the walk through on Friday! We are excited for the exhibition and look forward to working with you to create a powerful and engaging experience for audiences at SFPL.

We will wait to hear on the available dates.

In community,
Megan

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Mon, Nov 29,
2021, 10:12
AM

to elcerritopoet@gmail.com, me, Jesse

I finally heard back from the art & music department and they are good having you here March 12 – July 27, 2022.
And I can host 2 programs here:
March 13 at 1:00
April 10 at 1:00

If you can get me the program info by Jan 10. Plus, if you have 2 press photos – please use small files – that is good and a short description of the exhibit. Again if you can get that all to me by Jan. 10 it would be good.

I will be out Dec. 6 – Jan. 10 having knee surgery! But you can connect with Jesse, who is “cc” here if you have any questions.

Thanks!!!!!!!!!!

Maw Shein Win <elcerritopoet@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 29,
2021, 12:42
PM

to Joan, Jesse, Maw, me

Dear Joan and Jesse,

Wow, that is terrific news!

March 13th at 1pm works well.

I'll be teaching a poetry workshop Hawaii from April 10 to the 14th. Is there any possibility we could have the second event on April 2 or 3 or April 23 or 30 by chance?

Thanks so much to you all. Sending best wishes for your upcoming surgery and recovery, Joan!

Warmly,

Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Nov 29,
2021, 1:03
PM

to Maw, Maw, me, Jesse

How about April 30? That actually works out a lot better because the Cubs are playing a night game so I will not miss a thing JJJ

Still at 1:00. So let me know if that works!

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 29,
2021, 1:06 PM

to Joan, Maw, me, Jesse

Ha ha... that's perfect, Joan!

I have all the dates in my calendar now.

Thanks again!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Mon, Nov 29,
2021, 1:09
PM

to Maw, Maw, me, Jesse

Thank you! If I do not connect with you again this week please have a good holiday! Stay safe!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Mon, Nov 29,
2021, 2:36
PM

to Maw, Joan, Maw, Jesse

Thank you so much Joan and team! This all looks great ... and so happy that the timing will work for you and the Cubs!

Sending you tons of positive healthy energy for your surgery and a speedy recovery.

Thank you!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Nov 29,
2021, 2:55
PM

to me, Maw, Maw, Jesse

Thanks everyone! This is going to be fun!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Mon, Jan
10, 11:08
AM

to Maw, me

Happy New Year! I hope you had a great holiday.

I need PR info from you by Thursday so for the rush but I was out on medical leave. But all is good!

So please send me info on the exhibit plus some images – make them small I have a crummy computer and cannot take large files. Also info on the March 13 program which will start at 1:00. So please send that to me as soon as you can.

Thanks!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Mon, Jan
10, 11:21
AM

to Joan, Maw

Hi Joan!
Happy New Year!

We can get you this on Thursday - I have an NEH grant proposal due on Wednesday - so I'm busy through then.

Looking forward!

In community,
Megan & Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Jan 10,
2022, 11:22
AM

to me, Maw

Great! Thanks so much!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Thu, Jan
13, 8:47
AM

to me, Maw

I know you have been super busy with a grant proposal but just a reminder I need your PR copy today

So for the exhibit:

Title

Short description

And send a photo or two please small files as I have a crummy PC here and need small files. For the exhibit you will work with Hannah and she has a Mac so she can get super huge files.

Program: title and short description including speakers if you have them confirmed

If you have any questions let me know.

Tomorrow, I am leaving at 2:00 for physical therapy so if you need for anything grab me in the morning

Hope you are doing great in this crazy time!!!! Hopefully things will be better when your exhibit opens!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Thu, Jan
13, 10:45
AM

to Joan, Maw

Thanks Joan - Maw and I will be working on this later today. What is the latest we need to get this to you by?

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Jan 13,
2022, 10:59
AM

to me

If you can get it to me 9:30 **tomorrow** morning that would be great
Thanks!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Thu, Jan
13, 11:21
AM

to Joan

Thank you Joan - that's helpful.

Good morning Joan,

Below is the text for the Wall + Response exhibition - feel free to edit. I've also included information about Clarion Alley Mural Project (CAMP). Attached are two images - please let us know if these work. I've also attached the press release for the overall project if you need any additional info.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Looking forward!

Megan + Maw

Curated by Clarion Alley Mural Project (CAMP) artist and organizer Megan Wilson and poet Maw Shein Win, *Wall + Response* features 16 poets responding to the social/ political/ racial/ justice narratives of four murals on Clarion Alley curated by CAMP artist and organizer Megan Wilson and poet Maw Shein Win. Participants include:

Heather Bourbeau, Aileen Cassinetto, Tongo Eisen-Martin, and Chris Stroffolino responding to the mural *Justice for Luis D. Góngora Pat* by Marina Perez-Wong and Elaine Chu, working with Justice4Luis.org;

Karla Brundage, Jennifer Hasegawa, Tureeda Mikell, and Kim Shuck responding to the work *We Want Respect, Freedom, Land, Housing, Justice, Peace, Bread* by Emory Douglas/Black Panther Party / remix by CUBA D8, MACE;

Celeste Chan, MK Chavez, Paul Corman-Roberts and Tim Xonnely responding to the mural *Affordable Housing/Vivienda Asequible* by the SF Print Collective working with the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP).

Youssef Alaoui, Jason Bayani, Genny Lim, and Michael Warr responding to the mural *The Arab Liberation Mural* by Art Forces, Arab Resource Organizing Center (AROC), and Arab Youth Organizing (AYO).

The exhibition at the San Francisco Public Library features the prints and portfolio created as a culmination of this powerful two-year collaboration between Bay Area artists, poets, and community-based organizations. In addition, imagery documenting the process will be on display.

Two public programs will accompany the exhibition:

March 13: Reading with Youseff Alaoui, Jason Bayani, Genny Lim, Michael Warr, Celeste Chan, MK Chavez, Paul Corman Roberts, Tim Xonnely

April 30: Reading with Heather Bourbeau, Aileen Cassinetto, Tongo Eisen-Martin, Chris Stroffolino, Karla Brundage, Jennifer Hasegawa, Tureeda Mikell, and Kim Shuck

Clarion Alley Mural Project

The mission of Clarion Alley Mural Project (CAMP) is to support and produce socially engaged and aesthetically innovative public art, locally and globally as a grassroots artist-run organization based in San Francisco's Mission District. CAMP is a community, a public space, and an organizing force that uses public art (murals, street art, performance art, dance, poster projects, literary events) as a means for supporting social, economic, racial, and environmental justice messaging and storytelling.

CAMP was established in 1992 by a six Mission District activists and artists. Over the past 28 years CAMP has produced over 900 murals and worked with many talented artists. In addition to Clarion Alley,

CAMP has produced offsite projects with community partners and two international exchange & residencies with Yogyakarta Indonesia. Today CAMP receives over 200,000 visitors annually.

CAMP often hosts community events that include performances, poetry and book readings, film and video screenings, and music presented in conjunction with its mural works. It is through these events that the project has a deeper impact and builds community, bringing more intentional activation to the visual narratives of the walls on Clarion Alley.

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Fri, Jan
14, 9:37
AM

to me

Thanks so much! I know this was a crazy week for you. Hope you get the grant!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Fri, Jan
14, 10:21
AM

to Joan

Thanks Joan! Us too :)

From: Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:36 AM
To: Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>; Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>
Cc: Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>
Subject: Wall + Response Exhibition Next Steps

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Joan and Hannah,

Hope you both have had a good week.

We're reaching out to see if we could schedule a time to meet to begin discussing next steps for the exhibition and make a plan. Would you be available on Friday, February 4th to do a zoom meeting? If that works for you, we're both flexible with time that day.

In community,
Megan & Maw

From: Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:38 AM
To: Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>; Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>
Cc: Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Wall + Response Exhibition Next Steps

I can do it in the morning after 9:30 – gotta get my coffee and donut first!
Let us know what works for you

Thanks!

On Fri, Jan 21, 2022 at 10:05 AM Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org> wrote:
Dear Megan and Maw,

How about **1:30pm on 2/4** for our Zoom meeting?

Hannah Gribetz
Exhibition Designer
San Francisco Public Library
415-557-4594
My pronouns are she/her/hers

From: Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:12 AM
To: Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>
Cc: Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>; Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>
Subject: Re: Wall + Response Exhibition Next Steps

Dear Hannah and Joan,

1:30pm on 2/4 is perfect.

Would you like me to create a Zoom?

Warmly,

Maw

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Jan 21,
2022, 11:16
AM

to Hannah, Joan, me

You're welcome, Hannah.

We look forward to meeting with you both on the 4th.

Enjoy your weekend!

Maw & Megan

NOTES FROM WALL + RESPONSE MEETING on FRIDAY FEB. 4

- 1) Meeting on **Monday, February 14th at noon in lobby**. Meet Joan, Hannah and Jesse to discuss exhibition plans.
- 2) We will take measurements and **choose images**.
- 3) Megan will bring two portfolios. One for SFPL and one for the exhibit.
- 4) Copy is due by **February 18th**. (Word count will be sent.)
 - *Who do we want to thank? Acknowledgement panel.
 - *How do we want to describe the exhibit?
 - *Introduction: What are we looking at? Why is it important?
 - *Captions for images.
 - *Poetry files
 - *QR code for the films (?)
- 5) Electronic files go to Hannah.
- 6) **Questions: What should be hanging? What should be in the cases?**
 - Cases: 28 broadsides, 4 broadsides per case**
 - If possible, can we hang the mural page near each case?**
 - Blow ups: four murals, cover page, curator page, filming on the alley**
- 7) Events:
 - *No Zoom, only in person
 - *Poets can pre-record video which will be sent to Kenny (AV person) or given on a thumb drive
 - *Joan will introduce events.
 - *April event will be promoted in newsletter.
 - *We will create FB events. (Stitch two mural photos together? Use one of the photos of the portfolios.)

On Mon, Feb 14, 2022 at 7:29 AM Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org> wrote:
I will meet you in the lobby at noon and we will go from there!
See you soon!

Joan Jasper
Curator
San Francisco Public Library
415/557-4595

Mon, Feb
14, 8:55
AM

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

to Joan, me, Jesse, Hannah

Hello Joan, Jesse, and Hannah,

We look forward to meeting at noon!

Here is the FB link to the event... please let us know of any additions or changes:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/724978762199473>

Thanks again and see you all soon!

Maw and Megan

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Feb 14, 2022,
9:13 AM

to Maw, Joan, me, Jesse

Woo hoo, looking forward to seeing you soon!

For Facebook event, I have 2 suggestions:

1. If you put "Latino/Hispanic Community Room, Lower Level" (or even just "Lower Level") somewhere in the event, whether in the Location field or just the description, that might help people know where to go when they get to the Main Library.
 2. I checked with our social media dept and they said that SFPL would be happy to be a co-host on the FB event, if you like. I believe you should be able to "invite" SFPL to be a co-host and then they can accept.
-

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Feb 14, 2022,
9:16 AM

to Hannah, Joan, me, Jesse

Thanks so much for the feedback, Hannah!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Tue, Feb 15,
10:24 AM

to Joan, Hannah, Jesse, Maw

Good morning Joan, Hannah, and Jesse,

Thank you so much for the walk through yesterday! We're really excited about the way the exhibition has shaped!

We have a few questions:

1. Is it possible to do labels that include a QR code for the videos of the poets reading on the alley?

2. How much time do we have scheduled for the poetry readings?

3. Would it be possible to have one more program in the summer - since the exhibition is up through July - that could be an artists' and organizations discussion?

Working on selecting images right now.

More soon.

Thank you!
Megan & Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Tue, Feb 15,
10:46 AM

to me, Hannah, Jesse, Maw

For the poetry readings I would try to cut it off at an hour and ½ because people get antsy – and you want people to see the exhibit. If it goes over a bit no problem.

How about July 9 for a final event? That would be a week before it closes so it will hopefully get folks in to see it the last week.

July 9th, like the others, would start at 1:00

So let me know if that works!

And thanks for the chocolate yesterday!!!!!! ☺☺☺

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 15,
11:20 AM

to Joan, me, Hannah, Jesse

Hello Joan, Hannah, and Jesse,

Echoing gratitude for yesterday's walk through... we are so excited!

July 9th works for me.

1 1/2 hours is perfect for the event.

Thanks!

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Wed, Feb 16,
9:18 AM

to Maw, Joan, me, Jesse

To answer that last question, we can definitely do QR codes! I love that idea. All I will need is the URL and my graphics program can generate the QR code itself.

P.S. Maw, I got the Google folder with the content. Thanks! I'll double-check later today that I'm able to download everything. Plus, I will be sending you both my mockup/visual depiction of what we talked about either today or tomorrow.

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Feb 16, 2022,
9:28 AM

to Hannah, Maw, Joan, Jesse

Thanks Hannah! That's great, we can get you the links.

Yes, if you have questions about the files, please let me know.

I included the full mural images and the mural broadsides since I'm not sure how we want to display these. The full images would be more powerful. But the broadsides include information about the work and are part of the portfolio. Maybe there's a way to show both.

Thank you!
Megan & Maw

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Wed, Feb 16,
4:45 PM

to Jaime, me, Maw

Hi Jaime,

The "Wall + Response" exhibitors told me they tried to invite SFPL to cohost their FB event but couldn't do it for some reason. Do you think you could trouble-shoot?

Here is the FB event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/724978762199473>

And here is the contact info of the exhibitors:

Megan Wilson megan@meganwilson.com

Maw Shein Win keralaforawhile@gmail.com

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Wed, Feb 16,
4:46 PM

to Jaime, me, Maw

Oops, didn't mean to clog Maw and Megan's inboxes with more mail – but hi! I guess I accidentally pasted your emails into the "To" line as well as the body of the email.

This is Jaime, our social media maven who I told you I'd ask to troubleshoot the event cohosting issue.

Wong, Jaime (LIB) <jaime.wong@sfpl.org>

Wed, Feb 16,
5:33 PM

to Hannah, me, Maw

Hi everyone,

Thank you for connecting us up, Hannah. I wonder, since we have you on the line, if I can help directly troubleshoot with the team.

I think the issue is that only Pages can invite other Pages to be co-hosts. If you set up the event with individuals hosting, SFPL's Page can't be added as a co-host. I'm sorry about that.

That being said, we're happy to share the Event on our feed to help get the word out!

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Feb 17, 2022,
10:06 AM

to Jaime, Hannah, me

Thanks so much, Jaime!

I think I remember that now.

That would be terrific if you could share our event invite.
Warmly, Maw

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Thu, Feb 17,
3:10 PM

to me, Jesse, Joan, keralaforawhile@gmail.com

Got it! I was able to download all the files.

Could you send me all the text from the broadsides (other than the poems) as a Word document (or multiple Word docs)? i.e. bios, descriptions of murals, project description, and curatorial statements. I can run text recognition software on the JPGs if that's not possible, but a Word doc would be easier if you have it.

I also noticed that not all the poets have reading pictures. Is this OK? Do you have other pictures of the poets that you want to use?

P.S. Working on a mockup and will send to you today or tomorrow!

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 17,
3:16 PM

to Hannah, me, Jesse, Joan

Thanks, Hannah!

The reason that a few of the poets don't have photos is because they recorded their readings (and didn't read on the alley).

More soon,

Maw & Megan

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Thu, Feb 17,
3:30 PM

to Hannah, Jesse, Joan, keralaforawhile@gmail.com

Hi Hannah,

I can send you the extended project description, mural descriptions, the text of the curatorial statement(s), and the bios in a word doc. I'll get that to you by tomorrow.

Thanks!
Megan

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Thu, Feb 17,
3:48 PM

to me, Jesse, Joan, keralaforawhile@gmail.com

Thanks, Megan, that would be great!

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Feb 17, 2022,
5:38 PM

to Hannah, me, Jesse, Joan

Thanks, Megan.

Hannah, we were wondering if you might have the notes from our last meeting. If not, no worries.

Thanks to you all!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Thu, Feb 17,
6:01 PM

to Hannah, Maw

Hi Hannah,

Attached is the text you requested, except for the poets' bios - Maw has the updated bios.

Please, let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 17,
7:46 PM

to me, Hannah

Hello Hannah,

I'm waiting on two bios from poets tonight.

I'll be sure to send all the bios tomorrow.

Attached is the revised curatorial and production bios.

Many thanks,

Maw

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Feb 18, 2022,
8:26 AM

to me, Hannah

Good morning Hannah,

Attached are the bios of the poets.

Enjoy your weekend!

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Feb 18, 2022,
10:00 AM

to me, Hannah

Hello again, Hannah,

Can you please use this revised bios instead? A poet just sent me her bio ;-)

When will you need the list of poetry books that are at SFPL? I'm going to work on that today.

Much gratitude,

Maw & Megan

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Feb 18, 2022,
10:37 AM

to me, Maw, Joan, Jesse

Dear Maw and Megan,

First, thank you both so much for your speedy response with the Word docs! These will be useful.

Second, I'm attaching two mockups, one of the wall case, and one of two side-by-side atrium "windows." The "window" mockup is representative of each of the 3 murals that will go in the windows. Some explanation below... (bear with me on length!)

The colors and fonts and exact layout of the panels are all “placeholder”. I just want to give a sense of what content will go where. On the wall case mockup it’s not even the right content – it’s just for placement.

Now that I’ve looked at all the material and reviewed what resources are available to our department, I think it will be best for there to be one big banner in each window: (1) above each case with the poem broadsides, a blowup of the coordinating mural, and (2) in the alternating windows, a single banner with all the poet images and bios on it, including the QR code to the video of the readings. Then between each pair of windows, a foamcore panel on the column with (1) the info from the mural broadside and (2) the artist/organizer images and bios.

This will cover a lot of the material in the exhibit, and just leaves:

- Image of the alley
- Introduction/project description
- Curatorial statement (“Home/Casa” and Maw’s poem)
- Producer bios

And these will all go on banners I’ll design for that “front” area between the wall case and the rest of the windows.

I also have a question about the “reading” photos. Do you have closeups of the poets (et al.) reading? For example, in the image of Celeste, it looks like the videographer is getting a nice close-up shot of her face as she reads (see attached for what I mean). Do you have an image like that for each of the readers? Having wide shots of people in front the same mural over and over again, I fear, will be repetitive especially because we’re going to have a nice beautiful blowup of the mural itself right next to it. And having an image of each person’s face/upper body will be much more personal and impactful, I think (plus you’ll really be able to tell who it is in the photo!).

Note/question for the wall case:

I used the “Justice for Luis” image in this mockup because I think that you mentioned you pictured it there. BUT, how about using the ALM mural here instead? I think a vertical image would be best here (so it can be nice and big) and horizontal images best in the windows. I don’t think it makes a difference to the viewer’s experience of the exhibit whether the murals are in “chronological order” or not.

So, outstanding questions for Maw and Megan:

- **Do you have close-up images of the readers?**
- **Is using the ALM mural in the wall case OK?**
- **Were there other notes that you were looking for from our meeting, or is this what you meant?**

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 18,
10:46 AM

to Hannah, me, Joan, Jesse

Hello Hannah,

Thanks so much for all this super helpful info! I think these notes should be enough (unless Megan has questions).

Quick question: Would this example photo be enough of a close up?

We can look through our photos and see if we have photos that are closer up.

I’m going to let Megan answer the question about ALM.

More soon,

Maw

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Feb 18, 2022,
2:12 PM

to Maw, Hannah, Joan, Jesse

Hi Hannah (and Maw),
I actually just got home from having lunch at Kim Shuck's.

Here are my responses to the questions:

- Do you have close-up images of the readers?

We don't really have close-up images of the poets reading, since we were trying to capture the overall experience of being on the alley. However, I think the cropped images that you've used in the mockups do work. So I can crop the images - and find closer images to crop of the ones further away.

- Is using the ALM mural in the wall case OK?

Yes - I agree, the ALM mural would be better in the case

I will work on this now and get them to you.

More soon, Megan

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Fri, Feb 18,
3:09 PM

to me, Maw, Joan, Jesse

Thanks for your responses!

For the close ups, no need to do the crops of the existing photos yourselves – I can create those using the original larger files I already have.

If you do discover nice close-ups in your files, I'm happy to have them, but no need to do more work of making the crops.

One thing that would be great is screenshots of the “missing” poets doing their readings, or perhaps even headshots or something of them – I'd like to have an image plus text for each of the readers.

Thanks again,

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Fri, Feb 18,
4:22 PM

to Hannah, Maw, Joan, Jesse

Hi Hannah,
This is the link for closeups of everyone, including screenshots of the poets who couldn't read onsite.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S53-_rxzNv5EPN2Knl49f327UuJVQAuv?usp=sharing

Please let me know If you need anything else.

Thanks so much!
Megan

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Feb 23, 2022,
2:11 PM

to me, Maw, Joan, Jesse

Thanks for sharing with my gmail account! I was able to download these and they look great. This is just what I was looking for.

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Mon, Feb 21,
10:51 AM

to Hannah, Jesse, Maw, Joan

Good morning team!
Joan, great to see you on Saturday!

We're wondering if you have a graphic yet that you are using for our exhibition - we want to stay consistent with the messaging for the exhibition.

Thanks! Megan & Maw

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Tue, Feb 22,
9:27 AM

to me, Jesse, Maw, Joan

Dear Megan –

Perfect timing on this question! I just wrapped up designing this black-and-white half-page flyer for the exhibit (attached).

Could you review and let me know if you approve? Once the flyer is finalized, I'll send it to our print shop for distribution within the library. If you have specific uses in mind (e.g. Facebook event cover image or something) I can also adapt the fonts/design to those and provide to you!

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 22,
1:43 PM

to Hannah, me, Jesse, Joan

Hello Hannah,

Thanks so much for sending and hope you all enjoyed your weekend.

Megan and I are going to chat about this tonight, and she'll email you tomorrow.

Thanks again!

Maw + Megan

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Feb 22, 2022,
6:45 PM

to Hannah, me, Jesse, Joan

Hello Hannah, Jesse, and Joan,

Attached is a list of all the books at SFPL by Wall + Response participants.

More soon...

Thanks,

Maw

Dutton-Kenny, Jesse (LIB) <jesse.dutton-kenny@sfpl.org>

Wed, Feb 23,
8:41 AM

to Maw, Hannah, me, Joan

Awesome, thank you Maw!

I got in touch with the Art, Music & Recreation department about the corresponding book display(s) and they're looking into it, based on staff availability.

So I will forward this list to them as well as the 3rd floor teams who have a lot of poetry books!

Good morning Hannah,

Apologies for the delay - I was at an action yesterday for the Race & Equity in Planning Coalition (<https://www.repsf.org/>) - if you heard horns honking around City Hall at 1pm - that was us :)
Art Hazelwood and I designed the poster (below).

Thank you so much for sending the flyer. We have a few edits:

1. Please use Arial Bold for Wall + Response - to keep with the design of the portfolio.
2. Please add Mural Project to Clarion Alley;

16 Bay Area poets respond to the social/political/racial justice narratives of four murals in San Francisco's Clarion Alley Mural Project

3. Please alphabetize the poets' names under each program. I know you divided it by the series, but since we're not listing each series, it looks like a mistake.

Otherwise, it looks great!

Thank you!
Megan & Maw

Dutton-Kenny, Jesse (LIB) <jesse.dutton-kenny@sfpl.org>

Wed, Feb 23,
11:11 AM

to Maw, Hannah, me, Joan

Small update re: books.

The vast majority of these titles (all but one I think) are on our 3rd floor and the exhibit will be on 4th floor. They're not able to move the books up there for a display (location codes complexity). So it sounds like what the staff would like to do here is make a bibliocommons list for the website featuring these titles as well as a flyer of the titles at SFPL that we could have on both the 3rd and 4th floors so folks can check out those books.

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Feb 23, 2022,
11:20 AM

to Jesse, Hannah, me, Joan

Thanks so much for letting us know, Jesse.

Warmly,

Maw

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Wed, Feb 23,
2:54 PM

to me, Jesse, Maw, Joan

Thanks, all your notes make sense! Adobe is giving me some trouble this afternoon but once I get it sorted out, I'll send you a new version for review.

I'd like to list the third event (July 9) on the back of the flyer as well. I believe the poets have not been finalized for that one, correct? I was thinking of just putting "Lineup to be announced", but let me know if you have preferred language (or if you do in fact have a finalized list of poets).

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Wed, Feb 23,
3:39 PM

to Hannah, Jesse, Maw, Joan

Thanks Hannah!

The third event will be with the artists and organizations. However, who will be participating has not been confirmed yet. So maybe just note that it will be a conversation with the participating artists and organizations.

Thanks!

Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>

Thu, Feb 24,
5:26 PM

to me, Jesse, Maw, Joan

Thanks, Megan, that language sounds good.
Here is an updated version of the flyer. Let me know what you think!

Maw Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 24,
7:48 PM

to Hannah, me, Jesse, Joan

The flyer looks great to me, Hannah.

Thanks!

Maw

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Feb 25, 2022,
8:51 AM

to Hannah

Good morning Hannah,
This looks great! Thank you!

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Mon, Feb
28, 9:26 AM

to Maw, Maw, me

So we will have your opening event here on March 13. Sorry but no food here! Due to Covid we cannot have food. Sorry. I offered to pay your poets \$50 each. I need them to fill out W-9 forms, see attached. Also they need to send me an invoice:

Date: Today's date (or whenever)
For: Wall + Response poetry reading
Fee: \$50
Social Security number
Mailing address

It will take a few weeks for them to get the check as things are moving slow here but they will eventually get paid. I promise!

Joan Jasper
Curator
San Francisco Public Library
415/557-4595

Maw Shein Win <keralaforawhile@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb
28, 9:29 AM

to Joan, Maw, me

Thanks so much, Joan!

I'll forward the W-9s to the poets.

Warmly,

Maw

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Feb 28, 2022,
10:03 AM

to Maw, Joan, Maw

Hi Joan,

Thank you for sending this info. We completely understand about the food.

We have w-9 forms for most of the poets that we can send you, but we'll check to see if there are any that need to be updated.

Looking forward!
Megan

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Feb 28, 2022,
10:17 AM

to me, Maw, Maw

Great and I will need invoices, too.
Thanks and sorry for the trouble!

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Feb 28, 2022,
10:18 AM

to Joan, Maw, Maw

Okay, that's right. I will have them send you their w-9s - so it all stays together.

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Thu, Mar 3,
2:25 PM

to Joan, Hannah, Jesse, Maw

Hi Joan, Hannah, and Jessie,

I received a disturbing call from Kate Patterson this morning about censoring our Wall + Response exhibition that we have been working on with all of you for months now, and is scheduled to open in less than two weeks.

Maw and I would really like to have a conversation with you. Please let us know if this is possible tomorrow.

In community,

Megan + Maw

Patterson, Kate (LIB) <kate.patterson@sfpl.org>

Thu, Mar 3,
6:12 PM

to Michael, Michelle, Maureen, me, keralaforawhile@gmail.com, Hannah, Joan, Jesse

Hi Megan and Maw,

Hannah forwarded me your email. In my capacity as Director of Communications for the Library, I also oversee the exhibitions department.

When we reviewed your proposal, see attached, we were not able to discern certain details in the *Arab Liberation* mural composition, specifically the “Zionism is Racism” that appears in one of the picket signs in the composition. After receiving the actual work and noting the “Zionism is Racism,” we took a closer look and concluded that the content of the mural had the potential to incite a public controversy.

As you rightly pointed out during our phone call, we do have your poster, *We Have the Will to Live*, currently on view in the *Monsters & Heroes* exhibition on our 6th floor. And while it also highlights the work of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, the subject matter does not directly target another community in the artwork. The Library has been caught in the middle of the Palestine/Israel debate and we have learned from experience that it is incredibly painful for all parties. As I mentioned on the phone, our staff has had a very rough couple of years. In many ways, we are still putting the pieces back together, and being in the center of a heated public debate, is not something we want to take on, especially not now.

Furthermore, as I stated on the phone, per our [exhibition guidelines](#), the “Library retains the right to determine the suitability of any proposed exhibition to be included in the Library's exhibition program... The Library reserves the right to reject any part of an exhibition or to change the manner of display.”

I am very sorry, this matter didn't come to our attention sooner, so that we could have addressed this issue before we got so far in the process. We are making adjustments to our review process so that this never happens again. As a compromise, we could proceed with your suggestion to remove the “Zionism is Racism” phrase from the detail image in photoshop and display just the 16 poems. We are also happy to proceed with the planned poetry programs. You would be welcome to project images of all of the murals onto the screen during the program. And finally, we would let the public know that the entire folio is available for public viewing in the Special Collections & History Center.

We value the contributions you have made to the City through your work in Clarion Alley. I hope you can also appreciate that in this instance the Public Library does not want to be in a position where we could potential cause pain to any community, which is why we've had to make this difficult decision.

My sincerest hope is that you will consider proceeding with the proposal above so that the public has the opportunity to learn more about this project.

Sincerely,

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Mon, Mar 7,
10:35 AM

to me

Megan,

I'm reaching out to see if you've given Kate's proposal some thought and if you'd like to move forward with the exhibit and program on Sunday?

Please let me know about the program as soon as you can as I need to let my AV and custodial crew know so they can staff it on Sunday. *This is not a problem we just need to know.*

Please know we would very much like to host you and this project.

Thanks,

jj

Joan Jasper
Curator
San Francisco Public Library
415/557-4595

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Mon, Mar
7, 3:20 PM

to Joan

Hi Joan,
Thank you so much for checking in, today is Maw's first day back at work and I am also working on a grant deadline. We will be in touch tomorrow.

with respect and gratitude,
Megan + Maw

Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>

Mon, Mar
7, 3:23 PM

to me

Great just let me know about the program as soon as you can as I need to get AV and custodial involved.
Thanks!!!!!!

From: Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 3:19 PM

To: Lambert, Michael (LIB) <michael.lambert@sfpl.org>; Singleton, Maureen (LIB) <Maureen.Singleton@sfpl.org>; Reimuller, Katrin (LIB) <Katrin.Reimuller@sfpl.org>; Jeffers, Michelle (LIB) <michelle.jeffers@sfpl.org>; Patterson, Kate (LIB) <kate.patterson@sfpl.org>; Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>; Gribetz, Hannah (LIB)

<hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>; Dutton-Kenny, Jesse (LIB) <jesse.dutton-kenny@sfpl.org>

Subject: Wall + Response Exhibition at the San Francisco Public Library

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

March 8, 2022

To: Michael Lambert, City Librarian; Maureen Singleton, Chief Operating Officer; Katrin Reimuller, Acting Chief of Main Library; Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships; Kate Patterson, Director of Communications; Joan Jasper, Exhibitions Curator; Hannah Gribetz, Exhibition Designer; and Jesse Dutton-Kenny, Senior Museum Preparator

Dear San Francisco Public Library Staff Members,

We are writing to express our serious concerns about the decision of the San Francisco Public Library to avoid the growing world recognition of Israel's oppression of Palestinians by censoring the *Arab Liberation Mural* from the exhibition *Wall + Response*, a two-year project featuring 16 poets responding to the social, political, and racial justice narratives of four murals on Clarion Alley. The *Wall + Response* curators have been working with the library on the exhibition since early November, which has been a very positive experience. Therefore, we were taken by surprise to receive this news one week before the exhibition opens on March 12, 2022, followed by a public poetry reading event on March 13.

While the library has offered to move forward with the exhibition by omitting all images of the *Arab Liberation Mural*, and to proceed with the planned poetry programs, the entire Clarion Alley community is offended by the library's thinking that omitting images of Arab Liberation Mural would be acceptable to us. This is especially disturbing given that SFPL has exhibited the prominent poster campaign, "all are welcome," yet are actively excluding parts of the San Francisco community.

Furthermore, The American Library Association advises that exhibit spaces should conform to the Library Bill of Rights:

In developing library exhibits, staff members should endeavor to present a broad spectrum of opinion and a variety of viewpoints. Libraries should not shrink from developing exhibits because of controversial content or because of the beliefs or affiliation of those whose work is represented. Just as libraries do not endorse the viewpoints of those whose work is represented in their collections, libraries also do not endorse the beliefs or viewpoints of topics that may be the subject of library exhibits.

In addition:

The library should not censor or remove an exhibit because some members of the community may disagree with its content. Those who object to the content of any exhibit held at the library should be able to submit their complaint and/or their own exhibit proposal to be judged according to the policies established by the library. Libraries may wish to post a permanent notice near the exhibit area stating that the library does not advocate or endorse the viewpoints of exhibits or exhibitors.

The San Francisco Public Library is also one of 129 public libraries across the country to have signed the Urban Libraries Council's statement on race and social equity. This statement serves as a baseline upon which libraries can build policies and actions that make their communities more inclusive and just. The statement reads as follows:

As leaders of North America's public libraries, we are committed to achieving racial and social equity by contributing to a more just society in which all community members can realize their full potential. Our libraries can help achieve true and sustained equity through an intentional, systemic, and transformative library-community partnership. Our library systems are working to achieve equity in the communities we serve by:

- *Eliminating racial and social equity barriers in library programs, services, policies, and practices*
- *Creating and maintaining an environment of diversity, inclusion, and respect both in our library systems and in all aspects of our community role*
- *Ensuring that we are reaching and engaging disenfranchised people in the community and helping them express their voice*
- *Serving as a convener and facilitator of conversations and partnerships to address community challenges*
- *Being forthright on tough issues that are important to our communities. Libraries are trusted, venerable and enduring institutions, central to their communities and an essential participant in the movement for racial and social equity.*

In July 2019, San Francisco's Office of Racial Equity (ORE) ([Ordinance No 188-19](#)) was created by Supervisors Sandra Lee Fewer and Vallie Brown as a Division of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. In December 2019, Director Shakirah Simley and Senior Policy Advisor Sami Iwata joined the ORE team. ORE was legislated in response to the City's growing racial disparities to address the history of structural and institutional racism in San Francisco's delivery of services to the public and the City's internal practices and systems. Creating ORE was the result of successful advocacy and organizing by Black City workers, labor leaders, and community members. With the establishment of ORE, San Francisco joins a national movement to address the government's role in resolving the inequitable outcomes it created. [<https://www.racialequitysf.org/about>]

As defined by the Office of Racial Equity:

Racial equity is a set of social justice practices, rooted in a solid understanding and analysis of historical and present-day oppression, aiming towards a goal of fairness for all. As an outcome, achieving racial equity would mean living in a world where race is no longer a factor in the distribution of opportunity. As a process, we apply racial equity when those most impacted by the structural racial inequities are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of the institutional policies and practices that impact their lives.

The *Arab Liberation Mural* was created by a diverse team that included Arab youth, Jewish allies, and Latinx artists to express the resilience and resistance of the Bay Area community to attacks on freedom and liberties of Arabs, Muslims, people of color, immigrants, and refugees.

As a multi-ethnic, racial, cultural, and intergenerational community of artists, poets, and community-based organizations, it is deeply disturbing to us that the San Francisco Public Library has singled-out Palestinians, a community historically and disproportionately marginalized and disenfranchised, to be unworthy of having a voice or to be included and respected as part of the exhibition.

Also disturbing was the response by Kate Patterson, Director of Communications with the San Francisco Public Library, "I am very sorry, this matter didn't come to our attention sooner, so that we could have addressed this issue before we got so far in the process. We are making adjustments to our review process so that this never happens again." What should the interpretation of this statement be? That it's important to ensure the voices and experiences of Palestinians are not heard, or if they are, they must be filtered through an institutional process that does not allow agency for those most impacted by structural racial inequities? What are the Library policies put in place that would allow for such a discriminatory action to be taken? Is the Library Commission aware of this decision?

This begs the question: Does the San Francisco Public Library understand what racial equity means in the context defined by San Francisco's Office of Racial Equity? And especially for people historically oppressed by a dominant culture defined politically, socially, and economically by institutionalized state mandates based on racial segregation.

While there are some people who might not agree with the Palestinian position, it should be noted the human rights organizations Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Yesh Din, and B'Tselem, as well as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia have all determined Israel to be an apartheid state. And just as it was once unpopular to support the struggle against the racist practice of apartheid in South Africa, the movement to do so led to the end of the policy in 1994 after 48 years.

When you go to the Holy Land and see what's being done to the Palestinians at checkpoints, for us, it's the kind of thing we experienced in South Africa. Whether you want to say Israel practices apartheid is immaterial. They are doing things, given their history, you think "Do you remember what happened to you?" Then they clobber you and say, "You are anti-Semitic."

-- Desmond Tutu

Additionally, we do not agree with the rationale of not showing the mural because of the harm it would do to the community. While art may challenge dominant narratives, causing difficult and uncomfortable conversations, the harm to community comes from ignoring or denying the experiences of others.

The human rights and social justice messages represented by the *Arab Liberation Mural* should be given as much visibility and voice as the others represented in *Wall + Response*, as well as those represented in the current exhibition *Heroes & Monsters* by CAMP's community partner The San Francisco Poster Syndicate.

We ask you to reconsider the decision to censor the *Wall + Response* exhibition, which has grave implications for communities throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. We ask that the San Francisco Public Library immediately reinstate the exhibition in its entirety. The exhibition is scheduled to open this weekend. Therefore, we ask that you please respond by tomorrow (Wednesday, March 9, 2022) by 12 noon so that we may inform our greater communities of this situation. We hope we can resolve this matter in the spirit of community.

Sincerely,

Megan Wilson, Artist, CAMP Co-Director and Board member, Curator, *Wall + Response*

Maw Shein Win, Poet, Curator, *Wall + Response*

Christopher Statton, CAMP Co-Director and Board member

Marina Perez-Wong, CAMP Co-Director and Board member, Artist, *Wall + Response*

Elaine Chu, CAMP Co-Director and Board member, Artist, *Wall + Response*

Shaghayegh Cyrus, CAMP Board member

Kyoko Sato, CAMP Board member

Ivy McClelland, CAMP Board member

Sean Levon Nash, CAMP Board member

Keyvan Shovir, CAMP Board member

Youssef Alaoui, Poet

Jason Bayani, Poet

Heather Bourbeau, Poet

Karla Brundage, Poet

Aileen Cassinotto, Poet

Celeste Chan, Poet

MK Chavez, Poet

Emory Douglas, Artist

Tongo Eisen-Martin, Poet

Chris Gazaleh, Artist

Susan Greene, Artist
Jennifer Hasegawa, Poet
Art Hazelwood, Artist
Genny Lim, Poet
Tureeda Mikell, Poet
David Petrelli, Artist
Paul Corman Roberts, Poet
Kim Shuck, Poet
Chris Stroffolino, Poet
Michael Warr, Poet
Tim Xonnolly, Poet
Lara Kiswani & Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)
Justice4Luis.org
Paul Boden & The Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP)

From: **Patterson, Kate (LIB)** <kate.patterson@sfpl.org>

Date: Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:20 AM

Subject: RE: Wall + Response Exhibition at the San Francisco Public Library

To: Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>, Lambert, Michael (LIB) <michael.lambert@sfpl.org>, Singleton, Maureen (LIB) <Maureen.Singleton@sfpl.org>, Reimuller, Katrin (LIB) <Katrin.Reimuller@sfpl.org>, Jeffers, Michelle (LIB) <michelle.jeffers@sfpl.org>, Jasper, Joan (LIB) <Joan.Jasper@sfpl.org>, Gribetz, Hannah (LIB) <hannah.gribetz@sfpl.org>, Dutton-Kenny, Jesse (LIB) <jesse.dutton-kenny@sfpl.org>, Goldstein, Susan (LIB) <Susan.Goldstein@sfpl.org>

Dear Megan,

Thank you for your thoughtful and comprehensive response regarding the *Wall + Response* exhibit.

After conferring with the City Librarian, we are going to move forward with your recommendation to photoshop out the phrase "Zionism is Racism" from the *Arab Liberation Mural*. We feel that this action is in the best interest of not furthering expressions of antisemitism in the community.

We will proceed to install the artwork from the folio in the Main Library so that it is on view in time for the upcoming poetry program on March 13. In the coming week, we will add elements to the exhibit that include bios of the artists and background information about Clarion Alley to more fully flesh out the exhibit.

As previously stated, you are very welcome to project the unedited image of the mural during Sunday's program, and we will make the original portfolio available for public viewing in the Special Collections & History Center.

We appreciate you working with us to come to this solution. Again, we value the contributions you have made to the City through your work in Clarion Alley, and we look forward to sharing this work with the community.

Sincerely,

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Wed, Mar
9, 2:43 PM

to Kate, Michael, Maureen, Katrin, Michelle, Joan, Hannah, Jesse, Susan, Maw, bcc: Christopher, bcc: Marina, bcc: Elaine, bcc: Shaghayegh, bcc: Ivy, bcc: Sean, bcc: Keyvan, bcc: Kyoko, bcc: Youssef, bcc: Jason, bcc: hb@heatherbourbeau.com, bcc: Karla, bcc: Aileen, bcc: Celeste,

bcc: MK, bcc: Emory, bcc: tongo.blackfire@gmail.com, bcc: Chris, bcc: Susan, bcc: jennifer, bcc: Art, bcc: Genny, bcc: Tureeda, bcc: david, bcc: Paul, bcc: Kim, bcc: chris.stroffolino@gmail.com, bcc: Michael, bcc: Tim, bcc: Lara, bcc: Sharif, bcc: Adriana, bcc: Paul

Hi Kate,

Thank you for responding to our letter. First, I would like to clarify and apologize for any confusion I caused you. When I stated we should photoshop out the 'Zionism is Racism' from the image of the mural, I was being sarcastic in response to how deeply offensive, Islamophobic and in violation of our freedom of speech that I found your remarks to be.

To reiterate our position and request, we ask that the San Francisco Public Library reinstate the *Wall + Response* exhibition in its entirety to maintain the integrity of the community voices and the process that went into the work.

Please let us know by 6pm this evening so that we may inform our greater communities of this situation. We still hope we can resolve this matter in the spirit of community and a commitment to race and equity.

Sincerely,

Megan, on behalf of CAMP and all members of the *Wall + Response* team of artists, poets, and organizations

Patterson, Kate (LIB) <kate.patterson@sfpl.org>

Mar 9,
2022, 4:36
PM

to Michael, Maureen, Katrin, Michelle, Joan, Hannah, Jesse, Susan, Maw, me

Dear Megan,

I believed, from our earlier conversation, that you were completely sincere in your offer to photoshop the offensive language from the image. Since you have clarified that you are not open to that approach we would like to recommend that we postpone the exhibit and this weekend's public programs until we can have an opportunity to discuss this matter further and find a resolution.

The Library strives to provide a safe and welcoming space for our entire community. Presenting expressions, such as "Zionism is Racism," which are widely seen as anti-Semitic, is counter to that mission and would set a precedent that would justify the presentation of other racist and Islamophobic viewpoints. While we are open to and do present a panoply of viewpoints on a wide range of topics, we draw the line at speech that negatively targets any specific race/ethnic community.

In revisiting your original proposal and in considering your letter yesterday, it is important to highlight that in submitting your exhibitions proposal, you were encouraged to review the Library's Exhibition Policy and Guidelines. In keeping with the Library's Exhibitions Guidelines, please be advised the Library has final authority over the review, selection and arrangement of all exhibitions at the San Francisco Public Library. The Library retains

the right to determine the suitability of any proposed exhibition to be included in the Library's exhibition program. The Library reserves the right to reject any part of an exhibition or to change the manner of display.

We have made a good faith effort to find a compromise, which includes providing a platform to show the work and the accompanying poetry. If you wish to continue this conversation, we are very open to doing so, and again, we sincerely wish that we can find a pathway forward.

Sincerely,

Megan Wilson <megan@meganwilson.com>

Thu, Mar 10,
10:52 AM

to Kate, Michael, Maureen, Katrin, Michelle, Susan, Joan, Hannah, Jesse, Maw, bcc: Christopher, bcc: Marina, bcc: Elaine, bcc: Chris, bcc: Shaghayegh, bcc: Kyoko, bcc: Ivy, bcc: Sean, bcc: Keyvan, bcc: Lian, bcc: Youssef, bcc: Jason, bcc: hb@heatherbourbeau.com, bcc: Karla, bcc: Aileen, bcc: Celeste, bcc: MK, bcc: Emory, bcc: tongo.blackfire@gmail.com, bcc: Susan, bcc: jennifer, bcc: Art, bcc: Genny, bcc: Tureeda, bcc: david, bcc: Paul, bcc: chris.stroffolino@gmail.com, bcc: Michael, bcc: Tim, bcc: Lara, bcc: Adriana, bcc: Paul, bcc: Kim

March 10, 2022

To: Michael Lambert, City Librarian; Maureen Singleton, Chief Operating Officer; Katrin Reimuller, Acting Chief of Main Library; Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships; Kate Patterson, Director of Communications; Joan Jasper, Exhibitions Curator; Hannah Gribetz, Exhibition Designer; and Jesse Dutton-Kenny, Senior Museum Preparator; Susan Goldstein, City Archivist

Dear San Francisco Public Library Staff Members,

As a multi-racial and intergenerational community of artists, poets, and community-based organizations, we are insulted by the San Francisco's Public Library's response to [our previous letter](#) which addressed how the library has singled-out and censored the experiences of Palestinians, a community historically and disproportionately marginalized and disenfranchised; other Arabs, and allies to be unworthy of having a voice or to be included and respected as part of the [Wall + Response](#) exhibition.

You note in your response:

The Library strives to provide a safe and welcoming space for our entire community. Presenting expressions, such as "Zionism is Racism," which are widely seen as anti-Semitic, is counter to that mission and would set a precedent that would justify the presentation of other racist and Islamophobic viewpoints. While we are open to and do present a panoply of viewpoints on a wide range of topics, we draw the line at speech that negatively targets any specific race/ethnic community.

By conflating Zionism with Judaism, it is clear the San Francisco's Public Library is caving to right-wing and Islamophobic rhetoric. Zionism is a political ideology, which is being used to defend an apartheid state. It is not a race and/or an ethnic community, and to understand it as such, is disrespectful to Jewish and all communities who are critical of and do not support the apartheid State of Israel. To conflate Zionism and Judaism is like coalescing white supremacy with Christianity; they are not the same.

In our previous letter, we included the following quote by the late anti-apartheid and human rights activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu who speaks specifically to this damaging threat, as have many others, including Marc Lamont Hill, Angela Davis, and Cornel West:

When you go to the Holy Land and see what's being done to the Palestinians at checkpoints, for us, it's the kind of thing we experienced in South Africa. Whether you want to say Israel practices apartheid is immaterial. They are doing things, given their history, you think "Do you remember what happened to you?" Then they clobber you and say, "You are anti-Semitic."

While art may challenge dominant narratives, causing difficult and uncomfortable conversations, the harm to community comes from structural racism including institutions ignoring or denying the experiences of others. That is not only harmful, but it is also dangerous; especially at this point in history when there are large factions of the United States banning works that speak to the importance and value of critical thinking and the lived experiences of communities which have and continue to experience racism and oppression by a dominant culture. As noted by Ralph Ellison in his essay "Hidden Name and Complex Fate, A Writer's Experience in the United States":

It is our fate as human beings always to give up some good things for other good things, to throw off certain bad circumstances only to create others. Thus, there is a value for the writer in trying to give as thorough a report of social reality as possible. Only by doing so may we grasp and convey the cost of change. Only by considering the broadest accumulation of data may we make choices that are based upon our own hard-earned sense of reality. Speaking from my own special area of American culture, I feel that to embrace uncritically values which are extended to us by others is to reject the validity, even the sacredness, of our own experience. It is also to forget that the small share of reality which each of our diverse groups is able to snatch from the whirling chaos of history belongs not to the group alone, but to all of us. It is a property and a witness which can be ignored only to the danger of the entire nation.

To keep our integrity, the integrity of the work, and to honor a community that values and respects truth and critical thinking, the only resolution for us is to move forward with the exhibition as is and to inform our communities about this shameful decision by the San Francisco Public Library.

Sincerely,

Megan Wilson, Artist, CAMP Co-Director and Board member, Curator, *Wall + Response*

Maw Shein Win, Poet, Curator, *Wall + Response*

Christopher Statton, CAMP Co-Director and Board member

Marina Perez-Wong, CAMP Co-Director and Board member, Artist, *Wall + Response*

Elaine Chu, CAMP Co-Director and Board member, Artist, *Wall + Response*

Chris Gazaleh, CAMP Board member, Artist *Wall + Response*

Shaghayegh Cyrus, CAMP Board member

Kyoko Sato, CAMP Board member

Ivy McClelland, CAMP Board member

Sean Levon Nash, CAMP Board member

Keyvan Shovir, CAMP Board member

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Michael Warr, Poet
Tim Xonnely, Poet
Lara Kiswani & Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)
Justice4Luis.org
Paul Boden & The Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP)

Patterson, Kate (LIB) <kate.patterson@sfpl.org>

Mar 10,
2022, 12:28
PM

to Michael, Maureen, Katrin, Michelle, Susan, Joan, Hannah, Jesse, me, Maw

Dear Megan,

Thank you for your email. We are writing to acknowledge receipt. As communicated yesterday, we will proceed with postponing the exhibit and public programs.

Patterson, Kate (LIB)

Thu, Jun 9, 12:14
PM (4 days ago)

to Megan@MeganWilson.com

Thank you so much for taking the time to write to us with your concerns. San Francisco Public Library prepares and sponsors exhibitions to feature its service goals, collections, activities and programs. Exhibitions have two basic, interrelated goals: to provide increased access to the collections through the display of Library holdings, and to provide an avenue for public education through the presentation of thematic exhibitions.

The decision to ask Clarion Alley Mural Project to consider an alternative presentation of one of their pieces without the statement "Zionism is Racism" was not predicated on favoring one group's viewpoint over another's as the Library does not advocate or necessarily endorse the viewpoints of exhibitions or exhibitors. The Library strives to provide a safe and welcoming space for our entire community. Presenting expressions, such as "Zionism is Racism," which are widely viewed as antisemitic are counter to that mission and would set a precedent that would justify the exhibition of other viewpoints harming minority communities and identities based on race, gender, national origin, sexuality, or religion. The Library presents a panoply of viewpoints on a wide range of topics, but we draw the line at a public display of speech that negatively targets any specific race, ethnic or religious community.

The Library has and will continue to include Palestinian voices and organizations in its programs. As recent as this winter, the Main Library showcased a poster by the Arab Resource Organizing Center as part of its *Monsters & Heroes* exhibition. The Library also recently presented two exhibitions, *Home Away From Home: Little Palestine by the Bay* and *Born among Mirrors*, both of which shared stories and perspectives from the Palestinian community.

The Special Collections and History Center retains a copy of the *Wall + Response* folio, which is available for public viewing.

Sincerely,