



The **Opportunity** Agenda

# IMMIGRATION: ARTS, CULTURE & MEDIA 2010



A **CREATIVE CHANGE** EVENT

Wednesday, April 14, 2010  
Florence Gould Hall  
New York City





The **Opportunity** Agenda

presents

## **IMMIGRATION: ARTS, CULTURE & MEDIA 2010**

A TIMELY CONVERSATION WITH ARTISTS AND ADVOCATES

**Chung-Wha Hong**

New York Immigration Coalition

**David Henry Hwang**

Tony Award-Winning Playwright

**Alan Jenkins**

The Opportunity Agenda

**Mira Nair**

Director of *The Namesake* and *Monsoon Wedding*

**Martín Perna**

Founder of Antibalas and Ocote Soul Sounds

**Favianna Rodriguez**

Printmaker and New Media Artist

**Frank Sharry**

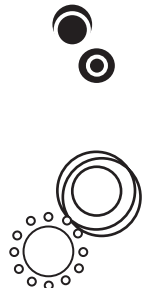
America's Voice

plus the art of **Kip Fulbeck**

moderated by

**Maria Hinojosa**

Emmy Award-winning PBS Anchor  
and Host of NPR's *Latino USA*



## BIOS

### **Maria Hinojosa, Moderator**

Senior Correspondent for NOW, the Emmy Award-winning PBS news magazine, and host of NPR's Latino USA, Maria Hinojosa is also anchor and managing editor of her own Emmy Award-winning talk show *One on One*.

Hinojosa has been named one of the "100 Most Influential Latinos in the United States" by Hispanic Business magazine three times over the past decade. Further honors include the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism award for reporting on the disadvantaged, the Ruben Salazar Lifetime Achievement and, in 2009, a Gracie Award for "Best TV Correspondent" from American Women in Radio and Television.

Prior to joining NOW in 2005 Hinojosa worked for NPR, CBS and CNN and authored two books including *Raising Raul: Adventures Raising Myself and My Son* (1999), chronicling her experiences as a Mexican-American career woman, wife and mother. Hinojosa was born in Mexico City, raised in Chicago and lives in Harlem, New York City.

### **Kip Fulbeck**

Kip Fulbeck is an American artist, author, filmmaker and Professor, best known for his autobiographical work on identity, multiraciality, and pop culture. In 2001 Fulbeck created The Hapa Project, a critically acclaimed and influential artwork giving voice to the millions of multiracial individuals living in the United States and empowering multiracial communities.

Fulbeck is the published author of *Permanence: Tattoo Portraits; Part Asian, 100% Hapa; Paper Bullets: A Fictional Autobiography*; and the just released *Mixed: Portraits of Multiracial Kids*. The director of twelve films, he has also exhibited and performed in over 20 countries including the Whitney Museum of Art ('93 Biennial) and Getty Museum (California Video). As Professor of Art at UC Santa Barbara, Fulbeck initiated and taught the university's first Spoken Word course. He has been named an Outstanding Faculty Member four times and received the university's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2009 for his engaging, informative, and innovative classroom style. ([www.thehapaproject.com](http://www.thehapaproject.com), [www.mixedkids.com](http://www.mixedkids.com), [www.redsushi.com](http://www.redsushi.com))

### **Chung-Wha Hong**

As Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), in 2006 Chung-Wha Hong organized the largest immigration rally in New York City history by encouraging more than 300,000 people to march on City Hall. Subsequent victories include winning an influx of \$700 million in state funds for local schools to help immigrant students who don't speak English, and successfully lobbying for changes in housing-code enforcement to help immigrant families living without heat or hot water.

Prior to joining NYIC, Hong served as Executive Director of the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium. Her past activism also includes involvement with health care issues at the Committee of Interns and Residents and with Asian American and labor issues at the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.

## David Henry Hwang

David Henry Hwang is a playwright, librettist and screenwriter. His plays include *M. Butterfly* (1988 Tony Award for Best Play, 1989 Pulitzer Finalist), *Yellow Face* (2008 OBIE Award for Playwriting, 2008 Pulitzer Finalist), *Golden Child* (1997 OBIE Award, 1998 Tony Nomination for Best Play), *FOB* (1981 OBIE Award) and *The Dance and the Railroad*. He wrote libretti for the Broadway musicals *Aida* (co-author), with music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice; Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song* (2002 revival, Tony Nomination for Best Book of a Musical) and *Disney's Tarzan*, with songs by Phil Collins.

His opera libretti include Philip Glass' *1000 Airplanes on the Roof*, *The Voyage* (Metropolitan Opera), and *The Sound of a Voice*; as well as Bright Sheng's *The Silver River*, Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* (2007 Grammy Awards for Best Opera and Best Classical Composition), and Unsuk Chin's *Alice In Wonderland* (Opernwelt 2007 World Premiere of the Year). Hwang penned the feature films *M. Butterfly*, *Golden Gate*, and *Possession* (co-writer), and also co-wrote the song "Solo" with Prince. He attended Stanford University and the Yale School of Drama and served by appointment of President Clinton on the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

## Alan Jenkins

Alan Jenkins is Executive Director of The Opportunity Agenda, a communications, research, and policy organization dedicated to building the national will to expand opportunity in America. Before co-founding The Opportunity Agenda, Alan was Director of Human Rights at the Ford Foundation. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Alan clerked for two of the country's most distinguished jurists: U.S. District Court Judge Robert L. Carter and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. He was Assistant to the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice, representing the United States government in constitutional litigation before the Supreme Court. He has also served as Associate Counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc.

## Mira Nair

Mira Nair is an award-winning filmmaker whose first feature film, *Salaam Bombay!* (1988), received more than 25 international awards including an Academy Award Nomination for Best Foreign Film. A long-time activist, Nair used the film's profits to establish the Salaam Baalak Trust, providing care and education for 5000 Indian street children annually through 25 care centers. In 2005 Nair founded Maisha, a filmmakers' training program based in East Africa that has trained hundreds of students in screenwriting, directing, producing, acting, sound design, editing, and cinematography.

Nair's feature films include *Mississippi Masala*, *The Perez Family*, *Kama Sutra*, *My Own Country*, *The Laughing Club of India*, *Monsoon Wedding*, *Hysterical Blindness*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Namesake*, *Migration*, and *Amelia*. She also makes short films including most recently *New York, I Love You*. She is currently working on a Broadway musical adaptation of her 2001 film, *Monsoon Wedding*, and a film of Mohsin Hamid's bestselling novel, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. Mira Nair was born in India and educated at Delhi University and Harvard. She lives in New York City and Kampala, Uganda with her husband and son.

## **Martín Perna**

Martín Perna is a socially active musician, composer, artist, and children's book author. As a musician, Perna's work straddles the artistic borders between hip hop, jazz, dub and funk. Together with Adrian Quesada, he is the joint founder of Ocote Soul Sounds, a politically conscious big band that released their third album, *Coconut Rock*, in 2009. Perna is also founding member of Antibalas, an afrobeat band known for supporting radical causes that has performed in over 23 countries and all over New York City, from Central Park to Rikers Island. Perna is an apprentice of earth architecture master Nader Khalili, and his superadobe creations can be seen in Michoacan, Mexico and Austin, Texas.

## **Favianna Rodriguez**

Favianna Rodriguez is a celebrated printmaker and new media artist based in Oakland, California. Using high-contrast colors and vivid figures, her composites reflect literal and imaginative migration, global community, and interdependence. Whether her subjects are immigrant day laborers in the United States, mothers of disappeared women in Juárez, Mexico, globalization or social movements, Rodriguez brings new audiences into the art world by refocusing the cultural lens. Through her work we witness the changing U.S. metropolis and a new Diaspora in the arts, as the art viewer becomes the participant carrying art beyond the borders of the museum.

Favianna Rodriguez has lectured widely on the use of art and technology in civic engagement. She is co-editor of *Reproduce and Revolt!* Her work has been displayed in Mexico, Japan, Italy, England, Belgium, Cuba, and throughout the United States. In 2009, Rodriguez co-founded Presente.org, a national online organizing network dedicated to the political empowerment of Latino communities. On April 17, Rodriguez will be inducted in California's Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame. ([www.favianna.com](http://www.favianna.com))

## **Frank Sharry**

Long-time immigrant advocate Frank Sharry founded America's Voice in 2008 to focus on using communications and media to secure comprehensive immigration reform. Prior to setting up the organization, Sharry served as Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum for 17 years and was Executive Director of Centro Presente, a local organization working with Central American refugees in the greater Boston area.

## **PRESENTERS**

### **The Opportunity Agenda** [www.opportunityagenda.org](http://www.opportunityagenda.org)

The Opportunity Agenda was founded in 2004 with the mission of building the national will to expand opportunity in America. Focused on moving hearts, minds, and policy over time, the organization works closely with social justice organizations, leaders, and movements to advocate for solutions that expand opportunity for everyone. Through active partnerships, The Opportunity Agenda uses communications and media to understand and influence public opinion; synthesizes and translates research on barriers to opportunity and promising solutions; and identifies and advocates for policies that improve people's lives.

### **Unbound Philanthropy** [www.unboundphilanthropy.org](http://www.unboundphilanthropy.org)

Unbound Philanthropy is a family foundation that is dedicated to securing justice and opportunity for immigrants and refugees. Current grant making is focused on positively impacting public opinion and policy on immigration and refugee issues in the United States and the United Kingdom. There is a strong trans-Atlantic learning component to this work. Unbound is also dedicated to contributing to a better future for migrant children and youth in the developing world through increasing and improving educational possibilities for children living in conflict and post-conflict settings.

## **PARTNERS**

### **Air Traffic Control** [www.atctower.net](http://www.atctower.net)

Air Traffic Control (ATC) exists to help musicians play an effective, unique and vital role in the promotion of social justice. Musicians and managers established ATC five years ago to assemble an experienced and trusted team of leaders, resources and tools that would help them to create effective social change collaborations with each other and social justice organizations. As a result, ATC became an artists' air traffic control, developing capacity, efficiency, and coordination to produce stronger and more creative social change collaborations.

### **America's Voice** [www.americasvoiceonline.org](http://www.americasvoiceonline.org)

The mission of America's Voice is to realize the promise of workable and humane comprehensive immigration reform. Our goal is to build the public support and create the political momentum for reforms that will transform a dysfunctional immigration system that does not work into a regulatory system that does. Our vision of reform includes elements, which implemented simultaneously, will lead to a 21st century immigration system that honors legal immigration, reduces illegal immigration, recognizes the contributions of hard-working immigrant families, preserves the importance of family reunification, respects the rights of all to fair proceedings and humane treatment, and levels the playing field for law-abiding employers and workers in the United States. To achieve this vision, America's Voice speaks directly to key audiences through the mainstream, new, and Spanish-language media, conducts cutting edge public opinion research, communications, and online campaigns, and supports courageous leaders from all walks of life who are standing up for workable comprehensive immigration reform now.

### **Applied Research Center** [www.arc.org](http://www.arc.org)

Founded in 1981, the Applied Research Center (ARC) is a public policy institute advancing racial justice through research, advocacy and journalism. Using policy analysis, media reporting and leadership training, ARC investigates the hidden racial consequences of public policy initiatives and aims to move people to action in support of racial equality. ARC was one of the first racial justice organizations to begin writing about and advocating for equity in the emerging green economy and is currently developing a Toolkit on Equity and the Green Economy that advocates can use to design fair programs and policies. The organization's annual Facing Race Conference has become the national convening of organizers, activists, and intellectuals on race and politics.

**The Arts & Democracy Project** [www.artsanddemocracy.org](http://www.artsanddemocracy.org)

The Arts & Democracy Project engages the creative power of arts and culture as a catalyst for action - especially among people who have been traditionally disenfranchised. Since 2004 it has served as an incubator, collaborator, and convener, to further work that connects arts, participatory democracy, and social justice. A partner project of State Voices, the Arts & Democracy Project documents exemplary practices; stimulates critical dialogue through a Learning Community; makes strategic connections; and supports cultural organizing in areas ranging from immigration reform to equitable development to engaging historically undercounted populations in the census.

**Arts Engine** [www.artsendengine.net](http://www.artsendengine.net)

Arts Engine is a trusted source of media that matters. We drive change by connecting media, technology and community. Our projects include: Media That Matters, MediaRights.org, Big Mouth Films and DocuClub. Through these dynamic and international projects, we cover a wide range of contemporary issues, including immigration, human rights, the environment, equality and more. June 2-3, 2010, marks the tenth launch of the annual Media That Matters collection of short films. MediaRights.org currently has over 21,000 members worldwide and more than 7,000 documentaries in its online, issue-searchable database. Big Mouth Films has produced eight acclaimed documentaries with audiences in the millions.

**Breakthrough** [www.breakthrough.tv](http://www.breakthrough.tv)

Breakthrough is an innovative, international human rights organization using the power of popular culture, media, and community mobilization to transform public attitudes and advance equality, justice, and dignity. Through initiatives in India and the United States, Breakthrough addresses critical global issues including violence against women, sexuality and HIV/AIDS, racial justice, and immigrant rights.

**Center for American Progress** [www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org)

The Center for American Progress is a public policy think tank dedicated to improving the lives of Americans through progressive ideas and action on 21st-century challenges such as energy, national security, economic growth and opportunity, immigration, education, and health care. The Center develops policy proposals, talking points, events, news and columns through dialogue with leaders, thinkers and citizens.

**Center for New Community** [www.newcomm.org](http://www.newcomm.org)

The Center for New Community is a national organization committed to building community, justice, and equality. The Center is grounded in many faith traditions, and builds community where the dignity and value of all humanity is manifest. Established in 1995, it has grown from a vision to an organization working nationwide to cultivate civic life and advance systemic change, in partnership with local leaders, organizations, congregations, and other institutions.

**Creative Capital** [www.creative-capital.org](http://www.creative-capital.org)

Creative Capital is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing integrated financial and advisory support to artists pursuing innovative and adventurous projects in five disciplines: Emerging Fields, Film/Video, Literature, and Performing and Visual Arts. Working in long-term partnership with artists, Creative Capital's pioneering approach to support combines funding, counsel, and career development services to enable a project's success and foster a successful and sustainable practice for its grantees. In its first decade, Creative Capital has committed more than \$20 million in financial and advisory support to 325 projects representing 406 artists, and has reached an additional 3,000 artists through its Professional Development Program.

**Creative Time** [www.creativetime.org](http://www.creativetime.org)

Founded in 1974, Creative Time is a public arts organization based in New York City guided by a passionate belief in the power of art to create inspiring personal experiences and foster social progress. Creative Time has a history of commissioning, producing, and presenting public artworks of all disciplines including *Tribute in Light*, the twin beams that rose from the World Trade Center site. Today, Creative Time grants emerging and established artists access to millions of people citywide in an effort to level racial, economic, and age barriers meanwhile enlivening the everyday experience of New York City.

**freeDimensional** [www.freedimensional.org](http://www.freedimensional.org)

freeDimensional (fD) advances social justice by hosting activists in art spaces and using cultural resources to strengthen their work. Furthermore, fD is a network that supports art spaces hosting activism and strengthening community engagement. fD is made up of art spaces in over 60 countries with regional hubs in New York City, Cairo, Sao Paulo, Berlin and Pondicherry. fD members provide safe haven for oppressed culture workers in their residency apartments; offer meeting rooms to community members who bring important local issues to light; and introduce new ideas to the public through bold exhibitions and inclusive educational programs. In these ways, fD supports the freedom of thought and expression globally.

**INTAR Theatre** [www.intartheatre.org](http://www.intartheatre.org)

INTAR is one of the United States' longest running Latino theaters producing in English. Over the past four decades, INTAR has produced classics, Latino adaptations of classics, cabarets, and 70 world premieres of plays written by Latino-Americans. To date, the theater has commissioned, developed, and produced works by more than 175 Latino writers, composers, and choreographers. It has assisted hundreds of Latino playwrights, directors, and actors in obtaining their first professional theater credits, union memberships, and reviews in English-language media. "There's scarcely a Latino artist in America who hasn't been supported or trained or produced by INTAR," according to The New York Times.

**International Coalition of Sites of Conscience** [www.sitesofconscience.org](http://www.sitesofconscience.org)

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is a worldwide network of "Sites of Conscience" - historic sites like the District Six Museum (South Africa), Gulag Museum (Russia) and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum (USA), dedicated to remembering past struggles for justice and addressing their contemporary legacies. The Immigration Sites of Conscience, a project of the Coalition, is a network of museums remembering immigration histories and opening dialogue around immigration - past and present.

**Lower East Side Tenement Museum** [www.tenement.org](http://www.tenement.org)

The six-story tenement at 97 Orchard Street was home to roughly 7,000 people from 1863 until 1935, when it was closed as a residence. Since 1988, the Museum has worked to preserve the building's history, restoring six period apartments to reflect the stories of the families who once lived here. Anchored in a neighborhood that has long been home to thousands of poor and working class people, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum is dedicated to using the history of its site as a tool for addressing issues that are still pressing today, including immigration, urban housing and public welfare.

**Museum of Chinese in America** [www.mocanyc.org](http://www.mocanyc.org)

The Museum of Chinese in America was founded in 1980 by historian John Kuo Wei Tchen and community resident and activist Charles Laiand. Their aim was to promote a better understanding of Chinese American history and preserve the memories and experiences of older generations through oral history, photo documentation, and research efforts. In its new building, designed by artist and designer Maya Lin, the museum promotes dialogue and understanding among people of all cultural backgrounds and brings 160 years of Chinese American history to vivid life through its innovative exhibitions, educational and cultural programs.

**National Immigration Forum** [www.immigrationforum.org](http://www.immigrationforum.org)

The National Immigration Forum is the leading immigrant advocacy organization in the country with a mission to advocate for the value of immigrants and immigration to the nation. Established in 1982, the Forum occupies a unique role knitting together alliances across diverse faith, labor, immigrant, non-immigrant and business constituencies in communities across the country. Using its communications, advocacy and policy expertise, the Forum develops, executes and evaluates legislative and administrative advocacy strategies that will lead to a better, more welcoming America.

**New York Foundation for the Arts** [www.nyfa.org](http://www.nyfa.org)

NYFA's mission is to empower artists at critical stages in their creative lives. Through its grants, fiscal sponsorship, information services, and programs, NYFA works with artists and arts organizations throughout New York State and other parts of the country to develop, assist, and highlight artists to the public. Of particular note is NYFA's Immigrant Artist Project, which provides mentoring, learning, and community-building opportunities to a diverse network of artists and organizations connected by the experience of immigration.

**New York Immigration Coalition** [www.thenyic.org](http://www.thenyic.org)

The New York Immigration Coalition was established in 1987 to address the impact on New York of a 1986 law allowing undocumented immigrants to legalize their status. More than twenty years later, the nation is still debating immigration in a dialogue that has grown increasingly contentious—and that is reminiscent of similar periods of anti-immigrant sentiment in our nation's history. But during this time period, the NYIC has built a strong, statewide infrastructure and expanded its advocacy and policy focus considerably to address, in addition to immigration issues, the cross-cutting issues affecting immigrants and native-born alike, such as access to health care, safe and affordable housing, and quality public education. The NYIC boasts some 200 member organizations, helps foster immigrant community leadership and civic engagement, and puts immigrants at the table in the major public policy debates of the day.

**The Pratt Center for Community Development** [www.prattcenter.net](http://www.prattcenter.net)

The Pratt Center for Community Development works for a more just, equitable and sustainable city for all New Yorkers, by empowering communities to plan for and realize their futures. As part of Pratt Institute, the Pratt Center leverages professional skills – planning, architecture and public policy – to support community-based organizations in their efforts to improve neighborhood quality of life, attack the causes of poverty and inequality, and advance sustainable development. The Arts & Community Change Initiative, housed at the Pratt Center, connects arts, culture, and equitable development to strengthen low-income neighborhoods and make systemic change.

**Teachers and Writers Collaborative** [www.twc.org](http://www.twc.org)

The Teachers & Writers Collaborative (T&W) is an innovative creative writing program for students and teachers. As well as sending writers into schools, T&W provides workshops for over 10,000 students per year in the New York tri-state region, and publishes a catalogue of creative writing titles and a quarterly magazine. T&W also sponsors an educational radio show, free after-school programs and literacy initiatives.



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Creative Capital \* Creative Time \* freeDimensional \* INTAR Theatre  
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Museum of Chinese in America \* National Immigration Forum  
New York Foundation for the Arts \* New York Immigration Coalition  
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