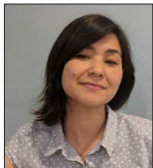


Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Educators Network
Virtual Meeting - Thursday, September 16, 2021

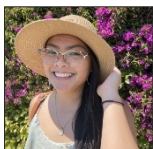
Moderator and Panelists Bios



Erica Misako Boas, Ph.D.

Education Researcher / Community Activist

Dr. Erica Boas is a mother, education researcher, and founding member of the San José Nikkei Resisters (SJNR). Her current work in education focuses on establishing practices for educational improvement and equity, and in her community activism she helps to organize the community toward social justice. Erica received her Ph.D. from the Social and Cultural Studies Program in the Graduate School of Education at the University of California at Berkeley where she also completed a Designated Emphasis in Gender, Women, and Sexuality. She is Affiliated Research Faculty with the San Francisco State University Center for Research and Education on Gender and Sexuality.



An Bui

Poet and Social Worker in Training

An Bui is a poet, social worker in training, and water rooster who was born in Viet Nam and raised in San José. She earned a B.A. in English with a minor in Education Studies at UCLA, served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and partnered with young people in school and non-profit programs for 6 years. Through her writing, she navigates family dynamics, queer Catholic Vietnamese identity, and grief. Her work has been featured in Autostraddle, Kearny Street Workshop, and Essential Truths: The Bay Area in Color anthology. She is a member of the artist and healer collective, QTViet Cafe Collective Circle. When she's not writing or performing, she's supporting youth and young adults in their wellness and career journeys, planting seeds for intergenerational healing within families, and catching as many sunsets as possible.



Sofia Fojas

Education Researcher / Community Activist

Sofia Fojas is a leader for cultural equity and social justice in the arts. She was born in Honolulu and grew up in San José, California. A classroom music teacher and high school music director for 20 years, she taught orchestra, band, IB Music, and mariachi. In the last 6 years, she has served as a district arts leader in San Francisco and Elk Grove school districts. Ms. Fojas is the Arts Coordinator for the Santa Clara County Office of Education in San José, California. She was a member of the California Alliance for Arts Education and is currently a member of the board of directors for the National Guild for Community Arts Education and serves on its Racial Equity Committee.

Ms. Fojas started her musical career as a violinist in the pit orchestra of the San José Children's Musical Theater and continues to play violin and viola with SF Bay Area choirs and orchestras. She has also performed with Mariachi Cali, Mariachi Atzlan and as a guest in a performance with Mariachi Sol de Mexico. She performed with Los Cenzontles and recorded with them on an album of the Chieftans. She has played in backup orchestras behind Natalie Cole, Dionne Warwick, Andy Williams, Smokey Robinson, and Johnny Mathis. Contact: sfojas@sccoe.org



Funie Hsu, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of American Studies, San José State University

Funie Hsu is Associate Professor of American studies at San José State University. She is an interdisciplinary scholar whose first book examines US colonialism in the Philippines, English instruction policy, and animality. Her second book project explores mindfulness, race, and schools. Dr. Hsu received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in Education, her Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and her B.A. in from the University of California, Davis in Asian American studies. She is a 1.75 Taiwanese American immigrant from a working class, Buddhist background.