



SOMARTS
cultural center

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Jess Young, Director of Communications
& Community Engagement
415-863-1414 x112 • jess@somarts.org

**SOMArts Cultural Center Presents
FEAST OF WORDS: A LITERARY POTLUCK**

San Francisco's tastiest literary event celebrates one year of food and community with an examination of ancestral roots and cultures which underlie our eating practices October 18, 2011

San Francisco, CA, September 28, 2011 — SOMArts Cultural Center presents *Feast of Words: A Literary Potluck*, a monthly dinner party where writers and foodies come together to eat, write, and share. Join co-hosts Lex Leifheit and Irina Zadov the third Tuesday of each month to discover local chefs and writers, bring a dish on the monthly theme, and share your work to be entered in a drawing for edibles, books and other prizes!

Composer, vocalist, and writer Ron Ragin is October's literary guest. Ragin will read from his upcoming memoir, which traces the history of his family's ancestral home. Oakland-based performer, choreographer, and chef Amara Tabor-Smith, whose performance "Our Daily Bread" celebrates what we eat and illuminates the cultures which underlie our eating practices, will contribute as October's culinary guest.

The event will also include a short, on-the-spot writing exercise inspired by the theme. House opens at 6:30pm on **Tuesday, October 18 2011** and space is limited. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$5 with a potluck dish, or \$12 at the door, cash bar. Purchase tickets online at feastofwords.eventbrite.com.

This October the annual SOMArts exhibition [*Illuminations: Dia de los Muertos 2011*](#) inspires *Feast of Words*. Curated by René and Rio Yañez, the exhibition explores life and death through the lens of cultural tradition, personal dedications and contemporary global and social issues with altars and art installations. *Illuminations* is on view in SOMArts' Bay Gallery October 8th – November 5th and opens October 7.

Foodies and writers are encouraged to arrive early to visit *Illuminations*, which closes at 7PM prior to *Feast of Words*, and to enjoy tasty eats contributed by our guest chef and potluck participants.

About Ron Ragin

Ron Ragin is a composer, vocalist, and writer living and working in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ragin is from Perry, Georgia and is obsessed with his family history. His artistic interests include music of the African Diaspora, ritual music, queer spirituality and aesthetics, and collaborative-improvisational creative processes. Ragin is currently working on his first collection of poems and a project to document contemporary performance of spirituals.



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About Amara Tabor-Smith

Amara Tabor-Smith is an Oakland based performer/choreographer. She is the artistic director of Deep Waters Dance Theater and co-artistic director of Headmistress, an international dance collaboration with movement artist, Sherwood Chen.

Tabor-Smith's company Deep Waters Dance Theater most recently finished a successful 2 week run at CountePULSE of "Our Daily Bread," a dance theater piece focused on food, cultural identity and sustainability. She holds monthly food parties focused on breaking bread together and facilitates dialogues about food traditions and sustainable eating. For more info visit [her website](#).

Calendar Listing

What: [Feast of Words: A Literary Potluck](#) (Theme: Illuminations)

Where: SOMArts Cultural Center (934 Brannan St, between 8th and 9th)

When: Tuesday, October 18, 2011. 7:00PM – 9:00PM, house opens 6:30PM.

What else: Tickets are \$10 advance, \$5 with a potluck dish, and \$12 at the door. For more information visit <http://feastofwords.somarts.org> or write feastofwords@somarts.org

Lex Leifheit is the executive director of SOMArts Cultural Center. She co-founded the High Street Writers Collective in Connecticut and has organized readings online, on street corners, and in storefronts.

Irina Zadov is the Director of Experience and Programs at Zeum: San Francisco Children's Museum. She is a practicing artist with a passion for bringing people together through food, stories, and romps through the imagination.

About the SOMArts Studio Series

The SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) Studio Series is an informal assemblage of arts classes and events designed to encourage the production of contemporary work by artists of all ages and skill levels in San Francisco.

About SOMArts Cultural Center

SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) was founded in 1979 and operates the South of Market Cultural Center, one of four city-owned cultural facilities in San Francisco. SOMArts supports exhibitions, performances, classes and other collaborations that serve its mission: to promote and nurture art on the community level and foster an appreciation of and respect for all cultures.

For more information about upcoming events, space rentals and technical services, visit www.somarts.org or call 415-863-1414. SOMArts programs are supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Community Arts and Education Program, with funding from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund and the San Francisco Foundation.

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