



# 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SLATE

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Members of the Nominating Committee for the year 2024-2025 are Chairperson **John Kouletsis**, **Jim Brown**, **Sheila Dowell**, **Carole Harlow**, and **Julia Molander**.

### Nominations:

The following Members of the Society for Asian Art desire to serve as Directors and are nominated for election to serve their first two-year term of office: **Laura Allen**, **Wendy Chiang**, **Elizabeth Green-Sah**, **Mary Howell**, **Grace Kim Kostal**, **Lewis Lem**, **Evelyn Raimundo**, **John Richardson**, **Judy Sleeth**, **Stephen Roy Smith**, **Ehler Spliedt**, **Kalim Winata**, and **Lydia Zane**.

The following Directors of the Society for Asian Art will complete their first or second two-year term and are nominated for election to serve another two-year term: **Jim Brown**, **Janet Constantinou**, **Anne Adams Kahn**, **Julia Molander**, **Sandra Pan**, **Daniel Raybin**, **Irene Schaefer**, and **Russell Wadbrook**.

Directors with one year remaining on their two-year terms are: **Neaera Baer**, **Sheila Dowell**, **Mark Gross**, **Anne Katz**, **Candace Zander Kahn**, **Debbie Wong Ottman**, and **Charita Thakkar**.

Twelve previously elected Directors are leaving the Board: **Edith Benay**, **Lynne Brewer**, **Kalpana Desai**, **Anna Ewins**, **Gloria Garaventa**, **Kirk Gibson**, **Marsha Vargas Handley**, **Tom Ihrig**, **John Kouletis**, **Peggy Mathers**, **Kathleen Slobin**, and **Nazneen Spliedt**.

The following ex-officio Director will continue to serve: **Robert Mintz**.

### New Nominees:

The following members are nominated for a first two-year term to the Board of Directors of the Society for Asian Art:

**Laura Allen** has a PhD in Japanese art history from the University of California, Berkeley. She was the former Senior Curator of Japanese Art (2022-2024), the Chief Curator (2015-2022), and the Curator of Japanese Art (2012-2015) at the Asian Art Museum. She brings to the position a deep knowledge of the museum's collections, exhibitions, and management. She is familiar with literature and scholars, as well as curators in the Japanese art field. Her strengths are creative thinking and diplomacy.

**Wendy Chiang** has a master's degree in analytical chemistry and has worked as the Senior Director, Asia Pacific Business Development and the General Manager of China Operations. She was a docent at The Museum of Contemporary Art of San Diego and at the Asian Art Museum. She brings to the position in depth knowledge of Chinese art, history, and literature. She is a strong collaborator.

**Elizabeth Green-Sah** has a PhD in Molecular Biology and Microbiology from Tufts Medical School, a master's degree in Biophysics from Duke, and a BA in chemistry from Duke. She is a long-time docent at the Asian Art Museum, has sat on the Docent Board as the Events Co-chair, is a storyteller, and has sat on the Storytellers Steering Committee as the Events Chair. Additionally, she has served on the Diablo Ballet Board, West Edge Opera Board, SFOG-EBC (Lecture Chair), The Lincoln Society (Taiwan), Dallas Opera, Opera Action, DOG (VP), Dallas Symphony Orchestra, DSO Guild (Subscription Chair), Dallas Ballet Board, Dallas Civic Garden Center Board (VP Finance, Formula 1 Gala), Dallas Southern Memorial Society (President). She is an enormously creative individual with deep experience on non-profits at all levels.

**Mary Howell** received her BA from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. She was the Senior Litigation Paralegal in San Francisco for a number of national and international law firms. She was a docent at di Rosa Art and Nature Preserve and has been a docent at the Asian Art Museum since 2004. She brings to the position fresh ideas, communication skills, organization skills, collaboration focus, and great enthusiasm.

**Grace Kim Kostal** received her BS in environmental economics and policy from the University of California, Berkeley. She currently works at Dolby Laboratories as an account manager. Previously she was the digital marketing consultant at Amour Vert, and associate product marketing manager intern at Intuit, and editor-in-chief for the UC Berkeley premier fashion magazine BARE. She brings to the position a strong desire to get in touch with her Asian roots as well as a strong motivation to engage younger audiences in Asian art, fashion, and creative or cultural spaces. She has particular skills in organization, communication, event planning, social media marketing, leadership, and management. She is excited about the prospect of engaging a younger and a diverse audience through the SAA and, by extension, the Asian Art Museum.



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**Lewis Lem** has a PhD in Urban Planning from the University of California Los Angeles, a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University, and a BA in Political Science from Harvard University. He acts as the Program Manager for the Port of Portland (with jurisdiction over the Portland metropolitan airports and marine seaport terminals). He was the Federal Programs Manager for the State of Nevada Department of Transportation. He has many years of work in Public Infrastructure with major engineering and economics consulting firms. He was the Policy Manager in Public Affairs and Governmental Affairs with the AAA of Northern California. He is a long-time member of the Asian Art Museum, a second-generation volunteer with the SAA, and a second-generation donor and supporter of the Asian Art Museum. He has participated for many years with SAA activities, particularly the annual book sale. He brings to the position professional skills in public administration and in public affairs. He has been involved as a Program Manager for multiple organizations pursuing trade development, tourism promotion, and transportation infrastructure.

**Evelyn Raimundo** has a master's degree in business administration, and a BA in Business Marketing. She was a realtor with Coldwell Banker. She was the Social Committee Chair for the Asian Art Museum Docent Council (2010-2012) and Assistant to the Education and Training Chair (2019). She provided liaison work between curators and docents to facilitate docent training for new exhibitions. She brings to the position strong skills in school tours and public tours. She has a focus on visitor needs and expectations in the museum environment.

**John Richardson** has a master's degree in economics. He spent 43 years as a professional translator and has a deep interest in and knowledge of translating one language and culture into another. This skill gives John the advantage of experiencing first-hand how people learn and are able to share cultures. He currently is a storyteller at the Asian Art Museum, is on the storyteller training committee, a training mentor, serves on the Storyteller Resources Committee and is the co-chair of the monthly Tales and Treats for storytellers. John also serves on the Storyteller Council. He brings to the position a strong appreciation of how people learn, and a deep appreciation of how one transmits key elements of one culture to another. John brings language skills and copy editing/proof reading expertise. He is eager to "give back" to the SAA and to help it chart a new and exciting path with younger audiences.

**Judy Sleeth** has a master's degree in education from the University of California Los Angeles and a BA from Oberlin College. She has been involved with Art in Action (creating art curriculum for children) (Founder and Director for more than 30 years), Peninsula Rose Society (Membership Chair), Cantor Arts Center (docent for 43 years). She brings to the position strong experience in creativity, art appreciation, leadership skills, board experience, event organizer skills, art curriculum for children, and fund raising.

**Stephen Roy Smith** has master's degree in business administration and a master's degree in East Asian art. He is a docent at the Asian Art Museum and on the Board of Directors of the Walden School. He has long participated in the activities of both the Asian Art Museum as well as the SAA. He brings to the position strong project/program management.

**Ehler Spliedt** has deep experience in the hospitality field. As a result of his long association with both the Asian Art Museum and the Society for Asian Art, he has deep experience and skills on the Finance, Library, and Member Events Committees. He has served on the Board previously (15 years), and has been President of the Board twice. He has been a major organizer and developer of the SAA's annual book sale. He brings to the position strong experience in the business of the SAA Board, strong leadership skills, and deep knowledge of the Board's history and procedures.

**Kalim Winata** has a master's degree in fine art from the Academy of Art University. He has been responsible for Personal Property (Asian art) appraisal training for the American Society of Appraisers. He has also been responsible for the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) Compliance Examination. He is a past SAA Board member and is a current Board member for the American Society of Appraisers – NorCal Chapter. He brings to the position extensive knowledge of Asian art spanning diverse regions across ancient, modern, and contemporary Asian art. He has proven skills in organization, project management, and event planning. He also had extensive language skills in Chinese (both Mandarin and Cantonese), Indonesian, and college level Japanese.

**Lydia Zane** has a BFA/liberal arts degree from the University of California Berkeley, continuing education in studio art and writing workshops, Legal Studies Certification program at San Francisco State University, and continuing legal education (1990-2019). She worked as a paralegal and senior legal analyst in the Attorney General's Office, Department of Justice, State of California. She has been a docent at the Asian Art Museum since 2004. She has a deep interest in continuous learning and of both art in general and Asian art in particular. She brings to the position skills in literature and book study groups as well as at the SAA annual book sale. She brings her experience in various docent committees such as the Communications Committee, senior editor of the docent newsletter Communications, the Community Speaker's Program, the Talks and Tours Take-Out Tuesday program, the Book Discussion Group, and the committee formerly known as the DEAI Committee with a strong focus on the visitor experience.