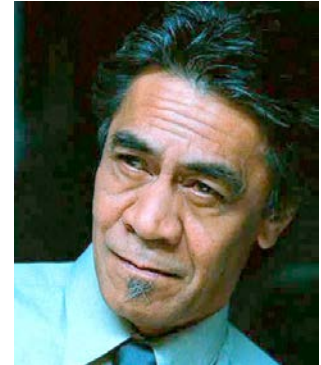


## Summit Facilitator

### Nathaniel Lees

Maiava Nathaniel Lees is a Māori and Pacific Island performing arts community kaumatua and leader. Maiava is his Samoan matai title. He is an award winning actor, director, writer, producer and mentor whose work as featured in all the major performing arts venues in Aotearoa over a successful career spanning thirty-five years. He has over 70 theatre credits to his name, ranging from the premiere production of Roger Hall's *Hot Water* through to Shakespeare's *Othello*. His many directing credits include the ground breaking productions *Fresh off the Boat* and *Awhi Tapu*. Nathaniel has also directed writing and script development workshops for plays by many notable Pacific scriptwriters. His performance work in film and television includes the feature films *Under the Mountain* and *Sione's Wedding*. He has won many local and international awards including several for his work on *The Orator – O le Tulafale*, which was shot entirely in Samoa and is in the Samoan language. The film was awarded Best Film Award at the New Zealand Film awards and was New Zealand's first foreign language film entry at the Academy Awards. Nathaniel won the Supreme Award and the Senior Pacific Artist Award at the Te Waka Toi Awards, to recognise and celebrate his achievements in Pacific theatre.



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## Matua Panel

### Yuki Kihara

Yuki Kihara is a leading interdisciplinary artist whose work explores the relationships and intersections between gender, race, sexuality, culture and politics. Her performance, photographic and moving image works have featured at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Asia Pacific Triennial; Auckland Triennial; SakaHān Quinquennial; Daegu Photo Biennial, and the Honolulu Biennial. This year, The National Museums of World Cultures Netherlands has commissioned her to create a major new work. Her work will feature in Oceania - a major exhibition presented at The Royal Academy of Arts, London later this year.



### Karlo Mila

Poet Karlo Mila's first published poem was selected for an anthology, *Best New Zealand Poems* in 2003. Her first book *Dream Fish Swimming* won the NZSA Jessie Mackay Award for Best First Book of Poetry at the 2006 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. Karlo's writing is 'poly-lingual', drawing on many Tongan, Samoan and Māori words. The content centres on contemporary Pasifika lives and issues – political, cultural and personal – presenting a fresh, New Zealand-born Pasifika experience. Karlo has had work included in anthologies every year since 2003 and performs and



composes poetry for community events, national festivals and international events. In 2008 Karlo collaborated with German-born artist Delicia Sampero to produce critically acclaimed *A Well Written Body*, a combination of text and image. Karlo's work is taught in schools, universities and polytechnics in New Zealand and across the Pacific region, including Hawaii.

### **Lemi Ponifasio**

Lemi Ponifasio is a choreographer, dancer, stage director, designer and visual artist. He founded MAU in 1995 in Auckland. MAU is a Samoan word that means a declaration to the truth of a matter. Ponifasio collaborates with people in all walks of life, working in factories, villages, opera houses, castles, galleries, marae, and stadiums. The work has included fully staged operas, theatre, dance, exhibitions, festivals and community forums in more than 50 countries. Ponifasio performs and exhibits his work worldwide including, the Avignon Festival, BAM New York, Ruhrtriennale, Lincoln Center New York, Edinburgh International Festival, Theater der Welt, Theatre de la Ville Paris, Onassis Cultural Centre Athens, London's Southbank, Holland Festival, Vienna Festival, Berlin Festspiele, Carriageworks Sydney, Venice Biennale and the Pacific region. Ponifasio holds the title Salā from the village of Leauva'a.



### **Filipe Tohi**

Sopolemalama Filipe Onevela Tohi is a Tongan-born artist and community leader from Auckland. He is an accomplished sculptor, multi-media artist and painter with works in major global collections. He is a master craftsman, a tufunga lalava, the sennit lashing which functioned across the daily life of the Pacific. He is a founding member of the Kupenga Sculpture Society of New Plymouth and taught many students during his tenure there. His title, Sopolemalama (Bringer of Light) was bestowed by Tui Atua Tamasese after lashing his Fale Maota at Nofuoli'i, Samoa. Other lashing work can be seen in the Fale Pasifika at the University of Auckland. A full-time artist since 1990, he has frequently represented both Tonga and New Zealand abroad. His work featured in the Asia Pacific Triennial in Brisbane and he was involved in the No'o Fakataha Tongan Artists Collective that exhibited in Auckland and Tonga.



## New Voices

### Paul Fagamalo

Paul comes from a production and performing arts background in film, television, theatre and online. After completing a Bachelor of Communications at AUT, he rediscovered his love for performing arts and completed a Diploma in Pacific Performing Arts at the Pacific Institute of Performing Arts (PIPA). He has performed and toured nationally and internationally – notably to the Brisbane International Theatre Festival and Edinburgh Festival, and is particularly interested in helping to grow the Pacific Arts community. Recently he was involved in helping develop and produce online content for The Coconet, and helped produce up-and-coming dance company Fine Fatale. Paul is currently the Talent Development Manager at the New Zealand Film Commission.



### Andrea Fua

Andrea Petesa Fua is the Chief Creative Officer of Vaka Interactiv, an early stage company at the intersection of culture, technology, empathy and communications. One of four Pasifika and Māori Co-Founders, Andrea is a proud Kiwi-Samoan from the villages of Afega, Sale'aula and Manurewa. At Vaka Interactiv, she oversees the content creation process, cultural research and compliance. She and her husband, Sione recently moved from Auckland to Wellington and are expecting their first child later this year.



### Matasila Freshwater

Matasila is a director, writer, and illustrator with a background in 2D animation, anthropology and design. Matasila's strong aesthetic eye, enthusiasm for narrative and love of whimsical dry wit forms her creative voice. She is passionate about exploring big ideas through storytelling and her most recent NZFC-funded short animated film, *Shmeat*, was judged Best Animation at Sydney's A Night of Horror Film Festival. It has appeared in festivals including 2016 Sitges International Fantasy Film Festival in Spain and was chosen as New Zealand's Best Short Film in the 2016 New Zealand International Film Festival Official Selection. Matasila is studying towards a Masters in Screenwriting and works at Pukeko Pictures as an Assistant Director on *Kiddets*, a 3-D, animated children's television show.



## Tanu Gago

Tanu Gago is an interdisciplinary artist and award winning photographer of Samoan heritage. Born in Samoa and raised in Mangere he works predominantly in new media with a portfolio of work that includes staged portraiture, moving image and film. His practice is collaborative and examines cultural framing, de-colonisation, social politics, queer activism and gender and sexually diverse narratives. Gago is the co-founder and creative director of Pacific LGBT arts collective FAFSWAG. Under Gago's direction FAFSWAG have carved out a credible cultural space in the Auckland contemporary arts scene over more than five years. FAFSWAG's recent collaborative interactive documentary with Taika Waititi's film production company PIKI FILMS and award winning digital design agency RESN can be found [here](#).



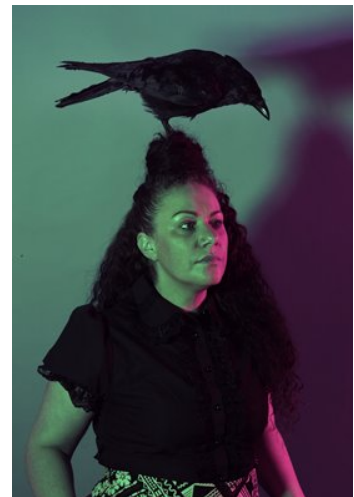
## Talia-Rae Mavaega

Talia-Rae is an actor and musician from Christchurch and Auckland. In 2015 she toured the country with Duffy Theatre in Schools for two years after graduating with a Diploma in Pacific Performing Arts. Growing up with family members in Pacific Underground she isn't exactly new to the scene but admits she still has plenty to learn about the creative world. She is a member of a new theatre company in Christchurch called Y|NOT, a collective of Young Pasifika Artists committed to devising and creating stories from new perspectives.



## Jasmine Togo-Brisby

Jasmine Togo-Brisby is a multi-disciplinary artist from Queensland who lives in Wellington. She is a fourth generation Australian South-Sea Islander with ancestral lineage to the islands of Ambae and Santo of Vanuatu. Her research examines the historical practice of blackbirding, a romanticised colloquialism for the Pacific slave trade, and the contemporary legacy this practice has imparted. She is completing a Master's in Fine Arts at Massey University, which specialises in South Pacific art and socio-political studies. Her recent exhibitions include Bitter Sweet, Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery, Fish Hooks and Moving Trees, Bundaberg Art Gallery, Queensland, Coconut Water, Caboolture Art Gallery, Brisbane; Nui Deadly Art, Blak Dot Gallery, Melbourne; Jasmine Togo-Brisby, Jugglers Art Space, Brisbane; Memories from a Forgotten People: 150 years of Australian South Sea Islanders, Queensland State Library, Brisbane.



## Pacific Heritage Arts

### **Kolokesa U. Māhina-Tuai**

Kolokesa U. Māhina-Tua is an independent curator, arts advocate and writer. She champions a holistic and cyclical perspective of Moana Oceania arts rooted in indigenous knowledges and practices. Working at all levels of the Moana arts communities from museums and galleries to grassroots community organisations; at the heart of her practice is a strong foundation of Tongan indigenous knowledge and practice. This informs Kolokesa's understanding and appreciation of Moana arts and her relationships and collaborations with artists from different island nations. She is an advocate of Moana artists that are key agents in maintaining, preserving and evolving arts of their homeland in Aotearoa New Zealand. Kolokesa is currently working as a research advisor with the 'Visible Voices' project at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. She is a Research Associate at Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum focusing on researching and writing a major new history of craft in Aotearoa. She is also collaborating with Hūfanga Professor 'Ōkusitino Māhina to write the first book about Tongan arts from a Tongan perspective.



### **Marama Papau**

Marama Papau is a familiar face and voice to many Pacific people, as the host of Tagata Pasifika. She is also a former announcer, news reporter and producer at Radio 531pi and Niu FM. In her own community she is a passionate advocate for Tuvaluan heritage art. She has co-curated exhibitions for the Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa, a Tuvalu women's arts collective based in Auckland that practices Kolose, a form of Crochet. The collective held the first Tuvalu exhibition in a mainstream art gallery in 2014 and have started touring the work around New Zealand.



### **Jarcinda Stowers-Ama**

Ko Takitumu te vaka  
Ko Tumu-te-varoaro te ipukarea  
E te Moananui o Kiva

Jarcinda Stowers-Ama is a New Zealand born Cook Islands and Samoan artist, project manager and producer. Living arts and te peu Kuki Airani – the ways of Cook Islands culture and values – were the foundations of her upbringing in West Auckland. She is the Director of the Pacifica Arts Centre and serves as a member of the Pacific Advisory Group for The Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira and as a Trustee for the Waitakere Arts and Cultural Development Trust. She is also a founding member of Turou Takitua, a Cook Islands storytelling collective that is inspired by the knowledge and art practices passed down by her elders.



## Fiji Master Artists

### Daren Kamali

Born and raised in Suva, Fiji, poet, teacher, artists and researcher Daren Kamali has lived in Aotearoa since he was seventeen. Daren's work celebrates the Pacific with a Pan-Pacific approach reflective of his multi-cultural background and his extensive travels throughout the Pacific. His writing and performance poetry draws from Pacific people, islands, sea, sky, the old and new, across space and time. He combines traditional and contemporary Pacific structures, values, legends and myths to create a 'Nesian' world for himself and for others to gain insight from and enjoyment, especially for those not from the Pacific. His was the Fulbright/CNZ - Pacific Writer in Residence at University of Hawai'i in 2012 and participated in the International Writers program in Iowa City, in the United States in 2014. He has published several books including *Tales, Poems and Songs from the Underwater World* (Anahera Press /2011) and *Squid Out of Water* (Ala Press/ Hawaii/2014). He has recorded two music albums and has published works in several anthologies including *Niu Voices*, *Ika*, *Hawaiian Review*, *Landfall*, *Tuesday poetry*, *Scope Magazine*, and *Six Pack*. He is the author of one published book : *Vinaka Vaka Levu*.



## Digital Moana

### Lonnie Hutchinson

Lonnie Hutchinson's Samoan heritage, along with tribal and Māori practices, is intrinsic to the Auckland-born artist's work across a range of media, including the sculptural paper cut-outs she is best known for. Lonnie is interested in ideas associated with manmade physical constructs and architectural monuments in the landscape and their relationships to people in the physical and spiritual realms. She has also worked as a teacher and studied 3D-Design and education at the Unitec Institute of Technology, where she also recently began a Masters in Design.



### Janet Lilo

Janet Lilo works in digital video, photography and Installation. Her art practice explores experimental documentary and drawing processes for exhibition, performance and archive. She is interested in documentation as a conversational and social tool for recording time, people and place – often with reference to popular culture. Janet is an active member of Whau the People community arts collective and proud mother of three.



## **Lisa Taouma**

Lisa Taouma makes moving images for different screen platforms – her passion is connecting digital stories from Pacific homelands to diasporic Nesian audiences. In 2002, as part of the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, she curated *Pasifika Divas*, an interdisciplinary performance-based project at the Queensland Arts Triennale, and at Arts festivals in Berlin, Singapore and Venice. Her credentials include writing, directing and producing, including two short films, a number of arts documentaries and television shows for different networks.

She launched the popular Pacific online community *Coconet*, which recently won Best Pacific programme at the 2017 NZTV Awards. The kaupapa of Coconet is to connect Pacific New Zealanders' heritage Island cultures to the digital world.



## **Angela Tiatia**

Angela Tiatia is a visual artist who explores contemporary culture, drawing attention to its relationship to representation, gender, neo-colonialism and the commodification of the body and place, often through the lenses of history and popular culture. Born in Auckland, New Zealand, Angela is of Samoan and Australian heritage.

Her work has been exhibited in institutions worldwide with recent highlights including: *Dialogues*, London Art Fair (2018); *After the Fall*, National Museum of Singapore (2017); *Personal Structures*, the 57th Venice Biennial (2017); Eighth Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT 8), QAGOMA (2015/16). Angela's work is held in numerous major collections & she has been a finalist in a number of prestigious awards including the most recent Sulman Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW. She was selected as the 2017 commissioned war artist for the Australian War Memorial to create her most ambitious digital moving image work to date, *The Fall*.



## **Kim Tuaine, CEO Pacific Business Trust**

CEO of the Pacific Business Trust, Kim Tuaine has a reputation as a pragmatic and strategic leader. Through her father, Kim is of Cook Islands (Aitutaki) descent. She is passionate about economic and social equity and celebrating the achievements, strengths and success of Pacific communities. A lawyer by training she has founded two firms in Sydney and has been admitted as a legal practitioner to the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia. Combining her business expertise and legal background she has developed a reputation as a strong supporter of start-ups, who harnesses diversity and develops innovative business models. A committed entrepreneur, Kim is the co-architect, developer and presenter of an Australasian leadership



and professional development program for high performing individuals. She is also a published author and has written extensively on law and also has a keen academic interest and background in economic and social development.

**\*\* This is not a complete list of summit speakers**