



Dear Root Division Community,

It is with sadness and immense gratitude that we announce our Executive Director, Michelle Mansour, will be leaving her role later this year. For more than 20 years, Michelle has been the driving force behind our unique arts ecosystem. Under Michelle's leadership, Root Division has been a place where we empower artists, promote community service, inspire youth, and enrich the Bay Area through engagement in the visual arts.

Over the 13 years I've known Michelle, I've been impressed by her ability to bring people in the arts community together and harness their creativity and passion towards a greater cause. During that time, she's shepherded us through two building transitions and a global pandemic, all while growing our organization and expanding our mission. Today, Root Division's Studios Program serves twice as many talented artists; we offer 6 paid fellowship programs; and we teach youth in 8 local schools and community centers. In addition, Root Division curates some of the best shows in the Bay Area that have launched the careers of thousands of artists and curators. Michelle exemplifies the values of our organization by always welcoming others, being inclusive, striving for excellence, and getting things done.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to offer our unending gratitude and love to Michelle. As you likely have seen in [Michelle's letter](#), she will be staying on as Executive Director as we undertake the difficult task of searching for our next leader. With her continued support this year and that of our talented staff and artists, our programs will continue to flourish. We also plan to properly celebrate all of her achievements later this year.

The Board of Directors has created a Search Committee, and we are officially [starting the search for our next Executive Director](#). Thanks to Michelle's leadership, we continue to be optimistic about our future because of the strength of our community, the relevance of our mission, and our organization's resilience. We are so proud of Michelle's achievements and look forward to growing her vision and legacy for years to come.

Sincerely,
John-Mark Ikeda
Chair of the Board of Directors, and former Studio Artist

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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