



2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SLATE

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Members of the Nominating Committee for the year 2025-2026 are Chairperson **Jim Brown**, **Elizabeth Green-Sah**, **Mary Howell**, and **Grace Kim Kostal**.

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: **Jeff Doherty**, **Jennifer Faulkner-Ongerth**, **Sanjyot Mehendale**, and **Carmel Tenenbaum**.

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: **Neaera Baer**, **Sheila Dowell**, and **Mark Gross**.

Directors with one year remaining on their two-year terms are: **Laura Allen**, **Jim Brown**, **Wendy Chiang**, **Janet Constantinou**, **Elizabeth Green-Sah**, **Mary Howell**, **Anne Adams Kahn**, **Grace Kim Kostal**, **Lewis Lem**, **Julia Molander**, **Sandra Pan**, **Evelyn Raimundo**, **Daniel Raybin**, **John Richardson**, **Judy Sleeth**, **Stephen Roy Smith**, **Ehler Spliedt**, **Russell Wadbrook**, **Kalim Winata**, and **Lydia Zane**.

Five previously elected Directors are leaving the Board: **Anne Katz**, **Candace Zander Kahn**, **Debbie Wong Ottman**, **Irene Schaefer**, and **Charita Thakkar**.

The following ex-officio Directors will continue to serve: **Abby Chen** and **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:

Jeff Doherty is a proud 3rd-generation San Franciscan and attended both college and business school at the University of California, Davis. During his 30+ year business career, including 10 years in Boston, he held a variety of sales, marketing and business development leadership roles primarily in the Healthcare and Enterprise IT sectors. In 2020 Jeff and his family moved to Singapore to pursue career and life opportunities. It was in Singapore that he discovered his love of Asian history, art and cultures and traveled extensively throughout Asia. He became a docent at the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) with the Friends of the Museums, Singapore, and was then asked to serve as Co-Head of Training for the ACM Trainee cohort of 2024-2025. Jeff returned to the Bay Area in the summer of 2025, eager to continue pursuing his passion for Asian art and meeting like-minded people.

Jennifer Faulkner-Ongerth spent most of her professional career in academia. She holds 3 teaching credentials in addition to a school administrative credential and an MA in Cognitive Studies and Multicultural Education. Subsequently, she obtained a doctorate from the University of the Pacific in Policy and Systems Improvement. Her research for her doctoral thesis involved the National Gallery, the Getty Museum and the LA County Museum of Modern Art in developing National Standards for Arts Education. Meanwhile she was employed as Fulltime Faculty at Chapman University where she headed the teacher credential and masters' programs for the Central Valley.

Prior to retirement she was a consultant at the California State Department of Education working on special projects for the Director; including working with the US Department of Education evaluating whether California students were afforded Civil Rights protections. Concurrently she participated in a University of Virginia program which sent her to Oxford University where she obtained lifetime privileges at the Bodleian Research Library. Since retirement she has continued her passion for travel encompassing to date every continent and 75 countries.



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Jennifer began her involvement with the Asian Art Museum as a volunteer in the C. Laan Chun Library under the tutelage of former librarian John Stuckey. She is also a graduate of the 2017 Storyteller class and the 2019 School Docent training program and is now looking forward to a more academic immersion in the study of Asian art.

Sanjyot Mehendale is a specialist in Silk Road art and archaeology. In 1992, she entered the doctoral program in Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, concentrating on early Common Era Central Asia and the ancient site of Begram, Afghanistan. After earning her Ph.D. in 1997, she began teaching courses on Central Asia at UC Berkeley.

In 2007, she served as a consultant to the National Geographic Society, helping shape the exhibition *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* and contributing to its accompanying catalogue.

Her most recent fieldwork project (2024–) is a partnership with Michael Frachetti (Washington University, St. Louis) and Farhad Maksudov (Uzbek Academy of Sciences) to excavate the medieval urban site of Tugunbulak in the high mountains of Uzbekistan.

Among her recent publications is the co-edited volume, with Franck Billé and James Lankton, *The Maritime Silk Road: Global Connectivities, Regional Nodes, Localities* (University of Amsterdam Press, 2022).

Over several decades, Dr. Mehendale played a central role in building Silk Road studies at UC Berkeley. These efforts culminated in the founding of the P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for Silk Road Studies in 2017, where she was appointed the inaugural Chair.

Carmel Tenenbaum is a San Francisco–based event producer currently working with Google (powered by Marvel Marketers), where she leads the development of high-impact experiences that connect global audiences. She brings extensive experience producing international conferences, executive programs, and large-scale cultural and community events around the world, with work spanning Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Her approach emphasizes thoughtful design, strategic partnerships, and seamless execution.

An international relations graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Carmel developed a strong foundation in interdisciplinary thinking and global perspectives that continues to inform her work. She worked on events for the on-campus fashion and lifestyle magazine BARE Magazine and events for the Helen Diller Institute for Israel Law and Jewish Studies, and later transitioned to non-profit event production. Most recently, she played a key role in the success of the 2025 Cascale Conference in Hong Kong, where she helped convene over 700 attendees from around the world. Her work emphasized dynamic, multi-stage programming, integrated cultural entertainment, and curated opportunities for meaningful engagement.

Carmel has a deep personal interest in Asian art, rooted in her own artistic practice and love of painting. She is particularly drawn to the ways art reflects cultural identity, history, and exchange. As a prospective member of the Society for Asian Art Board, she is excited to contribute her expertise in audience engagement and programming to support the organization’s mission and expand its reach within the Bay Area and beyond.