



# ROSES IN THE CONCRETE:

Together breaking through  
to End the Epidemic

Welcome to  
East Bay  
World AIDS Day 2021  
Commemoration!

December 3rd, 2021





# Welcome & Introductions

## Chat box check-in

→ Type in chat to introduce yourself with:

- **Your name**
- **Organization (if applicable)**
- **Which of our categories of honor are you most striving towards in your life?**

**Empathy & kindness:** This individual consistently shows up with compassion.

**Resourcefulness:** This individual relentlessly works to create opportunities for others.

**Self-Care as Community Care:** This individual models what it means to care for self while caring for others.

**Audacity & Innovation:** This individual is unafraid to step out of the box to create solutions.

**Joy personified:** This individual is our go-to optimist, it is a joy to be around them.

★ **This session is being recorded. It is also streaming live on Facebook.**

- Parts of the recording may be shared on our website and social media.

★ **Please stay on mute during the presentation.**

- Show your love in the chat box.





# Healing Practice

## ★ Led by: Ramon Jackson

Ramon Jackson is an Oakland-based artist, creator, advocate, consultant, community leader and healer.

Ramon is the co-chair of the Oakland Transitional Grant Area Planning Council and on the Advisory Board of East Bay Getting to Zero.





# A Moment of Silence

Today's event is dedicated to those who have come before us, those who have walked among us and those who are no longer with us.

We are creating a live digital art piece to memorialize people who were meaningful to us and have recently transitioned.

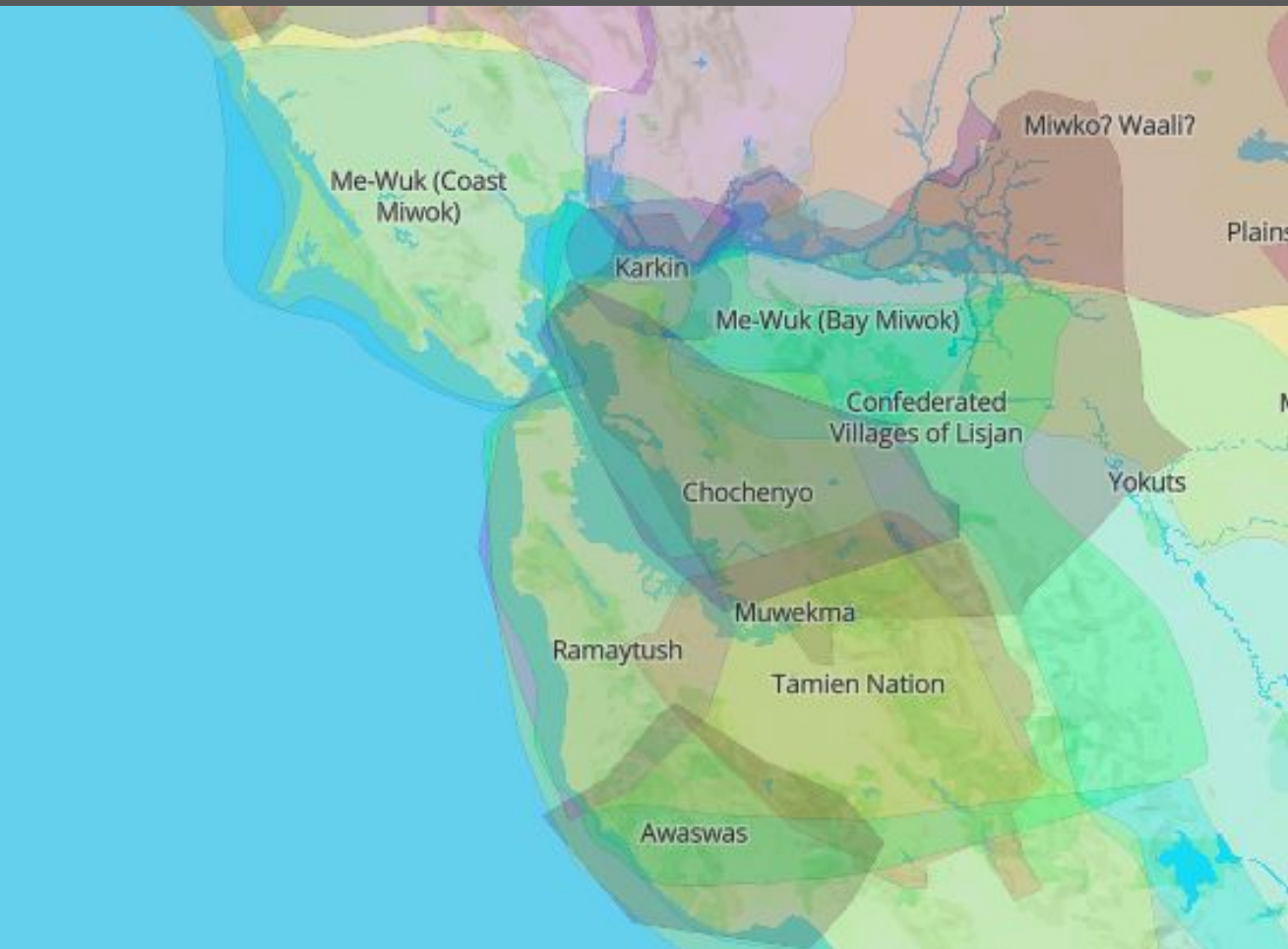
Please share names and photos (if available) via this form or by adding the name directly into the chat.

Bay Area artist Vero D. Orozco is creating this live visual art piece for us today.





# Honoring the Land



**East Bay Getting to Zero**  
works and operates on  
unceded ancestral land of the  
**Chochenyo speaking Lisjan**  
**Ohlone people.**

<https://native-land.ca/>





# Land acknowledgement and more...



## Taking action:

- **Land acknowledgment alone is not enough.** It's merely a starting point.
- Ask yourself: how do I plan to take action to support Indigenous communities? Some examples of ways to take action:
- Support Indigenous organizations by donating your time and/or money.
- Support Indigenous-led grassroots change movements and campaigns. Encourage others to do so.
- Commit to returning land. Local, state, and federal governments around the world are currently **returning land to Indigenous people**.
- If you'd like to learn more rematriation in the Bay Area, check out: **Sogorea Te' Land Trust**



Credit: Native Governance Center & Sogorea Te' Land Trust





# HIV Strategic Plan Updates

Dr. Sami Lubega & Dr. Sophy Wong






# Gifts for our awardees: Creations by Trans\_Plantings

## Le'Shrea Ebony

Le'Shrea Ebony is a trans, afro-latina, poz, horticulturalist behind the Instagram platform Trans\_plantings. She is mother to 2 teens, 2 dogs, 2 lizards and too many plants. She aims to connect people with plants that give back. In a cathartic, human, natural way, plants are scientifically proven to improve quality of life.

 @Trans\_Plantings









# Video presentation: Celebrating the Life of Loren Jones



**Loren Jones**  
**Sep 24th, 1952 - June 4th, 2021**

Video edited by: Duran Rutledge









# Award presentation: The Loren Jones Memorial Award



## Diana Dupree

Diana is a 60 year old Oakland native and she has 2 children and 7 grandchildren. Diana was diagnosed with HIV in 1996 and she has been working within the HIV community since 1999. Her goal has always been to speak for African American women who felt that they didn't have a voice. She has worked with several different agencies over the last 25 years. Currently, she serves as Chair of the Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) sub-committee of Oakland TGA. In addition, her role as Chair leads efforts to plan community outreach activities, understanding policies that impact this community and shares educational information for PLWHA and the greater community.



# Award presentation: The Loren Jones Memorial Award

“Diana has always said “I will be the voice and make a way for other women who are HIV positive who feel they don’t have a voice!” She has done that throughout the past decades. A past member of WORLD’s Board, WORLD’s Leadership Team member, a working member Family Care Network, a member of the Oakland TGA planning Council, and now Chair of People Living With HIV/AIDS sub-committee of the OTGA. Always speaking up the best she can unapologetically!”





# Keynote Address: George M. Johnson



## George M. Johnson (they/them)

George M. Johnson is an Award-Winning Black Non-Binary Writer, Author, and Activist located in the NYC area. George has written for major outlets including Teen Vogue, Entertainment Tonight, NBC, The Root, BuzzFeed, Essence, Ebony, THEM, and The Grio. They have also served as Guest Editor for BET.com's Pride month. In 2019, they were awarded the Salute to Excellence Award by the National Association of Black Journalists for their article "When Racism Anchors your Health" in Vice Magazine. Their debut Young Adult memoir, ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE, was published in 2020, followed by their next YA memoir, WE ARE NOT BROKEN. George is also a proud HBCU alum twice over, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated.



@iamgmjohnson



iamgmjohnson.com



# Award presentation: Empathy & Kindness



## Dr. Anthony Jones

Dr Jones is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Medicine and earned a Bachelor of Science at Stanford University, and has been a practicing physician in the bay area for over 2 decades. As a patient-centric Physician, Dr. Jones is dedicated to excellence in Primary Care and has a passion for HIV medicine. He has integrated these interests into a care model that is effective for all his patients.

Dr. Jones is currently the Medical Director for Primary Care at Home, an East Bay nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives and health of underserved community members, particularly those living and aging while HIV+.



# Award presentation: Empathy & Kindness

“There is no other like Dr. Jones. He has selflessly dedicated himself, his profession to taking care of his patients and the community.”

“For years Dr. Jones has provided compassionate and excellent care to folks living with HIV--Dr. Jones is universally loved and respected by both his patients and his colleagues. He is knowledgeable, open minded and committed to providing the best care possible to his patients.”






# Live poetry performance: Yosimar Reyes

## Yosimar Reyes

Yosimar is a nationally-acclaimed Poet and Public Speaker. Born in Guerrero, Mexico, and raised in Eastside San Jose, he explores the themes of migration and sexuality in his work. The Advocate named Yosimar one of "13 LGBT Latinos Changing the World" and Remezcla included him on their list of "10 Up And Coming Latinx Poets You Need To Know."

Yosimar's first collection of poetry, *For Colored Boys Who Speak Softly...* was self-published after a collaboration with Carlos Santana. His work has also been published in various online journals and books including *Mariposas*, *Queer in Aztlán*, and *Coming Out*. He was featured in the Documentary, "2nd Verse: The Rebirth of Poetry." He is a LAMBDA Literary Fellow as well as the recipient of the Undocupoets Fellowship.



 [yosimarreyes.com](https://yosimarreyes.com)

 [@yosirey](https://www.instagram.com/yosirey)





# Award presentation: Joy Personified



## Vanessa Flores

Vanessa is a medical assistant at the Lifelong Ashby Medical Clinic, where she has worked with the HIV care and prevention team for four years. During this time, she has learned a lot and continues to do so from colleagues and patients. When she is not zooming around the clinic, you can find her spending time with her family or out on the soccer field.



# Award presentation: Joy Personified

*“Vanessa is an MA at LifeLong....She always shows up with a cheerful disposition and is willing to help others in need. As an MA, she is often overlooked for what she does in this field, but we couldn't function without her.”*

*“Vanessa goes above and beyond for our patients living with HIV, despite not receiving any additional recognition for the tireless work she does. She is extremely organized, gets everyone what they need in the most efficient way possible, and keeps our team on track. Thank you for everything you do.”*



Presented by: Dr. Xaviera Ortiz



# Opera Performance: Breanna Sinclairé

## Breanna Sinclairé

*Breanna was brought up in Baltimore by parents who played various musical instruments. It was above all her grandmother who encouraged her to sing in the Baptist church choir and take an interest in opera. Breanna obtained a scholarship from the California Institute of the Arts and began her transition in her last year there. She went on to receive her master's degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 2014. After studying with Sheri Greenawald at the San Francisco Opera, she began performing repertoire as a lyric soprano. In June 2015, Sinclairé made history by becoming the first transgender woman to sing The Star-Spangled Banner at a professional sporting event when she sang at the Oakland Athletics Stadium to a crowd of 30,000.*

*Breanna Sinclairé is the subject of a documentary film, Mezzo, which screened at the 2016 San Francisco Transgender Film Festival.*



@breannaelycesinclairé







# Award presentation: Audacity & Innovation



## Shirley Gainey

Shirley began her work with the HIV community in San Francisco over 20 years ago. Shirley says that each agency she has worked for was essential in raising her and her son Theo. She has worn many hats over the years and has been blessed to be mentored by some phenomenal people and agencies. Shirley is dedicated to her community and the many lives she has touched over her career. If you need to find somebody, call Shirley. Shirley firmly believes that housing is a human right, and everyone has the right to affordable healthcare.



# Award presentation: Audacity & Innovation

*“Shirley is one of the most courageous and compassionate people I know. She constantly steps up to support people in need in all realms of the community, way beyond just her job. She risked her life to protect an elderly Asian man on an AC Transit bus when he was suddenly physically attacked by someone with a cane.”*



Presented by: Dr. Demisha Burns



# In memoriam: a dedication to Jasmine Powell



**Jasmine Marie Powell**

**1/16/1981 - 08/21/2021**

**Leader, Queen, Sister, Educator**

Jasmine loved her community and the work she did for her community. She will be greatly missed but her legacy will live on forever.

Dedication by: Donte Washington




# Live visual art piece: Vero D Orozco

## Vero D Orozco

*Vero d. Orozco is a SF Nicoya Native with a passion for enhancing innovative ideas around equity through the arts. As an art administrator, artist and illustrator she is fully committed to making the arts welcoming and accessible to those under-represented in all spaces. A collaborator at heart, Vero loves helping people tell their stories.*



 [verodorozco.com](https://verodorozco.com)

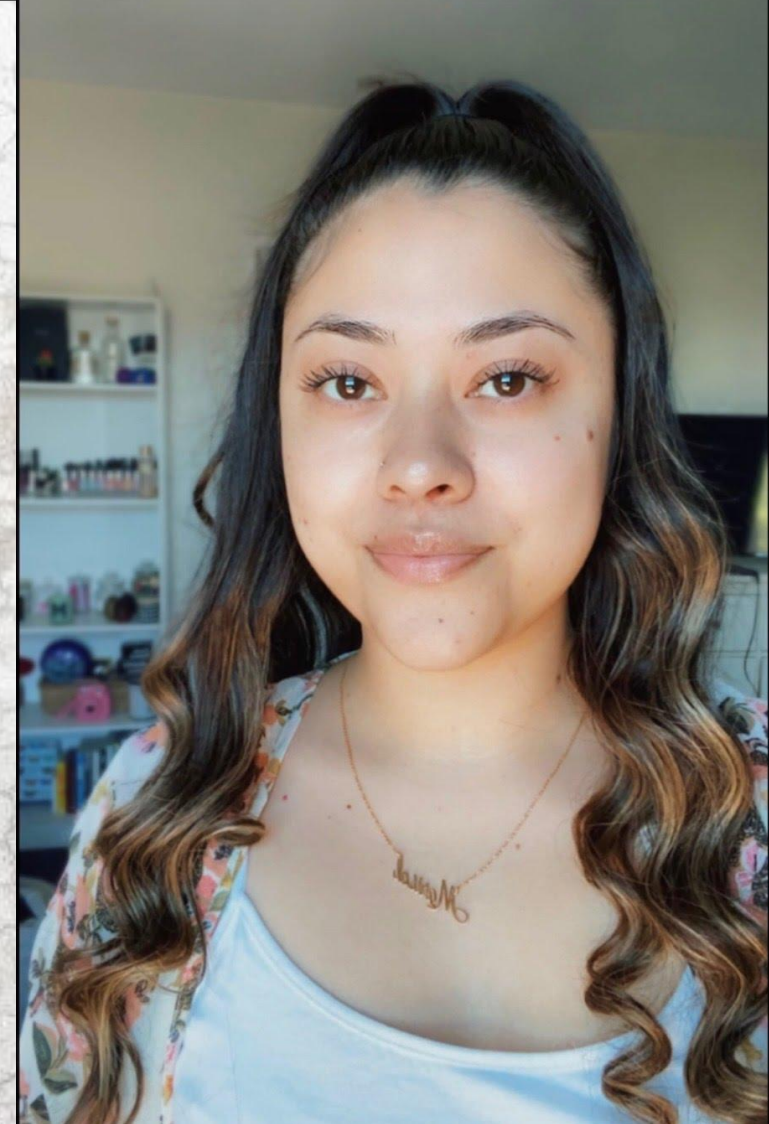
 [@verodorozco](https://www.instagram.com/verodorozco)



# Award presentation: Resourcefulness

## Marisol Reza-Ruiz

Marisol was born in Morelos, Mexico. She immigrated with her parents to the United States when she was 3 years old and grew up in Vallejo, CA. She lives with her parents, brother, sister and her dog Rocky. She attended a medical assistant program in Napa, CA and completed her externship at Highland Hospital. She's been at Highland Hospital for 5 years with experience in over 20 specialty clinics including her current department - Adult Immunology Clinic, which specializes in HIV care. She loves helping people and making a difference in the healthcare system and she's aspiring to be a registered nurse.



Presented by: Colleen Timpane & Moises Cruz-Jauregui



# Award presentation: Resourcefulness



*“Marisol has been a steadfast member of the AIC team. She has been serving as a MA despite the coming and goings of other staff. She trains everyone who joins the team. She is always thinking of ways to improve workflows. She is always able to advocate for our patients because everyone in the hospital seems to know her. She is a leader in our clinic and we so value her resourcefulness.”*

*“Every single day someone on our team expresses gratitude for our Marisol. She works tirelessly for people with HIV and is always kind and respectful, even when it’s hard. Patients love her and think of her as a friend. She plans celebrations for the team to keep our morale up so we can do better together. She makes all of us laugh on a daily basis. She really is just a joy to be around! She deserves to be recognized-she does all of this behind the scenes without asking for anything”*



Presented by: Colleen Timpane & Moises Cruz-Jauregui



# Song & dance performance: Bella Aldama

## Bella Aldama

Bella Aldama was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. She started doing drag about 10 years ago to represent the LGBTQI+ Spanish-speaking community. Bella performs in various LGBTQ bars and restaurants, such as Club 1220, The Port, and Beaux. She has performed at Concord, Benicia, Richmond, and San Francisco Pride. Bella enjoys organizing fundraisers for nonprofit organizations, such as The East Bay Sanctuary Covenant in Berkeley that helps immigrants with their legal status. She has also participated in beauty pageants to help our LGBTQ/HIV positive communities raise funds and awareness. Bella has organized and performed for more than 10 Drag Queen Story Hour in several local towns, including Concord, Sacramento, El Cerrito, and Brentwood. Bella Aldama would like to be an example for future drag queens and community leaders by bringing all people together and helping those in need.









# Award presentation: Self Care as Community Care

## Christian Aguirre

Christian has been doing HIV Outreach work for over a decade. His main focus is to reach to those marginalized and underserved people of color living in Contra Costa County. He is currently the HIV Prevention Manager at Rainbow Community Center in Concord, CA.



Presented by: Manuela Loebig



# Award presentation: Self Care as Community Care



*“Christian embodies hope, dedication, kindness, and commitment. He works incessantly for and with the LGBTQ+ community and specifically with HIV.”*



# Video presentation: Roses in the Concrete

## Roses in the Concrete: Stories of Resilience

Featuring Poz Plus Group members:  
Ramon Jackson, Jesse Brooks and Terri Lynn Haggins

Video edited by: Duran Rutledge









# Gratitude: the World AIDS Day planning committee



Keshia Lynch



Mikiya Thomas



Demisha Burns



Terri Lynn Haggins



Nahid Ebrahimi



Kayla Moore



Shireen Rahimi



Donte Washington



Yamini  
Oseguera-Bhatnagar



Jesse Brooks



Ramirez Brown



Ingrid Floyd





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Thank you for joining  
us for:

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