



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ALERT

June 3, 2021

Contact: Juan Garcia
Public Information Director
juan.garcia@lacity.org

**City of Los Angeles
Department of Cultural Affairs
and
Grand Performances
present
Performances by the 2021/22 City of Los Angeles
Individual Master Artist Program (COLA IMAP) Fellows**

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and **Grand Performances** will present live performances by the City of Los Angeles Individual Master Artist Program (COLA IMAP) Fellows, **Najite Agindotan, Jibz Cameron, Shonda Buchanan,** and **Suchi Branfman** on Saturday, June 4, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. These Fellows each produced a series, set, or singular new artwork with a COLA IMAP grant of \$10,000 from DCA.

These original works will be premiered at **Grand Performances** located at 350 South Grand Avenue in Los Angeles. The event is free to attend. For additional information, please visit: <https://www.grandperformances.org/events/cola-2022>.

About the 2021/22 COLA IMAP Literary and Performing Artists

Najite Agindotan

Najite Agindotan is a renowned Nigerian-born master drummer/Afrobeat musician, activist, multi-instrumentalist, singer, and composer who founded the Los Angeles-based Afrobeat band Najite & Olokun Prophecy (NOP). Najite’s notable contributions to LA’s Black communities include the founding of the Leimert Park Drum Circle, Leimert Park Art Walk, Leimert Park Day of Ancestors Festival of Masks, Annual Fela Kuti Day, and a score of collaborations with musicians and communities throughout Los Angeles. To see more of his work, visit [Najite Agindotan on Journey to Afrobeat \(Clips\) - YouTube](#).

Suchi Branfman

Suchi Branfman is a choreographer, curator, performer, educator, and activist, who has worked from the war zones of Managua to Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre, and from Kampala's Luzira Prison to NYC's Joyce Theatre. Her work strives to create an embodied terrain grounded in storytelling, dialogue, listening, and action. Branfman is currently amidst a ten-year choreographic residency at the California Rehabilitation Center, a medium security state men's prison in Norco, CA; is Artistic Director of the multi-faceted Dancing Through Prison Walls project; serves on the faculties of Scripps College and Cal Poly Pomona; is a community gardener; and is a prison abolition activist.

Shonda Buchanan

Shonda Buchanan is a poet and memoirist. She has published books of poetry, a memoir, and two Los Angeles anthologies. As a daughter of Mixed Bloods, tri-racial and tri-ethnic African American, American Indian, and European-descendant families who migrated from North Carolina and Virginia in the mid-1700s to 1800s to Southwestern Michigan, and a Los Angeles transplant, her work explores identity, ethnicity, landscape, gender, and loss. Her memoir, *Black Indian*, won the Indie New Generation Book Award for Memoir. To learn more about her work, please visit: www.shondabuchanan.com.

Jibz Cameron

Jibz Cameron is a performing artist and playwright-actor. She has been making work for over 15 years, mainly under an alter-ego, Dynasty Handbag, which incorporates absurdist humor, physical comedy, and feminist ideologies. She writes full length theater shows, produces video, and also hosts Weirdo Night, a popular monthly Los Angeles performance and comedy event. To learn more about her work, please visit: www.dynastyhandbag.com.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles's vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant-making; public art; community arts; performing arts; and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/culturela, Instagram [@culture_la](https://instagram.com/culture_la), and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

About Grand Performances

Grand Performances is a nonprofit organization that provides free access to the global performing arts with a mission to inspire community, celebrate diversity, and unite Los Angeles through music, dance, poetry, theater, and more. All shows are free, take place outdoors, and are open to the public for all ages. Most events take place at California Plaza in the Grand Avenue Arts District of Downtown Los Angeles, next to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), The Broad, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. Founded in 1986, over the last 36 years Grand Performances has presented free, live concerts featuring Stevie Wonder, Ozomatli, Kamasi Washington, Madame Gandhi, Ana Tijoux, Soulection, Aloe Blacc, Angélique Kidjo, and countless others. For more information, please visit: www.grandperformances.org.

###