

INCEPTION TO EXECUTION

of the Cultural Solidarity Fund

In the spirit of coalition and resource sharing, NYC funders, individuals, and arts and cultural organizations of all sizes and structures have come together to build a joint Cultural Solidarity Fund that provides \$500 relief microgrants to NYC individual artists and cultural workers.

Led by The Indie Theater Fund (Fund Administrator) and LEIMAY (Lead Organizer), the Cultural Solidarity Fund is supported by its Organizing Group and Sponsor Coalition, totalling over 250 Individuals and Organizations supporting NYC's arts and culture.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

GEOGRAPHY



Residents of New York City's five boroughs as of April 1, 2020: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.

DISCIPLINE / ROLE



Actors, Administrators, Choreographers, Custodians, Curators, Dancers, Designers, Directors, Drivers, Dramaturgs, Front of House, Guards, Janitors, Installers, Musicians, Playwrights, Production Managers, Receptionists, Technical Crew and Art Handlers, Stage Managers, Teaching Artists, Technicians, Ushers, Visual Artists and anybody working in any capacity in the arts/cultural non-profit or community-based sector, including museums.

ACCESS



Open call and social media assets were made available in English and Spanish. Applications were available in several languages. Phone assistance to fill applications was offered for Spanish and English speakers. The application was a simple form expected to take not more than 10 minutes to complete.

PRIORITY



Priority for all funds go to those expressing highest need and those self-identifying as BIPOC, immigrant, or disabled/deaf, trans and GNC.



VETTING COMMITTEE

Applications were vetted (not reviewed for artistry, quality, or spelling/grammar) by a committee with representatives from the Cultural Solidarity Coalition: Mark Rossier, Dorothy Ryan, Hanna Stubbelfield-Tave, Aaron L. McKinney and Indie Theater Fund leadership: Randi Berry, Brea Clemons, Raquel Almazan.

OPENING APPLICATIONS

Applications were open between 9:00 AM ET February 26, 2021 and 9:00 PM ET on March 5, 2021, and in just **ONE WEEK WE RECEIVED 2,722 APPLICATIONS**

12 LOTTERIES = 2030 GRANTEES

1

MARCH 17TH, 2021
250 GRANTS

CULTURAL WORKERS (50)
INDIE THEATER MAKERS (50)
MAIN LOTTERY (150)

2

APRIL 27TH, 2021
40 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 5

3

MAY 10TH, 2021
150 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 5

4

MAY 21ST, 2021
90 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 5

5

JUNE 7TH, 2021
448 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 5

6

JULY 14TH, 2021
88 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 5

7

SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2021
50 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 5

8

OCTOBER 20TH, 2021
84 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 5

9

DECEMBER 6TH, 2021
650 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 4 & 5

10

MAY 18TH, 2022
140 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 4 & 5

11

AUGUST 3RD, 2022
20 GRANTS

URGENCY LEVEL 4

12

MAY 30TH, 2023
20 GRANTS

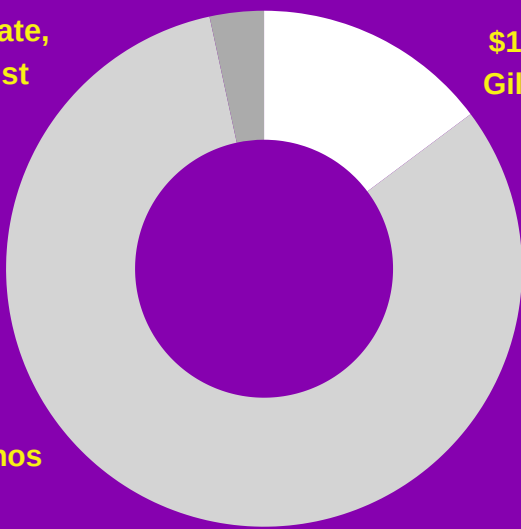
URGENCY LEVEL 4

OUR COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

SPONSORSHIPS

Challenge Grants

14.8%



\$550,000 - Andrew W Mellon Foundation
\$61,000 - JP Morgan / The Renate, Hans and Maria Hofmann Trust
\$50,000 - Tow Foundation
\$48,000 - Dance NYC
\$40,000 - Thompson Family Foundation
\$25,000 - Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS
\$25,000 - Stavros Niarchos Foundation

\$100,000 - Howard Gilman Foundation
\$50,000 - Tow Foundation
\$25,000 - Indie Theater Fund

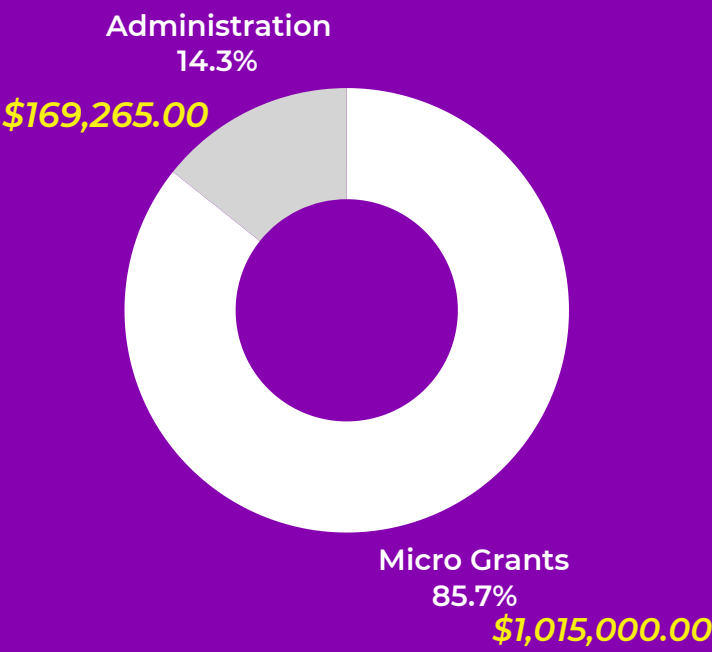
Organizations
81.8%

TOTAL RAISED:
\$1,184,265.00

CSF BUDGET

GRANTS RAISED
\$1,015,000.00

PEOPLE HELPED
2030



IN OUR PROCESS WE:

- ▲ Center trust
- ▲ Move out of the mindset of scarcity and competition
- ▲ Focus on solidarity as action and not as a symbol
- ▲ Expand the circle of care beyond our immediate communities
- ▲ Center the artist (the person) as the antidote to trickledown funding
- ▲ Require cooperation, collaboration, coalition, mutual accountability, personal reflection & ...
- ▲ Lighten the burden of the artists (people) requesting funds
- ▲ Prioritize those who have been historically excluded from funding
- ▲ Commit to transparency
- ▲ Believe that ALL artists and cultural workers in need deserve our support, our decision making process is not based on meritocracy
- ▲ Respond to the needs that arise throughout the process

THE ROAD THUS FAR

Over 250 organizations and individuals have come together to raise over one million dollars for the Cultural Solidarity Fund. These donations include substantial contributions including a \$550,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a \$100,000 match challenge from the Howard Gilman Foundation and a \$100,000 donation from the Tow Foundation.

At the one-year mark of the initiation of this effort, CSF re-surveyed all remaining applicants and learned that 385 of them are still in urgent need of financial support.

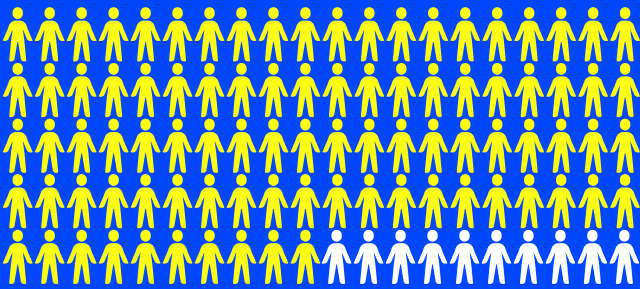
Our efforts have not stopped and we are setting new goals:

OUR FINAL GOAL IS TO
RAISE \$160,750.00
IN ORDER TO FUND
ALL APPLICANTS
IN NEED

These funds have supported **2030** artists and cultural workers in need, a significant but incomplete 90.8% of our 2,235 total applicants.

90.8 %
received funds

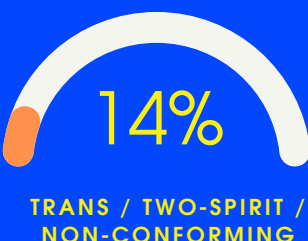
MORE SUPPORT IS NEEDED



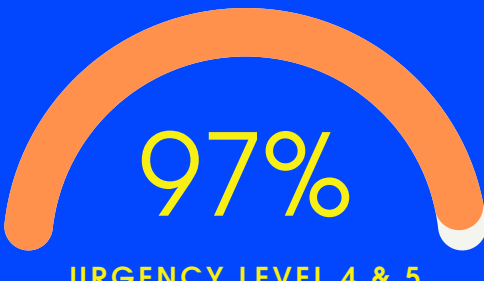
Priority group applicants (*Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrant, living with disability, LGBTQIA+, trans, gender non-conforming, two-spirit*) were given weighted numbers in all of our lotteries. Out of all of our grantees:



LGBTQIA+/QUEER



TRANS / TWO-SPIRIT / NON-CONFORMING



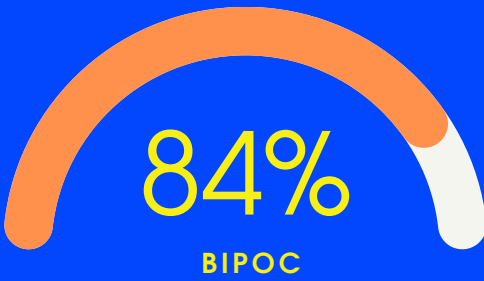
URGENCY LEVEL 4 & 5



LIVING WITH DISABILITY



IMMIGRANT



BIPOC

BUT THE WAIT LIST IS STILL BIG:

THERE ARE **204** ARTISTS
AND CULTURAL WORKERS IN
NEED OF FUNDS

AND YOU CAN HELP TODAY

THE IMPACT

"I am a 50 year pro sports, lifestyles & travel destination photographer. We cannot predict our paths. I had totally unforeseen retina detachment on my shooting eye -which even after a long career of advertising, magazines, books, exhibitions and all manner of usages, was a major blow to momentum and confidence - and an instant work stopper. Now after surgery to correct the retina best as possible and the side effects of cataracts, I am working on books and exhibitions. My recent eye doctor visit has been excellent and the purchase of the new glasses I now need, will be helped mightily by your grant! GOOD Glasses cost a Fortune! Thanking you with a grateful heart on the eve of my 71st birthday."

- CSF Grant Recipient



"Antes que nada, quiero darles las gracias por su apoyo. Su ayuda fue de gran utilidad para mi. Con los fondos que recibí de ustedes pude pagar una parte de mis tarjetas de créditos, hice compras en el mercado y también ayudar a mi familia para sus medicinas y alimentos. Recibir este tipo de ayuda en medio de estos momentos de incertidumbre, es un alivio y también fuente de inspiración y esperanza. Gracias de corazón por el trabajo que estan realizando."

- CSF Grant Recipient

"I used the funds provided to me to help cover my medical expenses which I incurred recovering from COVID-19, which I caught in February. The Cultural Solidarity Fund was a literal saving grace for me, as it allowed me to breath a little easier after recovering from COVID-19."

- CSF Grant Recipient



"I can't tell you what this means to me. It has restored my faith in humanity. This last year has been a living hell. I've had two family members with Covid and another family member died of it. For the first time in my life I have gotten in debt and owe a lot of money. Thanks to your check and the stimulus I am starting to dig my way out. I put the money towards the rent so for the time being I have a roof over my head. I am such a New Yorker. I was so skeptical. I've never won anything except for \$2.00 on a dollar lottery ticket. It's wonderful to know that someone cares! I want to thank Randi and the C.S.F. team for making this happen! Wishing the best of health to all!"

- CSF Grant Recipient



"I want to personally thank your organization for the \$500 microgrant they sent me. Times are very difficult now for people and I want to share my good fortune with others struggling. Therefore I am enclosing a money order for \$25 to your organization so you can continue to give grants and help others. I don't have a cellphone or computer but my neighbor has one to email you that I did receive the check. Thank you so much for the grant."

- CSF Grant Recipient



"I'm so grateful for the work of the Cultural Solidarity Fund! I wasn't selected in the first few rounds but your team kept working to help raise more funds to run additional lotteries and eventually my number was picked. It means so much to me to see how people can come together to help one another. This money went towards putting food in my kids bellies and paying back rent. Thank you."

- CSF Grant Recipient

"Ifue una ayuda importante para mi en el medio de la pandemia para pagar la renta. Fueron muy amables conmigo, hemos tenido charlas que alivian el alma en momentos tan difciles! La mejor manera de apoyar a los artistas es darle ágilmente la ayuda necesaria en el momento exacto, gracias por estar ahi. Muchas gracias."

- CSF Grant Recipient



*Thank
you*

"I'm a marginalized black disabled transwoman who is a former victim of gun violence. I'm also a teaching artist and a writer. The cultural solidarity funds impacted me during a critical time, helping me to live and write another chapter of my book "Shootin' Range". Funds went towards rent and medicine, and general living expenses. I am doing very well and things are looking up for me! Thank you for your support."

- CSF Grant Recipient

"Il was able to pay down the cost of paying for Therapy out of pocket. It's been a rough year after losing my mother and the extra funds helped pull me a bit more out of the financial hole that therapy is putting me in. I needed. The funds really helped. When I got the funds it really reminded me of the importance of community and how we can and will show up for each other moving forward. This is how we will sustain. This is how we create equity. Thank you all so much for the work you do."

- CSF Grant Recipient



CULTURAL SOLIDARITY FUND

Research Report 2024

From Regranting to Redistribution

How the Cultural Solidarity
Fund Moved Money &
Why We Need Community-
Centered Coalitions

March 2024

Prepared for:
The Mellon Foundation

Written by:
Sruti Suryanarayanan with Emma Werowski

How did the Cultural
Solidarity Fund execute
over **\$1,000,0000** in relief
grants to **2030 individual
artists and cultural workers**
across New York City?

By rooting in **values**, leaning
on **community**, and leading
with **instincts**.

ORGANIZING GROUP

The Cultural Solidarity Fund initiative is administered by **IndieSpace (formerly The Indie Theater Fund)** and organized by **LEIMAY** with a growing group of cultural and arts organizations of all sizes and structures.

Implementation:

Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute | Melody Capote
Dancewave | Nicole Touzien
Dance Parade | DJ McDonald
Elevator Repair Service | Mark Rossier
IndieSpace (The Indie Theater Fund) | Randi Berry
LEIMAY | Ximena Garnica
Mark Morris Dance Group | Michelle Amador & Haley Mason Andres
National Dance Institute | Juan José Escalante
NYC & Company | Carianne Carleo-Evangelist
Performance Space New York | Paula Bennett
Talissa Bavaresco | Individual
Ted Berger | Individual
Theater for a New Audience | Dorothy Ryan
The Bushwick Starr | Lauren Miller

Additional Support:

ADVANCE/MORE Opera | Cheryl Warfield
Bronx Arts Ensemble | Ellen Pollan
HERE | Meredith Lynsey Schade
Hi-ARTS | Hanna Stubblefield-Tave
New Yorkers for Culture and Arts | Laurie Berg, Lucy Sexton



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Individuals: Angela Miskis, Aaron Moschitto, Adelaide Kent, Aimee Todoroff, AJ Lopez, Alexander Betka, Alexis Lubin, Amanda Ringger, Amanda Stage in memory of Linda Caldwell, Amy Schwartzman, Andre Doughty, Andrea Nellis, Ann Holtwick, Anthony Meyers, Asya & Ted Berger, Aziza Kasumov, Barbara A. Bryan, Barbara Matovu, Billie Tannen, Bob Walter, Brenna Thomas and Nicolas Jaeger, Brooke Haney, Bruce Allardice, Carl Atkins, Carl Goodman, Carolyn Dorfman, Carolyn Hall, Casey York, Celia Braxton, Cristina Kirk, Colleen O'Neill, Constance Christensen, Constance Cunningham, Cynthia Flowers, Dana Ivey, Dani Martineck, Daniel McKleinfeld, David Roberts, Dena Isles, Don Shewey, Dorothy Ryan Leitch, Elizabeth Rose Daly, Elizabeth Warren, Ellen Birger, Elwood Exley, Emily Todras, Eric Oberstein, Erica Manta, Esther Goldbas, Fiona Simon, Floyd A Warren, Francis Baudry MD in honor of Paul Baudry, Gary & Marcie Kesner, Gina Gibney, Greg Miller, Gregg Mozgala, Gretchen Schneidau, Hanna Stubblefield-Tave, Heather Robles,

Imran Sheikh, Jack Bernatovicz, James Lynes, Janet Hollander, Jean Aaron, Jeanette Villafane, Jeannie Oakes Lipton, Jeff McMahon, Jennifer Gordon Thomas, Jennifer Thompson, Jerry Polner, Jeso O'Neill, Jess Jacobs, Jessi Hill, Jessica Morgan, Jordana & Sean Williams, Joyce and John Violet, Judith Baicich, Julia Vickers, Karen Davidov, Katelyn Halpern, Kathleen Dunn, Kathryn Myers, Kelsey Nelson, Kiebpoli Calnek, Lanie Zipoy, Lawrence Stierhoff, Lee Aleksich, Lindsey Crane, Lisa Safier, Liz Norman, Lois Ogan, Lori Newcomb, Mac Ingram, Maggie Cino, Maggie Cammer, Marek Walczak, Margaret Hagemeister, Margaret Jones, Margaret L Goodman, Marge Blaine, Marilyn Sobel, Mark Rossier, Marta Renzi and Dancers, Matthew Gray, Matthew McDaniel, Matthew Trumbull, Maxine Gerson, Megan Callaghan, Michael Criscuolo, Michael Emerson, Michael Gardner, Michele Jerison, Moira Stone, Morgan Zipf-Meister, Nehassaiu deGannes, Nicole Touzien, Nkemjika Alimole, Pamela Grossman, Patricia Cai, Patricia Joyce, Patricia Specter, Peggy O'Shea, Randal Pierce, Raymond Codrington, Renee Blinkwolt, Rob Urbinati, Robert Buckholz, Robin Bell-Stevens, Rosalind Anderson, Sarah K. Lippmann, Stanley Corfman, Stephanie S. Bok, Stephanie Wilchfort, Stephen Daldry, Stuart Weinberg, Susan K. & Thomas F. Dunn, Susan Stockel, Suzanne Smith, Teresa Snider-Stein, Tia Bangura, Tiffany Mellard, Timothy Babcock, Tobin Nellhaus, Tom Staggs & Lynda Kennedy, Tom Wagner, Travis Amiel, Vallejo Gantner, Wilden Dannenberg, Willy Mosquera, Yvonne Benn, Yvonne Roen, Zachary Herman.

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS



MORE ABOUT THE ORGANIZING GROUP

Melody Capote - The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute

The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (herein either the Center or CCCADI) is an arts and culture organization advancing and promoting cultural equity, racial and social justice for communities of African descent through performances, concerts, programs, activities, research and advocacy. It was formed in 1976. As an arts and culture organization, CCCADI produces significant performances, collaborations, convenings, symposia, curated exhibits and other programs that speak to the resiliency, courage and strength of African descendent people who, despite slavery, colonialism and racial oppression, have been able to preserve and strengthen our heritage that not only bonds all African descendants together but binds them as well to ancestral origins in Africa. www.cccadi.org

Nicole Touzien - Dancewave

Dancewave is a resource and community hub for artists, educators and young visionaries, extending opportunities for our audience to engage with supportive and empowering dance experiences that center social, emotional and cognitive development through movement. Developing programs to meet community needs, we use dance as a vehicle for transformation, expression, active citizenship and self reflection. We teach participatory learning, decision-making, empathy and self-expression; helping participants to understand themselves in relationship to other people and larger systems, and to become more active members of their community. Dancewave fosters a culture where dance is celebrated as a healing and inclusive art form. www.dancewave.org

DJ McDonald - Dance Parade (+ Dance Rising)

Dance Parade promotes dance as an expressive and unifying art form by showcasing all forms of dance, educating the general public about the opportunities to experience dance, and celebrating diversity of dance in New York City by sponsoring a yearly city-wide dance parade and dance festival that we believe to be the largest single day dance event in the world with upwards of 10,000 dancers dancing down Broadway from 21st Street to Tompkins Square Park where we host a 4-hour long free Festival with five stages from performance to teaching to social dance to aerial as well as site specific performances www.danceparade.org/see-the-parade/. Year round programming includes interactive dance centered engagements at metro area schools, senior and community centers and NYC parks that culminate with representation in the Parade and DanceFest. Dance Parade has become known for its non-curated display of dance forms rooted in the immigrant and resident communities of NYC and beyond which continued during the pandemic as a self-produced virtual event in May, 2020, and a public TV broadcast show over WNYE in May 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1P5CBCz5Mw>. www.danceparade.org

Mark Rossier - Elevator Repair Service Theater (ERS)

Elevator Repair Service Theater (ERS) is an ongoing ensemble dedicated to the creation of original works that explore and challenge the fundamentals of live performance. Our sources range from found material (Supreme Court transcripts, old movies, YouTube videos) to literature and conventional plays (both classical and contemporary). Founded in 1991, ERS has authored an extensive body of work that includes 19 original theatrical productions, the best known being *Gatz*, a 8-hour performance using the entire text of *The Great Gatsby*. Live and in-person productions coming in 2022 are *Baldwin* and *Buckley* at Cambridge, using the 1965 debate between James Baldwin and William F. Buckley, *Seagull*, from Chekov, and *Ulysses*, the entire book in 90 minute. www.elevator.org

Meredith Lynsey Schade - HERE

From our home in Lower Manhattan, HERE builds an inclusive community that nurtures artists of all backgrounds as they disrupt conventional expectations to create innovative performances in theatre, dance, music, puppetry, media, and visual art. By providing these genre-blending artists with an adaptive, flexible home for developing and producing their work, we share a range of perspectives reflective of the complexity of our city. HERE welcomes curious audiences to witness groundbreaking performances, responsive to the world in which we live, at free and affordable prices. www.here.org

Hanna Stubblefield-Tave - Hi-ARTS

Founded in 2000 and rooted in Hip-Hop culture, Hi-ARTS is a multi-disciplinary arts center, community hub, and nationally recognized leader in the urban arts field. Hi-ARTS provides resources, development opportunities, and a national platform to artists; serves students across NYC through unique educational programming; and presents innovative theater, music, spoken word, dance and visual arts to a diverse audience at its home in East Harlem. By amplifying the voices of historically excluded artists and supporting art that centers social justice, Hi-ARTS advances equity in the cultural landscape and beyond. www.hi-artsnyc.org

Randi Berry - IndieSpace/Indie Theater Fund

IndieSpace celebrates and centers independent theater-making in New York City. We provide radically transparent, responsive and equity-focused funding, real estate programs, professional development, and advocacy to individual artists, theater companies, and indie venues. The Indie Theater Fund and IndieSpace are in the process of merging to fall under IndieSpace's name.

IndieSpace www.indiespace.org

Indie Theater Fund www.indietheaterfund.org

Ximena Garnica - LEIMAY

LEIMAY is a grassroots POC artist-run organization and permanent performing arts ensemble that exists out of a live/work space called CAVE in Williamsburg Brooklyn. Initiated by Shige Moriya of Japan in 1996 and joined by Ximena Garnica of Colombia in 2001, LEIMAY is led by immigrant artists and holds a regular NYC home season, offers classes to the public, brings in guest artists for workshops, and collaborates with presenting and educational partners. LEIMAY serves audiences and artists worldwide and in New York City through a plethora of programs, and body-rooted works, creating access to contemporary forms of art at the intersection of the visual and the live arts (theater & dance). LEIMAY supports artistic exploration; community-based resource sharing; artistic collaboration, and professional development. Our works focus on questions of being, perception, interdependency, and coexistence. LEIMAY is invested in cultivating imagination as a radical act to transform ourselves and the world around us. We strive to embrace differences, face the uncertainties of being, empower people, provoke, question, connect, and inspire. www.leimay.org

Michelle Amador and Haley Andres - Mark Morris Dance Group

The Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) is a global cultural leader in modern dance, arts education, and community engagement propelled by core values of Community, Access, Excellence, and Creativity. With a deep commitment to the belief that “dance is for anybody,” MMDG’s critically acclaimed performances, audience engagements, and award-winning adaptive/inclusive education programs now annually engage, despite challenges of Covid-19, 100,000 people of all ages, with and without disabilities. Founded in 1980 by Artistic Director and world-renowned choreographer Mark Morris, the company performs at home in Brooklyn, across US cities, around the world, and online. 2021 marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Mark Morris Dance Center. Built as a community resource, the Dance Center is a vital hub for creativity, wellbeing, and artistic employment, offering a home for the company, rehearsal space for local artists, and free and low-cost dance-with-live-music classes for students of all ages, with and without disabilities. www.markmorrisdancegroup.org

Lauren Miller - The Bushwick Starr

The Bushwick Starr is an Obie award winning theater in Bushwick, Brooklyn that presents an annual season of world premiere performance works. We are defined by artists and our community as a thriving theatrical venue, a vital neighborhood arts center, and a destination for exciting and engaging performance. As Bushwick’s only professional nonprofit theater, the Starr fulfills our mission-driven commitment by widening arts access and engagement through education programs serving 120 learners aged 9 to 90 each year. The Starr aims to radically design a community arts model, and thereby reimagine what it means to serve as a community arts space - especially now as we build our permanent home to open in 2022. www.thebushwickstarr.org

Dorothy Ryan - Theatre for a New Audience

Theatre for a New Audience is a modern classical theatre that produces Shakespeare alongside major classic and contemporary plays with some of today’s most exciting artists. An internationally respected producer of the classics, the Theatre develops and mounts productions that examine and illuminate the contemporary significance of classic plays and modern dramatic masterworks, serving an audience of 30,000 to 50,000 each season. In addition to its world-class productions, the Theatre engages its community through free Humanities Programs for general audiences, extensive creative development opportunities for artists, and the largest in-depth arts in education programs to introduce Shakespeare and classic drama to New York City Public School students across the five boroughs. Additionally, the Theatre is committed to building a vibrant and diverse young audience through its New Deal program, which offers \$20 tickets to patrons aged 30 or under and all full-time students. www.tfana.org