



## Welcome to 'Making It Public'!

PRESENTED BY



The **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**, in partnership with **Forecast Public Art**, is pleased to invite artists in New Jersey to participate in '**Making It Public**' - a free, 5-week virtual workshop series offered every Thursday in March 2023.

**Artists** interested in exploring and expanding their public art making practice, are invited to our **90-minute workshop** covering practical and tactical subject matter featuring local and national arts industry guest panelists.

### **March 2 (6-7:30pm ET) Welcome and Introduction**

### **March 9 (6-7:30pm ET) Community Engagement**

Leon Rainbow

Raysa Raquel (Colectivo Morivivi)

### **March 16 (6-7:30pm ET) Funding Your Projects**

Yara Liceaga

Shoshanna Weinberger

### **March 23 (6-7:30pm ET) Managing Your Projects**

Marcela Michele

Layqa Nuna Yawar

### **March 30 (6-7:30pm ET) Conclusion**

**Making it Public: Artists**  
**March 9 (6-7:30pm ET) Community Engagement**



**Leon Rainbow** has been living and creating graffiti-influenced art in Trenton, NJ since 1999. He learned classic graffiti styles from Pose 2, Joe Base, and Sew Sm in the early 2000s. He mastered characters, backgrounds and pieces then started experimenting with colors, patterns, and elements and developed his own style of murals. He recently has been designing and painting large-scale ground murals like crosswalks, playgrounds, basketball courts, and intersections. Leon has been active in the local art scene for over 20 years collaborating with various artists and organizations. He is the lead promoter for New Jersey’s annual hip hop festival, Jersey Fresh Jam. He gives back to the community by teaching classes and workshops.



**Raysa Raquel** (She/Her) is one of the original 8 co-founders of Colectivo Moriviví. She is an interdisciplinary artist with formation in Drawing and Painting. Currently, she's also an educator and exhibition's assistant at the Museum of Art of San Juan in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. From an early age she showed interest in the visual arts, for which she had the opportunity to take her first courses at the School of Arts and Design of Puerto Rico and at the Art League of San Juan. From 2008 to 2009 she studied visual arts at the Carolina School of Fine Arts. After her preparation at the School of Fine Arts, in 2009 she entered Puerto Rico's Central High School of Visual Arts of Puerto Rico and graduated in 2013 with a Certification in Drawing and Painting. From 2017-2018, she was part of the Program of Independent Studies (PEI) by Puerto Rico's Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC). Finally, in 2019, Raysa earned her BFA in Painting from the School of Art and Design of Puerto Rico.



## Making it Public: Artists

### March 16 (6-7:30pm ET) Funding Your Projects



**Yara Liceaga Rojas**, M.A., is a Queer, Afro-Caribbean mother, writer/poet, performer, cultural manager, and educator, born in Puerto Rico, who currently resides in the Greater Boston area. Founder of Poetry Is Busy Studio, Yara is a Letras Boricuas Fellow (2021); Boston Neighborhood Fellow (2021-2023); and Brother Thomas Fellow (2019). She has been developing her consulting career in arts management and grant writing in Massachusetts and Puerto Rico, servicing artists, collectives, art businesses, and other entities. Yara has authored 5 books, and has been the lead artist/curator of the ongoing projects: Poetry Is Busy; El Despojo Project; Acentos espesos/Thick Accents, and most recently Encarnar/Embody. She holds a Master's Degree in Arts Administration from the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras.



Born in Kingston, Jamaica, **Shoshanna Weinberger** received her MFA from Yale School of Art, 2003 and BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1995. Living and working in Newark, NJ since 2006, Weinberger's studio practice is rooted in an exploration of her Caribbean-American lineage through abstraction. Exhibiting for over two decades, highlights include: National Gallery of Jamaica; The Bronx Museum; Wave Hill; and NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale. Recipient of a 2014 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant; 2015 Joan Mitchell Center Artist Residency; 2016 Fellowship from the NJ State Council of the Arts; 2018 Project for Empty Space Artist Residency; 2019 Dawn Scott Memorial Award, National Gallery of Jamaica; 2020 Newark Artist Accelerator Grant made possible by the Andy Warhol Foundation; 2021 City of Newark Creative Catalyst Fund Grant; and 2021 Newark Arts Four Corners Public Art Mural Commission. Recently awarded: 2022 Fellowship from the NJ State Council of the Arts; 2022 McColl Center Artist Residency; 2022 Public Art Commission, Newark Liberty Airport Terminal A; 2022 Nancy Graves Foundation for Visual Artists Grant; 2022 Newark Arts Renewal Grant; and 2022-2023 In Focus Fellowship, Jamaica Art Society. Permanent collections include: New Jersey State Museum; The Newark Museum of Art; The Sheldon Museum of Art; Girls Club Collection, Fort Lauderdale; The Margulies Collection, Miami; Davidson College, NC; AC Kingston Collection, Jamaica.

## Making it Public: Artists

### March 23 (6-7:30pm ET) Managing Your Projects



**Marcela Michelle** was born and raised in San Antonio, TX on Payaya land and now lives and works in Minneapolis, MN on Dakota land. She is the Artistic Director of 20% Theatre Company, and the Artistic Co-Director and Director of Programming for Lightning Rod, a trans-led arts organism focused on legacy, development, and opportunity for QTGNC Artists and Activists. As an artist she has also worked with Red Eye Theater, Pangea World Theater, Guthrie Theater's Dowling Studio, History Theatre, Mixed Blood Theater, Pillsbury House + Theatre, Mission Theatre Company, Pioneer Place Theater Company, Patrick's Cabaret, Umbrella Collective, Queertopia, and more. As an educator she has worked with Walker Art Center, University of Houston, U of M Twin Cities, Augsburg University, Macalester College, Uprising Theater, The Hennepin Theatre Trust, and more. Her performance work focuses primarily on simultaneity, im/mutability, and the platonic ideal host. She is a mentee of Pangea World Theater and Art2Action's National Institute for Directing and Ensemble Creation



**Layqa Nuna Yawar** (b. Cuenca, Ecuador 1984) is a public artist and multidisciplinary storyteller based in the unceded lands of the Lenni-Lenape: current day Newark, NJ. His work is best known for large scale community-based murals, intricate portrait paintings and multimedia projects that center the complex narratives of immigrant, black, indigenous and subaltern populations. His artwork aims to disrupt established semiotic systems and reimagine them in service of shared liberation and a better future. Layqa's name is an invention that honors and reclaims the Kichwa-Kañari side of his mixed descent. His praxis is driven by the act of reclaiming history as well as the inherent rupture and repair of the immigrant experience. His work exists at the intersection between migrant alienation and belonging, cross-cultural identity and decolonization, and between private and public space. His murals can be found in cities and communities around the world.