

UC San Francisco  
Graduate Division

# 2024 Commencement

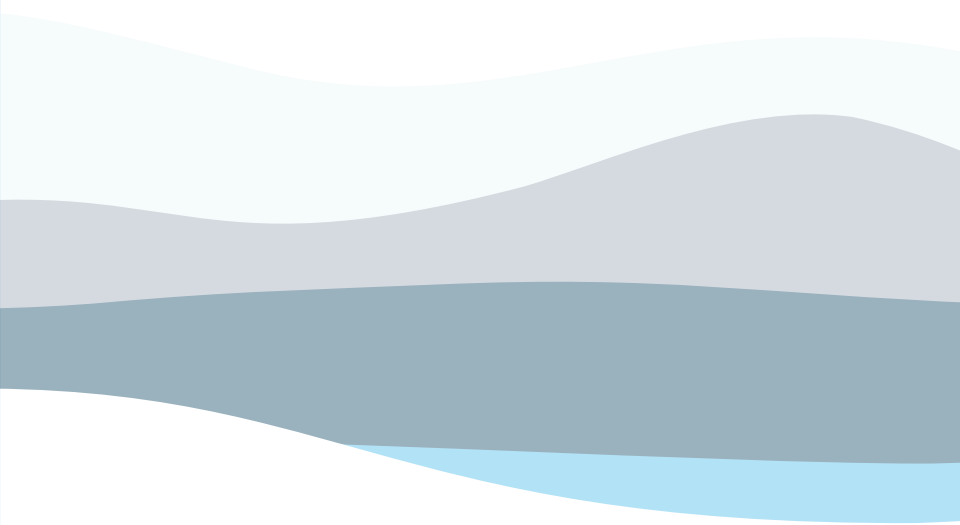




UC San Francisco  
**Graduate Division**

## Commencement Ceremony

**May 20, 2024**  
Herbst Theatre  
San Francisco



# Academic Procession

Bjoern Schwer, MD, PhD,  
Commencement Marshal and Chair, Graduate Council

Members of the Graduate Division Faculty

Degree Candidates

Master of Advanced Study  
Master of Science  
Master of Translational Medicine  
Doctor of Philosophy

Sam Hawgood, MBBS, Chancellor

Catherine R. Lucey, MD, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Nicquet Blake, PhD, Dean, Graduate Division  
and Vice Provost, Student Academic Affairs

Michael Reddy, DMD, DMSc, Dean, School of Dentistry

Carol Dawson-Rose, RN, PhD, FAAN, Dean, School of Nursing

Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD, Dean, School of Medicine

Kathy Giacomini, PhD, Dean, School of Pharmacy

Anita Sil, MD, PhD, Professor and Commencement Speaker

David Quigley, PhD, Assistant Professor and Recipient of the  
Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award

Carla Washington, PhD, President, Graduate Division Alumni Association

D'Anne Duncan, PhD, Assistant Dean, Diversity and Learner Success

Christopher Carpenter, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Pediatrics

Nancy Street, PhD, Interim Associate Dean, Graduate Division

*Music by the San Francisco Brass Quintet*

# Program

## **Academic Procession**

### **Welcome**

Nicquet Blake, PhD, Dean, Graduate Division  
and Vice Provost, Student Academic Affairs

### **Presentation of 2024 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award**

to Assistant Professor David Quigley, PhD

Presented by Zachary Cutts on behalf of the Associated Students  
of the Graduate Division

### **Address to the Candidates**

Anita Sil, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Microbiology  
and Immunology, Co-Director, Biomedical Sciences PhD program,  
Co-Director, Integrative Microbiology program

### **Presentation of Candidates & Conferral of Degrees**

Sam Hawgood, MBBS, Chancellor

D'Anne Duncan, PhD, Assistant Dean, Diversity and Learner Success

Christopher Carpenter, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Pediatrics

Nancy Street, PhD, Interim Associate Dean, Graduate Division

### **Recession**

## Master's Degree Candidates

### Master of Advanced Study, Clinical Research

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gabriela Accetta Rojas  | Morgan O'Connor           |
| Saigeetha Shyam Bhaskar | Kirithiga Ramalingam      |
| Karan Keith Bhatia      | Masayuki Teramoto         |
| Hoi Tsun Chu            | Justin Evan Torao Teraoka |
| Maria J. Duarte, MD     | Alya Truong               |
| Apisit Kaewsanit        |                           |

### Master of Science, Biomedical Imaging

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Siddharthasiva Anbu Rajan | Chase Fitch  |
| Radhika Bhalerao          | Ellis Mayne  |
| Duc Huy Doan              | Joanna Veres |
| Tangran Dong              | Tianrun Xiao |

### Master of Science, Genetic Counseling

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Hannah Haensel      | Jessica S. Prettyman    |
| Jaclyn Hodgson      | David Qiu               |
| Dorothy Li          | Cassandra Vigil         |
| Fion Ma             | Gabrielle Anne Wright   |
| Elida Medina-Damian | Jericka Monique Yehudah |
| Andrea Meraz        |                         |

### Master of Science, Global Health Sciences

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Faatihat Adenike Adebayo-Tijani | Tanmayi Jadhav      |
| Janan AlKhaja                   | Kristina Jiang      |
| Atousa Bonyani                  | Irene Kunga         |
| Ethan Chen                      | Olivia Shea Mendoza |
| Kristen Fu                      | Jemzi Ortiz         |
| Shakiba Ghasemi Assl            | Nandita R. Sachdev  |
| Emily Hamerton                  | Dongxue H. Wang     |
| Isabella Marie Jacques          | Thea Zhang          |

## **Master of Science, Health Data Science**

Junxiao Gao  
Simran Ajay Kanal

Vishakha Malhotra  
Kevin Zheng

## **Master of Science, Healthcare Administration and Interprofessional Leadership**

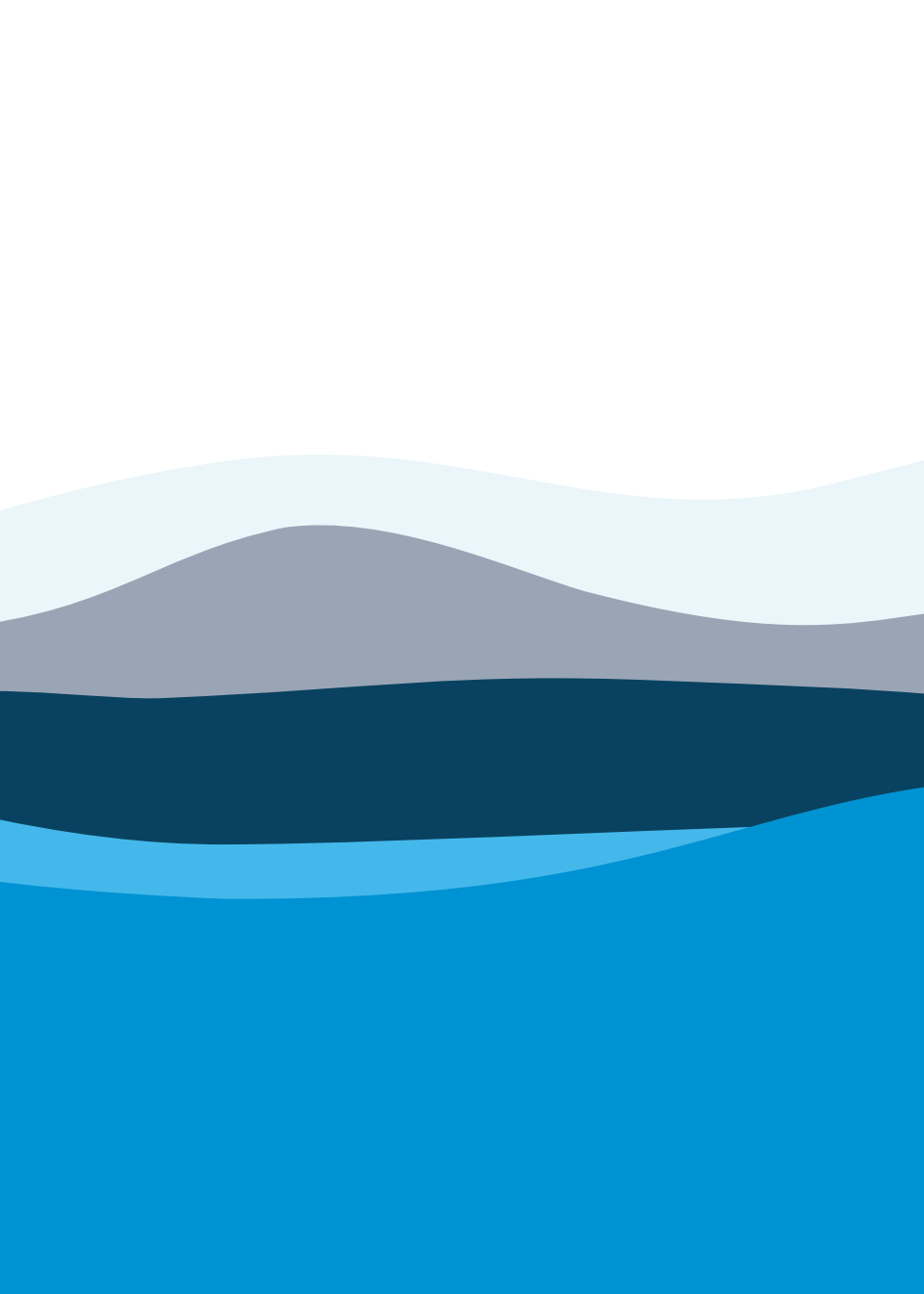
Mohamad Alayleh  
Jade Marlee Cairns  
Michelle Chan  
Salvador Chávez, Jr.  
Deidre Elyse Medley Coutsoumpos  
Talía Gonzalez  
Maritza Iturribarria Gray  
Chandler Ho  
Izevbuwa Ized Igjehon

Farahana Jaffer  
Katrina Parshad  
Feuy S. Saechao  
Cassandra Lynn Hall Valdivia  
Cecilia C. Villar, RN BSN  
Robert Weston  
Dalton Fernando Williams  
I-Wei (Katherine) Wu

## **Master of Translational Medicine**

Ibrahim Abdelwahab  
Janani Balaji  
Fien Josephine Daelemans  
Ehsan Farjood  
Lia Gaertner  
Ameyalli Gomez Espinosa  
Ryan Francis Granché  
Lowrie Hilladakis  
Mitsuhiro Jo  
Yelin Kim  
Manasi Kumar  
Tarjini Mehta  
Samuel Womema Muloni  
Sheila Okoroanyanwu  
Jeremy Petusevsky

Ziza Phillip  
Risheek Pingili  
Calista Prananta  
Feihuan Qu  
Nitin Reddy  
Bita Rezaian  
Maxine Sy Chu  
Francisco Valadez Rojas  
Victor Varoqui  
Hannah Watry  
Xin Ting Wu  
Elisha Yakoubou Sanoussi  
Howard Ying  
Katya Zehenny Pablo







**Candidates**  
Doctor of Philosophy

## Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**Dana Renae Cueva-Kennedy**

*Exploring the Biochemical and Molecular Role of Phosphorylated Swi6 in the Heterochromatin Spreading Reaction*

**Harold Marin** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Investigating the Functional Roles of the Nuclear Periphery in Early Mammalian Development*

**Elise N. Muñoz** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Investigating the Assembly of INO80 and its Mechanism of Hexasome Sliding*

**Jesslyn Park**

*IGHMBP2 Deletion Suppresses Translation and Activates the Integrated Stress Response*

**Jasmine Sims**

*Utilizing Short Sequences Missing from the Genome to Identify Gene Regulatory Element Mutations Associated with Liver Cancer*

**Nia Teerikorpi**

*Ciliary Biology Intersects Autism and Congenital Heart Disease*

## Bioengineering

**Daniel Gebrezgiabhier**

*Development and Translation of Hyperpolarized C-13 MRI Technology for Prostate Cancer Studies*

**Gabrielle Louise Paras Rabadam**

*Generalizable Machine Learning Methods for Systems-Level Biological Network Inference*

**Sule Sahin** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Quantification and Deep Learning Applications: Metabolite-Specific Hyperpolarized <sup>13</sup>C-Pyruvate MRI and Multiphase CT in Renal Cell Carcinomas*

**Alice Summer Tang** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Leveraging Clinical Data and Knowledge Networks to Derive Insights into Alzheimer's Disease*

**Nate Tran**

*Improving Diagnosis and Management of Patients with Glioma Using Artificial Intelligence and Multi-Parametric MRI*

## **Biological and Medical Informatics**

**Zachary Cutts** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Integrative Precision Medicine Approach to Dissect Patient Heterogeneity in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus*

**Miriam Goldman**

*Improved Detection of Microbiome-Disease Associations Through Population Structure-Aware Generalized Linear Mixed Effects Models (microGLMMs)*

**Matthew Johnson** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Computational Prediction of Bacterial Immune Systems and Anti-CRISPRs*

**Laura Rose Shub**

*Developing Artificial Intelligence Tools to Accelerate Biological Workflows*

**Harry (Shenghuan) Sun**

*Deep Learning Across Healthcare Spectrums: Genomic Insights, Social Determinants Analysis, and Imaging Diagnostics in Complex Diseases*

**Biomedical Sciences**

**Saumya Reddy Bollam** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Gene Expression Modules Reveal Unique Roles of Ras Homologs in Directing Immune System Engagement During Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma Evolution*

**Kirsten Chen**

*Unraveling the Impacts of Oxygen on Protein Homeostasis*

**Erin Huiting** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Understanding the Mechanism of Bacterial cGAS Immunity and Its Co-Evolution with Phage*

**Naznin Jahan**

*Concurrent Loss of FTD Genes C9orf72 and Grn Exacerbates Neuroinflammation Via Autoimmune Dysfunction*

**Ziad Jowhar** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*A Ubiquitous GC Content Signature Underlies Multimodal mRNA Regulation by Ddx3x*

**Darwin Kwok**

*Tumor-Wide RNA Splicing Aberrations Generate Immunogenic Public Neoantigens*

**Tara McIntyre**

*Mechanisms of Gestation Length Timing in Mice*

**Megan Montoya**

*IRF8-Driven Reprogramming of the Immune Microenvironment Enhances Anti-Tumor Adaptive Immunity and Reduces Immunosuppression in Murine Glioblastoma*

**Priscila Muñoz Sandoval**

*Characterization of the Molecular Regulation of IL-31 and Its Role in Type 2 Immunity*

**Ramiro Patino** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Mechanosensing Uses the Intricate Internal Organization of Bacteria to Regulate Surface Behaviors*

**Gokul Ramadoss** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Manipulating DNA Repair to Improve Therapeutic Genome Editing in Neurons*

**Matthew J. Ryan**

*Unraveling Prostate Tumor Evolution for Drivers of Drug Resistance*

**Nicholas O. Stevers**

*The Immortality Mechanism of TERT Promoter Mutant Cancers is Self-Reinforcing and Reversible by Targeted Degradation*

**Donovan Trinidad**

*Exploring the EccD Structure-Function Landscape Reveals Its Essentiality in the Mycobacterium ESX Secretion System*

**Albert Xu**

*Investigating the Role of DDX3X in Regulating mRNA Export*

**Bahar Zirak**

*System-Wide In Vivo, Multi-Omics, and Computational Approaches to Identify Mechanisms Behind Tumor-Immune Coevolution and RNA Secretion*

**Biophysics**

**Christina A. Stephens** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Getting in the Groove! Computational Investigations of Lipid and Ion Transport by TMEM16s*

**Cell Biology**

**Gabriela Isla-Inéz Canales**

*The BBSome Regulates Ciliary Localization of Obesity-Associated Proteins MC4R and ADCY3*

**Timothy Casey-Clyde**

*Epigenetic Control of Neural Crest Development and Schwannoma Tumorigenesis*

**Jason Quirino Garcia**

*Utilizing the Zebrafish Model to Investigate Asymmetric Cell Division of Radial Glia Neural Stem Cells During Forebrain Development*

**Chemistry and Chemical Biology**

**David Jeffrey Larwood**

*Novel Approaches to Delivery of Biomacromolecules*

**Letitia Sarah**

*Exploring KDM5 Demethylases: Immune Modulation and Targeted Protein Degradation Strategies*

**Wenqi Shen** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*A Chemical Approach to Modulate the Antigen Presentation Process for Tumor Recognition*

**Minh Tran**

*Modular Synthesis, Biological Evaluation, and Structural Characterization of Trichothecenes*

## **Developmental and Stem Cell Biology**

**Emily Bulger** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Understanding Dose-Dependent Gene Regulation Using In Vitro Models of Early Human Development*

**Brandon Hugh Chacón**

*Cell Cycle Arrest of the Midface Epithelium Promotes Face Morphogenesis in Mice and Humans and is Disrupted in Craniofacial Disorders*

**Nicholas Elder**

*The Impact of Developmental Trajectory on V2a Neuron Identity and Function*

**Matthew Keefe**

*Mapping Lineage Dynamics of Progenitors in the Human Cerebral Cortex*

**Zhiling Zhao**

*Mitosis Dependent and Independent Patterning Along the Early Amniote Embryonic Midline*

## **Epidemiology and Translational Science**

**Kristen M.J. Azar**

*Examining the Influence of Care Processes and Clinical Engagement on Disparities in Blood Pressure Control*

**Akansha Batra**

*The Relationship Between Financial Security and Mental Wellbeing: The Impacts of Income Support Programs on Mental Health*

**Jean Digitale**

*Predicting Extubation Readiness in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Patients*

**Alice Guan**

*Structural Discrimination and Substance Use Among Young Adults in the United States*

**Sirena Gutierrez**

*Racial Disparities in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: The Role of School Segregation and the Schooling Environment*

**Yusuph M. Mavura**

*Examining the Association of Trans-Ancestry Blood Pressure Polygenic Risk Scores (BP-PRS) with Longitudinal Blood Pressure Measures and Its Sequelae in Individuals in Real-World, Ancestrally Diverse Cohorts*

**Sarah Elisabeth Raifman**

*Intended and Unintended Effects of Policies Targeting Alcohol and Drug Use in the Context of Pregnancy: Exploring Causal Inference and Multi-Level Modeling Approaches*



**Eduardo Rodriguez Almaraz**

*Genomic Insights into Glioma Pathogenesis and Evolution: Impact on Clinical Outcomes and Precision Treatment Approaches*

**Marta San Luciano Palenzuela**

*Assessment of Interventions in Movement Disorders: NSAID Use and Risk of Parkinsonian Markers in Genetic At-Risk Populations, and Examining Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery in Isolated and Acquired Dystonia*

## **Global Health Sciences**

**Mohamed Bailor Barrie**

*Compare and Contrast Vertical vs. Horizontal Primary Care Systems, Looking at the Advantages and Disadvantages for Different Disease Outbreaks, Using Ebola and COVID-19 Outbreaks and COVID Vaccination as Examples*

## **Medical Anthropology**

**Sheyda Michelle Abonii**

*Casting Out and Reeling In: Movements Between Subsistence and Exposure in the Tidewaters of the Anacostia River*

**Karlene Avery Zamora**

*Chronic Pain in the Afterlife of Colonization: A Bio-Pscho-Social-Structural-Historical View Among Filipino-American U.S. Military Veterans*

## **Neuroscience**

**Marc Lawrence Turner**

*Encoding of Social Behaviors by Clinically Relevant Neuron Populations in the Prefrontal Cortex of Mice*

## **Oral and Craniofacial Sciences**

**Sean Thomas Ganther**

*Molecular Mechanisms of T. denticola Induced Tissue Destruction in Human Periodontal Ligament Cells*

## **Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacogenomics**

**Colin Germer**

*Mechanisms that Contribute to RPE Dysfunction in Macular Degenerations*

**Zachary Hoisington**

*Mechanisms of Normal and Maladaptive Learning: Implications for Alcohol Use Disorder*

**Nilsa La Cunza**

*Mechanisms of Mitochondrial Injury in Retinal Degenerations*

**Yaqiao Li** ▶ Discovery Fellow

*Cell-Type-Specific Network-Correcting Combination Therapy Discovery for Alzheimer's Disease*

**Xujia Zhou**

*Exploring the Transporters Dynamics in Blood-Brain Barrier Functionality and Innovative Treatments for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease/Steatohepatitis*

## Rehabilitation Science

**Jessica Erin Bath**

*The Cortical and Subcortical Neural Controls of Postural Instability in People with Parkinson's Disease*

## Sociology

**Charles Howard Cloniger III**

*Articulating Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Masculinities: Life Trajectories, Bodies, and Personhoods*

**Erin R. Johnson**

*Access and Advocacy: Understanding the Practices and Philosophies of Abortion Funds Under Stress*

**Jeffrey Nicklas**

*The Alchemy of the Player and the Game: Creating and Embodying Mental Health Meanings in Digital Games*

**Brittney Lynn Pond**

*Constellations of Complexity: Direct Care Workers' Lived Experiences of Marginalization and Blurring Boundaries*

**Rebecca Wolfe**

*Your Body is Not Your Own: (Dis)embodied Sexual and Mental Health in Evangelical Purity Culture*

## Discovery Fellows Program

You may have noticed the words “Discovery Fellow” next to the names of some of our graduates. These students were chosen as ambassadors for basic sciences graduate education on the basis of their leadership potential, excellence in research, community-mindedness, and strong communication skills. See the names of all the students chosen for the honor of being Discovery Fellows and follow the accomplishments of our Discovery Fellow alumni at **[graduate.ucsf.edu/discovery](https://graduate.ucsf.edu/discovery)**.

The Discovery Fellows Program was made possible by a landmark commitment by Sir Michael Moritz and his wife, Harriet Heyman, to ensure the future of PhD education programs in the basic sciences. Inspired by the couple’s generosity, over 1,200 donors have contributed to the effort since its inception in 2013.

Now totaling over \$150 million, the Discovery Fellows Program provides support for all PhD students in the basic sciences at UCSF, and is the largest endowed program for basic science PhD students in the history of the 10-campus University of California system.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

As an alumnus, you are now part of both the Graduate Division Alumni Association and the Alumni Association of UCSF. We invite you to stay involved with the campus by attending alumni events (including Alumni Weekend 2025 next April!), interacting through the online alumni community, or volunteering as an alumni leader, board member, or student mentor.

Visit [alumni.ucsf.edu](https://alumni.ucsf.edu) to learn more. While you're there, be sure to check out your alumni benefits – including UC-wide library access, career services, alumni-only discounts, and more.

We look forward to connecting with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Washington', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carla Washington, PhD '95  
President  
Graduate Division Alumni Association

# **SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

---

## **HERBST THEATRE**

---

**Owned and operated by the City and County of San Francisco  
through the Board of Trustees of the  
War Memorial of San Francisco**

**The Honorable London N. Breed, Mayor**

### **TRUSTEES**

**Thomas E. Horn, President**

**Diane B. Wilsey, Vice-President**

**Sakurako Fisher**

**Stanlee Ray Gatti**

**Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.)**

**Gorretti Lo Lui**

**Maryam Muduroglu**

**Joyce Newstat**

**Paul F. Pelosi**

**Lieutenant General Michael A. Rocco, USMC (Ret.)**

**Brenda Wright**

**Kate Sofis, Managing Director**

**Rob Levin, Assistant Managing Director**

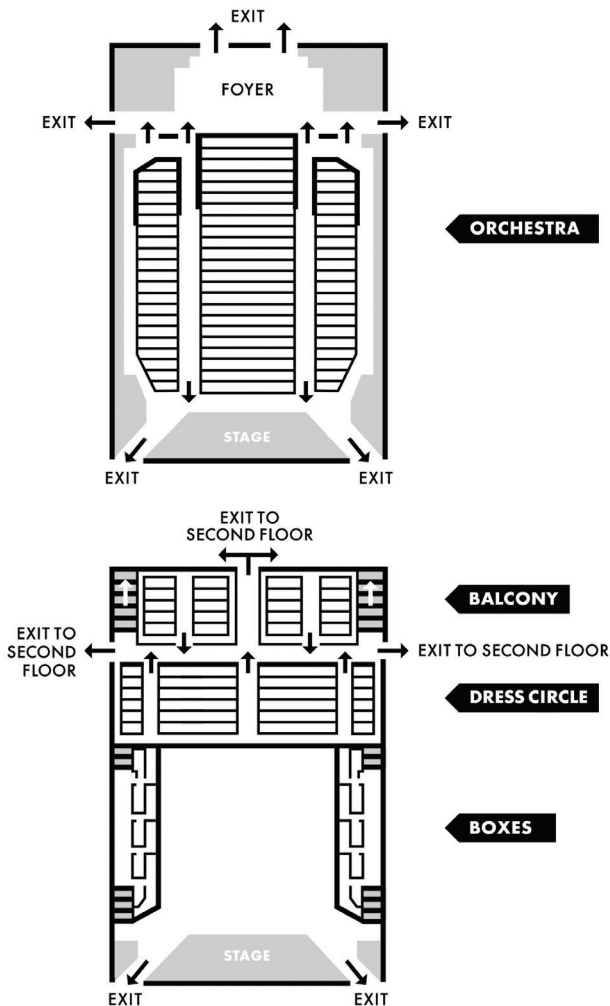
**Elizabeth Murray, Managing Director Emerita**

The San Francisco War Memorial acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

# EXIT DIAGRAM

## HERBST THEATRE

In an emergency, follow any lighted exit sign to the street.  
Do not use elevator. Walk, don't run.



UCSF Graduate  
Division

