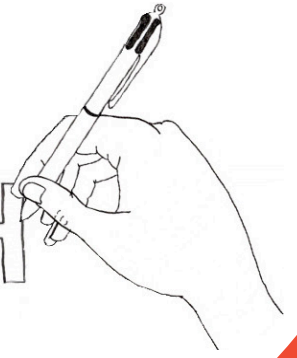


CULTURE PUSH



ANNUAL REPORT
2019 & 2020



Culture Push

is an arts organization that works with hands-on learning, group problem solving, serious play, and creating connections.

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PEOPLE

STAFF

- **Clarinda Mac Low**, *Executive Director*
- **Denae Howard**, *Associate Director*
- **Surabhi Naik**, *Digital Media Manager*
- **Simone Johnson**, *Reparations Researcher*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Chloë Bass**
- **Alicia Grullón**
- **Nancy Nowacek**
- **Carolyn Hall**
- **Nadia Tykulsker**
- **Haiba Hamilton**

ADVISORY BOARD

- **Ishmael Houston-Jones**
- **Felicity Hogan**
- **Michael DiPietro**
- **Sur Rodney Sur**
- **Sarah Dahnke**

MISSION

Culture Push is an arts organization that works with hands-on learning, group problem solving, serious play, and creating connections. The mission of Culture Push is to create a lively exchange of ideas between many different communities; artists and non-artists, professional practitioners and laypeople, across generations, neighborhoods, and cultures. Culture Push supports the process of creating new modes of thinking and doing, and serves a diverse community of creative people.

The programs of Culture Push focus on collaboration and group learning through active, participatory experiences. Culture Push programs appear in many different locations, taking many different forms, and public presentations are low-cost or free, to give access to the widest audience.

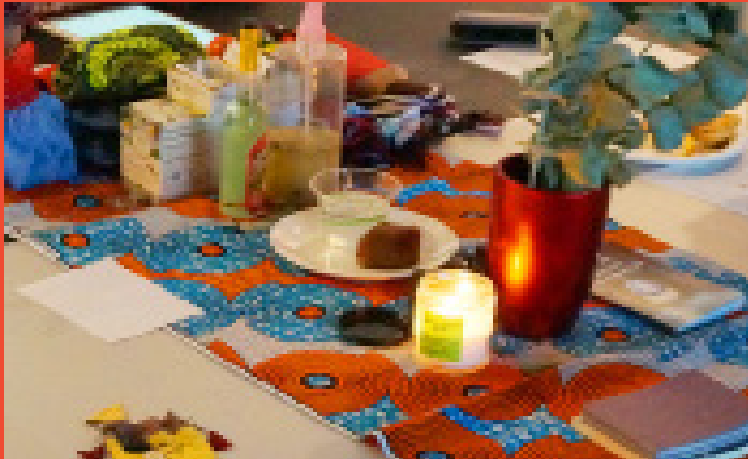
2019-2020 GENERAL STATEMENT

In 2020, as we began preparing our Annual Report for 2019, news of a new virus making its way around the globe was just starting to infiltrate our consciousness. Then, in March 2020, the sirens started. Our attention shifted. The Report was delayed. Everything was delayed. The whole world changed, seemingly overnight, but it's hard to say exactly how long it took, because our sense of time shifted--expanded, contracted, twisted, and dripped. The edifices we had built at Culture Push during 2019, and the plans we had devised for 2020 suddenly shifted, collapsed, and re-formed. We expanded to fit the moment, shifting our attention and resources to the most urgent needs and moving deeply interactive projects from physical to virtual realms. Now it's 2021, and, while all the urgent needs exposed during 2020 have not disappeared, we want to take some time now to tell the story of those two eventful years.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2019

In 2019 we celebrated our tenth anniversary (woo-hoo!!) with a variety of exciting events and a 10th Anniversary publication. Pelenakeke Brown and Shawn Escarciga joined the team, and brought new perspectives and excellent ideas into the organization. We held our first Culture Crush and had a fabulous birthday party, hosted by the Sun-view Luncheonette in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.



Detail from Clarivel Ruiz workshop/Show Don't Tell 2019. Photo credit William Furio

TRANS FAMILY ARCHIVES

AN INTERGENERATIONAL DINNER PROJECT FOR
TRANS AND NONBINARY PEOPLE.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, FROM 7-10 PM

FREE

PARALLEL PERFORMANCE SPACE
104 MESEROLE ST, BROOKLYN

RSVP AT:
TRANSFAMILYARCHIVES@GMAIL.COM

Trans Family Archives flier. Courtesy of Eli Brown



Trans Family Archives performer. Courtesy of Eli Brown

2019



Clarivel Ruiz workshop/Show Don't Tell 2019. Photo credit William Furio

We gave our first Fellowship alum award to Olaronke Akinmowo (Fellow 2014), welcomed several new Fellows, continued support Fellows from previous cycles, and continued our Associated Artists program. We held our second annual Fellowship Symposium, Show Don't Tell, in collaboration with the Rubin Foundation's 8th Floor, and published several new issues of PUSH/PULL.

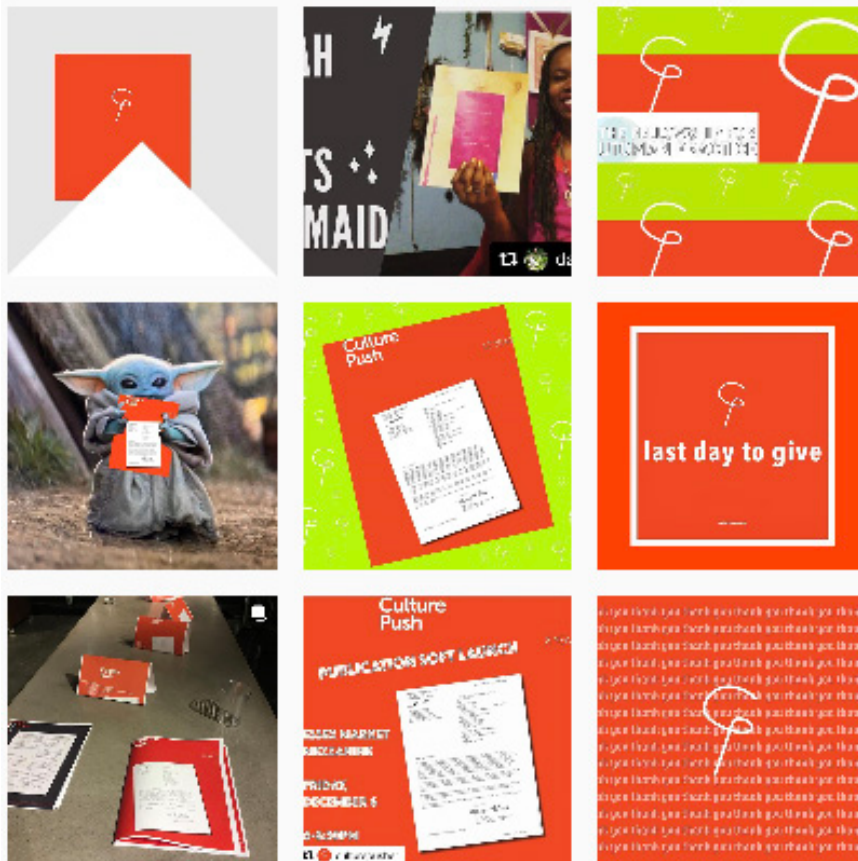
WINTER 2019

- Associated artist Regine Romain held a performance of Vodou Roots: A Love Story Musical at Housing Works Bookstore Cafe featuring guest appearances from practitioners, artists, historians and community members from Brooklyn, NY all the way to Benin, West Africa.



Escrito en Transito participants. Courtesy of Claudia Prado

- Fellow Claudia Prado held a reading at Bluestockings Bookstore of the writing workshop she facilitated with Staten Island’s first LGBTQ Latinx group, L’Unicorns.
- We inaugurated our Happy Hour at Starr Bar for creatives, artists, and activists to network and mingle.
- We launched first ever print issue of Push/Pull at the Queens Museum alongside associated artist Christina Freeman, whose work “UltraViolet Archive” was featured in the Queens International 2018 exhibition.



SPRING 2019

- Hosted our second Culture Crush, a speed-networking mixer for artists, activists, and anyone looking to connect with like-minded thinkers. Event held at Wayfarers Gallery and DJ'd by CP friend Ayana Evans.
- Tabled at the Pratt Institute's the SUMMIT - Escape from Gravity event showcasing sustainable and non-traditional professional communities.
- We held our annual Show Don't tell Symposium, showcasing the work of our Fellows, with free public workshops and panels. Hosted by The 8th Floor (Rubin Foundation), who also funded us through a 2019 Art and Social Justice Grant, and featuring Fellows Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow, Adelaide Matthew Dicken/ Mel McIntyre, Claudia Prado, and Clarivel Ruiz, and included a panel convened in honor of our 10th Anniversary, with Fellowship alums--moderated by Sarah Dahnke and featuring Chloë Bass, Alicia Grullón, and Olaronke Akinmowo.



Dominicans Love Haitians flier. Courtesy Clarivel Ruiz



Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow and performers in Junkanooacome. Photo credit Clarinda Mac Low



Escrito en Transito participants. Courtesy of Claudia Prado

SUMMER 2019

- Held our second Starr Bar Happy Hour for networking creatives, artists, and activists.
- In honor of Culture Push's 10th anniversary we held a Birthday Party/Benefit to celebrate ten years of community-building and to raise money for future programming.
- Exhibition of Alumni Fellow Oloronke Akinmowo's Free Black Women's Library at the MoCADA Museum house on Governors Island
- Fellowship alum Sarah Dahnke/Dances for Solidarity performed Dancing through darkness at the HERE Arts Center, created in collaboration with incarcerated artists and supported by a MAP Fund Grant received with Culture Push fiscal sponsorship.



Performance of Dances for Solidarity.
Courtesy of Sarah Dahnke



A high school class from Denmark visits CP.



Christina Freeman and Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow in front of Lyn-Kee-Chow's piece in "Who Cares for New York?" (curated by Freeman).
Courtesy of Christina Freeman



CP Staff at 2019 Benefit



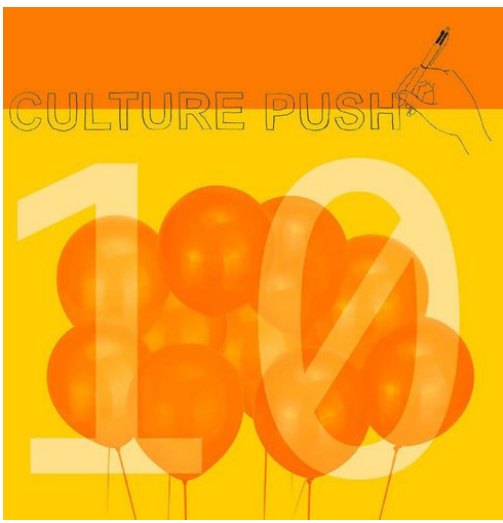
Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow. Courtesy the artist.



Performance of Dances for Solidarity.
Courtesy of Sarah Dahnke



From left: Fellows Eli Brown, Ted Kerr, Damali Abrams, CP Assitant Director Pelenakeke Brown, Fellows Adelaide Dicken, Mel McIntyre



- Soft Launch of our Culture Push: 10 Years Publication, edited by Pelenakeke Brown, Shawn Escariga, and Clarinda Mac Low, designed by Marianna Olinger, with work from 17 Fellows from the Fellowship for Utopian Practice. At the Essex Market Test Kitchen, in partnership with Artists Alliance, Inc.



- Performance by Fellow Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow as part of Who Takes Care of New York?, an exhibition at the Queens Museum co-curated by Associated Artist Christina Freeman.

- Fellow Damali Abrams hosted Meditate and Sip, a guided meditation and tea-drinking event at Seed Capital Cafe.



- Fellowship Alum Hidemi Takagi held an exhibition of “The Bed-stuy Social ‘Photo’ Club” at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration

- Hosted the round-table discussion Creative Time Summit: Caring about Care, with Fellows about how their practices inter-

2019

**THE
FELLOWSHIP
FOR
UTOPIAN
PRACTICE**

The Fellowship for Utopian Practice is a testing ground for new ideas that aim to create positive social change through civic engagement and horizontal learning opportunities. Through the Fellowship for Utopian Practice, Culture Push serves artists by providing creative, analytical, and logistical tools in the creation of truly transformative projects.

The following Fellowships were awarded in 2019.

SPRING 2019 FELLOW



Olaronke Akinmowo, Free Black Women's Library

OlaRonke Akinmowo is a Brooklyn born interdisciplinary artist, set decorator, yoga teacher and Black Feminist scholar. Her research and artistic practice focuses on exploring and uncovering the complexities and intersections of race, culture, spirituality and gender. (FBWL) (Alumni Fellowship) is partnering with a women's home- less shelter/short term residency to install a permanent installation of the library, create a space for the residents to read, write, draw and gather together. The area will contain books, plants, cozy comfortable furniture, an altar and art supplies.

FALL 2019 FELLOWS



Samantha CC, Mamatropolis

Mamatropolis combines oral history, poetic performance, and social space to explore the birth and motherhood transition. It stems from an oral history of mothers in the months after giving birth. It will look at the emotions and expectations associated with motherhood in various cultural contexts within New York. Samantha CC is an interdisciplinary performance artist from Brooklyn, NY. Her practice fuses movement, experimental video, original soundscapes, and poetic text.



Nisã

Nisã (New York imagined sisterhood for arts) aspires to be a mobile education and collaboration platform of visual art, performance, theatre and creative writing for Muslim women-identified participants and educators that travel in the five boroughs of NYC. Farideh Sakhaeifar is a multidisciplinary Brooklyn-based artist and educator. Sadra Shahab is a GIS specialist and urban planner at Pratt Center for Community Development. Shadi Ghaheri is a director and choreographer from Tehran, Iran based in New York.

ASSOCIATED ARTISTS



The Illuminator

The Illuminator is an art-activist collective comprised of visual artists, educators, and technologists living and working in New York City. The collective has staged hundreds of projection-interventions in public spaces, and primarily uses large-scale, guerrilla projections to shine a light on the urgent issues of our time.

Janine Renee Cunningham

Janine Renee Cunningham is a performer and theater-maker residing in Brooklyn. Her work plays with themes of futurity including utopia, dystopia and social ecology. Her work has been presented at Dixon Place, The Prelude Festival, On the Boards, ESPA and the New York City Fringe Festival. In 2018 she was an EmergentNYC fellow with the Hemispheric Institute. She is currently an Associate Artist with Culture Push and member of The Commitment Experiment. Graduate of the Atlantic Acting School Conservatory, BA in International Studies from Portland State and currently pursuing an MFA in Interdisciplinary Art from Goddard College.



Sonya Aragon

Sonya Aragon (Against the Law) is a writer, artist, and theorist focused on intimacy under capitalism. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in The New Inquiry, BOMB, Mask Magazine, and Commune, among other outlets and under other names. Through “AGAINST THE LAW: An Erotic Labor Reading Group & Harm Redux Project”, Aragon studies the criminalization of sex work, the limits of identity-centered organizing, and the possibilities of opposing the state through community care-taking.

SHOW DON'T TELL

OUR SYMPOSIUM

For our second Show Don't Tell Symposium in 2019, the Rubin Foundation's 8th Floor hosted a series of workshops and panel discussions where participants got a close-up and participatory view into Fellowship projects and learned about the unique perspectives of the Fellows and their collaborators.



Claudia Prado workshop in Show Don't Tell 2019. Photo William Furio.



Adelaide Dicken/Mel McIntyre workshop in Show Don't Tell 2019. Photo William Furio.

2019

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

On Sunday, April 28th, there were workshops from Adelaide Matthew Dicken & Mel McIntyre (creating radically accessible spaces), Claudia Prado (a shared bilingual writing practice), Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow (combating gentrification using Caribbean carnival traditions); and Clarivel Ruiz (honoring African cultural roots through creating sacred spaces). The day concluded with In Common: Making Space for Collective Transformation, a panel discussion focused on how intertwined artistic and activist strategies promote greater equity for communities that have been historically marginalized.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

On Monday, April 29 as a celebration of Culture Push's tenth anniversary there was a conversation among alumni of the Fellowship for Utopian Practice including Olaronke Akinmowo (2014), Chloë Bass (2013), and Alicia Grullón (2013), moderated by Sarah Dahnke of Dances for Solidarity (2015). The participants will reflect on how they have since expanded on the ideas they explored during their Fellowship and how the Fellowship affected their practices.



YEAR IN REVIEW

2020

The very beginning of 2020 started off with many shifts and changes for Culture Push. Shawn Escarciga and Pelenakeke Brown moved on from the staff to other big adventures, and Denae Howard and Surabhi Naik joined the staff just in time to see the city, the country, the world, move into staying at home, as we all witnessed the full tragedy of the first wave of COVID deaths and illnesses, and the emergencies created by all these conditions as the crisis exacerbated all the injustices and disparities already embedded in culture and society.



Re-Tooling exhibit at The Clemente. Photo by Clarinda Mac Low.



Zines by Sonia Louise Davis in Re-Tooling exhibit. Photo by Clarinda Mac Low



Meeting of Walking the Edge team

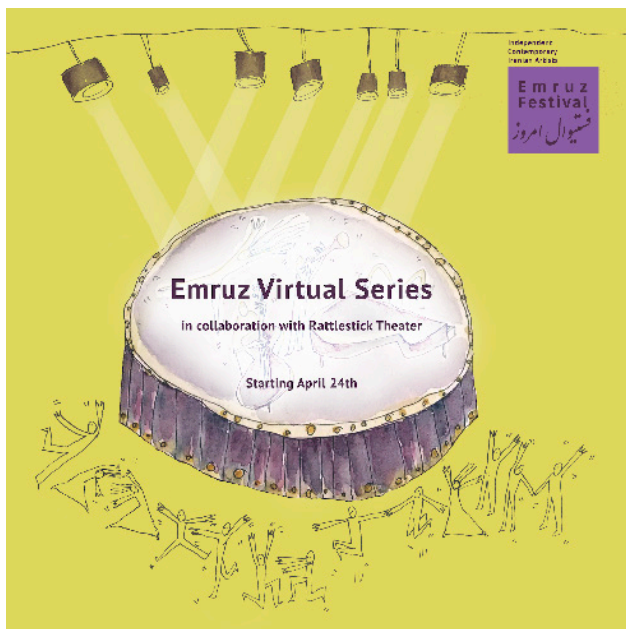
2020

Culture Push pivoted fast, acting first as a fiscal agent for the NYC Low-Income Artist/Freelancer Relief Fund, an emergency fund that Shawn started independently in collaboration with Culture Push Board member Nadia Tykulsker. Culture Push eventually acted as a pass-through for a total of 6 emergency funds and mutual aid groups who distributed over \$200,000 in funds. In March 2020 we had a beautiful opening for Re-Tooling, an exhibition at the Clemente Center, which then lay dormant until we shifted to appointment-only viewing in May.

Walking the Edge, our collaboration with fellow arts organization Works on Water and the New York City Department of City Planning, transformed from a planned marathon walk across all 520 miles of the NYC coastline to an online engagement with over 20 artists. Our Show Don't Tell Symposium shifted from a live weekend event to a 5-month series of online engagements, and we expanded PUSH/PULL, our online journal. We also expanded our signature Fellowship for Utopian Practice, adding a Climate Justice Fellowship and a Black Utopian Fellowship.

SPRING 2020

- Held the exhibition RE-TOOLING, a participatory exhibition of artist-created practical tools that encourage social and civic engagement as well as cross-sector problem solving, at the Clemente Center. The opening reception featured a performance by Dances for Solidarity with select intermittent programming throughout the duration of the exhibition.
- Released our Fellowship Open Call with the addition of our our first themed Fellowship, the Climate Justice Fellowship.



- NYC Low Income Artist Relief fundraiser started by CP Assistant Director Shawn Escarciga and co-organized with Board Member Nadia Tykulsker.
- Published the tenth issue of PUSH/PULL, edited by Associated Artist Sherese Francis.
- The Emruz Festival presents a virtual series featuring the work of Fellow Shadi Ghaeri (of collective NISÃ) and over 20 artists and collectives.
- Hosting Walking The Edge’s virtual programming, which invited New Yorkers to reconnect to the diversity of the city’s shorelines and have a voice in the city planning process.

SUMMER 2020

- As part of our annual Show Don't Tell Symposium and virtual programming, our first event was an online reiki healing session with Damali Abrams.
- Published our 11th issue of PUSH/PULL, #BLACKARTISTCHALLENGE, a two-part archive and compendium of writing from Black artists, activists, and organizers speaking to the current moment and to an anti-racist future.



Collage by Denae Howard

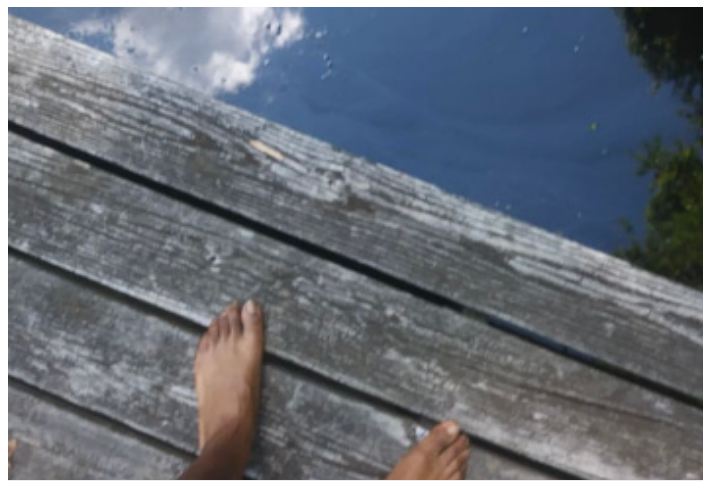
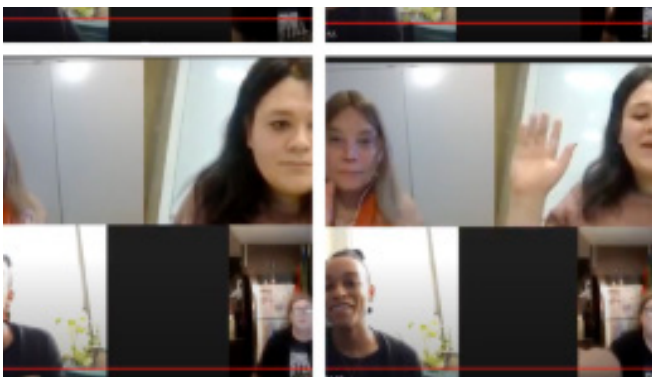


Photo by Simone Johnson

- Spring 2020 Climate Justice Fellow Simone Johnson began hosting #WaterThursday on the Culture Push Instagram page. Every Thursday Johnson created a healing space through practices of embodiment, inquiry, play, radical imagination, teaching, learning, and creative technology around the subject of water, as part of Fellowship research.
- The second installment in our Show Don't Tell Symposium programming, Dark Patterns and Double Binds was a multi-session participatory discussion series on navigating crises and the complexities of ecosystemic change with artist Pattern Detector.
- Published our 12th issue of PUSH/PULL, MAMATROPOLIS, edited by Samantha CC and featuring thoughts and pieces from Nicole Goodwin, Diva Dompe, Elan Fraser,

- Released our Fellowship Open Call with the addition of our newest initiative, The Black Utopian Fellowship.



- Our final event of Show Don't Tell was the Art of Caring panel on mutual aid moderated by Fellow Alumnus Alicia Grullón and featuring artists Lizania Cruz, Janine Renee Cunningham, Francheska Alcántara, and Laura Anderson Barbata.
- Our Current Fellow Claudia Prado began INQUIETUD / DISQUIET, a set of online creative writing workshops in Spanish designed for New York's Spanish-speaking community.
- Held Part Two of the Art of Caring panel which was moderated by Culture Push Alumni Alicia Grullón and featured artists Dalaeja Foreman, Suhaly Bautista-Carolina, and Lisandra Maria Ramos.

— WINTER 2020

- Held public readings of the authors who participated in Inquietud / Disquiet - a series of bilingual writing workshops in Spanish and English hosted by our Fellow Claudia Prado.
- Published Issue 13 of PUSH/PULL: TRANS FAMILY ARCHIVES, edited by Culture Push Fellow Eli Brown and featuring works by trans artists and leaders including - Rian Ciela Hammond, Joanna Rivera, Tanner Slick, and Sydney Kopp-Richardson.

2020

**THE
FELLOWSHIP
FOR
UTOPIAN
PRACTICE**

Climate Justice Fellowship

The Climate Justice Fellowship is part of an ongoing collaboration with Works on Water and the New York City Department of City Planning. As with each of our Fellowships the Climate Justice Fellow is supported for a full year with communal resources, consultation, project development, access to our online publication, online tools, social media, institutional representation, and a stipend of \$1500.



Black Utopian Fellowship

For our Fall 2020 cohort, Culture Push accepted proposals for our Black Utopian Fellowship, a focused Fellowship created to aid Black Futures. Our Black Utopian Fellowship is a year-long Fellowship for Black artists, researchers, scientists and inventors, with career development and mentorship through a connection with Black-run institutions. The intent of the Black Utopian Fellowship is to share resources and support social engagement, educational programming, and revitalization of communal hubs.

The following Fellowships were awarded in 2020.

SPRING 2020, CLIMATE JUSTICE FELLOWS



Von Bl3ssing

During the Fellowship for Utopian Practice, Von Bl3ssing (formerly Prof.Ound) is gathering Black, disabled, trans communities and people from other marginalized backgrounds on the front lines of environmental injustices through Afrofuturism, which Ytasha Womack defines as “an intersection of imagination, technology, the future, and liberation.”



Simone Johnson

Experiment Shades of Blue explored policy, law, design and storytelling as tools of world-building for earth-centered water futures. Simone focused on researching The Rights of Nature, the emerging field of law called Earth Jurisprudence, and the movement to revitalize Indigenous laws in Canada, as well as other intersecting interests.

FALL 2020 FELLOWS



Dennis Redmoon Darkeem

Black Utopian Fellow 2020

Dennis will explore locating donated land to create a sacred space for Black and indigenous families to partake in healing through nature, art therapy practices and Indigenous and southern traditional customs.



Alexandra Hammond

Alexandra Hammond’s multidisciplinary practice spans painting, installation and conversational performances. She believes that all beings, objects and Earth inter-are and inter-be.



Luca Lee & Dominika Ksel

Luca Lee is a Brooklyn-based transgender immigrant journalist, experimental media maker, and self-taught musician from Chile. Dominika Ksel is an interdisciplinary artist investigating unseen forces that inform our physical and immaterial realities.

ASSOCIATED ARTISTS



AnAka

AnAka is a storyteller on the sacred path of wisdom reclamation. Born with the divine faith to create bridges between worlds, AnAka's storytelling approach is to honor the rooted intricate of culture, highlighting sacred elements of human connection and conscious elevation. Through visual, audio, herbal and tattoo practices, AnAka creates portals of healing for their global community.

Khadijah McCaskill

"I was born and raised throughout Los Angeles, but I consider Mid-City, Ladera and Windsor Hills my stomping grounds. I graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a B.A. in Sociology in May of 2013. With over 7 years of experience as a teacher, tutor, and youth advocate, my work has spanned the field of education. I am currently based in the Brownsville community of Brooklyn, NY. I find inspiration in many places and have lived in Costa Rica and China. My work is also heavily connected to exploring my ancestral roots." - Khadijah McCaskill



Khalif Tahir Thompson

Khalif Tahir Thompson is best recognized for his powerful work concentrated in portraiture and figuration. Incorporating painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, and paper-making into his practice, he explores notions of self through varied subjectivity concerning identity, race, iconography, as well as family and relationships. Recently he graduated from Purchase College with his Bachelors in Fine arts degree and completed a fellowship at the EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop in NYC.

Tasha Dougé

Tasha Dougé is a Bronx-based, Haitian-infused artist, activist and cultural vigilante. Her body of work activates conversations around women empowerment, health advocacy, sexual education, societal "norms," identity and Black community pride. Through conceptual art, teaching, and performance, Dougé devotedly strives to empower and to forge broad understanding of the contributions of Black people, declaring that her "voice is the first tool within my art arsenal."



SHOW DON'T TELL

OUR **VIRTUAL** SYMPOSIUM



Our third annual Show Don't Tell Symposium was slated for April 25 & 26, 2020, hosted by our friends at the **Knockdown Center**. However, circumstances shifted, so, in 2020 our Symposium took place online, over the course of several months, as our Fellows and Associated Artists shared tools and research in response to the global pandemic, continued anti-racist uprising, and the current reality on the ground.

It featured panels and workshops with current and past Fellows, including a public reading in Spanish by immigrant women, participants from a Creative Writing workshop facilitated by Claudia Prado, a remote Reiki session with Damali Abrams, A workshop on **Dark Patterns & Double-Binds**, navigating crises and the complexities of ecosystemic change with Alum James Andrews and collaborator Jaguar Mary X, and a two-part panel on the Art of Caring, curated and moderated by Alum and Board member Alicia Grullòn, where 8 artists discussed how mutual aid became part of their practice during the pandemic.

2020

SYMPOSIUM 2020

PRESENTED BY CULTURE PUSH AND PATTERN DETECTOR



DOUBLEDOUBLE PATTERNS & DARK BINDS

SATURDAY
AUG 15 & 22
6-7:30PM

NAVIGATING CRISIS AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF ECOSYSTEMIC CHANGE

A FREE BI-MONTHLY PARTICIPATORY VIRTUAL DISCUSSION WITH ART-WORKERS AND CREATIVES ON THE EMERGING REALITIES OF THE COVID-19 ERA

Rsvp to PATTERNDETECTOR@GMAIL.COM TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION

  damaliabrams

FREE GLITTER PRIESTESS REIKI HEALING CIRCLE ON ZOOM

Wednesday June 3, 2020
6 PM EST

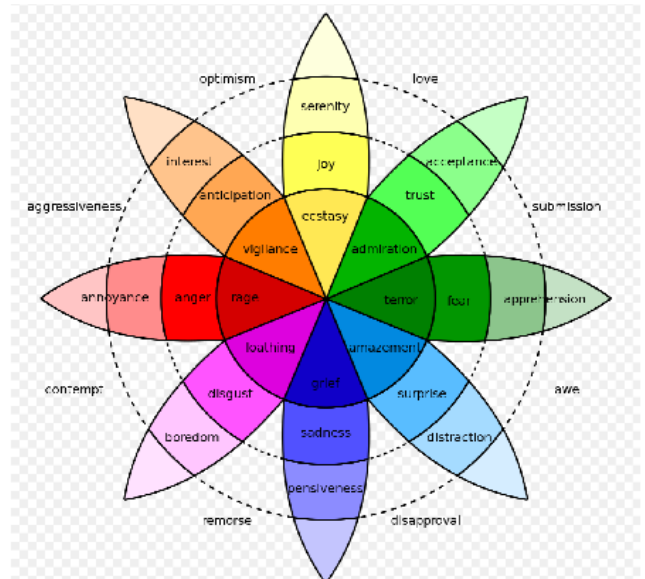
Join me for a live online distance reiki healing session while listening to a Black Power Reiki Hour playlist of nostalgic Hip Hop, R&B and Soul music to help raise our vibrations.

CULTURE PUSH SYMPOSIUM

SHOW DON'T TELL

THE ART OF CARING 2

October 21, 2020 at 5 pm
FREE, registration required



SHOW DON'T TELL

EXHIBITIONS & SPECIAL PROJECTS



Detail from the Bed-Stuy Social Photo Club in Re-Tooling exhibit.
Photo by Hidemi Takagi



Detail from the Black Doll Project in Re-Tooling exhibit. Photo by C. Mac Low

RE-TOOLING was a participatory exhibition of artist-created practical tools that encourage social and civic engagement as well as cross-sector problem solving. The show opened on March 11, 2020 at the Abrazo Interno Gallery of the Clemente Center, featuring performance by Dances for Solidarity. RE-TOOLING was set to run from March 11-April 12, 2020 with select intermittent programming throughout the duration of the exhibition, most of which was postponed. The exhibition featured Fellowship alumni. In their Fellowship projects these artists used artistic methods to create “practical tools.”

Practical tools for resistance are crucial at this particular historical juncture. In the coming years it will be vital to have a tool belt equipped with ways to find connections between historically linked yet alienated groups (Clarivel Ruiz with Dominicans Love Haitians Movement); methods to use improvisatory practice as a concrete tool for liberation (Sonia Louise Davis with Become Together Freedom School); the ability to share humanity with others in the face of solitary confinement (Sarah Dahnke with Dances for Solidarity); or blueprints for sharing tools for documentation with your neighbors in areas threatened by gentrification (Hidemi Takagi, with The Bed-Stuy Social ‘Photo’ Club).

RE-TOOLING



Performance of Dances for Solidarity at Re-Tooling opening.
Photo by Hidemi Takagi



Detail from the Black Doll Project in Re-Tooling exhibit. Photo by C. Mac Low



Bed-Stuy Social Photo Club in Re-Tooling exhibit, with one of the subjects.
Photo by Hidemi Takagi



Detail from the Black Doll Project in Re-Tooling exhibit. Photo by C. Mac Low

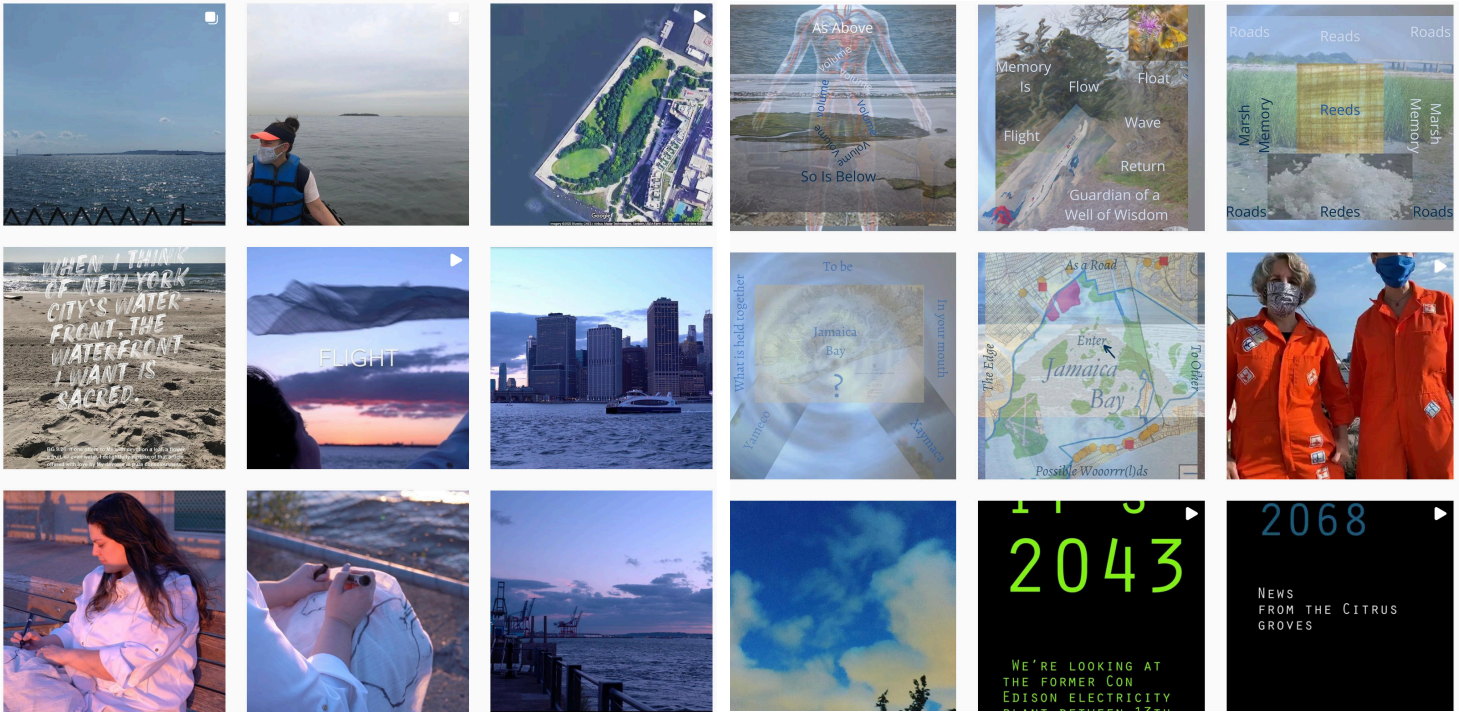


Re-Tooling exhibit opening. Photo by Hidemi Takagi



Detail from Become Together Freedom School in Re-Tooling exhibit.
Photo by C. Mac Low

WALKING THE EDGE



Screenshots from Works on Water Instagram

Walking the Edge was our collaboration with arts organizations Works on Water and with the NYC Department of City Planning, with funding from the Mayor’s Grant for Cultural Impact from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. In 2020, while the world locked down, we ventured to the edges. Walking the Edge was initially envisioned as a participatory non-stop relay walk of all 520 miles of New York City shoreline, but due to COVID-19, the physical event shifted to a new form. New York City edges are as diverse, difficult, and deeply moving as the city and its residents.

For Walking the Edge 22 artists produced weekly prompts (activity suggestions or questions) that invited city residents to explore their water’s edges and engage in imagining changes for those edges - virtually or on solo walks. Walking the Edge was a key outreach component of outreach for the city’s next Comprehensive Waterfront Plan. Responses from the public helped us think boldly and imaginatively about the future of the waterfront and shared ideas that informed the Plan.

PUSH / PULL

2019-20



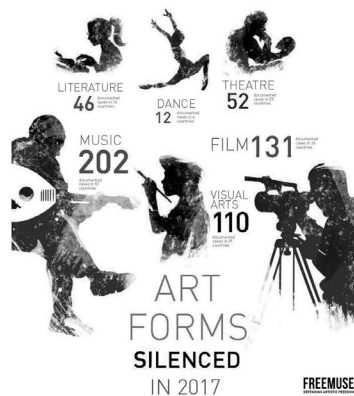
DREAD SCOTT BURNING THE AMERICAN FLAG ON THE STEPS OF THE U.S. CAPITOL, OCTOBER 30, 1989, PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES TASNADI, AP

PUSH/PULL is an online journal sponsored by Culture Push, a platform for ideas and thoughts that are still in development. PUSH/PULL is a virtual venue that allows us to present a variety of perspectives on civic engagement, social practice, and other issues that need attention. PUSH/PULL will help to situate the Fellows and the work they do within a critical discourse, and act as a forum for an ongoing dialogue between the Fellows, the Culture Push community, and the world at large.

Issue 7: Artistic Freedom + Expanded Notions of Censorship

Edited by Christina Freeman, UltraViolet Archive

Guest Editor and Associated Artist Christina Freeman expands on Ultraviolet Archive, her investigation on the ways that artistic freedom is limited through censorship by conducting interviews that cover three different perspectives: Srirak Plipat (Executive Director of Freemuse), Svetlana Mintcheva (Director of Programs at the National Coalition Against Censorship), and Dread Scott (an artist whose works have faced content-related censorship).



Issue 8: 10 Years in the Making: Notes from the Culture Push Publication

The Culture Push Staff and Fellows have compiled recipes, manifestos, interviews, and collected ideas to offer a sneak preview into our forthcoming 10th anniversary publication. Featuring the writing and thoughts of current and past Fellows, including: Adelaide Matthew Dicken & Mel McIntyre, Esther Neff, Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow, and Noemi Segarra & Sarah Dahnke.



Issue 9: How to Start a Pedagogy Group / Artist Run Spaces

Conversations co-presented by BFAMFAPhd & Pioneer Works Press, hosted by Hauser & Wirth, and covered by media partners Eyebeam and Bad at Sports.

Guest Editors and CP Associated Artists BFAMFAPhd provide a glimpse into their practice with How to Start a Pedagogy Group, a protocol from the seventh event in the series, Open Meeting for Arts Educators and Teaching Artists, and a transcription from Artist-Run Spaces, a conversation which focused on artist-run spaces and how artists create contexts for encounters with their projects that are aligned with their goals. The conversation included Linda Goode-Bryant, Heather Dewey-Hagborg, Salome Asega, and was moderated by Kemi Ilesanmi.

“If art making is a lifelong practice of seeking knowledge and producing art in relationship to that knowledge, why wouldn't we teach students about the political economies of art education and art circulation?”

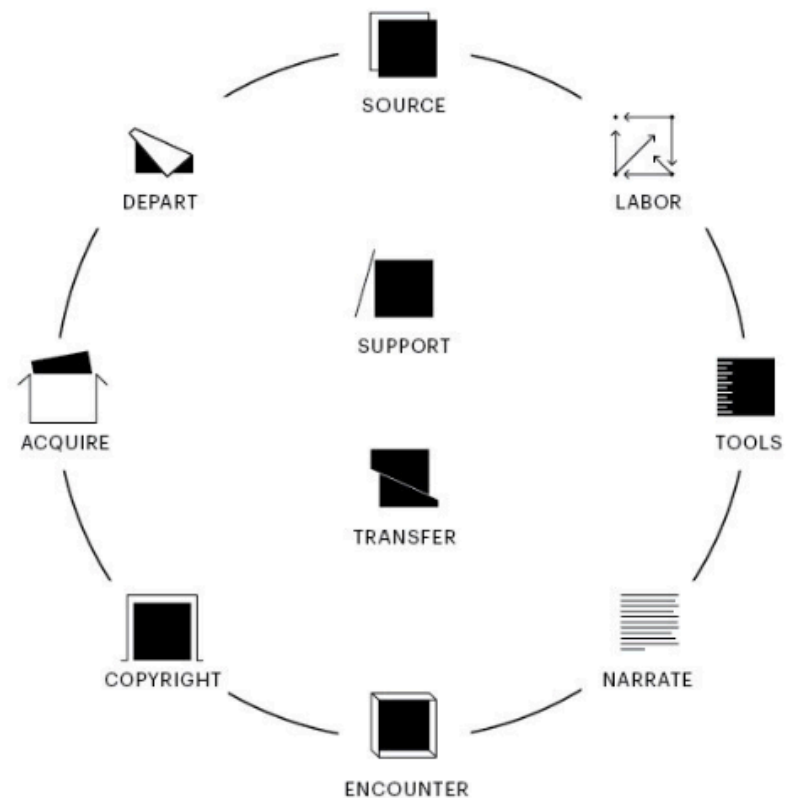
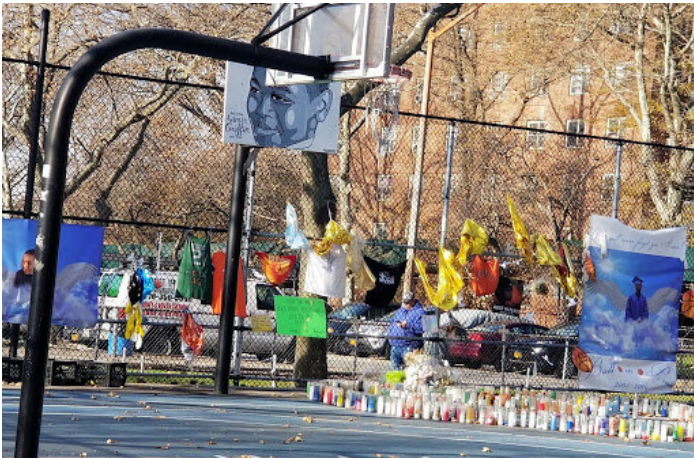


DIAGRAM OF LIFECYCLE PHASES BY TOPOS GRAPHICS FOR SUSAN JAHODA AND CAROLINE WOOLARD'S BOOK *MAKING AND BEING* (PIONEER WORKS PRESS, 2019).

Issue 10: Jam Journal Sampler: Sound & Silence

Edited by Sherese Francis, Futuristically Ancient

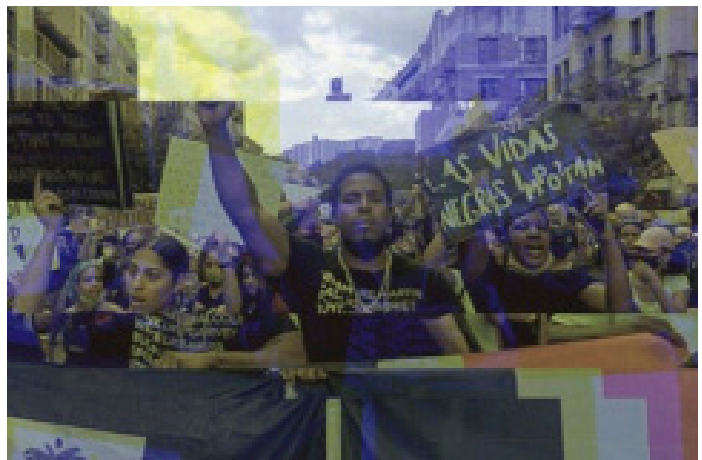
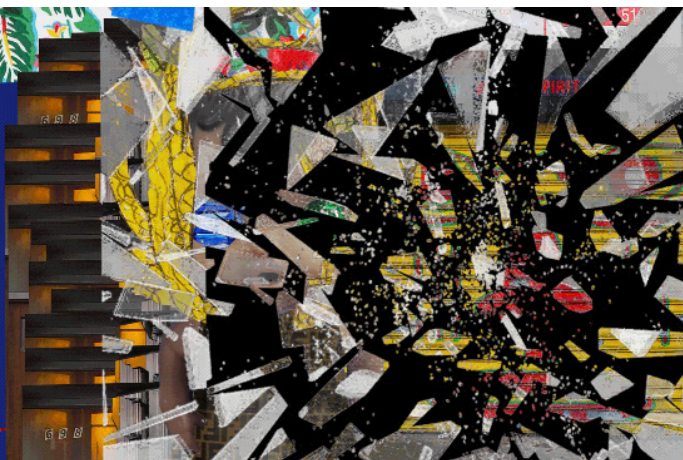
Associated Artist Sherese Francis asked poets and writers to offer works that explores and reflects on the sounds that inhabit local communities and memories; but also the silences and the gaps where the unheard haunt, may have yet to be acknowledged and are not given the space to be heard, or were lost in the process of a changin city?



Issue 11: #BlackArtistChallenge

Edited by ArtSchoolScammer

This publication will be a two-part series of Black Artists, Activists, and organizers bearing witness to their existence in 2020. The purpose of this PUSH/PULL is to amplify their voices as well as give space to identify their perspectives at this moment, whether it is a testament of their daily frustrations or their reimaginings of what's to come for Black folk and their futures.



Issue 12: Mamatropolis

Edited by Samantha CC

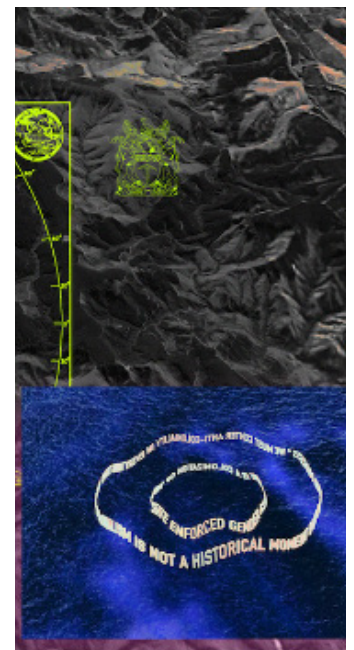
Mamatropolis was born out of a desire to explore the radical possibilities of what could happen if you built community amongst birthing people from different backgrounds across New York City. It was envisioned as an initiative that would bring people together through in person discussions and performances. When a global pandemic hit, this project needed to be reimagined, and Mamatropolis Lifeline was reborn as a mutual aid initiative for parents, providing small micro-grants, and connection to helpful goods and services. The challenges of being a parent at this time have taken up much digital ink, and it became clear that rising to the occasion of the moment meant providing direct support.



Issue 13: Trans Family Archives

Edited by Eli Brown

In organizing this issue, I reached out to friends, artists, social workers, and others I've met along the way who are doing inter-generational work in the community, are making work around trans-ness and time, or hold critiques around the systems in place meant to serve LGBTQ+ folks who are aging. I asked them to speak to their own experiences of trans-ness and time. How can we trace the networks running through our experience, creating the impediments to our mutual understanding or togetherness? If we are able to outline them, name them, face them, is there then a way out, around, or through?



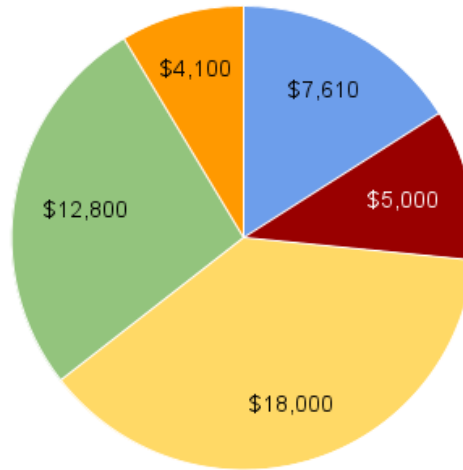
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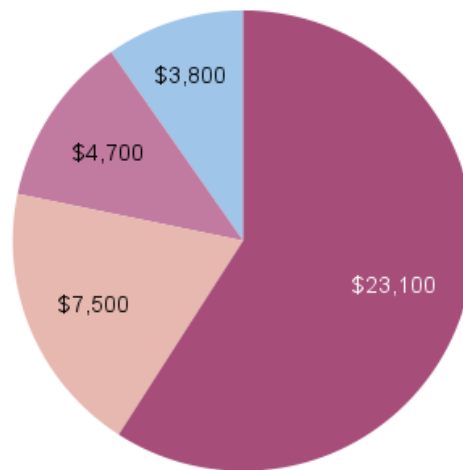
● Individuals ● Corporations ● Foundations
● Government ● Earned



Individuals: \$ 7610
Corporations: \$ 5000
Foundations: \$ 18000
Government: \$ 12800
Earned: \$ 4100

EXPENSES :

● Staff ● Fellowship Program
● Other Programs ● Misc. Administrative



Staff: \$ 23,100
Fellowship Program: \$ 7500
Other Programs: \$ 4700
Misc. Administrative: \$ 3800

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

At Culture Push, once you're a Fellow, you're a Fellow forever. As part of our effort to create an ongoing dialogue and system of support for all Fellows — currently active and no longer active -- we offer Fiscal Sponsorship to artists even after completion of their Fellowship Term.

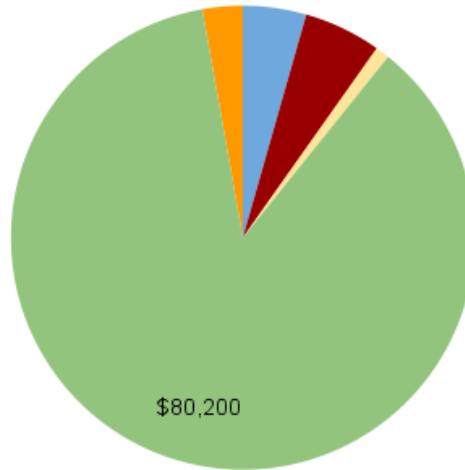
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REVENUE :

● Individuals ● Corporations ● Foundations
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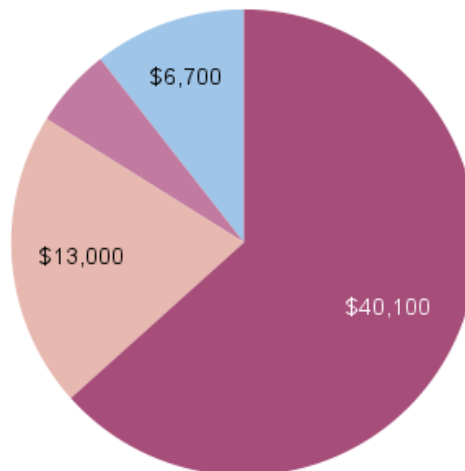


Individuals: \$ 4100
Corporations: \$ 5000
Foundations: \$ 900
Government: \$ 80200*
Earned: \$ 2600

*Includes the Mayor's Grant for Cultural Initiative for Walking the Edge, which took place in FY21

EXPENSES :

● Staff ● Fellowship Program
● Other Programs ● Misc. Administrative



Staff: \$ 40100
Fellowship Program: \$ 13000
Other Programs: \$ 3500
Misc. Administrative: \$ 6700

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

For FY20, in response to the COVID-19 emergency, which had a huge impact on our artists and the communities they serve, we acted as a fiscal agent for several emergency funds that distributed over \$200,000 to over 1500 artists and others in need. We also continued fiscal sponsorship for our Fellows and Associated Artists, allowing them to continue developing their work even under crisis conditions.



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