



**For Immediate Release**

**Media Contact:**

Jane Daly, U.S. State Department  
(202) 632-6452 | [eca-press@state.gov](mailto:eca-press@state.gov)  
Wendy Norris, Norris Communications  
(415) 307-3853 | [wendy@norriscommunications.biz](mailto:wendy@norriscommunications.biz)

U.S. State Department and ZERO1  
Announce Selected Artists  
for  
American Arts Incubator Program

**SAN JOSE, June 2014** — ZERO1 and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs are pleased to announce the final selection of artists for the *American Arts Incubator*, an international new media and mural arts exchange program developed by ZERO1 to bring community-driven public art projects to underserved communities. Inspired by the “business incubator” model made popular by technology companies and start-ups, *American Arts Incubator* is designed to spark new ideas for community engagement through art programs. The program uses new media and mural arts to promote cross-cultural collaboration, increase awareness and provide innovative solutions to pressing challenges, and support diversity throughout program administration and content development.

Representing the United States in Laos, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines are artists David Burke (Laos), Xiaowei Wang (Mongolia), Kendal Henry (Papua New Guinea), and Felipe Castelblanco (The Philippines).

Based on the knowledge that artists can shape community-led approaches to pressing social issues, the participating *American Arts Incubator* artists will engage with innovative partners in addressing social issues, in addition to creating a cross-cultural exchange of ideas. As a training lab, production workshop, and tool for public engagement, the program aims to bolster local economies, influence public policy, and further social change.

Working closely with ZERO1, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. embassies, local community leaders, and local artists, the artists selected for this program will travel to their assigned countries for three to

four weeks to develop public art projects in each country. During such time the artists will lead workshops to teach specific skills, develop project ideas with community participants, and execute a micro-granting program to fund the development of local art projects within the participating country. This summer, all four artists will attend program orientation and training workshops at the ZERO1 Garage in preparation for the *American Arts Incubator* program.

Notes Joel Slayton, Executive Director, ZERO1, "We are thrilled with the artist selections - the four artists are a diverse group in terms of artistic mediums, ethnicities, backgrounds, and geographic locations. Each has an established history of community-driven works, and look forward to the opportunities and experiences afforded by the *American Arts Incubator* Program."

### **About the Artists**

#### **Laos – David Burke**

<http://www.dburke.org>

David Burke, a California native, has led over forty public mural projects to successful completion and has almost a decade of experience teaching various art techniques. He is currently the art director for the Super Heroes Mural Project in West Oakland and recently helped co-found the Autobody Bridge Program for emerging Bay Area artists. Burke believes that the role of the muralist is not to impose one's own vision onto a space, but to be a translator of communal vision by listening to a diverse range of voices and ideas and allowing them to shape the spirit of the project.

#### **Mongolia – Xiaowei Wang**

<http://xiaoweiwang.com>

Xiaowei Wang is a designer working at the intersection of participatory geography and design computation. Her work applies the logic of ecology broadly, seeing spatial relationships as the foundation of socioeconomic and environmental systems, experimenting with open source technologies in developing world contexts. Recent projects of Wang's include a geospatial drone strike platform for the UN Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism as part of Situ Research/Forensic Architecture, and *The Nomad, the Technologist*, a design fiction centered on urban growth in Mongolia.

#### **Papua New Guinea – Kendal Henry**

<http://www.ccartslink.org/wordpress/2010/08/26/kendal-henry/>

Kendal Henry is an artist, curator, and public art specialist with strong experience in leading public art projects that become a tool for social engagement and economic development. Over the past twenty years, he has designed and implemented projects and programs in the US, Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia, and the Caribbean. His globally renowned work varies greatly in scope, format, and materials, as he focuses on aligning each co-created project with community

intentions, desired outcomes, and available resources. Henry is currently working on projects in Australia and Asia, and curating a multinational show in St. Petersburg called *Art Prospect*.

### **The Philippines – Felipe Castelblanco**

<http://www.felipecastelblanco.com>

Felipe Castelblanco is a multidisciplinary artist, working at the intersection of socially engaged and new media art. Through urban interventions, video, performance, sculpture and networked installations, his work creates participatory experiences of *publicness* and enables coexistent encounters between unlikely audiences and across vast distances. Felipe is currently the John Fergus Post MFA Fellow at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio where he also directs Mote 078 Gallery, an experimental space focused on showcasing the work of emerging international artists.

###

### **For more information, images, or interviews contact:**

**Wendy Norris, Norris Communications**

(415) 307-3853 | [wendy@norriscommunications.biz](mailto:wendy@norriscommunications.biz) or [press@zero1.org](mailto:press@zero1.org)

**Jane Daly, U.S. State Department**

(202) 632-6452 | [eca-press@state.gov](mailto:eca-press@state.gov)

### **About ZERO1: The Art & Technology Network**

ZERO1 is where art meets technology to shape the future. As a 21<sup>st</sup> century arts nonprofit, ZERO1 works with some of the world's most fertile and creative minds from the fields of art, science, design, architecture, and technology. ZERO1 presents a year-round program of exhibitions, talks, and events at the ZERO1 Garage, their arts space in downtown San Jose's downtown cultural district, and produces the ZERO1 Biennial, an international showcase of work at the nexus of art and technology. ZERO1 is also the force behind the ZERO1 Fellowship program, where principles of artistic creativity are applied to real world innovation challenges.

Visit [www.zero1.org](http://www.zero1.org)

### **About U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) promotes international mutual understanding through academic, cultural, private-sector, professional, and sports exchange programs. The Bureau's exchanges engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and emerging leaders from all fields to increase global understanding of U.S. policies and values and to help American citizens engage with the world. More than a million people are alumni of ECA exchanges, including more than 50 Nobel Laureates and more than 320 current or former heads of state and government. Visit [exchanges.state.gov](http://exchanges.state.gov).