

# New York Foundation for the Arts

**FY21+FY22** annual report  
*July 1, 2020 — June 30, 2022*



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# A Message from NYFA's Executive Director

From our earliest days in 1971, NYFA's primary purpose has been to serve artists, art organizations, and administrators, from all backgrounds and creative disciplines. Over the last two decades, we've channeled these efforts during times of need and natural disasters into establishing emergency relief programs to deliver crucial support and resources to those facing challenges.

For the past two years, NYFA has been a proud leader in providing emergency funding to the creative sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With generous donor support and dedicated partners, we've administered eight new emergency grants devoted to giving artists and arts workers the help they need to sustain themselves and their creative practices through these difficult months. Additional information about the grants and their impact can be found on pages 3, 6, and 7.



At NYFA, we recognize that the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are integral to our mission, and we remain committed to developing initiatives that uphold those beliefs, such as the NYSCA/NYFA Artist with Disabilities Grant that was launched earlier this year.

Since March 2020, these funds have distributed over \$20 Million in emergency relief across 31 US states and territories, with an emphasis in New York State in areas economically hit by COVID-19.

More than 4,000 Artists & Arts Workers have received funding and assistance through these programs, and of that number:

- 65% identified Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC)
- 60% identified as Women
- 29% identified LGBTQ+
- 18% identified as individuals with disabilities
- 70% reported income below the poverty level

We have been deeply moved by the perseverance of the creative community and its advocates during this difficult time. Though we know there is still much work to be done, it's inspiring to remember that by standing together, we can rise to the challenges that lay ahead and build a stronger and brighter future for us all.

On behalf of NYFA, thank you for joining us in this important work.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Michael Royce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Royce  
Executive Director

# about NYFA

The New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) was established in 1971 to empower artists of all disciplines throughout their creative lives. Building upon our original mission of serving artists across New York State, we have grown to meet the needs of our larger creative community by offering programs and services throughout the United States and internationally.

We provide critical support, resources, and opportunities under four flagship program areas: **Awards & Grants, Learning, Online Resources, and Fiscal Sponsorship.**

- Each year, NYFA awards **more than \$4 million** in cash grants to individual visual, performing, and literary artists throughout the United States.
- NYFA's Learning programs, including its **Artist as Entrepreneur** and **Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program**, provide thousands of artists, creatives, and cultural workers with professional development training and support.
- NYFA's Fiscal Sponsorship program, one of the oldest and most reputable in the country, helps national artists and arts organizations raise and manage an average of **\$4 million annually.**
- NYFA's website, NYFA.org, is used by **more than 1 million people** and features more than **20,000 opportunities and resources** available to artists in all disciplines.

Our programs are tailored to the needs of our constituents and are created with the intention of fostering a vibrant and diverse arts landscape. To help us in our mission, we cultivate partnerships with an array of arts and cultural organizations from across the country. Together, we are working to ensure that artists and arts leaders receive the support they need to thrive.



# COVID-19 Response

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NYFA focused its efforts and transitioned all programs and services to ensure that artists, arts workers, and arts organizations receive the resources they need to persevere.

## City Artist Corps Grants

*Supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) and the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME)*

**3,000** artists **\$15M** distributed

In partnership with the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the City Artist Corps was a \$25 million recovery initiative designed to help artists who were both hard hit by the pandemic and left out of other local and federal funding opportunities. \$15 million of that initiative was allocated to the City Artist Corps Grants program, which distributed a one-time \$5,000 grant to 3,000 artists.

## Tri-State Relief Fund for Non-Salaried Workers in the Visual Arts

*Supported by The Willem de Kooning Foundation, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Teiger Foundation, and the Cy Twombly Foundation*

**626** workers **\$892,000** distributed

An emergency relief grant program that distributed a one-time unrestricted grant of \$2,000 to Tri-State non-salaried workers in the visual arts who have experienced financial hardships. In the four cycles of the grant, a total of \$892,000 were awarded to 626 non-salaried workers.

## Rauschenberg Dancer Emergency Grants

*Supported by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation*

**86** recipients **\$383,236** distributed

The nationwide program provides one-time grants of up to \$5,000 to professional dancers who have a dire financial emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Awards are granted multiple times a year. In the first three cycles, \$383,236 has been awarded to 86 recipients.

## Hamptons Arts Network Artist Relief Fund

*Supported by the Hamptons Arts Network*

**84** artists **\$168,000** distributed

A COVID-19 emergency fund for artists living in New York State zip codes beginning with "119" who have been impacted by the pandemic. NYFA awarded 84 artists with \$2,000 in unrestricted grants totaling \$168,000 in emergency funding.

## The Barbara and Carl Zydney Grant for Artists with Disabilities

*Supported by The Barbara and Carl Zydney Foundation*

**121** artists **\$100,000+** distributed

A one-time unrestricted \$1,000 cash grant for New York City artists with disabilities who experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis. In July 2021, we distributed more than \$100,000 to 121 New York City artists.

## Keep NYS Creating Project Grant

*Supported by National Endowment for the Arts through the CARES Act*

**42** artists **\$42,000** distributed

In partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), we distributed a one-time unrestricted grant of \$1,000 to support New York artists who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We awarded 42 artists statewide totaling \$42,000 in awards.

# New Initiatives

## Immigrant Artist Resource Center

Launched in January 2022, the Immigrant Artist Resource Center was founded to serve as a hub where immigrant artists in New York City can access resources, exchange ideas, collaborate, and amplify their voices in the American cultural landscape. Programming centers on helping immigrant artists with the development and presentation of their works and fostering communities and a sense of belonging while providing support for their overall well-being. The Center's work is informed by **30+ research interviews** with organizations in the 5 boroughs of New York City who focus on serving under-resourced immigrant and immigrant artist communities. To date, the new initiative has served **over 300 artists**.

## Demystifying NFTs

With generous support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, NYFA partnered with artist and technologist Laura Ó Reilly and her Technology Gap initiative to host "Demystifying NFTs," a series of workshops for artists interested in learning how to create eco-responsible NFTs (energy-efficient blockchains). This program is free to artists and cultural workers and was designed for mature artists across marginalized communities to have an opportunity to learn about a field that is typically characterized by inaccessible jargon and negative environmental impact.

To date, **745 individuals** have registered for Demystifying NFTs and the initiative has provided **36 hours** of free live programming over 6 workshops along with a "learn as you go" platform available on demand.

Upon completion of the workshops, NYC-based artists across all disciplines and mediums will be eligible to apply for the Demystifying NFTs Award. Award winners will receive a **\$500 cash award** to have an existing work minted as an NFT and included in an NYC Public Art Installation and metaverse exhibition in December 2022.

# New Awards & Grants

## NYSCA/NYFA Artists with Disabilities Grant

In May 2022, we launched a new emergency grant for artists with disabilities in partnership with New York State Council on the Arts. The program will distribute **\$1,000 to 261 New York State artists** with a disability who reside outside of the five boroughs of NYC and have experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis.



Image: Agnes Denes, Wheatfield – A Confrontation: Battery Park Landfill, Downtown Manhattan – Blue Sky, World Trade Center, 1982. Copyright Agnes Denes, courtesy Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York.

## Anonymous Was A Woman Environmental Art Grants

Funding from the Anonymous Was A Woman Environmental Art Grants will support environmental art projects that aim to engage an environmental issue at some scale. This grant will provide up to **\$20,000** to support environmental art projects led by women-identifying artists in the United States and U.S. Territories.

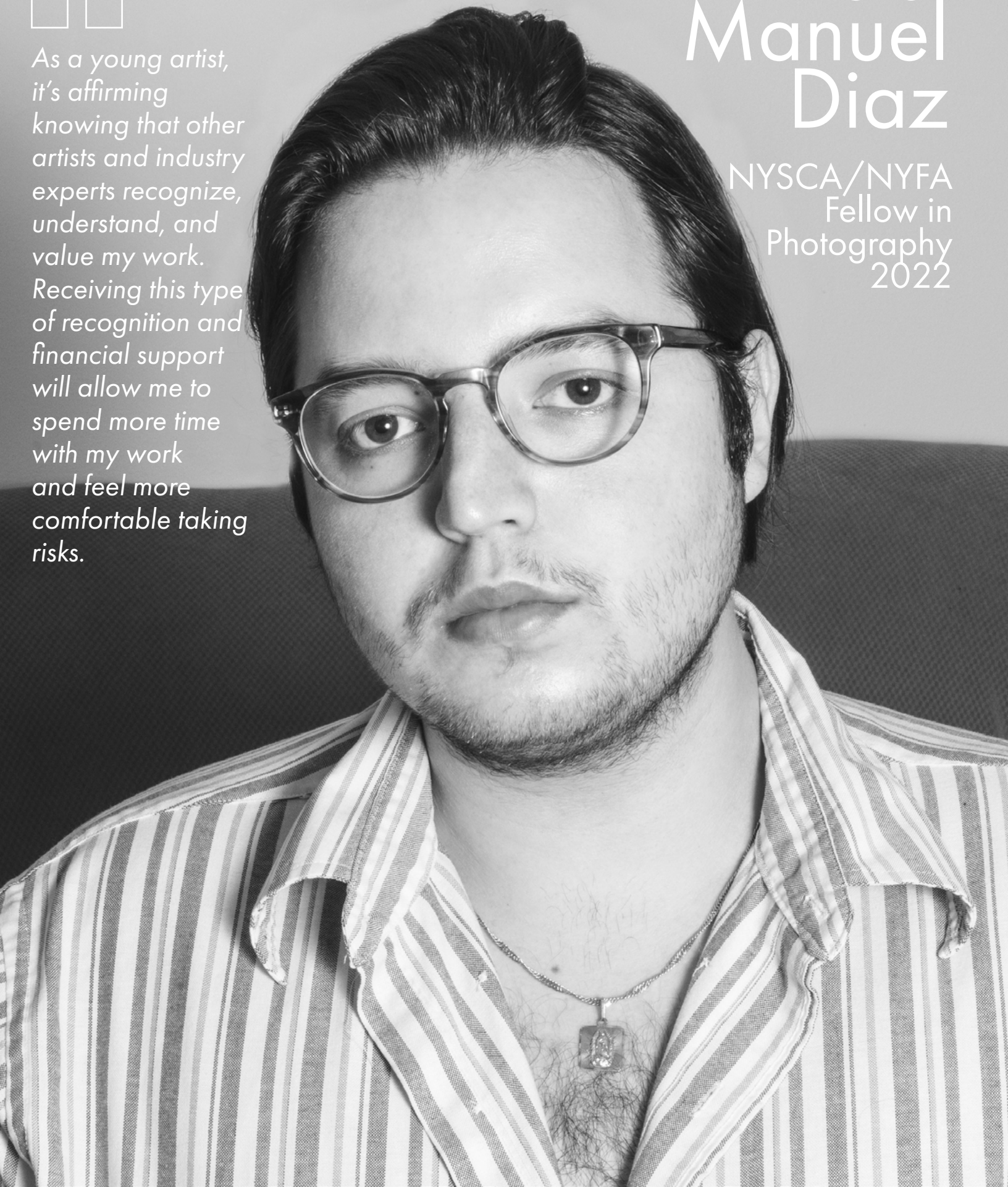


“

As a young artist,  
it's affirming  
knowing that other  
artists and industry  
experts recognize,  
understand, and  
value my work.  
Receiving this type  
of recognition and  
financial support  
will allow me to  
spend more time  
with my work  
and feel more  
comfortable taking  
risks.

# Luis Manuel Diaz

NYSCA/NYFA  
Fellow in  
Photography  
2022



# Awards

In the last two years, NYFA's Awards & Grants program distributed over **\$4.2 million** to **644 artists** and creatives across the U.S. through long-standing programs and new initiatives. NYFA's Awards & Grants are peer-reviewed by artists, arts professionals, and industry leaders in specialized disciplines. We make every effort to form panels representative of the artistic community and create an equitable process that promotes inclusivity and diversity.

## NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship, Est. 1985

*In partnership with the New York State Council on The Arts (NYSCA) with additional support from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation*

In 2021, NYFA awarded **\$616,000** in unrestricted fellowships in the disciplines of Fiction, Folk/Traditional Arts, Interdisciplinary Work, Painting, and Video/Film. [A complete list of past awardees is located on our website.](#)

In 2022, NYFA awarded **\$661,000** in unrestricted fellowships to support the visions and voices of New York State artists. Fellowships were awarded in the disciplines of Architecture/Environmental Structures/Design, Choreography, Music/Sounds, Photography, and Playwriting/Screenwriting. In addition, three finalists were recognized in each category. [A full list of awardees is located on our website.](#)

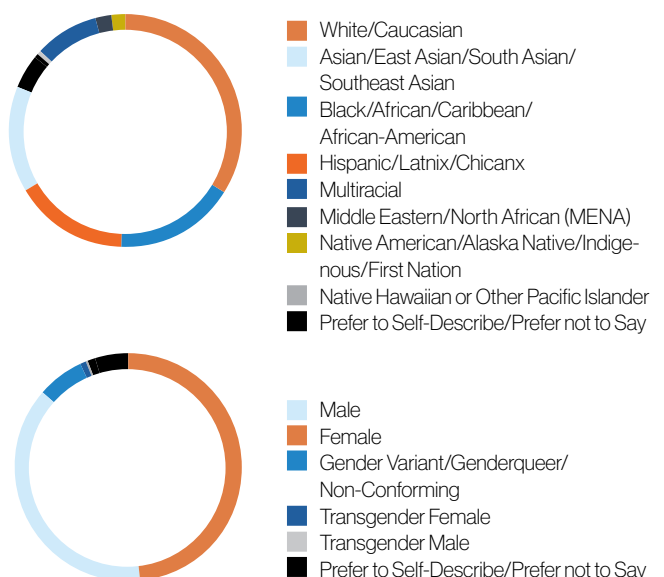
### FY21+22 Numbers at a Glance

	FY21	FY22
Individual grants	\$7,000	\$7,000
Fellowships	88	94
Fellows	92	100
Finalists	15	15

### Themes Across FY21+22 Applications



### Recipient Demographics





# Awards: Recurring, Emergency, & Invite-Only

## NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music, and Theatre, Est. 2018

*Supported by the City of New York Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (Mo)*

In 2022, finishing funds in the combined amount of \$2 million were awarded to 89 NYC projects, addressing the underrepresentation of women-identifying artists and perspectives in film, music, television, digital media, and theatre. [A full list of awardees is on our website.](#)

**89** recipients **\$2M** distributed

## Rauschenberg Emergency Medical Grants, Est. 2020

*Supported by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation*

The nationwide program provides one-time grants of up to \$5,000 to support artists with unexpected medical, dental, and mental health emergencies. Awards are granted multiple times a year. From July 2020 to June 2022, cycles 3 and 13 were administered and \$1,701,219 were awarded to 421 recipients.

**421** recipients **\$1.7M** distributed

## The JGS Fellowship for Photography, Est. 2020

*Supported by The Joy of Giving Something, Inc.*

Five \$7,000 fellowships awarded to New York State photographers—and/or artists working with photographic techniques—living and working outside New York City. In 2021 our recipients included Adrianna Ault, Ryan Frigiliana, ITENJI, Adrian Javon, and Funmi Olaipo. In 2022, The JGS Fellowship was integrated into the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship Photography category.

**10** recipients **\$70,000** distributed

## The Murray Reich Award, Est. 2015

*Supported by Anonymous Donor*

In 2021, these \$12,000 unrestricted grants honored the artistic excellence of established artists Suzanne Jackson and Jenny Snider.

**2** recipients **\$24,000** distributed

## Canadian Women Artists Award, Est. 2017

*Supported by the Canadian Women's Club of New York*

In fall of 2020, the annual \$5,000 unrestricted award was made to photographer Destinie Adalakun, and Interdisciplinary Work-based artist, Sara Jimenez. In 2021, the award was made to visual artist, Rena Anakwe, and Media & Design Artist, Sana A. Malik.

**4** recipients **\$20,000** distributed

## Tomorrowland Projects Foundation Award, Est. 2016

*Supported by Tomorrowland Foundation*

The Tomorrowland Projects Foundation supports artistic, multi-disciplinary team collaborations and artist-driven projects that expand awareness of issues affecting society-at-large, and considers award-planning funds to develop new technology, research, and installation art. In 2021, Danielle Dean received \$7,000 to help support her multi-disciplinary project *Amazon*.

**1** recipient **\$7,000** distributed

## The Recharge Foundation Fellowship for New Surrealist Art, Est. 2019

*Supported by the Recharge Foundation*

\$7,000 national award for surrealist painters; made to Indiana-based artist John Hrehov in 2021.

**1** recipient **\$7,000** distributed

A portrait of Catherine Ochún, a young Black woman with long, dark, curly hair, resting her chin on her hand. She is wearing a blue sleeveless top. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with wooden structures.

# Catherine Ochún

NYSCA/NYFA Fellow  
in Folk/Traditional Arts  
2021

“

I have worked so hard  
alongside my mother  
over the years working  
to preserve and share the  
beautiful Garifuna Culture.

I am more grateful than  
words can describe as  
this is the first time at 27  
years old, that I have been  
awarded financial support  
towards my cultural work  
and ideas.



# Fiscal Sponsorship

NYFA's Fiscal Sponsorship program currently serves **over 400 artists and organizations** across the nation, who are leading nonprofit public benefit projects. Our program expands a project's fundraising capacity by allowing them to apply to large-scale fundraising opportunities such as grants from foundations, government, and corporate funders that are usually restricted to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, and offering donors the benefit of a tax-deduction. Our program participants were selected through an application process.

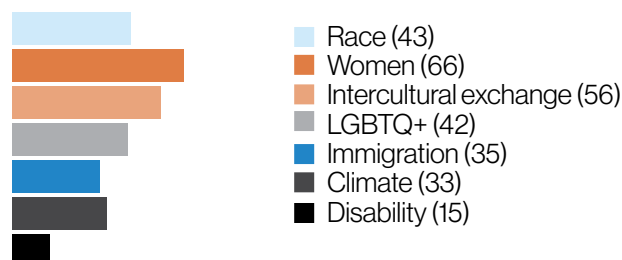
With NYFA's support, fiscally sponsored projects have reached national and international audiences through film screenings, performances, exhibitions, educational programs, and other events.

In addition to overseeing funds raised, NYFA Fiscal Sponsorship provides projects with **no-cost consultations about fundraising, project management, and budgeting**. We also lead **educational programming** to support projects' success in fundraising and entrepreneurial growth, particularly as it relates to film, the program's largest discipline.

An informal series of monthly discussions, **Community Conversations** was launched in FY21 to provide fiscally sponsored project directors with opportunities to expand their networks and build connections with other artists.

During FY22, NYFA welcomed grants for a number of sponsored projects, including the Lenape Center, The Denyce Graves Foundation, and Museums Moving Forward.

## PROJECT THEMES AT A GLANCE



Currently there are 92 fiscally sponsored BIPOC projects in various stages of development. Examples include: *SALAM - The First \*\*\*\*\* Nobel Laureate*, director Zakir Thaver; *Drumsongs Productions*, project director Kobla Dente; *The Women of April*, project director Lourdes Bernard; and many others.



Image: Rachel Donlan, project director of "Best8" (Fiscally Sponsored Project), performing a song, Photo Credit: Israel Andrade.

## FISCAL SPONSORSHIP AT A GLANCE

	FY21	FY22
Money raised in support of Projects & Organizations	\$3.8M	\$6.8M
New Projects & Organizations accepted into the program	62	76
Projects & Organizations awarded NYSCA Funding	12	37

The difference between FY21 and FY22 NYSCA funding reflects a shift in the NYSCA guidelines, more money to grant out for economic relief.

# NYFA Learning: Overview



Image: Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program mentee Sayoko Kojima (on right) and friends at *In/Between 2022: Transcendental Coordinates*, Photo Credit: Maria Baranova, Courtesy of New York Live Arts

Over the last two fiscal years, NYFA Learning has directly served **5,590 artists, creatives, and cultural workers**—a 29% increase from the previous biannual report—through both in-person and online professional development programs and workshops. NYFA Learning's core goals are to build and foster creative communities through education, offered locally, nationwide, and internationally. We offer tools and resources that artists and cultural workers can apply to their career and/or artistic practice.

**91%**

**positive experience**

reported by participants in online learning & entrepreneurial trainings

**332+**

**Doctor's Hours & NYFA Coaching Sessions**

with art industry professionals

**9.6K+**

**constituents**

accessed content from online workshops on NYFA's News page and e-newsletter

**41**

**free events & workshops**

hosted with **22 supporting organizations**

**50**

**participants**

in the 3 cohorts of the **Incubator for Executive Leaders of Color** program

**200+**

**one-on-one career training hours**

- for resume and work sample review
- grant writing
- strategic planning

**33**

**IAP Alumni**

received free materials via a new partnership with Materials for the Arts in spring 2022

**5**

**exhibitions in**

- San Antonio
  - Denver
  - Brooklyn
  - Manhattan
- serving **126 artists**, including **94 IAP Alumni**



# NYFA Learning: Programs

## LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

Leadership Initiatives incorporate the **Incubator for Executive Leaders of Color** serving NYC and Tri-State regions. An outgrowth of our **Emerging Leaders Program** (2013-2020), the incubators empower cultural workers through free leadership training and community support.

### NYFA COACHING

NYFA Coaching provides creatives with on-demand access to career advice and content review (grants, resumes, etc) from NYFA's expert staff and consultants.

### THE PROFITABLE ARTIST

NYFA's comprehensive "how-to" guide for artists of all disciplines—a best practices approach to planning and organizing an arts career.

### IMMIGRANT ARTIST PROGRAM

Immigrant Artist Program (IAP) serves literary, performing, visual, and multidisciplinary immigrant artists nationwide with mentoring support, resources, and career training.

### ONLINE LEARNING

Online Learning offers topic-based e-courses or one-off workshops. Sessions are extensions of our entrepreneurial training (i.e. marketing and fundraising) in addition to special topics designed to address current needs and trends in the field.

### DOCTOR'S HOURS

Doctor's Hours connects artists with industry professionals such as curators and artistic directors, creating access to one-on-one reviews and conversations.

### ARTIST AS ENTREPRENEUR

Artist as Entrepreneur Program is a 1-4 day professional development intensive providing artists of all disciplines tools and community towards sustaining their practice.

# Online Resources

NYFA's Online Resources provide artists and arts professionals nationwide with information on tools, services, and opportunities through multiple platforms:

## **Classifieds**

the largest national online opportunities board in the arts and culture industry;

## **News Page**

hosts program announcements, professional development resources, and industry highlights;

## **Emergency Resources Directory**

a centralized source of emergency information for artists throughout the U.S.;

## **The Business of Art Directory**

offers a wealth of information and guidance on matters important to artists' careers;

## **IAP Resource Directory**

an introduction to the resources available to immigrant artists in the U.S. as a part of NYFA's Immigrant Artist Program. Support for immigrant artists is also provided through the IAP Newsletter, which reaches 8,896 subscribers.



10 postings per month on NYFA's News Page



**July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2022**



**1.6M**  
website visitors

# Finances

Income and expenses for FY21 and FY22 can be categorized as follows:

	FY21	FY22
<b>I N C O M E</b>		
<b>Earned</b>	<b>\$656,515</b>	<b>\$1,661,500</b>
<b>Unearned</b>	<b>\$10,211,973</b>	<b>\$27,807,817</b>
<b>Program Revenue</b>	<b>\$343,687</b>	<b>\$452,559</b>
<b>E X P E N S E S</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>\$8,495,450</b>	<b>\$26,569,133</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$528,955</b>	<b>\$555,325</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>\$661,735</b>	<b>\$701,500</b>

[NYFA's financial statements are available on our website.](#)



# Special Events

## Annual Benefit

In Spring 2021, NYFA held a virtual benefit “NYFA at 50: a Celebratory Look Forward.” The online format enabled hundreds of NYFA friends and artists from around the world to join board members and staff in celebrating NYFA’s milestone 50th anniversary. It included a video retrospective with archival photos of NYFA’s early years, which can be [viewed here online](#).

The 2022 benefit, NYFA’s first large in-person event since 2019, brought 225 members of the NYFA community together to celebrate the induction of Kay WalkingStick and Chin Chih Yang into NYFA’s Hall of Fame. The event included a moving testimony of NYFA’s ongoing emergency response support from Fay Ku and musical performance by Pyeng Threadgill, both former NYSCA/NYFA artist fellows.



Image: Guests enjoying the art and cocktail hour at NYFA’s 2022 Hall of Fame Benefit, Photo Credit: Clint Spaulding



Image (from left): *Close To The Terminating Line* by Theresa Bloise, *Crossing* by Rosanna Bruno, *White City*, *Rose Worker’s Housing* by Rebecca Chamberlain, Photo Credit: Clint Spaulding



Image (from left): NYFA Board Chair Marc Jason, Kay WalkingStick, NYFA Executive Director Michael Royce, and Chin Chih Yang at NYFA’s 2022 Hall of Fame Benefit, Photo Credit: Clint Spaulding

## Benefit Auction

Online art auctions were held in conjunction with both annual benefits, with 120 NYFA affiliated artists participating. The in-person benefit featured an exhibition of over 70 works, highlighting the talent and creativity of NYFA artists. The FY21 and FY22 auctions generated \$25,005 and \$41,330 in sales, respectively, with 30% of proceeds going back to the artists. The remaining revenue directly supports NYFA programming.

# Board of Directors

**Marc J. Jason | Chair**

Senior Counsel,  
*Amstrer, Rothstein & Ebestein LLC*,  
Ret.

**J. Wesley McDade | Vice Chair**

Managing Director,  
Corporate Communications  
*Morgan Stanley*

**J. Whitney Stevens | Secretary**

Co-Founder,  
*Mend Nutrition Inc.*

**Lorin Gu | Treasurer**

Founding Partner,  
*Recharge Capital*

**Judith K. Brodsky | Past Immediate Chair**

Founding Director, *Brodsky Center*,  
*Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA)*

**Saïd Sayrafiezadeh | At Large**

Writer

**Joe Baker**

Co-founder, Executive Director,  
*Lenape Center*

**Kerrie Buitrago**

Executive Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer,  
*Pollock-Krasner Foundation*

**Myrna Chao**

Managing Director,  
*Willis Towers Watson*

**Alexandra Chasin**

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Literary Studies, *The New School*

**Christopher Donini**

Managing Director, *The Raine Group*

**Michael Findlay**

Director, *Aquavella Galleries*

**Lesley-Anne Gliedman**

**Charmaine Green-Forde**  
Founder, *Chapter tOO LLC*

**Grace Angela Henry**

President, *Grace Angela Henry, Inc.*

**Eunbi Kim**

Concert Pianist, and Cofounder,  
*bespoken*

**Mary Lang**

Managing Director, *CBRE Global Investors*

**Ricardo Alberto Maldonado**

Poet, Translator, and Managing  
Director, *92nd Street Y's Unterberg Poetry Center*

**Kim Estes McCarty**

Nonprofit Arts Community  
Leader

**Sarah Young O'Donnell**

Director, *ENM Holdings Limited*

**Anna Deavere Smith**

Actress, Playwright,  
NYU Professor

**Justin Tobin**

Founder, *Gather Inc.*

**Carmelita Tropicana**

Artist

**Luis Valderas**

Artist, *Bishop & Valderas LLC – Large Scale Print Makers, Arts Consultants*

## Our Supporters

NYFA deeply appreciates the numerous individuals, public agencies, foundations, and corporations that generously support our programs. The dedication of our funders and donors will allow NYFA to serve future generations of painters, writers, and musicians; helping them build a more colorful future for us all.

[For a listing of our supporters, visit our website.](#)

“

Being a member of the NYFA community has made it possible for me to continue working to my highest capacity. It has given me the confidence I need to embark on a massive endeavor, and the fiscal oversight necessary to help raise funds to launch my project. Without the support of NYFA, my project would not have been possible.

-Stephen Berkman, Project Director  
for *Predicting the Past*  
(Fiscally Sponsored by NYFA)



@nyfacurrent



New York Foundation  
for the Arts