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PRESS INQUIRIES:
Emma Rosenbaum, Assistant Director
emma@soex.org
Valerie Imus, Artistic & Co-Director
programs@soex.org

ANNOUNCING

Southern Exposure Partners with The Palestinian Museum and ARAB.AMP for Upcoming Sound and Video Installation:

My Name is Palestine: Echoes from The Palestinian Museum's Online Music Exhibition أنا إسمي شعب فلسطين "Ana Ismi Shab Falastin"



Photo courtesy of The Palestinian Museum. Design by Thad Higa.

Co-curated by Ahmad Alaqra and Leyya Mona Tawil, in collaboration with video artist Mohammad Tatour

May 2 - 30, 2026

San Francisco, CA, April 8, 2026 — Southern Exposure, in collaboration with The Palestinian Museum (Birzeit) and Arab.AMP (Oakland) is proud to present *My Name is Palestine: Echoes from The Palestinian Museum's Music Online Exhibition* أنا إسمي شعب فلسطين "Ana Ismi Shab Falastin." Debuting at Southern Exposure, this exhibition of sound and image sources materials from The Palestinian Museum's archives to create a wholly new and immersive experience of

Palestinian life, anchored in musicality. The show is co-curated by Ahmad Alaqra and Leyya Mona Tawil, in collaboration with video artist Mohammad Tatour. It will be on view May 2–30, with an Opening Reception on Saturday May 2, a Closing Reception on May 30, and three separate guided Listening Sessions throughout the exhibition's duration.

The *My Name is Palestine* (أنا إسمي شعب فلسطين) collection was researched and developed by Ahmad Alaqra and The Palestinian Museum (Birzeit) over a period of years, accumulating a vast archive of historical materials alongside methodologies and broader documentations. For Southern Exposure's iteration of *My Name is Palestine*, Alaqra and Leyya Mona Tawil collaborated with video artist Mohammad Tatour to source material from The Palestinian Museum's archive to compose a never-before-seen installation specifically for our Bay Area community. This sound and video work examines the role of music as a cultural and political force within the Palestinian context, with a particular focus on its evolution alongside the liberation movement. The 20-minute installation brings audiences through the dualities of Palestinian life: weddings and funerals, processions and prisons, mobilization and solidarity, and massacre and birth. Music is situated as both witness and participant in a continuum of resistance, where the act of creation becomes inseparable from the pursuit of justice.

Music and song have been integral to Palestine's cultural fabric for centuries, evolving through dynamic exchanges with civilisations that have traversed this land. Palestinians sing in a wide range of circumstances, from joy to sorrow, in the fields and in prisons, about harvests, olives, and hunger, about rain and drought, about weddings and funerals, about exile and return, about refugee camps and homes, thus transforming singing into a collective practice and a language that reflects the very fabric of society as it moves between private and public spaces.

"My Name is Palestine weaves together sound and image to trace the living role of music within Palestinian life and liberation—from anthems of solidarity and collective mourning to songs that go through prison walls and borders—and echoes here in the Bay Area as an invitation to all who call this place home: to listen deeply, and to understand music not merely as cultural expression but as a political and worldbuilding act. It has been a profound honor to work alongside curator Ahmad Alaqra, The Palestinian Museum, and Southern Exposure to bring this offering to our community."
—Leyya Mona Tawil, Co-Curator and Director of Arab.AMP

The opening reception will feature a performance by Spite of Darkness, Detroit-based quartet led by Palestinian-American composer Mike Houry. Listening sessions on three Thursday evenings will feature Bay Area musicians and writers responding to the collection. For the closing of the exhibition on May 30, SoEx partners with Arab.AMP in presenting *SPARKS #3 - LABOR*; conversation and performances by NAKA Dance Theatre and Wael Buhaissy of Al Juthoor Dabke Troupe.

“Across rhythm and time, music moves beyond borders, conflict, and oppression. It carries culture forward as both memory and a living form of resistance, offering hope and continuity. At its core, music connects us through a shared humanity—grounded in knowledge, resilience, and our collective capacity to uplift one another.”

–Julio César Morales, Executive Director of Southern Exposure

PROJECT + EVENT INFORMATION

What: Opening Reception
My Name is Palestine: Echoes from The Palestinian Museum’s Online Exhibit أنا
إسمي شعب فلسطين “*Ana Ismi Shab Falastin*,” AMP Live Performance by Mike
Khoury’s Spite of Darkness.

Where: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco

When: Saturday, May 2, 2026
6:00 PM–9:00 PM

Cost: Free

What: *My Name is Palestine* - Listening Sessions

Where: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco

When: Thursday, May 14, 2026, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM - led by Nida Liftawiya (Storyteller)
Thursday, May 21, 2026, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM - led by Leyya Mona Tawil (Curator)
Thursday, May 28, 2026, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM - led by Dr. Donia Jarrar (Composer)

Cost: Free

What: Closing Reception
My Name is Palestine: An iteration of The Palestinian Museum’s Music Online Exhibit أنا اسمي شعب فلسطين “*Ana Ismi Shab Falastin*”
Arab.AMP program: *SPARKS #3 - LABOR*; featuring conversation and performances by Wael Buhaissy and NAKA Dance.

Where: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco

When: Saturday, May 30, 2026
5:00 PM–7:00 PM

Cost: Free

EXHIBITION COLLABORATORS

AHMED ALAQRA is a Palestinian artist, architect, and curator whose practice interrogates the visual and material languages that shape our public realms. Working across photography, text, installation, and archival forms, he explores how meaning is constructed around everyday objects. His approach often centres on processes of unmaking and unlearning, challenging dominant narratives and opening space for alternative ways of seeing and learning. Alaqra has curated exhibitions across Europe and the Arab world, with recent projects including *I Will Write Our Will Above the Clouds*, a touring exhibition, and *Salt-Kissed* at Hayy Jameel in Jeddah. His work has also been presented at institutions such as the Qattan Foundation, ICD Brookfield Place, the Spore Initiative, and POUSH. Alaqra is the co-founder of the FANA' Collective and EL-GORFEH - Palestine's first community darkroom - both serving as experimental platforms for shared making, reflection, and collective agency. Currently, he is a fellow of the Arab Documentary Photography Program (ADPP).

LEYA MONA TAWIL is an artist, curator, and cultural activist. She works in performance art, sound, and hybrid practices. Tawil is Palestinian and Syrian; she is engaged in the world as such. Her works have toured extensively throughout the states, Europe, and the Arab region. Tawil has stewarded TAC Temescal Art Center in Oakland since 1997 and is the founding director of Arab.AMP—a platform for worldbuilding artists from the Arab/SWANA diaspora and our allied communities. She has served on the Curatorial Council of SoEx since 2021.

MOHAMMED TATOUR is a dynamic multidisciplinary artist, researcher, and designer based in Amsterdam. As a co-founder of MOONI Studio, Tatour's creative work spans various forms, including installation, painting, graphic design, photography, and video art. His art is a profound exploration of sociocultural dynamics, encompassing a wide range of expressions that resonate deeply with contemporary audiences.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

MIKE KHOURY'S SPITE OF DARKNESS (Opening Reception Performance) consists of two drummers and two violinists. They perform the compositions of Palestinian-American composer/performer Mike Khoury. The group consists of Mike Khoury on violin, Indira Edwards on violin, Ben Hall on drums, and Ali Allen Colding on drums. Khoury's compositions draw upon folk forms at the intersection of modern composition and free jazz. Khoury's musical background includes work with choreographer/performer Leyya Tawil, a duet with Ben Hall, The Redford Symphony Orchestra as well as the Entropy String Quartet. Indira Edwards is proficient on the violin as well as viola and a composer in their own right. Edwards performs as a soloist, with the group Dick Texas, and is also a member of the Entropy String Quartet. Ben Hall is a producer, composer, and performer with recording and performance credits with Joe Morris, Ken Vandermark, and Don Dietrich, and he leads the groups Oceanic Beloved as well as Field Kitchen. Ali Allen Colding is a mainstay of Detroit drumming with credits that include Sam Sanders, Dorothy Ashby, and James Blood Ulmer. Together, they are Spite of Darkness.

NIDA LIFTAWIYA (Listening Session Host) is a Palestinian activist, multi-disciplinary artist, social worker, and educator. A lifelong creative, her artistry is deeply rooted in the rich heritage, resilience, and beauty of her homeland. Through her work, she captures the spirit of her people, weaving together visual, literary, and performance arts to preserve cultural identity and advocate for social justice.

DR. DONIA JARRAR (Listening Session Host) is a first generation Egyptian-Palestinian-American composer, pianist, bassist, singer-songwriter, improviser, producer, and educator known for her unique use of field recordings, working with oral histories and their relationship to the composition and shaping of new musical works across varying genres. In 2021, she was named Palestine's Young Artist of the Year for her large-scale interdisciplinary project *Into the Ether and Out of Our Anguish/عبر الأثير*, which had its opening at the AM Qattan Foundation, Ramallah. Her documentary opera *Seamstress* was awarded a Discovery Grant for female composers of opera from the National Opera Center of America.

Wael BUHAISSY was born and raised in Kuwait to Palestinian parents from Gaza. He immigrated to the US in 1989, and soon after found himself creating a life in the Bay Area. He graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He currently works as an Electrical Engineer in the field of radiation oncology and medical devices. Wael was a member of the Jafra Dabke Troupe, led by Elias Khoury, from 1990-1993. He co-founded the Al Juthoor dabke troupe in 2006, and became the lead choreographer in 2008. Under Wael's direction, Al Juthoor of the Arab Diaspora has appeared throughout the Bay Area at benefits, protests, schools, and cultural events. Al Juthoor have been Arab.AMP Resident Artists at Temescal Art Center since 2016. Wael also is a self-taught oudist and dumbek player, and was a member of the Aswat Ensemble from 2010-2012 as a vocalist.

Founded in 2001 by José Ome Navarrete Mazatl and Debby Kajiyama in Oakland, California, NAKA DANCE THEATER (Closing reception performers) is thrilled to be part of SPARKS. NAKA creates experimental performance works that integrate dance, storytelling, multimedia installations, and site-specific environments. In 2026, the company is honored to launch its 25th Anniversary year with a presentation at Movement Research at Judson Church. NAKA cultivates deep partnerships with communities, engaging people's histories and folklore to create accessible performances that challenge audiences to think critically about social justice, migration, and racial equity. Beyond performance, NAKA co-produces Live Arts in Resistance (LAIR) in partnership with EastSide Arts Alliance—an ongoing series of performance showcases, artist residencies, and community town halls that confront racial inequity and white supremacy in popular culture.

ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN MUSEUM

The Palestinian Museum is a non-governmental association dedicated to supporting an open and vibrant Palestinian culture locally and internationally. The Museum presents and contributes to narratives on Palestinian history, culture and society from new and critical perspectives. It also offers spaces for creative ventures, educational programmes, and innovative research. The Museum is a Swiss-registered non-governmental association with a branch in Palestine, generously supported by Taawon – Welfare Association, Bank of Palestine. Its mission is to produce and disseminate emancipatory learning experiences about Palestine, its people and history through innovative exhibitions and programming, locally and internationally and to transcend political and geographical borders by seeking to form a link between Palestinians in Palestine and abroad through its digital archives and online platforms.

The Palestinian Museum’s Online Music Exhibition **أنا إسمي شعب فلسطين** “Ana Ismi Shab Falastin” was developed, researched, and curated beginning in 2019 by the Palestinian Museum’s Department of Curation and Collections team, with its research and development made possible through the generous support of Leenah Al-Qattan, Cultures of Resistance, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and its online presence made possible through the generous support of Zahira and Jawad Al Ali.

ABOUT ARAB.AMP

Arab. AMP is a growing community of worldbuilding artists from the SWANA diaspora and our allied communities. Using live art and music, Arab.AMP artists are meeting the disconnection of diaspora—from land, culture, and community—with embodiment, folk wisdom, and dreams of a future rooted in the abundance that connection to land makes possible. Arab.AMP events are shaped in relationship with each host community and serve as invitations into radical imagination and future building for artists and audience. Launched in 2017, and led by Leyya Mona Tawil, Arab.AMP operates in partnership with venues and platforms internationally. AMP produces events, holds gatherings, offers commissions, and hosts residencies for the artists and communities we serve. Arab.AMP, a program of DANCE ELIXIR 501c3, is supported by the Hewlett Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation NEW Grant, East Bay Community Foundation - East Bay Fund for Artists, Akonadi Foundation, and NNAAC National Arts Partners Fund.

Design by Thad Higa

PHOTOS

Find photos [here](#).

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Southern Exposure respectfully acknowledges that we reside upon the ancestral, unceded, occupied lands of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples. As an organization that has been based in the Mission district of San Francisco since 1974, we honor and recognize the Native people

who have stewarded this land for thousands upon thousands of years and who continue to do so. We further acknowledge that we, as an organization, have benefited from the use and occupation of this stolen land. Given the ongoing, damaging injustices of colonization, Southern Exposure is committed to supporting our Bay Area community of diverse artists and Indigenous-led partnerships that extend Indigenous self-determination in San Francisco. We aspire to be good stewards of arts, culture, and generative conversations while always mindful of greater equity and justice.

This living statement represents an ongoing dialogue with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone.

ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered nonprofit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate, and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Emma Rosenbaum at emma@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Website: <https://soex.org/>

Instagram: [@southernexposuresf](https://www.instagram.com/southernexposuresf)

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