

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# BERKELEY CULTURAL TRUST PRESENTS FORUM WITH BERKELEY MAYORAL AND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

## **Candidates Forum on the Arts**

Moderated by Josh Kornbluth and Stephanie Johnson
Wednesday, September 28
5:30-7:00 pm
Freight and Salvage Coffehouse
2020 Addison St, Berkeley

The Berkeley Cultural Trust (BCT), Berkeley's consortium for arts advocacy, will hold a Candidates Forum on the Arts at the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse on Wednesday, September 28. All of the candidates for Mayor and the Berkeley City Council have been invited to share their visions for the future of arts and culture in Berkeley and respond to questions from the BCT and the public. The event will be introduced by BCT chair, Patrick Dooley (Artistic Director of Shotgun Players), and moderated by Berkeley performer and humorist Josh Kornbluth and Stephanie Anne Johnson, former chair of the Berkeley Civic Arts Commission. This event is free to the public running from 5:30 – 7:00pm. Doors will open at 5:00, with an introduction from Josh Kornbluth starting at 5:15. The audience is welcome throughout the event. Reservations are recommended and may be made through the Freight and Salvage at thefreight.org or (510) 644-2020.

**Berkeley Cultural Trust** serves as a consortium of individuals representing cultural organizations within the City of Berkeley. In cooperation with the Berkeley Arts Commission, BCT advocates for policies and action that contribute to the well-being of artists and cultural organizations important to the unique intellectual and spiritual life of the community.

Josh Kornbluth is a Berkeley-based writer, producer, director and performer best known for his autobiographical one-man shows. He has performed across the country, hosted of *The Josh Kornbluth Show* on KQED-TV, and appeared in more than a dozen feature films including performances and adaptations of his own work. He recently completed his second feature film with his brother Jacob, *Love & Taxes;* the Kornbluth Brothers' first movie, *Haiku Tunnel*, went to the Sundance Film Festival and was distributed nationally by Sony Pictures Classics. His audiobooks, *Red Diaper Baby* and *Ben Franklin: Unplugged ... and Other Comic Tales* are available on itunes and audible.com and his one-man shows, *Red Diaper Baby* and *The Mathematics of Change* are available on DVD. Mr. Kornbluth lives in Berkeley with his wife and son.

**Stephanie Anne Johnson** is a theatrical lighting designer, visual artist and Associate Professor of Visual and Public Art at CSU Monterey Bay. She uses her installations and mixed media sculptures as a way to preserve and honor the history of Africans. Her work has been exhibited at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco), The Jewish Museum (San Francisco), The African American Museum (Dallas), Spelman College Museum of Art (Atlanta) and The Museum of Fine Arts (Houston) among many other national venues. As a lighting designer, Ms. Johnson has designed shows for Cultural Odyssey (San Francisco), Dimensions Dance Theater (Oakland), The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Arizona Repertory Theater, La Mama Theater (New York) and Black Moon Theatre (New York and Paris). Her lighting design work has been seen in India, The Netherlands, Italy, France and Belgium. Mayor Tom Bates formally declared October 30, 2012 to be Stephanie Anne Johnson Day honoring Ms. Johnson's service as Chair of the Berkeley Civic Arts Commission.

The Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse (Berkeley Society for the Preservation of Traditional Music) has been operating in Berkeley since 1968 as a nonprofit community arts organization dedicated to promoting public awareness and understanding of traditional music. The Freight & Salvage, an all-ages, non-smoking, family-friendly performance venue in Berkeley, is world-famous for its presentations of folk, Americana, bluegrass, Celtic, blues, jazz, and Hawaiian artists, and also offers a rich and diverse program of world music. Presenting more than three hundred live performances annually, artists who have played the Freight over the past 41 years include Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Odetta, Alison Krauss, Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, David Grisman, Alvin Youngblood Hart, David Bromberg, Dave Alvin, Brownie McGhee, Dar Williams, Nickel Creek, the Persuasions, and R. Crumb and the Cheap Suit Serenaders.

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### **Calendar Editors Please Note:**

The Berkeley Cultural Trust (BCT) presents a Candidates Forum on the Arts at the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse on Wednesday, September 28. All candidates for Mayor and Berkeley City Council seats have been invited to share their visions for the future of arts and culture in Berkeley and respond directly to questions. The event will be moderated by Berkeley performer and humorist Josh Kornbluth and Stephanie Anne Johnson, former chair of the Berkeley Civic Arts Commission. This event is free to the public with reservations.

## **Berkeley Candidates Forum on the Arts**

Hosted by the Berkeley Cultural Trust at the Freight and Salvage Moderated by Josh Kornbluth and Stephanie Anne Johnson Sep 28, 5:30-7:00pm

At the Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley Free with reservation at <a href="thefreight.org">thefreight.org</a>
For more information call 510.644.2020 or visit <a href="berkeleyctrust.weebly.com">berkeleyctrust.weebly.com</a>