



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YBCA, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, and SF Pride
Announce *Identity and Pride: Youth Exploration of Self***

*Featuring youth artwork exploring broad themes related to love, gender, ethnicity,
culture, and community*



IDENTITY & PRIDE YOUTH ART SHOW

June 18-July 14



Opening-night preview Monday, June 17, 2019, 5:30pm

Exhibition on view June 18 – July 14, 2019

YBCA second-floor galleries

701 Mission Street | San Francisco

Free to the public with registration

SAN FRANCISCO (May 28, 2019)—[Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](#), [Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco](#), and [San Francisco Pride](#)—three nonprofit organizations founded in San Francisco and representing more than two hundred years of combined history—announce a partnership to present [Identity and Pride: Youth Art Show](#). The exhibition features artwork developed by youth members of Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco’s Citywide Arts Program, and explores broad themes of identity: gender, ethnicity, culture, community, and love. On view **June 18 through July 14** in YBCA’s second-floor galleries, *Identity and Pride: Youth Art Show* offers a glimpse into the perspectives of youth ages six to eighteen from the Western Addition, Bayview–Hunters Point, Excelsior, Tenderloin, and Mission communities.

“We want to see youth empowered to be leaders of social change in San Francisco,” remarks YBCA CEO **Deborah Cullinan**. “We welcome the opportunity to ensure that our youth can be seen and heard at a time when they are on the journey to self-discovery, and dealing with pressing social issues. We see the exhibition as a special way to celebrate this landmark year for SF Pride. We want our community to feel inspired, see what our youth are capable of, and understand the essential role that art plays in the healthy development of young people.”

Through sculpture, photography, digital art, prints, and textiles, youth participating in the show respond to inquiries such as “Who do you see in the mirror?” “How does your family and community define your reflection of self?” and “How do influences in your life shape who you are?” Ultimately, the three-week exhibition addresses a range of positive and negative forces that are impacting young people today, from community acceptance or rejection of their identities to national debates on race and equality.

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco President **Rob Connolly** adds, “Through their amazing art, our talented and creative young artists happily bring their powerful voices to the 49th SF Pride Parade and Celebration. At Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, we ensure that every youth feels heard, valued, loved, and understood—a sentiment that our partners embrace for all people. We are very pleased to partner with YBCA and SF Pride for this historic celebration.”

Representing love and acceptance as facets of identity, the exhibition also includes a showcase of youth artwork repurposing the iconic rainbow pride flag in celebration of the 49th Annual SF LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration. As part of the collaboration, SF Pride has provided the artists with some of the rainbow flags that have flown over Market Street every June to mark Pride month.

“We are so excited about this collaboration,” remarks SF Pride Executive Director **George F. Ridgely Jr.** “It has been a personal goal of mine to bring these retired flags out of storage and have them reinvigorated through art. It will be exciting to see how younger generations who have grown up with the flag as part of their everyday lives reimagine the material, the symbolism, and the message. Working alongside Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts has been inspiring. Our great city is made better by the work of these important institutions.”

TICKETING INFORMATION

The exhibition is free and open to the public with [registration](#).

CREDITS

YBCA exhibitions are made possible in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Panta Rhea Foundation, Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellows Program, and Kevin King and Meridee Moore.

Free youth admission to YBCA galleries is made possible through the support of Nicola Miner and Robert Mailer Anderson.

YBCA programs are made possible in part by Bloomberg Philanthropies and The James Irvine Foundation, with additional funding by National Endowment for the Arts, Grosvenor, and YBCA Members.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE

The San Francisco Pride Celebration Committee is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded to produce the SF Pride Celebration and Parade. The mission of the organization is to educate the world on LGBTQ issues, as well as commemorate the heritage, celebrate the culture, and liberate the people of all LGBTQ communities. A world leader in the Pride movement, SF Pride is also a grant-giving organization through its Community Partners Program. Since 1997 SF Pride has granted over \$3 million in proceeds to local nonprofit LGBTQIA organizations and organizations working on issues related to HIV/AIDS, cancer, homelessness, housing rights, and animal welfare. For more information visit sfpride.org.

ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco (www.kidsclub.org) is a community-based nonprofit organization that offers youth ages six to eighteen high-quality programs in first-class facilities. With a 128-year track record of meeting the needs of San Francisco youth and families, BGCSF welcomes more than 1,900 youth per day to its fifteen locations, including eight Clubhouses, five School-Based Clubs, Boeddeker Park, and Camp Mendocino, a 2,000-acre residential summer camp in Mendocino County. By focusing on four elements of our success equation—academic success, healthy lifestyles, good character and community engagement, and job readiness with earning potential—BGCSF prepares Club members to be “ready for life” by age eighteen.

ABOUT YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation’s most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA’s mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, and civic engagement. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787). For more information, visit ybca.org.