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For Immediate Release

Flyaway Productions presents the 2011

10 Women Campaign: Who is tending the City?

Flyaway Productions honors 10 urban activists who effect change through civic engagement, and through the arts.

November 17, 2011

6:30pm Reception; 7:30pm Performance and Ceremony

ODC Theater (3153-17th Street, San Francisco 94110)

Tickets: \$50 for Reception, Performance, and Ceremony
\$20/advance and \$25/door for Performance and Ceremony

Box Office: [415.863.9834](tel:415.863.9834) and flyawayproductions.com

(September 21, 2011 – San Francisco, CA) **Flyaway Productions** announces, with pleasure, the recipients of the biennial **10 Women Campaign**. Founded in 2002, the 10 Women Campaign honors ten individuals who are leaders in business, politics, activism, and the arts. The 2011 10 Women Campaign: “Who is tending the City?” brings special attention to women whose inspired work has resulted in political change in our classrooms, our media, bike lanes, and in our neighborhoods. Each awardee has been nominated by a previous 10 Women Campaign honoree, or by a member of the community.

The 2011 Awardees are:

Carol Kocivar, *President of the California State PTA*

Aimee Allison, *Executive Director, RootsAction and Founder, OaklandSeen.com*

Mary Ratcliff, *Editor, SF Bayview Newspaper*

Patricia Algara, *Landscape Designer*

Renée Rivera, *Executive Director, East Bay Bicycle Coalition*

The Administrative Team at Mujeres Unidas y Activas

Patsy Montgomery, *Associate Vice President for Legislative Campaigns with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte*

Sally Al-Daher, *Executive Director of the Arab Cultural & Community Center in San Francisco*

Yvette Mari Robles, *Former Director, BMagic*

Sonya Richardson, *Head Instructor, Executive Director, Hand to Hand Kajukenbo, Self-Defense Center*

The 10 Women Campaign is an intimate celebration. The evening kicks off with a reception for the honorees at 6:30pm. Performances by Flyaway Productions and musical guests **Lichi Fuentes** and **Donna Viscuso** start at 7:30pm, and are integrated within the ceremony for the honorees.

During the ceremony, 10 Bay Area based choreographers pay tribute to each of the awardees who respond with intimate, personal acceptance speeches. The 2011 10 Women Campaign presenters include: **Jenny McCallister**, **Erin Mei-Ling Stuart**, **Augusta Moore**, **Debby Kajiyama**, **Patricia Buillet**, **Tammy Johnson**, **Aimee Sukura**, **Cherie Carson**, and **Annie Zivolitz**.

Information and photos about past 10 Women Campaign Awardees can be found online at flyawayproductions.com/10women.

FLYAWAY PRODUCTIONS (flyawayproductions.com) is an apparatus-based dance company that explores the range and power of female physicality. Founded in 1996 by Artistic Director Jo Kreiter, the company creates dances on steel objects, both architectural and fabricated. These objects are typically off the ground, with dancers suspended anywhere from two to one hundred feet above ground level. Flyaway uses the artistry of spinning, flying, and exquisite suspension to engage a political or social issue. Flyaway also provides Art & Advocacy Programs, training for girls and young women; and hosts the **10 Women Campaign**, a biennial celebration of women whose work in business, politics, and activism mirrors the company's mission.

Flyaway has received national recognition for its particular expertise in creating and presenting site-specific performance work. The company has presented or co-presented the following large scale outdoor works in San Francisco: *Wall Ball/throw yourself in* (Sunnyside Elementary, 2011); *Singing Praises* (The Women's Building, 2010); *The Ballad of Polly Ann* (SOMA, 2009); *Sparrow's End* (Mission District, 1997); *Mission Wall Dances* (Mission District, 2002); and *The Live Billboard Project* (Mission District, 2006); *Copra Dock Dances* (Bayview/Hunters Point, 1999 and 2000); and *How To Be A Citizen* (Embarcadero, 2003). Flyaway also created a site specific work titled *360 Degrees On Site And Sound* (RPI in Troy, NY, 2005).

This project is funded by the CAC Creating Public Value Program and sponsored by Mission Pie, Bi-Rite and Realtor Jesse Fowler.

Meet the 10 WOMEN CAMPAIGN Awardees

CAROL KOCIVAR, President of the California State PTA. As a volunteer legislative advocate for the PTA, Kocivar has worked to improve public education by supporting adequate funding, small class sizes, arts for all children, special education funding, physical education and counselors, and the defeat of vouchers. She wrote the PTA Arts Resolution, adopted in 1998, supporting quality arts education for all students.

As part of the implementation of the Arts Resolution, she helped create SMARTS: Bring Back the Arts Campaign for the PTA, an awareness and advocacy campaign to support arts in California public schools.

Carol chaired the San Francisco Sustainable Funding for School Arts & Music Task Force, which issued the report *The Arts for Every Child in San Francisco*, and helped in the creation of Proposition H, which provides on-going funding for the arts in San Francisco public schools.

Working with the California Alliance for Arts Education, she also helped design *The Community Arts Education Project*, an arts self-study and resource guide.

She has worked as a journalist, and attorney and ombudsperson for special education. She also is a volunteer producer on KALW 91.7 FM public radio in San Francisco and hosts "Looking at Education."

AIMEE ALLISON is publisher of OaklandSeen.com and leads RootsAction, an online political advocacy group. She hosted the KPFA Morning Show and Comcast Newsmakers on CNN and is a frequent guest on LinkTV and KQED. She is a Women's Media Center Fellow and a graduate of Stanford University. Aimee authored *Army of None* (Seven Stories Press, 2007).

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MARY RATCLIFF is an activist and attorney turned newspaper editor since she and her husband, Willie Ratcliff, began publishing the **San Francisco Bay View** nearly 20 years ago. Born a “red diaper baby” in Harlem to active Communist Party members, she grew up in Seattle and Alaska, always compelled to respond to injustice. A young mother working as a communications clerk in the Seattle Police Department, she successfully challenged the exclusion of women and people of color from police officer and radio operator positions.

In Fairbanks, Alaska, in the early 1970s, she founded a children’s center and persuaded the legislature to pass the first-in-the-nation day care assistance program. Joining forces with Willie Ratcliff in Anchorage to fight for economic equity, she ran for the state House in 1984 and 1986, winning the primary by one vote. Moving to San Francisco in 1987 for law school, she soon traded the practice of law for editing the Bay View, finding it a more effective means of serving Bayview Hunters Point, a community under siege. The Bay View, long a weekly newspaper, is now printed monthly and is a daily newspaper online, at sfbayview.com, the second most visited Black newspaper on the web.

PATRICIA ALGARA has a Masters in Landscape Architecture from U.C. Berkeley and she is a certified Permaculture designer. Strongly influenced by her two grandfathers, one an architect the other a rancher, Patricia has an appreciation for beautifully designed food-productive landscapes, an art she calls foodscaping (foodscaping.blogspot.com). Foodscaping is a design build studio specializing in edible landscapes and urban farms. Patricia has always had a passion for empowering communities, and believes that self-sufficiency is a critical means for achieving it. She is the co-creator of the **Algarden Urban Farm** in Berkeley, a demonstration farm where she teaches permaculture, runs community gardening parties, and farm to table lunches and dinners to bring awareness to the connection to our food.

As a designer at MIG, she has worked in many construction projects focusing on educational environments for children. As well as community outreach and participation projects, helping communities envision and build the spaces they want and need.

She is an instructor at UC Berkeley extension an avid bee tender who strives to apply in her design, what she has learned from the bees; a beautiful, highly functional, organic organism with perfect geometry in every cell.

RENEE RIVERA, Executive Director, East Bay Bicycle Coalition, grew up in San Francisco. At the age of five, she learned to ride a purple bike with a yellow banana seat in the UCSF student housing parking lot, where she lived with her mother. There, a bike advocate was born. Today Renee leads the East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) as its new executive director, after a nine-month stint as acting executive director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC). She has worked with the SFBC for the past fifteen years as a volunteer, board member and most recently as acting executive director. This past year she was instrumental in launching the SFBC’s new Connecting the City campaign.

Rivera has a background in non-profit financial management and administration, and worked for many years at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. Her position as executive director at the EBBC allows her to bring her management, financial, and administrative experiences to bear on her passion for bicyclists and bicycle advocacy. Renee holds a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Today all her creative energies go into transforming our East Bay cities and streets into lively convivial places where it is a joy to walk and bike.

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The administrative team at MUJERES UNIDAS Y ACTIVAS is a grassroots organization of Latina women with a double mission of promoting personal transformation and building community power for social and economic justice. Mujeres Unidas Y Activas provides a multi-faceted approach to empower Latina Immigrant women by:

- Creating an environment of understanding and confidentiality.
- Empowering and educating our members to provide mutual support.
- Offering trainings to build the economic security and leadership of our members.
- Working in diverse alliances on the local, regional, national, international levels.
- Organizing campaigns to win immigrant, workers' and women's rights.

Mujeres Unidas Y Activas serves the community with informational workshops on a variety of topics including immigrant rights, domestic violence, women's health issues, and parenting and child development; counseling, referrals, and crisis intervention services; a multi-service workers' program that provides job training and placement as home health care and childcare providers and housecleaners; a workers' association through which members learn to negotiate contracts, build job skills, apply for jobs, and learn about workers' rights; intensive courses that deepen the political education and develops the leadership and organizing skills of Latina immigrant women; and community campaigns to address immigrant rights and social justice issues on the local, state, and national levels. MUA's central organizing campaign currently focuses on demanding respect and winning labor protections on the state, national, and international levels for domestic workers.

PATSY MONTGOMERY is the Associate Vice President for Legislative Campaigns with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte serving the East Bay and Peninsula along with 27 other California counties. She began her career there in 1991 after a decade as an advocate for children at a rape crisis center where she established one of the largest & most culturally diverse prevention programs in California. Patsy is known statewide for her advocacy on behalf reproductive, social and LGBT justice issues. She is co-founder of the Central Valley Alliance for Women & Justice and serves on the boards of ACT for Women & Girls and Fresno Barrios Unidos.

Patsy was born "dirt poor" but family rich in Tahlequah Oklahoma. She is a member of the Cherokee tribe and mother of three accomplished young adults, Patrick of San Francisco, Michelle of Volcano Hawaii and Sarah of Goreme Turkey. Patsy recognizes that she is the person she is today because of the mentoring of many people, young and old who have taken the time to share their wisdom with her including the iconic Dolores Huerta and Senator Deborah Ortiz, She proudly carries the tile of "Vagina Warrior" bestowed on her several years ago for her efforts to defend women's rights in ideologically conservative communities.

SALLY AL-DAHER is the Executive Director of the Arab Cultural & Community Center in San Francisco, the largest cultural, educational and human service organization serving the Arab community in Northern California. Sally has a passion for helping immigrant women, children and families, and has been working tirelessly to promote Arab art and culture and improve the lives of the Arab American community in the Bay Area. She has worked for Santa Clara County Department of Public health, leading the outreach and education program for a multi-agency comprehensive system of care for mothers and their infants impacted by prenatal substance abuse, and also worked as an independent contractor for California Family Health Council. Sally has received many awards for her leadership and efforts to help underserved communities. These include an award from SF Mayor Gavin Newsom in 2009 for developing outstanding programs and services to the AA community, an award from the Immigrant Rights Commission at the Immigrant Rights Summit in 2007 for strong leadership and valuable contribution in successfully assisting immigrants to integrate into the civic and cultural life of our country. Sally holds an M.D. degree from Baghdad University and a Masters degree in Public Health focusing on Community Health Education from San Jose State University.

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YVETTE MARI ROBLES, Former Director of BMAGIC, a nonprofit social, educational and juvenile justice collaborative comprised of 35 community based organizations in Bayview Hunters Point. Robles graduated in 2004 from San Francisco State University with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Speech Communications. Robles is an abolitionist, womanist, grassroots fundraiser, community builder, and social researcher. She advocates for public policy and restorative justice that is inclusive of the community's needs through collaborative programming. Her group work cultivates a love-based practice that emphasizes shared leadership, forgiveness, and rituals of regard.

Robles is also a former council member on the University of California, San Francisco, University Community Partnerships Council working to strengthen relationships between the University and the BVHP community by supporting authentic community based participatory research. She served on the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Youth Employment Council assisting in designing programmatic quality standards that are fair and considerate of organizations whose capacity building structures are impacted by social inequities. Robles has a dedicated vision of strengthening and sustaining systems of change created by and for communities of color. She is currently an Integrative Health, MA candidate at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, CA.

SONYA RICHARDSON is Head Instructor and Executive Director of Hand to Hand Kajukenbo Self-Defense Center in Oakland, CA, established in 1980 by the late Professor Coleen Gragen. Its mission is to empower and positively transform individuals and communities to create a peaceful and just society through martial arts and self defense. Richardson began training in the martial arts in 1990, training in Kajukenbo under Professor Gragen and was promoted to fifth degree Black Belt by her current teacher Professor Barbara Bones. She also holds a Sandan in Kenpo Karate.

Richardson is a Doctor of Physical Therapy, having practiced for over twenty years. She has consistently medaled in local and international competitions in forms, weapons, sparring and self defense divisions. She's made multiple presentations each year at a number of national martial arts camps and conferences. Richardson works collaboratively with students and community groups to create performance pieces focused on empowerment. Performances include: Mill's College "Women of Color in the Martial Arts", Oakland's Sistahs Steppin' in Pride, San Francisco Pride, national and international camps and fundraisers.

Interviews with Jo Kreiter of Flyaway Productions, or the 10 Women Campaign honorees can be arranged upon request. Publicity for this event is handled jointly by Brechin Flournoy, Sagacity Communications, sagacity.co@gmail.com, Lisa Okuhn, Okuhn Public Relations, lisaokuhn@gmail.com, or Jo Kreiter, Flyaway Productions, jo@flyawayproductions.com for interview requests, and media tickets.

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