

Dear Root Division Community,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for all your support of Root Division, of artists and arts education, and of me over the past many years. I'm writing to let you know that after more than 20 years with the organization and 17 years as Executive Director, I am planning my departure for later this year.

While I have every intention of continuing to support artists, Root Division, and the greater Bay Area arts ecosystem, I am also excited to create more time for my own artistic practice, family and friends, travel, and just general life-stuff. I'm grateful for the privilege to have served the organization and its network of communities since 2003, and I am so proud of all we've been able to accomplish together during this time. This includes the significant growth and investment in the organization itself—moving to a new site and doubling the number of artists we can serve; launching various fellowship opportunities for emerging BIPOC artists; supporting hundreds of artists and youth each year; and being an anchor for the Bay Area arts community in the heart of San Francisco. It's almost impossible to quantify the number of incredible people, inspiring artworks, beautiful moments, and lasting friendships that have come into my life during this time.

In terms of the organization's plans, the Board of Directors has created a transition timeline and search committee, and they are launching an extensive search with the job description linked below. I plan to continue as Executive Director with Root Division until Fall 2024 or until a new Executive Director is hired—whichever comes first. As you know, I care deeply about Root Division's future, so I am working with the board and staff to ensure a smooth transition, including moving the organization towards more shared leadership. Starting in May 2024, I plan to streamline my schedule to be part time—focusing on grant writing and donor stewardship as well as financial management. I'm excited about the possibilities for the organization to grow and evolve with new leadership, and I have faith that this unique incubator model can thrive for years to come!

Thanks so much for all you have contributed to Root Division, and we hope to have your continued support throughout this transition and beyond! I also hope you'll be able to join me for TASTE 2024 on Thursday, April 18, and that you'll save the date for AUCTION 2024 on Thursday, October 24, 2024.

With an abundance of care and gratitude,

Michelle Mansour
Executive Director
pronouns: she/her

A note about the Executive Director Search:

Thoughts and inquiries regarding the [Executive Director search](#) can be directed to the Search Committee (edsearch@rootdivision.org) and/or Search and Board Chair, John-Mark Ikeda (bodchair@rootdivision.org)

ABOUT ROOT DIVISION

Root Division is a visual arts non-profit in San Francisco that connects creativity and community through a dynamic ecosystem of arts education, exhibitions, and studios. Root Division's mission is to empower artists, foster community service, inspire youth, and enrich the Bay Area through engagement in the visual arts. The organization is a launching pad for artists, a stepping-stone for educators and students, and a bridge for the general public to become involved in the arts.



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rootdivision.org

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