



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA, COMPASS FAMILY SERVICES,
AND COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP PRESENT:**

SHARED SPACES:
ADDRESSING SAN FRANCISCO'S HOMELESSNESS CRISIS THROUGH THE ARTS
NOVEMBER 16 AT 7 P.M., ODC THEATER

A Free Community Conversation As Part Of The “Earn Your Wings” Initiative

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 9, 2018) – San Francisco Opera, Compass Family Services and Community Housing Partnership present a community conversation on the application of civic practices to address San Francisco’s homelessness crisis on Friday, November 16 at 7 p.m. at ODC Theater.

Taking place during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 10–18), this free public event will explore how arts organizations in San Francisco can work collectively and in partnership with social services and governmental organizations to address the issue of homelessness in San Francisco.

The panel—moderated by Melissa Ngan from the Chicago-based Fifth House Ensemble, a national leader in collaborative, arts-integrated program design for educational and social impact—will feature voices from the arts, social services and public service community including: Roberto Bedoya (Manager, Cultural Affairs, City of Oakland), Gail Gilman (Chief Executive Officer, Community Housing Partnership), Erica Kisch (Executive Director, Compass Family Services), Jeremy Jolley (Artistic Collaborations Manager, Seattle Symphony) and *It’s a Wonderful Life* librettist Gene Scheer.

This community conversation is a part of “Earn Your Wings,” a civic partnership program between San Francisco Opera, Compass Family Services and Community Housing Partnership.

#EarnYourWings is inspired by themes in San Francisco composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer’s holiday opera *It’s a Wonderful Life* (which is based in part on the classic Frank Capra film), opening at the War Memorial Opera House on November 17. In the opera, the angel-in-training Clara seeks to earn her wings by helping George Bailey recognize the profound impact he has had on the lives of people around him by giving back to his neighbors, colleagues and friends. In this spirit, San Francisco Opera invites all to join the Company and ‘earn your wings’ through civic engagement this holiday season. For more information about #EarnYourWings, visit sfopera.com/earnyourwings.



SHARED SPACES: ADDRESSING SAN FRANCISCO'S HOMELESSNESS CRISIS THROUGH THE ARTS

Presented by San Francisco Opera, Compass Family Services and Community Housing Partnership as part of the #EarnYourWings initiative.

Date: Friday, November 16, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Location: ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

Admission: This event is free and open to the public; please register at Eventbrite to reserve your space.

Panelists include (subject to change):

Roberto Bedoya – Manager, Cultural Affairs, City of Oakland

Gail Gilman – Chief Executive Officer, Community Housing Partnership

Erica Kisch – Executive Director, Compass Family Services

Jeremy Jolley – Artistic Collaborations Manager, Seattle Symphony

Gene Scheer – *It's a Wonderful Life* librettist

Moderated by Melissa Ngan, Executive Director, Fifth House Ensemble

In recognition of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, San Francisco Opera, Compass Family Services and Community Housing Partnership present a community conversation featuring voices from the arts, social services, and public service community. This free public event will explore how arts organizations in San Francisco can work collectively and in partnership with social services and governmental organizations to address the homelessness crisis in San Francisco.

This community conversation is a part of "Earn Your Wings," a civic partnership program between San Francisco Opera, Compass Family Services and Community Housing Partnership, in conjunction with San Francisco Opera's presentation of composer Jake Heggie & librettist Gene Scheer's holiday opera *It's a Wonderful Life* at the War Memorial Opera House (November 17-December 9).

For more information about #EarnYourWings, please visit sfopera.com/earnyourwings.

For further press information, please contact:

- San Francisco Opera: Jon Finck (jfinck@sfopera.com); Julia Inouye (jinouye@sfopera.com)
- Compass Family Services (compass-sf.org): Stacy Webb (swebb@compass-sf.org)
- Community Housing Partnership (chp-sf.org): Beylah R. Marks (bmarks@chp-sf.org)