



510 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113

March 6, 2020

Dear Community Members,

To protect the health of our San José community, [MACLA](#) is taking action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with the **new guidelines** issued March 5 from the County of Santa Clara's Public Health Department in consultation with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect the public's health. This update contains information about what MACLA is doing, how it impacts our artist community and how you can help.

As a public facing institution, MACLA has been actively monitoring the situation. While this is a difficult decision that has been made with careful consideration, we are postponing our public programs beginning today, including **South First Fridays** this evening, and the presentation of [We Have Iré](#) March 13-15, 2020 due to the Santa Clara County Public Health department's *recommendation cancel public gatherings where large numbers of people will be in arm's length of one another*. Out of an abundance of caution for our staff and youth, we will be closing our afterschool program at the DMC Studios and our gallery through March 13. We will continue to evaluate the situation and update you accordingly.

Given MACLA's policy that **artists are paid for their work**, we are paying our artists and technical staff their full salaries even though they will not be performing next week. We are working with playwright [Paul S. Flores](#) to reschedule the production later this year so our community can experience *We Have Ire* a play that uplifts Afro-Cuban stories that speak to blessings, good fortune, balance, and destiny. If you have purchased a ticket to *We Have Ire* we will refund the full ticket price, you can hold it for the rescheduled event, or you can exchange it for a future MACLA performance.

If you would like to contribute to MACLA to help us offset the loss of revenue from our programs and other expenses such as marketing and artist housing that can't be refunded, you can donate [here](#).

We deeply appreciate your understanding as we work together to address these emerging health and safety issues. MACLA will keep our website and social media platforms updated with any further cancellations. Thank you for your partnership to keep our employees, our artists, our audiences and our community safe.

Sincerely,

Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez
Executive Director