



2806 Clearwater Street
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For all media inquiries please contact
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Clockshop names Sue Bell Yank as new Executive Director

Responding to the need for culture, community advocacy and engagement around the Los Angeles River and its surrounding communities

Los Angeles, CA (February 7, 2022) - [Clockshop](http://clockshop.org) has announced that Sue Bell Yank will become the organization's new executive director on February 14th. Yank comes to the organization with a substantial record of work as an arts administrator, educator, curator, and advocate. Most recently, she served as the Deputy Director at 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica and is currently Chair of the City of Glendale Arts & Culture Commission. Yank brings a wealth of experience in building community partnerships, arts and cultural programming, and organizational management which will support the organization's plan to expand community engagement and educational opportunities around the Los Angeles River. She also has intimate knowledge of Clockshop as she served on its board for five years. Long-time director, and Clockshop's founder, Julia Meltzer will become Senior Advisor of Community and Government Partnerships focused on Clockshop's role as an arts and culture organization that is also a leading advocate for how the Los Angeles River functions as a necessary place of environmental equity and open public space.

"I am thrilled to welcome Sue as Clockshop's new executive director. She brings so much knowledge and passion for the arts and can function as a community builder, connector and activator," says Meltzer. "This expansion of our leadership will allow me to focus on critical work we do around preserving public space along the Los Angeles River and supporting the river's health and sustainability by working with our partners in Northeast LA and the surrounding communities."

For nearly two decades Clockshop has been an arts and culture organization that seeks to generate social change through people's experience of public space. The organization collaborates with artists, activists, researchers, educators, curators, institutions, and neighbors to reframe how the community views and engages with public space. Clockshop works in partnership with California State Parks at Los Angeles State Historic Park in Chinatown and at the Bowtie Project, an underused public space along the Los Angeles River.

"Public space is a precious resource in our city, and most Angelenos do not feel like they have any power over the development of their own neighborhoods. We believe that through arts and cultural programming, we can not only highlight the importance of this land to generations of Indigenous people and immigrant communities, but also stimulate how we imagine our city working better for all of us in the future," remarks Yank. "Over the next two years, we will expand and enhance our work with artists and communities and coalesce our audiences into an activated membership network dedicated to collective action for equitable and sustainable land use in our city."



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In the coming year Clockshop will develop and present increased programming including expanded artist-led projects and research, public space activations, new talks salons publications and symposium and the creation of advocacy networks and community organizing.

Confirmed Upcoming Programs:

Final presentation of conceptual design for the Bowtie Park

On March 5th from 10-noon, Clockshop, California State Parks, RADAR and Salt will present the final conceptual design for Bowtie Park at Sotomayor High School culminating 2 years of work engaging our neighbors on the future use and feel of the park.

Jimena Sarno, Public Art Commission

Jimena Sarno is a multidisciplinary artist and educator from Buenos Aires, Argentina. With a focus on spatial and sonic experience she works across a range of media including installation, sound, video, text and sculpture. *Score for Here* opens on March 27th and is a site-specific sound experience that allows visitors to LA State Historic Park to design their own unique compositions using modified field recordings and samples through a free, downloadable app. The sounds that the visitor creates will be determined by how they navigate the landscape of the park, where they wander, and what paths they take.

2nd Annual Community and Unity Kite Festival

This family-friendly festival brings together diverse communities in Los Angeles through the art of kite making and a day of joy, culture, and uplift through the arts. On May 21, 2022 Clockshop will host master kite artists, present workshops with artists Yuju Yeo, Carly Lake, and master screenprinter Dewey Tafoya, and have musical performances at LA State Historic Park for this day-long celebration.

Sarah Rosalena Brady

Sarah Rosalena (Huichol) is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher based in Los Angeles. Her work deconstructs technology with material interventions, creating new narratives for hybrid objects that function between human/nonhuman, ancient/future, handmade/autonomous to override power structures rooted in colonialism. Her installation at LA State Historic Park coming in August 2022 is the second of a series of three commissioned projects featuring artists working on issues surrounding contemporary indigeneity. These curatorial projects explore the complex relationships between Indigenous history, contested public spaces, the natural ecology of Los Angeles, and community impact. Central to these projects is the forging of new metaphors and connecting Indigenous narratives of cultural self-determination and identity within the broader public sphere.

The Clockshop Summit

This two-day symposium will present groundbreaking projects from Clockshop's history as well as new initiatives focused on creating possible futures. Across two separate days, conversations will investigate the vital big ideas and issues we are currently facing and identify the larger ecosystems that build engagement and agency at the local level.



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Sue Bell Yank Biography

Sue Bell Yank is a writer, curator, educator, and arts administrator, and is formerly the Deputy Director at 18th Street Arts Center. She has worked in arts, entertainment, and public schools for nearly 20 years, including as Associate Director of Academic Programs at the Hammer Museum, where she formed city-wide partnerships triangulating communities, the arts, and schools. She created an online education platform for the Oprah Winfrey Network, and has worked as a teacher and curriculum specialist in and out of public schools. Her expertise lies in art with social impact, public art installations, cultural programming with community partnerships, strategic communications and digital marketing, and organizational strategy. Her interest in urban planning and affordable cities led her to create a six-episode podcast about housing in Los Angeles called *Paved Paradise*. She teaches at UCLA, frequently writes about socially engaged art practice and pedagogy, and has been a Field Researcher for A Blade of Grass and Asian Arts Initiative. She is the Chair of the City of Glendale Arts & Culture Commission, and has consulted with a wide range of nonprofits on audience development, strategic planning, and visioning in the arts under the auspices of the California Arts Council, the Center for Cultural Innovation, and the City of West Hollywood. Yank received a BA from Harvard University and an MA in Public Art Studies from the University of Southern California.

Julia Meltzer Biography

Julia Meltzer believes in the power of art to build and transform communities and has worked to create opportunities for the marriage of art and advocacy for nearly three decades as a filmmaker and the founding director of Clockshop, a cultural organization that generates social change through the transformation of public space. For nearly 20 years Clockshop has commissioned over 30 artists' projects, convened hundreds of programs attended by thousands of people and formed a successful partnership with California State Parks on an 18-acre post-industrial parcel of land along the Los Angeles River called Bowtie. Clockshop has not only created cultural programming and built community advocacy for Bowtie but has also helped raise a half million dollars to support community engagement on the park's conceptual design. As an artist and filmmaker, Meltzer's work has been exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Los Angeles Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Rotterdam International Film Festival, Sharjah Biennial, and toured with the Sundance Film Forward Program. Her feature documentaries *The Light in Her Eyes* (2011) and *Dalya's Other Country* (2017) were broadcast on PBS's POV series.. Meltzer is a recipient of a Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship, John Simon Memorial Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, and was a Senior Fulbright Fellow in Damascus, Syria.

About Clockshop

[Clockshop](http://clockshop.org) is an arts and culture organization that seeks to generate social change through the transformation of public space. We collaborate with artists, activists, researchers, educators, curators, institutions and our neighbors to reframe how we view public space. Our work activates portals to revisit the past and reimagine possible futures.

We bring this mission to our partnership with California State Parks at Los Angeles State Historic Park in Chinatown and at the [Bowtie Project](#), an underused public space along the Los Angeles River. Together, we work with our community in shaping the future of the city.