

verizon^v



Engineers & Artists: Sacramento

Program Overview

Hiker | Creative Agency

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Overview

Engineers & Artists is a pilot program bringing together six pairs of Sacramento-based artists and engineers to collaborate on original artworks resulting in an exhibition on March 9, 2019. The project is being organized by Verizon and Hiker, a creative agency based in New York.

Partners

The selected participants for Artist & Engineers were chosen through a nomination process in collaboration with partner institutions in Sacramento. These include: Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento State, The Shop at VSP Global, Hacker Lab, M5 Arts, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Blue Line Arts, The City of Sacramento, and Axis Art Gallery.



Themes

The participants represent a diversity of perspectives, practices, and backgrounds that will help create a dynamic exhibition addressing the key themes of the project:

Revealing the Invisible

The Future of Together

Speed & Humanity

Portraits of Engineers

Inside the Systems of Technology

Project Participants

Tavarus Blackmon + Vikramjeet Singh

Mikko Laukamo + Daniel Diaz

Aida Lizalde + Megan Carter

David Stone + Jordan Duval

Bryan Valenzuela + Kaleb Clark

Summer Ventis + Rustin Vogt



Tavarus Blackmon

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Partner Engineer: [Vikramjeet Singh](#) | Network Assurance Engineer III | Verizon Wireless

Tavarus Blackmon is an artist who was born and raised Sacramento, where he still resides. He is a recent graduate of the MFA program at The University of California, Davis. His work has been in exhibitions at Shy Rabbit Gallery, Pagosa Springs, CO; The Midway, San Francisco, CA; American Steel Studios, Oakland, CA, The Center for Digital Art, Los Angeles, CA, FE Gallery, Sacramento, CA, BrickHouse Gallery, Sacramento, CA and the Blue Banana Video Art Festival in Berlin, Germany. He also received an MA and BA from Cal State University, Sacramento, and is a current artist-in-residence at Headlands Center for the Arts.

Blackmon's practice comprises of painting bold canvases that are full of cultural, societal, and personal references, particularly surrounding his identity and domestic life. He also works digitally, creating videos, web-based projects, and digital collages. His work often references art history and culture, particularly the Funk Art movement, which was a prominent artistic style in Northern California in the '60s and '70s.



Aida Lizalde

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Partner Engineer: **Megan Carter** | Associate Civil Engineer, City of Sacramento | Department of Public Works

Aida Lizalde is a multimedia artist living in Sacramento. Her work consists in researching issues of citizenship, power, heritage, nationality and other personal and political experiences. She has been in recent exhibitions at the Museum of Northern California of Chico, the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, Beacon Project Sacramento, SOMArts Cultural Center, The Latino Center of Art and Culture, and Axis Gallery. She received her BA from UC Davis.

Recent artistic projects include a series of ongoing outdoor installations creating physical-yet-arbitrary geographical borders that deals with idea of frontiers and belonging and the process of assimilation, ownership, and identity, inspired by the artist's own personal journey. Her sculptural practice includes objects that are the result or records of physical process, referencing corporeal existence. They become almost performative, referencing tactile, immersive, and ritual movements related to the body. Aida has also produced multiple collaborative and interactive artistic installations that draw upon various themes and are designed to engage with multiple publics.



Mikko Lautamo

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Partner Engineer: [Daniel Diaz](#) | Electrical engineering student | Sacramento State

Mikko Lautamo is a Sacramento-based artist whose work takes the form of software installations, projections and interactive screen pieces. His practice focuses on the methods and movements of complex systems such as biological, environmental, social, economic, political. Blending these systems within a context of AI (artificial intelligence) results in his generative abstract animations. Lautamo's work has been featured in exhibitions in Germany and the Sacramento area. Lautamo teaches New Media at Sacramento State, where he also studied.



David Stone

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Partner Engineer: [Jordan Duval](#) | Electrical Engineer | California Department of Water Resources

David Stone is a creative code and technology, projection, mixed and new media artist that uses various tools to facilitate the creation of his work, including microcontrollers, ICs, depth cameras, Processing, C++, Max/MSP, TouchDesigner and Pure Data. David creates visualizations that take the form of video, sound, and installations (often combining all three) that frequently involves performance or participation from viewers. He has created multiple collaborative and solo installations in the Sacramento area.



Bryan Venezuela

[VIEW PORTFOLIO](#)

Partner Engineer: **Kaleb Clark** | Lead Hardware Engineer, Innovation | Uber

Bryan Venezuela lives and works in Sacramento. For over a decade he's been aiming to perfect a unique drawing technique involving the atomization of the figure by carving out shape and light with handwritten text. Though virtually unnoticeable from afar, once the viewer steps closer to each work they are engulfed in a barrage of words intermingled with other mixed media elements such as needle and thread, acrylic paint, and collage. His subject matters explore connections between perceived opposites (microcosm vs macrocosm, order vs chaos) and aims to weave disparate elements into a whole. He frequently employs symbols that meld together interests in psychological states, the natural world, physics, mathematics, and astronomy to name a few.

Bryan has created numerous large-scale public murals both in Sacramento and elsewhere, and has been featured in many exhibitions in the area. He also completed a large-scale installation in the Golden 1 Center, titled *Multitudes Converge* [2016].



Summer Ventis

[VIEW PORTFOLIO](#)

Partner Engineer: [Rustin Vogt](#) | Professor of Mechanical Engineering | Sacramento State

Summer Ventis is a printmaking professor at Sacramento State and an established artist. Her work deals with internal and external landscapes and their intersections. She uses the printmaking process to experiment with and create two-dimensional prints, books, sculptures, and installations. Her recent work engages the reciprocal relationship between inner and outer space, between people and our environments, in the landscapes of the Western and Midwestern United States. *ceding clouds* explores this relationship through the lens of fire—the imprints left by wildfire, on the part of the landscape, and prescribed burns, on the part of people. *defensible space* and *a belly full of water* against the future drought use cactus imagery to interrogate issues surrounding borders and scarcity. *Lagoons* and *Fringe Landscapes* emerge from the beauties and horrors of modern agriculture.

Ventis's work has been shown in exhibitions nationally and internationally, and is featured in numerous institutional collections. She received her MFA from the University of Colorado and her BA from Grinnell College in Iowa.

Exhibition & Reception

March 9, 2019

Hacker Lab Sacramento

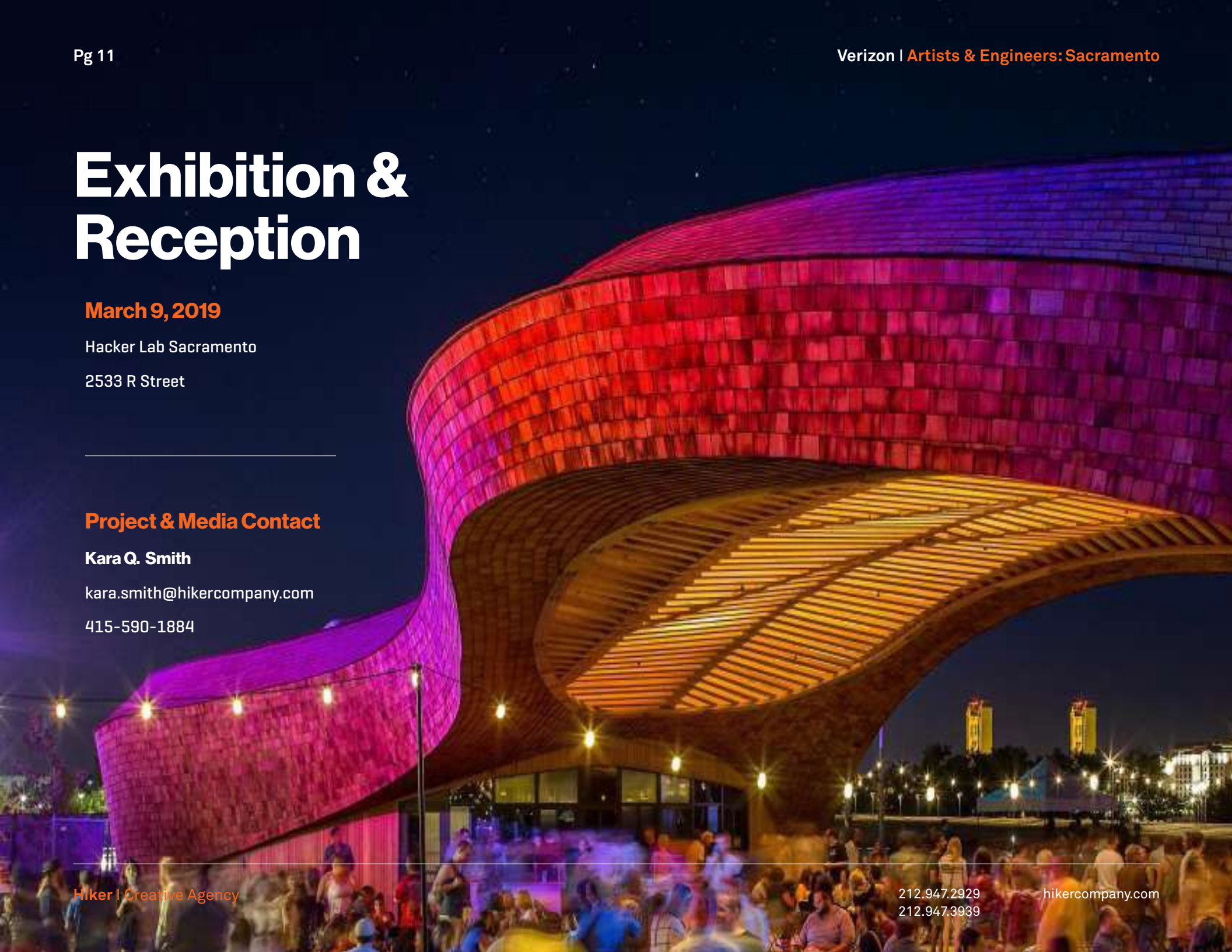
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