Michael Lee – ESA Program Manager
San Jose State University, BS Business Management

Michael was born and raised in San Francisco and attended SFUSD schools until going to college at San Jose State University. He started at TEL HI in the spring of 2017 as a Program Leader and is the current program manager of our ESA program. He hopes to guide and inspire the next generation of students to be successful in both academics and life. During his free time, Michael enjoys playing basketball, going to sports events and concerts, and traveling the world.

Adrienne Lo – Program Support Specialist
San Francisco State University, Chinese Language and History

Adrienne was born in Hong Kong and moved to San Francisco at the age of 7. Struggling to learn English at a young age has taught her to be assertive with children as they learn new subjects. Prior to joining TEL HI, she taught at a Chinese school in San Francisco as well as taught English for 2 years abroad. She is excited to help the youth at TEL HI reach their potential not only in school but socially and physically. In her free time, Adrienne enjoys riding her bike around the city.

Kate Hartman – Garden & Nutrition Coordinator
Geneva Business School of Barcelona, Bachelors of Business Administration

Kate is a firm believer that through hands-on garden curriculum, we can build healthier children and families while increasing the wellness of our communities and planet. Before joining the TEL HI team in April 2021, Kate earned a Bachelor’s of Business Administration in Barcelona, Spain while working as a nanny and preschool teacher. Throughout her volunteer travels in the Balkans, Kate discovered her interest in sustainable food growing and continued to develop this passion during lockdown through organic farm work in Northern California. Kate considers her role at TEL HI an ideal culmination of her love of children and desire to increase access to and education about healthy foods. When not in the TEL HI garden, Kate spends her time swimming in all bodies of water, cooking vegan foods, petting dogs, and learning more about plants.

Mireya Napoles – Program Leader
UC Berkeley, BA Legal Studies

Mireya was born and raised in San Francisco. She attended UC Berkeley, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies. After working at the Exploratorium and volunteering as a cadet for the SFPD Police Activities League, she realized she had an interest in working with children through her countless interactions with them at these organizations. Furthermore, she volunteered at the San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living for four years, where she discovered an interest in helping and working with the senior population.

Vanessa Napoles – Program Leader
San Francisco State University, BA Criminal Justice Studies

Vanessa was born and raised in The Excelsior District here in San Francisco. Throughout her high school and college career, she worked with youth through daycares, after school programs, and babysitting. Vanessa was also a Work Experience Counselor for youth in Oakland, CA. These experiences, along with her deep understanding of how and why juveniles act the way they do in society, has helped her become a strong-willed, assertive, and efficient leader.

Theresa Arocena – Program Leader
Dominican University of California, BA Communications & Media Studies

Theresa Arocena started at TEL HI in December 2020. Theresa has a Bachelor’s from Dominican University of California in Communications and Media Studies. She uses her weekly cooking lessons as a way to introduce the kids to new foods and fun ways to eat food. Theresa also likes to incorporate a little bit of food history and culture. When not at TEL HI, Theresa loves to play with her guinea pig, Princess Mia Miso, and spend time at the beach.

Colette Whoriskey – Program Leader
Paisley University, Masters of Information Technology
University of Strathclyde, BA Economics

Colette grew up in a family of 9 and is originally from Glasgow, Scotland. She gained a postgraduate degree in Economics at Strathclyde Business School and Masters degree in Information Technology from Paisley University. Colette has lived in Hong Kong and Thailand but currently lives in the Marina neighborhood with her 5th grade daughter who is also attending TEL HI’s after school program. She also works at Yick Wo Elementary with students with Special needs.

Haley Donovan – Education Specialist
San Francisco State University, Masters in Education
University of California Davis, BA in Communication

Haley Donovan is a first grade teacher at Yick Wo Elementary and an Educational Specialist at TEL HI. She has been in the Yick Wo community for 7 years, and in education for 9 years. Haley joined the TEL HI community for the first time as a teacher during the 2021 summer program. She has experience working with Preschool through sixth grade students. Haley earned her Teaching credential from San Francisco State University, where she also completed her Masters in Education, with a focus on reading strategies for emergent readers. Haley received her BA in Communication from University of California Davis, with a minor in Global and International Studies. Haley is a San Francisco native, and attended Gateway High school in San Francisco. In her free time she enjoys going to Giants games, running at Ocean Beach, and trying new recipes.

Melody Summers – Education Specialist
University of California Davis, Undergrad
University of Santa Clara, Law Degree

Melody has spent over 25 years working in various firms focusing on business and tax law with her final full time position as one of the founding Managing Directors of the tax entity of Alvarez and Marsal. She has sat on both a nonprofit and for profit boards. Currently she is serving as an advisor for the for profit board. As she really enjoys people and is part of the community she decided to start volunteering at TEL HI which turned into a part time position. In her free time she likes to travel and spend time with friends and family.