



**For Immediate Release**

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**Villa Albertine San Francisco and California Humanities Announce  
*Centering the Margin: Oakland/Saint-Denis*  
An International Exhibition and Cultural Exchange**

April 12, 2022 (Oakland, CA) — Villa Albertine San Francisco and California Humanities are proud to announce their continued partnership and launch of a series of multi-city exhibitions and programs in Paris and Saint-Denis, France, with parallel events in Oakland and San Francisco, USA.

Regardless of what they are called - suburbs, outskirts, banlieues, inner-cities – the *In the Banlieues / Centering the Margin: Oakland/Saint-Denis* initiative aims to give a voice to these regions and their residents as they face the challenges of contemporary social and urban evolution.

Oakland and Saint-Denis represent cities where social and cultural innovations are invented in the margins daily. Separate from the primary metropolitan economy, these places question, create and renew art and social justice practices. By stirring up fresh ideas, creating connections, amplifying underrepresented voices, and pioneering new models, cultural players nourish the city as it evolves.

During 2022, the collaboration, guided by an international Advisory Committee, will offer three components that build upon the Oakland/Saint-Denis Cooperation Project launched in 2019; dates will be announced soon:

- **An International Exhibition in Paris/Saint-Denis and San Francisco/Oakland** – an examination of the histories, socio-spatial expressions and speculations about Oakland and Saint-Denis.
- **Cultural Exchange Programs Between Oakland and Saint-Denis** – a curation of performing and visual arts that complement the international exhibition and its associated events.
- **City/Cité Conversation Series** – virtual dialogues between cities from all over the world as they share their cultural and urban innovations. Past conversations have included urban experts and artists in Detroit, Chicago, and Paris, as well as the mayors of Oakland and Saint-Denis.

Funding for this international initiative is provided by Villa Albertine San Francisco, California Humanities, the Institute français, and 836M Gallery with support from Bank of the West and French Bee.

### **About Villa Albertine San Francisco:**

Villa Albertine San Francisco is a cultural institution uniquely characterized by its exceptional artist residence in Cole Valley, a villa designed to welcome artists from all over the world and promote exchanges in Northern California. It is a branch of Villa Albertine, a new kind of cultural institution whose mission is to create a community that links France and the United States in a shared exploration of arts and ideas. With a team of 80 people deployed in 10 major cities—Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.—Villa Albertine presents its innovative programming nationwide. This includes 60 customized residencies for artists, thinkers, and cultural professionals; a series of cultural and humanities initiatives and events; a magazine; and resources and convenings for professionals in the cultural sphere. [villa-albertine.org](http://villa-albertine.org)

### **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 people 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](http://calhum.org), or like and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

### **Advisory Committee:**

Hannah Angely, Légendes Urbaines  
Roberto Bedoya/City of Oakland, Cultural Affairs  
Julien Beller/6b  
Juliette Bompont/Périphéries 2028  
Cece Carpio/artist  
Noah Christman/SPUR  
Didier Coirint  
Juliette Donadieu/Art Explora  
Nicolas Douay/Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Chicago  
Elisse Douglass/Oakland Black Business Fund  
Ashara Ekundayo/artist, Artists as First Responders  
Agnès Faure/836M Gallery  
Julie Fry/California Humanities  
Laure Gayet/Légendes Urbaines and Exhibit Curator  
June Grant/blinkLAB and Exhibit Curator  
Simón Adinia Hanukai/artist, Kaimera Productions,  
Shannon Jackson/Cultural Consultant  
Alexandre Labasse/Pavillon de l’Arsenal  
Christine Lelevrier/ Université Paris-Créteil scholar, Lab'urba  
Lamyne M/artist  
Sabine de Maussion/Villa Albertine San Francisco  
Emilie Moreau/APUR  
Robert Ogilvie/Urbanism Consultant  
Matthew Passmore/artist, MoreLab  
Steven Raspa/Burning Man Project  
Joshua Simon/CAST  
Monica Lebrao Sendra/Institut Français  
Brandi Summers/UC Berkeley scholar  
Justinien Tribillon/University College of London scholar