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PRESS INQUIRIES:

Lisa Martin, Communications & Outreach Director
(415) 863-2141 x102, communications@soex.org
Patricia Maloney, Executive Director
(415) 863-2141 x105, director@soex.org

CURATORIAL COUNCIL

Southern Exposure Announces the Formation of the Curatorial Council

May 15, 2017, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure is pleased to announce the creation of the Curatorial Council, an artist-driven, collaborative research and project-focused group that will launch in Fall 2017. Participating artists will explore new approaches for presenting artistic practice through commissioning projects, curating exhibitions, and producing educational initiatives, public programs, workshops, and publications.

The Council honors the history and ethos of Southern Exposure, where artists have led its creative vision since its founding in 1974 as a co-operative exhibition space. The Council evolves from the existing Curatorial Committee, a rotating team of artist curators who have been a driving force in conceiving projects for our gallery space and offsite.

The eight to ten artists who make up the inaugural Curatorial Council will include the current committee members. Council members will collaborate to create a dynamic conversation amongst themselves and with audiences around the aesthetic, political, social, and economic forces that significantly impact Bay Area populations. During their two-year commitment, Council members will produce in total three to four major projects for Southern Exposure.

In announcing the formation of the Curatorial Council, Executive Director Patricia Maloney notes, "I am very proud of this initiative, which represents a key component of our strategic plan for the next five years. The Council will be the guiding voice through which SoEx can reimagine dialogue around artistic practice and think more expansively about what engagement with an audience might look like." Projects and Exhibition Director Valerie Imus adds, "I'm excited to develop new projects at SoEx with the Curatorial Council. The Council continues a long tradition at SoEx of prioritizing artists' voices, with a conscious view towards creating a more equitable platform for welcoming new decision-makers into our space."

ACTIVITIES

Four to five new artists will be recruited each year for a new session of the Council. Each session will begin with a research phase centered on conversations and studio visits, as well as exploration of various curatorial strategies and practical approaches for project management. Council members will then propose projects to be realized in the following fall and subsequent spring. As projects develop, curating artists will remain in ongoing dialogue with their cohort, presenting research and project evolution in large-group sessions.

ELIGIBILITY

The Curatorial Council will be made up of ten artist curators, with four to five new members added each year. Southern Exposure has invited a diverse group of Bay Area artists, curators, and educators to nominate artists to join the Council. All eligible and interested nominated artists will be considered for participation in the Council. Finalists will be invited to meet with the Southern Exposure team and the inaugural Council will be announced in Fall 2017.

- Artists who demonstrate a commitment or who seek to deepen their commitment to Bay Area arts communities are encouraged to participate.
- Southern Exposure seeks artists at all stages of their careers who have a rigorous artistic practice and can strongly articulate their vision and aesthetic sensibility.
- Artists working in 2-D or 3-D media, conceptual, performative, socially driven, and/or participatory practices are encouraged to participate.
- Artists whose practice includes writing, poetry, dance, music, sound, design, or film are eligible if they demonstrate clear affinities to visually oriented practices.
- Southern Exposure has an organizational commitment to equity and diversity, and we will strive to invite a cohort that reflects this commitment.

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Lisa Martin at (415) 863-2141 x102 or communications@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Website: www.soex.org.

Generous support for Southern Exposure is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Crescent Porter Hale Foundation, the David Cunningham Memorial Bequest, Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Nicholson Family Foundation, the the San Francisco Arts Commission Grant Program, the Violet World Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, and Southern Exposure's members and donors.