



CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE LIST: GALAS, FUNDRAISERS, FOOD

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For Immediate Release

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CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES PRESENTS “CALIFORNIA ON THE TABLE: AN EVENING CELEBRATING OUR STATE’S DELICIOUS FOOD STORIES” ON SEP. 12

Fundraiser at One Kearny Club Features Nikiko Masumoto of Masumoto Family Farms & Food by James Beard-Nominated Chef Reem Assil

(San Francisco, CA) – **California Humanities** presents *California on the Table: An Evening Celebrating Our State’s Delicious Food Stories* on **Thursday, September 12, 2019, 6 to 8 pm**, at One Kearny Club in San Francisco. The evening includes guest speakers **Nikiko Masumoto of Masumoto Family Farm**, and catering by **James Beard Award Nominee Chef Reem Assil**. Guests will also hear from two of California Humanities’ grantees, **California Foodways’ Lisa Morehouse** and **Steven Wong of LA Heat**.

Guests will begin their evening at 6 pm with **hors d’oeuvres from Reem’s Catering** inspired by traditional Arab street food made with California love and a hosted bar in the beautiful **One Kearny Club**, atop the iconic One Kearny Building in San Francisco’s Union Square. Guests will enjoy mingling with California Humanities Board, Staff, and grantees, as well as featured speakers, while enjoying the space’s modern design blended with historical features, and the dramatic skyline views from the outdoor terrace. The program includes a welcome from **California Humanities President and CEO Julie Fry**, followed by remarks from Masumoto, Morehouse, and Wong. A **fund-a-need** will offer guests the opportunity to raise a paddle to support California Humanities’ programs.

Guests may purchase tickets for \$100. This special fundraising event will support California Humanities grants and programs that connect people in California to ideas and one another in order to understand our shared heritage and diverse cultures, inspire civic participation, and shape our future. For tickets, [click here](#).

“California is known as a state with many rich food traditions, and the projects that California Humanities has supported and presented over almost 45 years have truly reflected that,” said **Fry**. “California on the Table is an opportunity for people to share their love for California’s incredible food stories while supporting our grants and programs that reach every corner of the state.”

FEATURED GUESTS & CATERER

Nikiko Masumoto (she/her) can be described as an organic farmer, memory keeper, community worker, and artist. She is a fourth generation farmer in California where she grows organic nectarines, apricots, peaches and grapes for raisins with her family ([Masumoto Family Farm](#)). Her work with in agriculture is often her springboard to working in place, storytelling, and community. You might find her on a stage, performing her one-woman show about Japanese American memory or speaking at a gathering about equity, story, and connection to food and the land. You could find Masumoto in community meetings, planning and designing intergenerational programming or with rural artists and creative placemakers imagining what resilient futures could be. Nikiko has co-authored two books: a cookbook called *The Perfect Peach* and *Changing Season*. She is the co-founder and co-director of Yonsei Memory Project, a movement to give power and life to Japanese American memory keeping. Masumoto serves on the board of the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, Western States Arts Federation, and Art of the Rural.

Lisa Morehouse is an award-winning public radio reporter and editor focusing on food, agriculture, and the people who make both possible. She produces [California Foodways](#), a county-by-county exploration of stories at the intersection of food, culture, history, economics, labor and the environment. The stories air on KQED's [The California Report Magazine](#), and national shows like *All Things Considered*, *The World*, and *Here and Now*. The series received a national Edward R. Murrow Award and two James Beard nominations. An editor at KALW's *Crosscurrents*, Morehouse also teaches audio production to high school and college students.

Steven Wong is a curator at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Art Park. Previously he was the Interim Executive Director and the senior staff curator at the Chinese American Museum where he developed and implemented both contemporary art and history exhibitions. As part of the Getty's 2017 *Pacific Standard Time LA/LA*, he conceived of and co-curated an exhibition examining the historic circuits of migrations, cross-connections, and flows of artists and Chinese diasporic communities influenced artistic production within the larger development of Caribbean art. In 2014, Wong curated [LA Heat: Taste Changing Condiments](#), an exhibit that brought together over 30 LA-based artists from disparate art worlds to explore the sociocultural plurality and hybridity of LA via the city's culinary innovation. Wong is also a visual art and has exhibited in museums and galleries in LA and New York.

Reem Assil founded [Reem's](#) with a passion for the flavors of Arab street-corner bakeries and the vibrant communities where they're located. Growing up in a Palestinian-Syrian household, Assil was surrounded by the aromas and tastes of food from the homeland and the connections they evoked of her heritage, family, and community. Before dedicating herself to a culinary career, Assil worked for a decade as a community and labor organizer and brings the warmth of community to all her events. She was a 2018 James Beard Semi-Finalist for Best Chef West, San Francisco Magazine's 2018 Chef of the Year and San Francisco Chronicle's 2017 Rising Star Chef.

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TITLE: California on the Table: An Evening Celebrating Our State's Delicious Food Stories

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 12, 2019, 6–8 pm

LOCATION: One Kearny Club, 23 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

PRICE: \$100 (\$50 tax deductible)

TICKETS: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NTk5MDI=

ABOUT CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES

California Humanities, a nonprofit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, promotes the humanities—focused on ideas, conversation and learning—as relevant, meaningful ways to understand the human condition and connect us to each other in order to help strengthen California. California Humanities has provided grants and programs across the state since 1975. To learn more, visit calhum.org or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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