

A Message from Kathleen, Openhouse's Executive Director

Welcome to February, and welcome new staff to Openhouse. Jacob Ittycheria is our new Director of Mission Engagement, Miss Jade Blackthorne and Kiko Butler are new Community Liaisons for the TGNC program. In December, we welcomed Theresa Arocena to the Mission Engagement Team and she has done a terrific job.

As the days get longer, and we have over 10 hours of day light as of the first of the month, I continue to be hopeful that Omicron will no longer be surging and that IHU (a new variant found in France) does not make it to the Bay.

February is of course Black History Month. This recognition was first envisioned by Carter G. Woodson back in 1926 as part of a larger campaign to teach Black history without the lens of white supremacy. In 1970, the Black United Students at Kent State University along with black educators proposed and first implemented Black History Month—it took six more years for the federal government to officially recognize it.

Openhouse will be screening the film "Brother to Brother" at the end of month as part of the Black History Month celebration. Due to COVID we will screen this virtually. If you have not seen the Center for Black Equity's presentation on their findings from their survey of the black LGBTQ experience, it is worth seeing-it will be available on the Openhouse website this month. The Board and staff is not just committed with words but actions towards a more diverse, just and equitable society and organization.

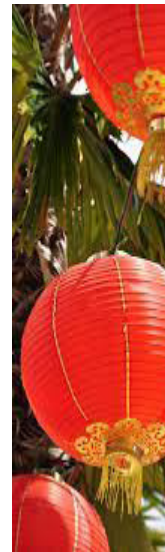
Please join me at our monthly town hall.

More info in the box to the right! →

Kathleen

FEBRUARY 2022

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**Happy
Lunar
New Year!**
Year of the Tiger

Monthly Town Hall with Kathleen!

Monday, February 28
4 - 5PM, via Zoom

Register: rsvp@openhousesf.org
or (415) 231-5871

New this month!

Dr. Aronson Talks: Making Your Home a Partner in Aging Well

Wednesday, February 9, 2 - 3:30PM, via Zoom



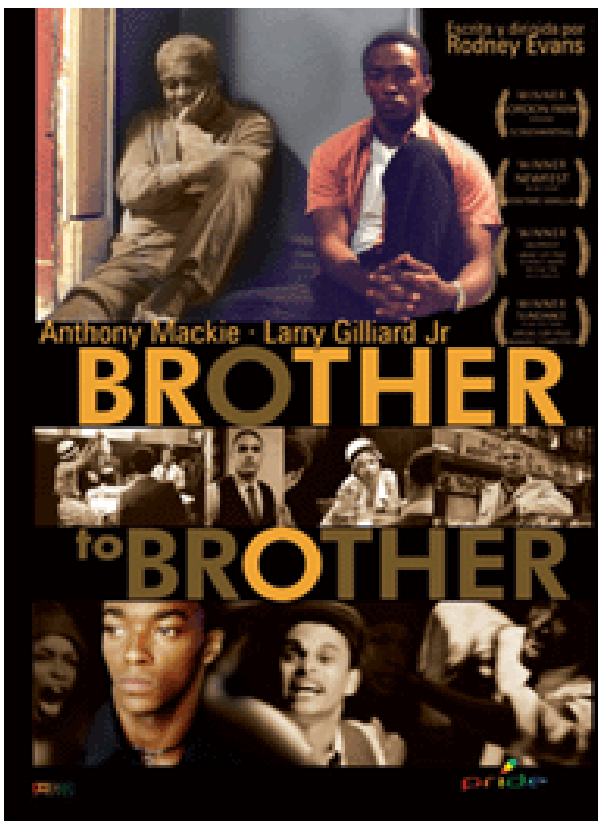
This session will focus on ways (from inexpensive to more costly) that you can make your home your ally for well-being in aging. When your home is your partner, it is a place that helps you function at your best, keeps you safe, gives you daily joy, and offers you opportunities for social engagement (if that's what you want!). We will cover some of the basic principles of age-friendly homes and provide opportunities for you to consider what is and is not working for you in your home.

Dr. Louise Aronson is a leading geriatrician, professor of medicine at UCSF, and author of the Pulitzer Prize Finalist *Elderhood*.

Register to rsvp@openhousesf.org or (415) 231-5871.

Join us for a screening of "Brother to Brother"

Monday, February 28, 12 - 1:45PM, via Zoom



As part of the celebration of Black History Month, Openhouse will be screening, "Brother to Brother." Perry (Anthony Mackie) is a would-be painter struggling to find his voice as an artist and his identity as a black gay man. When his disapproving father kicks him out, he winds up in a homeless shelter where he meets a sympathetic gay poet named Bruce (Roger Robinson). As they get to know each other, Perry learns that Bruce was at the center of the 1920s and '30s Harlem Renaissance and faced many of the same prejudices and challenges in his day that Perry faces now

From NPR: "The voices of [Black] gay activists were often silenced during the civil rights movement and, before that, the Harlem Renaissance. The movie "Brother to Brother" examines this silence."

Register to rsvp@openhousesf.org or (415) 231- 5871

Resources and Information

Have Housing or Resource Questions?

Drop-In Hours have been cancelled but we are still here to help!

Housing & ADRC Drop-in Hours have been cancelled through mid-February, but you can still get help with your housing and resource needs! Call Sage at (628) 208-0155 or Aisling at (628) 219-6519 for questions about housing. If you need help finding out about resources or services, you can reach Jose at (415) 347-8509.

Affordable Housing Workshop: *Come demystify the rental housing process!*

Interested in affordable housing in the San Francisco Bay Area? Wanting to learn more about the public housing lottery system? Openhouse offers online affordable housing workshops every second Thursday and fourth Tuesday of the month. During each one-hour workshop, we will go over the initial steps to getting started on any affordable housing rental search here in the city.

Workshops take place via Zoom.

This month's workshops will be on Tuesday, Feb 10 and Thursday, Feb 22.

To RSVP: (415) 296-8995 ext. 319

Creative Intergenerational Opportunity!

The MISCI Creative Engagement Program is looking for community members interested in developing a creative project with younger people over the course of 3 months. This version of the program will keep everyone safe during the pandemic by holding the program over the phone or, if you prefer, video chat. Openhouse is partnering with UCSF Global Brain Health Institute to offer this program and to study its impact on participants' health and well-being. No background in the arts is necessary, only a willingness to connect and create with younger people! Registration and eligibility required.

To learn more and find out if you are eligible, contact Penn at (415) 535-2769 or pweldon@openhousesf.org

Need Help with Food Support, Grocery Shopping, or Other Errands?

As we continue to transition out of the pandemic, our caring, compassionate volunteers are standing by to help you get what you need:



- Weekly Home Delivered Grocery program for those who cook
- Guidance to other food assistance programs in San Francisco
- Help buying groceries, pet food, medications, and other supplies

If you or someone you know could benefit from these services, contact Kevin at koneal@openhousesf.org or (628) 263-3262

Get Connected

Join us for a new session of Reach Out, Come Out, Plug Back In Thursdays, starting February 17, 4 - 5:30PM

The lasting impact of COVID-related isolation can be felt deeply by LGBTQ seniors. As a community with a history of mistrust and shame, the impact of shelter-in-place may have reignited our social inhibition—particularly as we endure the uncertainties of new variants. With the ever-changing prospect of being in-person, we may be confronting a wide range of feelings: emotional residue from the past; overwhelm at changes in restrictions and health expectations; and general uneasiness around engaging in person.

Join facilitator Den Reno, Ph.D., for a closed 8-week session. Space is limited and a conversation with the facilitator is required before joining.

Register to rsvp@openhousesf.org or (415) 231 - 5871

Sister Circle: a social discussion group

Tuesday, February 22, 12 - 1:30PM, via Zoom

Many of us are still living in isolation or in a distanced way. Let's get together to grow friendships and make new connections. We warmly open our digital doors for women of all expressions. If you would like to be sent a snack to enjoy, please make sure to RSVP.

RSVP to rsvp@openhousesf.org
or (415) 231-5871



Above: Writers Audre Lorde, Meridele Le Sueur, and Adrienne Rich at a workshop in Austin, Texas in 1980

In the Life: Supporting LGBTQ POC

Wednesdays, 11AM-12:30PM
via Zoom

Join us for a
support group for
LGBTQ

Elders of color.

This group is a
space where it is safe to be your
authentic self as we explore our
experiences, share stories, and
connect with each other.



Facilitator Myles Dixon is gay-identified and African American. He has a Master's in Health Service, Administration, and Community Health Planning and has both personal and professional experience working with elders and LGBTQ folks.

Register at rsvp@openhousesf.org
or (415) 231-5871

Openhouse programs are held virtually via Zoom, which can be accessed via telephone or computer. For more info on how to virtually connect, call (415) 296-8995.

Openhouse celebrates Black History & Black Futures Month!

Black Health and Wellness

From ASALH website:

"The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well" (<https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>).

Check out <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/> for more info!

Black Futures Month

From <https://m4bl.org/black-futures-month/>:

"Black Futures Month is a visionary, forward-looking spin on celebrations of Blackness in February. Black Futures Month celebrates Black people, art, culture, joy, and organizing in service to our bold vision for Black liberation. During Black Futures Month, and always, we center Black, queer, and transfeminist perspectives. Black queer and trans people have long been at the forefront of dreaming, visioning, and expanding what is possible for our movements. It is our duty to affirm, celebrate, and defend all Black lives."

Check out: <https://m4bl.org/black-futures-month> for more information!

We'd love to hear from you!

We invite our Black-identified community members to share with us:

What does Black Joy mean to you?

Send us art/a photo/a description/a poem/etc about what Black Joy means to you! Please let us know if you are okay with us sharing your response on our website or in our newsletter. Send to: rsvp@openhousesf.org or to 65 Laguna St., SF, 94102 (c/o Ariel).

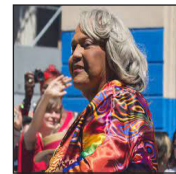
There's so much going on around the city to celebrate Black History Month! We especially encourage you to check out SFPL:

More than just a month

<https://sfpl.org/events/special-programs/more-month-2022>

Check out a list of "16 Queer Black Pioneers who made history"!

Here are just a few:



Miss Major Griffin-Gracy
(born 1940)



Ernestine Eckstein
(1941 - 1992)



Willi Ninja
(1961 - 2006)

<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/black-history-month-17-lgbtq-black-pioneers-who-made-history-n1130856>



Have Fun and Get Creative!

Sharpen your knives, prep your taste buds, and get cooking!

Cooking Matters

Thursdays, starting February 10
11AM-12:30PM, via Zoom

In partnership with 18 Reasons, a non-profit community cooking school, Openhouse welcomes you to learn or sharpen your cooking skills and enjoy a shared meal from the comfort of your home. In each class you'll learn a new recipe that centers simple, flavorful, and budget-friendly food! Two days before each class you will receive a recipe along with the necessary ingredients delivered to your home.



Interested? Contact Kevin at koneal@openhousesf.org or (628) 263-3262

Join the Openhouse Walking Group

Friday, February 25, 11AM - 12PM
There will be no walking group on Friday, February 11.

Join us as we move together, talk, and explore the neighborhoods around Openhouse. Everyone is welcome.

Leading us is Freddie Kendrick. Freddie has been a certified nursing assistant for 30 years and is a volunteer Chaplain at Davies Medical Center.

RSVP with Kevin: koneal@openhousesf.org or (628) 263-3262

Art at Openhouse

In partnership with Art With Elders
Saturdays, 2:30PM - 4:30PM

Explore new ideas and build positive relationships with your peers. These are not craft activities, but instead focus on skill-building — ranging from color and composition to perspective and background. This class will explore a variety of mediums and is open to all skill levels. Supplies are provided. Instructed by Hugh Leeman, an artist whose work acts as a form of social commentary. To find out more go to hughleeman.com

Register with Penn at (415) 535-2769 or pweldon@openhousesf.org



Virtual Visit to Muttville

Wednesday, February 16
2:30-3:30PM, via Zoom

Join us for a monthly virtual visit to Muttville where we meet some senior dogs and spend time relishing in each other's company and some pure doggie love!



RSVP: amellinger@openhousesf.org or (415) 503-4180

Most Openhouse programs are held virtually via Zoom, which can be accessed via telephone or computer. For more info on how to virtually connect, call (415) 296-8995.

| SUN | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | Housing & ADRC Drop-In Hours are cancelled this month | Housing & ADRC Drop-In Hours are cancelled this motnh | Housing & ADRC Drop-In is cancelled this month | | |
| Happy Black History and Black Futures Month | | 1 Lunar New Year Gay Gray Writers, 4 – 6PM Closed Group Tech Help Call-In Hours, 2:30PM – 5PM By appointment only: X322 | 2 "In the Life": Supporting LGBTQ POC 11AM – 12:30PM, RSVP req'd: X311 Clearing House: Cluttering Support 12:30 – 2PM, RSVP req'd: X311 Intermediate Spanish, 3 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X305 | 3 Drop-In Meditation 11 – 11:45AM, Reg req'd: X311 Long Term Survivors HIV/AIDS Support Group, 12 – 1:30PM, Closed Group | 4 Yiddish, 3 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X305 | 5 Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 2:30PM Reg req'd: X311 Art with Elders 2:30 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X316 |
| 6 | 7 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Places Please, 11AM - 12:30PM Reg req'd: X305 Men's Drop-In Support Group 2 – 3:30PM, Reg req'd: X311 "Trans Resilience" TGNC Support Group 5:30 – 7PM, (415) 961-8378 for info | 8 Self Compassion & Belonging 1 – 2:30PM, Reg req'd: X311 Trans, 50+ & Fabulous, 5 – 6:30PM Zoom ID: 8604460227 (415) 292-3420 for more info | 9 "In the Life": Supporting LGBTQ POC 11AM – 12:30PM, RSVP req'd: X311 Health Talks with Dr Aronson, 2 – 3:30PM RSVP required: (415) 231-5871 Intermediate Spanish, 3 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X305 | 10 Drop-In Meditation 11 – 11:45AM, Reg req'd: X311 Cooking Matters, 11 - 12:30PM Reg Req'd: (628) 263-3262 Long Term Survivors Support Group, 12 – 1:30PM, Closed Housing Workshop 2 –3:30PM, RSVP req'd: X310 | 11 Walking Group cancelled this week Living with Loss: Drop-in Grief Support 1 – 2:30PM Reg req'd: X311 Yiddish, 3 – 4:30PM | 12 Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 2:30PM Reg req'd: X311 Art with Elders 2:30 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X316 |
| 13 | 14 Places Please, 11AM - 12:30PM Reg req'd: X305 Men's Drop-In Support Group, 2 – 3:30PM Reg req'd: X311 "Trans Resilience" TGNC Support Group 5:30 – 7PM, (415) 961-8378 for info | 15 LGBTQ Seniors with Chronic Physical Disabilities Support Group 1 – 2:30PM, Reg req'd: X311 Gay Gray Writers, 4 – 6PM Closed Group Tech Help Call-In Hours, 2:30PM – 5PM By appointment only: X322 | 16 "In the Life": Supporting LGBTQ POC 11AM – 12:30PM, RSVP req'd: X311 Clearing House: Cluttering Support 12:30 – 2PM, RSVP req'd: X311 Virtual Visit to Muttville, 2:30 – 3:30PM RSVP req'd: X315 Intermediate Spanish, 3 – 4:30PM | 17 Drop-In Meditation 11 – 11:45AM, Reg req'd: X311 Cooking Matters, 11 - 12:30PM Reg Req'd: (628) 263-3262 Long Term Survivors HIV/AIDS Support Group, 12 – 1:30PM, Closed Group | 18 Yiddish, 3 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X305 | 19 Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 2:30PM Reg req'd: X311 Art with Elders 2:30 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X316 |
| 20 | 21 President's Day Openhouse Offices Closed | 22 Sister Circle, 12 – 1:30PM RSVP for reminder: X311 Housing Workshop, 2 – 3:30PM RSVP req'd: X310 Trans, 50+ & Fabulous, 5 – 6:30PM Zoom ID: 8604460227 (415) 292-3420 for more info | 23 "In the Life": Supporting LGBTQ POC 11AM – 12:30PM, RSVP req'd: X311 Intermediate Spanish, 3 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X305 LGBTQ Caregivers of those w/ Dementia Support Group, 6 – 7:30PM Reg req'd: X315 | 24 Drop-In Meditation 11 – 11:45AM, Reg req'd: X311 Cooking Matters, 11 - 12:30PM Reg Req'd: (628) 263-3262 Long Term Survivors HIV/AIDS Support Group, 12 – 1:30PM Closed Group | 25 Walking Group 11AM – 12PM Reg req'd: (628) 263-3262 Living with Loss: Drop-in Grief Support 1 – 2:30PM Reg req'd: X311 Yiddish, 3 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X305 | 26 Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 2:30PM Reg req'd: X311 Art with Elders 2:30 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X316 |
| 27 | 28 Places Please, 11AM - 12:30PM Reg req'd: X305 Virtual screening of "Brother to Brother" 12 - 1:45PM, RSVP: X311 Men's Drop-In Support Group 2 – 3:30PM, Reg req'd: X311 Conversations with Kathleen 4 – 5PM, RSVP: X311 "Trans Resilience" TGNC Support Group 5:30 – 7PM, (415) 961-8378 for info | March 1 Gay Gray Writers, 4 – 6PM, Closed Group Tech Help Office Hours, 2:30PM – 5PM By appointment only: X322 | 2 "In the Life": Supporting LGBTQ POC 11AM – 12:30PM, RSVP req'd: X311 Clearing House: Cluttering Support 12:30 – 2PM, RSVP req'd: X311 Intermediate Spanish, 3 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X305 | 3 Drop-In Meditation 11 – 11:45AM, Reg req'd: X311 Cooking Matters, 11 - 12:30PM Reg Req'd: (628) 263-3262 Long Term Survivors HIV/AIDS Support Group, 12 – 1:30PM, Closed Group | 4 Yiddish, 3 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X305 | 5 Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 2:30PM Reg req'd: X311 Art with Elders 2:30 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X316 |

IMPORTANT NOTE: All Openhouse programs are being run virtually unless otherwise noted

Get Some Support

Living with Loss: Drop-In Grief Support Group

Friday, Feb 11 and Feb 25
1-2:30PM, via Zoom

There are a variety of losses that we experience, such as loss that relates to isolation and loneliness, losing those we love, or maybe even the loss of the life we had before the pandemic. Join Openhouse and VITAS Healthcare for a space where we can find community and support each other.

This group is co-facilitated by Dale Poland and Rabbi Jane Litman.

Register to rsvp@openhousesf.org or (415) 231-5871



LGBTQ Seniors with Chronic Physical Disabilities Support Group

Tuesday, Feb 15, 1-2:30PM, via Zoom

People with chronic physical disabilities often feel left out even when in a group. Join us for a monthly group where we discuss how it feels to be disabled, managing those feelings in a healthy and self-compassionate way, and other topics.

This group is co-facilitated by Max Lane and Sumi Colligan.

Interested? Contact rsvp@openhousesf.org or (415) 231-5871

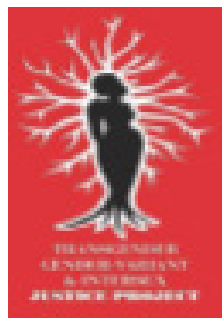
Trans Resilience Support Group

Mondays, 5:30-7PM, via Zoom

Join other transgender and gender non-conforming seniors as we come together to support each other through our individual walks in the trans experience.

Co-presented by TGI Justice Project.
Hosted by Ms. Billie Cooper

To register, contact J at jjha@openhousesf.org or (415) 961-8378



LGBTQ Caregivers of Those with Dementia Support Group

Wednesday, February 23
6-7:30PM, via Zoom

We welcome diverse LGBTQ caregivers to this monthly free drop-in support group. Caring for someone with dementia, whether mild or severe, is important and challenging work and inspires many questions about how to deal with what is. Join us as we continue to connect virtually through Zoom.



Register with Ariel at amellinger@openhousesf.org or (415) 503-4180

All Openhouse programs are held virtually via Zoom, which can be accessed via telephone or computer. For more info on how to virtually connect, call (415) 296-8995.

Let us (re) Introduce Ourselves...

This month, let us (re) introduce you to the **Support Services Team!**

The Support Services Team works together to meet the emotional and practical needs of Openhouse community members through housing support, care navigation, resource referral, and case management. We provide affirming care that honors your lived experiences as you navigate the services, resources, and institutions in the city.

Carrie Schell (she/her), Director of Community Support Services

My role at Openhouse is to support the staff in meeting the practical and emotional needs of our community members with the highest quality of care. Community members should contact me if you have questions or concerns about the support services we provide.

Contact: (415) 535-1237

Aisling Peterson (she/they), Housing & Resource Navigation Supervisor

My role at Openhouse is to help seniors and folks with disabilities find safe, affordable housing and get the resources they need. I also work to keep the Housing & Resource program running smoothly overall! Community members should contact me if you have questions about finding affordable housing or resources.

Contact: (628) 219-6519 or apeterson@openhousesf.org

Eli Nevel-Tyler (they/them), Case Manager

My role at Openhouse is to be an advocate and a bridge between community members and needed services and programs (after an assessment from the Department of Disability and Aging). Community members should contact me if you'd like to learn about how you or someone you know can sign up for case management.

Contact: (628)-231-5425 or eneveltyler@openhousesf.org

Joe Supan (he/him), Care Navigator

My role at Openhouse is to thoughtfully connect people to resources, and create a wrap-around care model through building relationships and tailored care navigation. Community members should contact me if you need on-going navigation of medical systems, in-home support, or think you, or someone you know, might need case management.

Contact: (415) 694-9411 or jsupan@openhousesf.org

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José Santamaria (he/him), Resource and Referral Navigator

My role at Openhouse is to inform and connect community members to resources in the community. Community members should contact me if you're looking for resources or wondering where you can get assistance such as paratransit, mental health, utilities assistance, food, legal services, and more. Being aware of what community resources are available to you can serve as a vehicle to make informed choices.

Contact: (415) 347-8509 or jsantamaria@openhousesf.org (Mon - Fri, 10AM - 2PM)

Joshua Cohen (he/him), Resident Case Manager

My role at Openhouse is to provide on-site case management with residents at 55/95 Laguna who are enrolled in the Continuum of Care subsidy program. Although I primarily work with Continuum of Care participants, any community member at 55/95 Laguna with case management needs can contact me and I will do my best to support you directly and/or refer you to someone else who can.

Contact: (415) 231-0362 or jcohen@openhousesf.org

Sage Hapke (she/her), Housing & Resource Navigator

My role at Openhouse is to support our LGBTQ+ seniors and adults with disabilities in accessing affordable and low-income housing, rental assistance, and additional resources and referrals in the city. Community members should contact me if you need assistance finding affordable rental opportunities or relief due to COVID-19, navigating your current housing situation, and/or signing up for our bi-weekly housing workshops!

Contact: shapke@openhousesf.org

Please note:

The Muttville Dog-Walk is cancelled this month.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty of this current COVID surge, we are cancelling February's walking group with Muttville. We look forward to hopefully being able to bring it back in March. In the meantime, we invite you to join us for Virtual Cuddle Club (see more info on pg 8).



Check back in the March newsletter for an update on this program!

Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center
65 Laguna St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 296-8995
www.openhousesf.org

FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome Jade and Kiko, our new TGNC Community Liaisons!



Jade Blackthorne (she/her) is overjoyed with the opportunity to contribute to her community. Jade is a lifetime musician and artist. She has been self employed for years supporting other musicians and artists as a sound engineer and technical director in contemporary art and music. Jade loves cooking, long walks, and going to the movies and theater. Her goals outside of work are to create a community group of composers and musicians to explore sound and song. She's looking forward to meeting you!



Kiko Butler (They/She) is a Black, Lesbian, Non-Binary Femme from Oakland and they are so pleased to be joining us in our mission! Amongst other ventures and passions, they've worked individually in QTBIPOC community building, dating back to their younger years and following them into adulthood--from social gatherings, dance parties, free resources/harm reduction, to employment within Sex Worker and QTBIPOC community. Kiko is so looking forward to sharing space and support of community with you all!