

# CITY ARTIST CORPS:



# BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

An ArtBridge Public Art  
Exhibition 2021 - 2022





Colleen Kong-Savage, *At Home*, Woodside Houses

# CITY ARTIST CORPS: BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

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A public art exhibition produced by ArtBridge Projects

New York City, 2021 - 2022

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A public art exhibition produced by ArtBridge Projects Inc. in New York City, 2021 - 2022

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Alex Rivera, Alice Mizrachi, Amari Hines, Andrea Arroyo, Ashes57, Bianca Garay, Blanka Amezkua, Caffetti, Canary Swords (Ashley Crawford & Kenneth Tooley), Carlos Torres-Machado, Caroline Mardok, Chey Nelson, Christian Penn, Colleen Kong-Savage, Coraima Santana, Dario Mohr, Derick Cross, Dister, Elliot Johnson, FRUIE, Geobany Rodriguez, George Torres Jr., Gwendolyn Black, Imara Moore, Janice Patrignani, Jazmine Hayes, Jeanne Verdoux, Jia Yan Yuan, Jocelyn Marie Goode, Jodi Dareal, Joe Riccio, Kevin Claiborne, Kiki Bencosme, Massah Fofana, Misha Tyutyunik, Mollie Serena, Nancy Saleme, Nandy Del Castillo, Natasha Herring, Noble Dre\*Ali, Noël Copeland, Paul Deo, PTSD (Paul Kamuf & Tony Schloss), RHAP Collective (Felipe, Scarlett, Abigail, (Bri) Aspen, Jeylani, Angelly, & Bianca), Shanice Figeroux, Sophia Dawson, Stephanie Costello, Terrell Tuggle, Tipu Alam, Vanesa Álvarez Díaz, Zachary Fabri



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# ***INTRODUCTION***



Jocelyn Marie Goode, *Cloudy with a Chance of Brownsville*, Howard Houses

## Introduction

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is home to 400,000 lower income New Yorkers. In 2019 ArtBridge launched **Bridging the Divide**, a series of artist fellowships at NYCHA developments, in which artists engage with NYCHA residents over several months, collaborating to design artworks that amplify the diverse voices of these residents—their talents, joys, histories, cultures, etc. The resulting artworks are installed at hundreds of feet long, on construction fencing and scaffolding sheds that surround each participating development.

Through decades of urban planning and socioeconomic policies, NYCHA developments have been methodically separated from surrounding neighborhoods with greater wealth. Recalling Mexican Muralism and the WPA program of the 1930's, ArtBridge's **City Artist Corps: Bridging the Divide** democratizes access to public art in New York City, while amplifying the disparate voices of public housing residents. The program aims to empower residents to control their own public living spaces, while re-connecting the developments with their surrounding communities through prominent visual narratives.

In May 2021, New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs announced a \$25 million dollar investment in New York City artists called, City Artist Corps. The program was created to provide relief to the City's hard-hit arts community and reinvigorate arts and culture as part of the City's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It ensured that more than 3,000 working artists were supported, recognizing their labor as critical to the City's recovery. Through a number of partners, City Artist Corps provided thousands of grants and support to artists in all disciplines across New York City. ArtBridge is grateful to have been one of these partners.



With a \$1 million allotment via City Artist Corps funds, ArtBridge was able to expand its **Bridging the Divide** program to 28 NYCHA buildings at 16 developments in all five boroughs. We hired 59 artists and installed more than 50 artworks, encompassing more than 30,000 square feet of outdoor art. The artworks visualize the interests, histories, talents, and dreams of public housing residents.

The artworks derived from more than 250 engagement events held with residents – events that were aided by our partnerships with 28 local community organizations, and more than 50 residents who were paid stipends to facilitate engagement. All 59 artists were NYC residents; the vast majority of whom had strong existing connections to the neighborhoods in which they worked, with 19 being NYCHA residents.

This book describes the artists' engagement and creative processes at each site.

## Statement from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs

***Bridging the Divide** shows cultural democracy in action, creating deep partnerships between artists and NYCHA residents to explore and capture what's meaningful and beautiful to their communities through the unmatched power of creative expression. By supporting this unprecedented, five-borough public art project, we're committed to investing in our cultural community and our artists both as a powerful driver of recovery and in recognition of their incomparable contribution to the vitality of New York City. **Bridging the Divide** shows what's possible when our artists and residents are empowered to collaborate and create toward a shared vision. In practical terms, it also shows how innovative use of our public spaces can turn something like a drab green construction shed into a canvas for artist-led collective creation, and a platform to engage and inspire New Yorkers.*

*Congratulations to ArtBridge, to the participating artists, and to every New Yorker whose vision and contribution is represented in one of the amazing pieces featured in this book. It's a powerful reminder that when we collaborate with and work to understand one another, we can do amazing things.*

## Statement from the NYC Housing Authority

*Since 2018, the New York City Housing Authority has collaborated with ArtBridge to transform NYCHA construction scaffolding and sidewalk sheds into vibrant*

*works of art. We share ArtBridge's vision for activating these spaces to fully reflect the array of artistic talents possessed by NYCHA residents – as well as providing a space for NYCHA residents to see their stories, cultures, and histories reflected in these public artworks.*

*Our residents and staffers share a passion for beautifying public housing campuses, and we were thrilled to collaborate with Artbridge, the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Mayor's Office to make that vision a reality. Working closely with Artbridge, we engaged with countless residents, teaching artists, community organizations, and other stakeholders to curate immersive visual art experiences.*

*We are incredibly proud of the care and intention that's been brought to each installation. The artists and themes chosen for each project were selected through a months-long participatory design process, in which residents deeply collaborated with local artists to define artistic themes that they would like to see portrayed in the artworks. The process was incredibly collaborative and thorough - due in no small part to ArtBridge's diligence and the Authority's institutional backing.*

*We hope that readers of this guidebook can appreciate the range of artistic talent and creative potential collected among our residents, and the tremendous work that went on behind-the-scenes to make this exciting program a reality. The Authority will always believe that public art has the power to bring communities together.*



NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Laurie Cumbo, with Bridging the Divide artists, in front of *Playground*, by Carlos Torres-Machado, Brownsville Houses

## Participating Artists

Alex Rivera  
Alice Mizrachi  
Amari Hines  
Andrea Arroyo  
Ashes57  
Bianca Garay  
Blanka Amezkua  
Caffetti  
Canary Swords (Ashley Crawford & Kenneth Tooley)  
Carlos Torres-Machado  
Caroline Mardok  
Chey Nelson  
Christian Penn  
Colleen Kong-Savage  
Coraima Santana  
Dario Mohr  
Derick Cross  
Dister  
Elliot Johnson  
FRUIE  
Geobany Rodriguez  
George Torres Jr.  
Gwendolyn Black  
Imara Moore  
Janice Patrignani  
Jazmine Hayes  
Jeanne Verdoux  
Jia Yan Yuan  
Jocelyn Marie Goode  
Jodi Dareal  
Joe Riccio  
Kevin Claiborne  
Kiki Bencosme  
Massah Fofana

Misha Tyutyunik  
Mollie Serena  
Nancy Saleme  
Nandy Del Castillo  
Natasha Herring  
Noble Dre\*Ali  
Noël Copeland  
Paul Deo  
PTSD (Paul Kamuf & Tony Schloss)  
RHAP Collective (Felipe, Scarlett, Abigail, (Bri)  
Aspen, Jeylani, Angelly, & Bianca)  
Shanice Figeroux  
Sophia Dawson  
Stephanie Costello  
Terrell Tuggle  
Tipu Alam  
Vanessa Álvarez Díaz  
Zachary Fabri



## Installation Locations

### Brooklyn

1. Brownsville
2. Howard
3. Ingersoll
4. Red Hook East
5. Red Hook West

### The Bronx

6. Adams
7. Mitchel

### Manhattan

8. Baruch
9. Polo Grounds
10. Taft
11. Lillian Wald

### Queens

12. Astoria
13. Pomonok
14. Woodside

### Staten Island

15. South Beach
16. Todt Hill

## Community Engagement

Through **Bridging the Divide**, ArtBridge strives to create programs that are responsive and responsible to public housing residents. Our work seeks to amplify community voices and to instigate sustainable practices for providing resources to residents. **Bridging the Divide** also aims to help artists reach their next level of professional development, by fully supporting them in the creation of public art and training them in community engagement best practices.

ArtBridge carefully considers which artists to pair with a community. We prioritize working with NYCHA residents or local artists who possess a deep relationship to the neighborhood. Artists are selected in different ways depending on the capacity of each program. We vet applications from open calls, reach out to known individuals, and/or have the local community interview and vote for their preferred artist partners.

The artworks produced for **City Artist Corps: Bridging the Divide** developed out of numerous workshops held with community members at each NYCHA site.



## How we do it:

### NYCHA & Community Partners

With the help of NYCHA's Resident Engagement team, we connect with each development's elected Resident Leader, and seek partnerships with local community organizations that have an established stake in the wellbeing of their constituencies. These partners include community centers, DYCD Cornerstones, non-profit advocacy groups, Settlement Houses, schools, gardens, and city agencies.

### Community Liaisons

At every site we hire NYCHA residents to serve as Community Liaisons. Community Liaisons are paid to be conduits between the artists, residents, and local organizations. They make sure that the voices of residents are amplified in the final artworks by encouraging attendance at workshops. They also help the artists run their programs, guiding their approach through the lens of residents.

### Program Fellows

ArtBridge hired a cohort of paid Program Fellows to oversee much of the planning and implementation of the artists workshops for **City Artist Corps: Bridging the Divide**. Each fellow worked with ArtBridge for 6-12 months and coordinated many of the logistics and connections made between ArtBridge, community partners, Community Liaisons, artists, and residents.

## Workshops

Workshops are a time for community members and artists to get to know each other. They range in scope from exploring skills like drawing, color theory, and painting, to offering an overview of art strategies and concepts. Many artists also choose to include practices relating to self-care and mindfulness in their workshops. During these sessions, artists and residents share histories, ambitions, frustrations, likes and dislikes, and hopes for the future. Reflecting upon the workshops, many artists shared that getting to know the resident community was a highlight of their experience. Residents relayed that having the opportunity to express themselves, and to have their voices reflected in the art being placed in their community, felt affirming.

## Culminating Events

When possible, ArtBridge celebrates the installation of artworks designed for each NYCHA site. These celebrations take many shapes. Sometimes, ArtBridge joins an already scheduled Family Day (seasonal events hosted by the Resident Association) and programs activities to add to community festivities. These activities may include: inviting artists to lead workshops or give tours of the artworks; welcoming partner organizations to share resources like hair cuts, books, and food; or asking Community Liaisons to give tours and lead art centered activities. The goal of these events is to share pride in collective creation, celebrate community, and for residents to see themselves reflected in the art.

## Our Community Partners:

Abrons Art Center, Center for Court Innovation - Neighborhood Safety Initiatives, DYCD Cornerstone, Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee, Joan & Alan Berkinow JCC of Staten Island, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, Moore Jackson Community Garden, Office of Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, PAL Cornerstone, Pioneer Works, PS15 The Patrick F. Daly Magnet School of the Arts, Queens Community House, Ramon Velez Health Center, Red Hook Art Project, Red Hook Initiative, Save Our Streets, UJA Federation of New York, United Activities Unlimited Inc., University Settlement, William Cullen Bryant High School, and Woodside Senior Center.





***EXHIBITIONS:***  
***Artists & Artworks***



Caffetti, *Hue Are You*, Mitchel Houses

*The BRONX*



ONE WAY

NO STANDING  
Anytime

Kevin Claiborne, *We the People*, Adams Houses

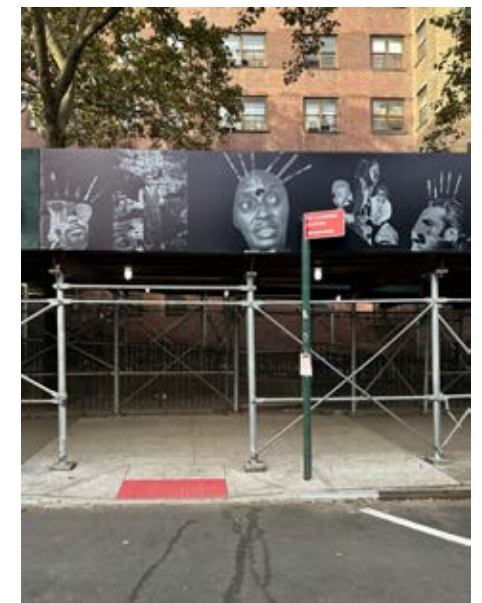
# ADAMS HOUSES

South Bronx

## Artists

- Alex Rivera
- Kevin Claiborne

The two artworks created for residents of NYCHA's Adams Houses focus on communication and speaking through images. Using history and symbols as powerful tools for self-representation, both artworks seek to capture the core of the individuals the artists met while leading art workshops in cooperation with the Adams Houses Resident Association. Residents learned color theory, approaches to graffiti and painting techniques, and enjoyed chatting and sharing life experiences while doodling and drawing. Ultimately, the artists and residents centered their conversations around community, pride, and identity.





Alex Rivera

*A Stronger Signal* presents graphic characters intended to convey how it feels to communicate in everyday life. Vibrant colors reflect the energy of the community and individual personalities. For Rivera, strong energetic lines stand in for the various ways we communicate. As the artist has stated, “without communication, miscommunication takes its place—I believe the world needs to reconnect.”

Alex Rivera, aka The Bronxer, brings the beauty of The Bronx to the world through photography, cinematography, graphic design, and art history. He makes it his duty to inspire and help creatives and small businesses in his community. As he puts it, “showing people a professional way to present themselves is key for the hood.” Rivera is the owner and founder of “The Bronxer LLC,” and holds an Associates Degree in Graphic Design and Photography from Bronx Community College.

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*A Stronger Signal*  
721 Tinton Avenue



Kevin Claiborne

Kevin Claiborne's *We the People* represents, and is inspired by, the people of the South Bronx and New York City. Identifying the commonalities of home and history across cultures, Claiborne's mural symbolically stands for the words and wisdom retained by Adams Houses residents and the power and pride sustained within the community for generations.

Kevin Claiborne is a multidisciplinary artist and educator whose work examines intersections of identity, social environment, and mental health within the Black experience. Moving between collage, silkscreen, photography, painting, and sculpture—while frequently using language as material—Claiborne is interested in finding new ways to look at history and its connection to the present. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics from the Historically Black College North Carolina Central University (2012), an M.S. in Higher Education from Syracuse University (2016), and an MFA in Visual Arts from Columbia University (2021).

*We the People*  
745 E 152nd Street

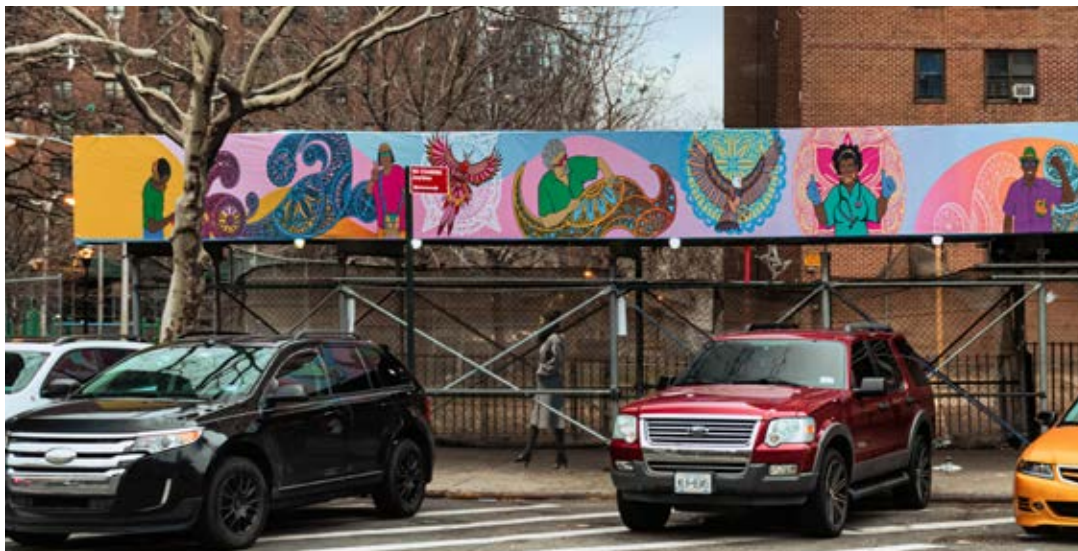
# MITCHEL HOUSES

Mott Haven

## Artists

- Blanka Amezkua
- Caffetti
- Dario Mohr
- Noble Dre\*Ali

The exhibition at Mitchel Houses features four South Bronx artists who celebrate the cultures of their community, and offer moments for reflection and healing in the wake of Covid-19 and a year of increased gun violence. Participating artists were selected by local residents and community partners after responding to an open call. Their art workshops explored skills like color theory, drawing, and photography, and also engaged art as a tool to explore feelings and offer emotional relief. Art workshops took place in collaboration with the Mitchel Resident Association and the Mitchel Community Cornerstone.





Blanka Amezkua

Blanka Amezkua's *Us: We / We Inter-Are* presents a papel picado (perforated paper) style banner referencing the traditional Mexican folk art. The artist portrays popular symbols significant to the rich heritages and contemporary cultures of her community. Of note are illustrations presenting icons of Latinx, Asian, and Black identity.

Amezkuia is a Latinx interdisciplinary artist, cultural promoter, educator, and project creator. She uses crochet, embroidery, and comic book visual vernacular as communicative tropes. Her work has been shown at MoMA/P.S.1, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Queens Museum, El Museo del Barrio, the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, San Diego Art Institute, Wave Hill Public Garden & Cultural Center, Art Base Brussels, among others. A recipient of numerous awards and residencies, Amezkua has lived in Mott Haven, BX since 2005.

*Us: We / We Inter-Are*  
300 East 138th Street



Caffetti

Caffetti's *Hue Are You* is designed to bring life and color to his neighborhood. A resident of the South Bronx who lives near Mitchel Houses, Cafetti is a vocal proponent of bringing more attention and respect to an area of the city that he believes is a staple of culture, yet lacks support in infrastructure. The artist's imagery brings attention to the melanated hues of many Mitchel residents.

Born and raised in Queens, Caffetti uses his creative platform to address mental health and the healing effects of perceiving color. Ultimately, Caffetti seeks to teach, ignite conversations, and offer positive life affirmations. He has exhibited his work in galleries and public spaces across New York City and Miami and is featured in various press outlets including *Arts in Bushwick* and *Bronx Net TV*. Cafetti received a BA from Queens College.

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*Hue Are You*  
215 Alexander Avenue



Dario Mohr

Dario Mohr's *Sow the Seeds* is a call to acknowledge the rich roots of South Bronx residents' lineages as well as a plea to implement sustainable and healthy environmental practices. A neighbor of Mitchel Houses, Mohr is a witness to the gentrification and heat island effect impacting the community. His artwork intertwines photographic imagery of residents' hands with painted representations of an African Acacia tree. Seed pods and a double helix strand symbolize the potential for the community to thrive.

*Sow the Seeds*  
175 Alexander Avenue

A first generation Grenadian, US citizen, Mohr is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and non-profit leader. His work involves the creation of "sacred spaces" referencing his heritage, and expressing commentary on the cultural zeitgeist through immersive sanctuary experiences. Recent achievements include a BRIO award, and exhibitions at Lewis Latimer House Museum, and Old Stone House. He is also the Founder and Director of AnkhLave Arts Alliance, Inc., a non-profit promoting the recognition and representation of BIPOC artists in contemporary art. Mohr graduated with a BFA in Painting from Buffalo State College and an MFA in Studio Art from The City College of New York.



Noble Dre\*Ali

Noble Dre\*Ali's *The Mitchel Mandala* aims to portray the spirit and strength of Mitchel residents through depictions of front line workers, persons of varied ages and races, and animals that symbolize resilience and rebirth. Responding directly to sentiments shared by residents, the artwork is also a memorial—honoring those lost to Covid-19 and gun violence. A Bronx resident for decades, the artist references the practice of mandala making to offer healing and relief to the community.

Dre\*Ali is a multi-disciplinary artist working in screen printing, sculpture, video, photography, computer animation, painting, drawing, and collage. Infusing imagery with spiritual symbolism, he thinks of his work as “Spiritual Pop.” His original designs took him across the world as a featured artist at “WU-Lab” exhibition in Paris, spring 2017. His iconic Biggie Buddha digital illustration has immortalized Rap Legend Biggie Smalls as a Buddha. He holds a BA in Studio Art from Lehman College.

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*The Mitchel Mandala*  
205 Alexander Avenue



Blanka Amezkua, *Us: We / We Inter-Are*, Mitchel Houses



Howard Houses

Jocelyn Marie Goode, *Cloudy with a Chance of Brownsville*

Noël Copeland, *Rainbow of Knowledge*

***BROOKLYN***



Jazmine Hayes, *You Deserve Ease and Joy*, Brownsville Houses

# BROWNSVILLE HOUSES

Brownsville

## Artists

- Carlos Torres-Machado
- Jazmin Hayes
- Sophia Dawson

While each of the three artworks created for Brownsville Houses vary in approach—from photography to illustration to semi-abstract—each artist included an element of figuration in their composition. This use of representational imagery signals a deep connection with the lived experiences of community members. During art workshops held at Brownsville Houses, artists and residents engaged in friendly conversation while exploring drawing, sketching, photography, and storytelling. Workshops were held both virtually and in person in collaboration with the Brownsville Resident Association.





**Carlos  
Torres-Machado**

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*Playground*  
345 Dumont Avenue

*Playground*, by artist Carlos Torres Machado, is a study of the Brownsville community as observed in their playgrounds. Playgrounds are a community space for kids, teenagers, and adults where people unite, talk, and interact. In the colorful space of Torres Machado's mural, the rich diversity of people living in the neighborhood come together as one.

Carlos Torres Machado develops critical and documentary processes within his various bodies of work. He inhabits the extremes of rigorous geometry and lyrical abstraction. At both ends, his notion of community, social trends, and public participation are present. He received his BA in Contemporary Arts and Communication from Universidad de las Artes in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Universidad San Francisco in Quito, Ecuador. The recipient of many awards and residencies, in 2021 he was chosen to participate in the Czong Institute for Contemporary Art's International Symposium for Visual Culture, in South Korea.



Jazmine Hayes

*You Deserve Ease and Joy* shows people of African and Latinx descent in everyday modes of self care through pattern, indigenous symbolism, and healing activities. The background of the design is a blueprint aerial map of the Brownsville Houses. In the foreground, the artwork represents young children, the elderly, young adults, and families. Historically, Brownsville has been labeled one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in NYC. Hayes titled the work, *You Deserve Ease and Joy*, as an affirmation to uplift the community, “no matter where you come from, what you’ve been through, or how you are perceived, you deserve ease and joy.”

*You Deserve Ease and Joy*  
307 Blake Avenue

Jazmine Hayes is an interdisciplinary artist born in Brooklyn, New York. Her practice explores histories of the African diaspora and the ways they are preserved through cultural traditions. Through research-based explorations, Hayes works across various mediums including installation, drawing, performance, video, sound, textile, and writing. She is interested in the resilience of tactile crafts, the role women play in gathering around them, and passing them down over generations, as well as Black femme-ritual practices centered on care. Hayes has been featured in Art Forum, Interview Magazine, Artnet, and many other publications. She received an MFA from CUNY Hunter College and a BFA from CUNY Queens College.



Sophia Dawson

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*Testify!*  
334 Blake Ave

*Testify!* features interviews and photographs of subjects, objects, and places meaningful to NYCHA residents ages 16-21, including those at Brownsville Houses. Created in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs Public Artist in Residence program, Sophia Dawson worked with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to record community images and interviews. Each story explores the trials and triumphs of those most affected by historic disinvestment and COVID-19. Photography & audio recordings were captured by: Aminata Cisse, Chloe Delvalle, Christopher Garcia, Jasleen Lally, Sirazam Munira, Kate Origoza, Jason Peart, Vanessa Ramirez, Alexis Robinson, Jessica Torres, and Julio Valerio. Audio recordings are available at: [bit.ly/brownsville\\_testify](https://bit.ly/brownsville_testify)

Sophia Dawson is a Brooklyn-based visual artist who dedicates her work to exposing the stories and experiences of individuals and communities striving to overcome injustices. By raising awareness, she aims to humanize social justice issues and prevent them from being repeated. Some of her subjects include: mothers who have lost their children to police brutality, the Central Park 5, and political prisoners from Black Liberation movements. A 2015 participant in the Whitney Independent Study Program, Dawson holds a MA from New York University, and a BA from the School of the Visual Arts.

# HOWARD HOUSES

Brownsville

## Artists

- Jeanne Verdoux
- Jocelyn Marie Goode
- Noël Copeland
- Nandy Del Castillo

Workshops for Howard Houses residents were held in collaboration with the Brownsville Resident Association and the CAMBA community center. They took place outside and at the Howard Houses playground. All of the artists who designed work for the Houses incorporated a dialogue component into their workshops—they held conversations (whether through drawing or speaking) and shared details about their lives and communities. The personal approach to these workshops can be seen within the details of the artworks now adorning the houses—portraits of community members and drawings by residents.





Jeanne Verdoux

*Howard Houses Drawing Dialogue* is an exhibition by artist Jeanne Verdoux that playfully intersperses the artist's drawings with images made by resident youth. Incorporating ink portraits created during workshops, the artwork reflects the creativity of Howard's youngest residents. Verdoux's drawings explore human nature, attitudes, and trends. They form a portrait of the city and express the artist's perception of New Yorkers' everyday lives.

Jeanne Verdoux is a mixed media visual artist focused on drawing, printmaking, and ceramics. She has received grants and fellowships from various institutions including the French Ministry of Culture, The Bronx Museum, New York Foundation for the Arts, and others. Her work has been exhibited in the US, Canada, France and China and reviewed in *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, and *Boston Globe*. She earned an MA from The Royal College of Art, London and a BFA from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués, Paris. She is a Professor at Parsons The New School and lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

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*Howard Houses Drawing Dialogue*  
290 Mother Gaston Boulevard



Jocelyn Marie  
Goode

*Cloudy with a Chance of Brownsville* encourages people to look up, feel hopeful, and be inspired by seeing beautiful, positive representations of Brownsville neighbors of all ages, expressing relatable emotions. The composition originated as photographic portraits and was then transformed into digital renderings. Each person is elevated to the sky—claiming space as a valuable individual in their community. Even though there may be clouds, the resiliency of the community shines through!

Jocelyn Marie Goode creates art as a tool to amplify her voice as an agent of social progress. She focuses on images that are healing, beautiful, and uplifting to counterbalance the prevalence of negative, demeaning, and traumatic media bombarding our mental landscape. Goode received a BA in Fine Art and French at Amherst College, an Associate of Arts Degree at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandise, and completed MFA coursework at the San Francisco Art Institute. She has received many awards and commissions in a career that spans over twenty years.

*Cloudy with a Chance  
of Brownsville*  
1590 E. New York Avenue



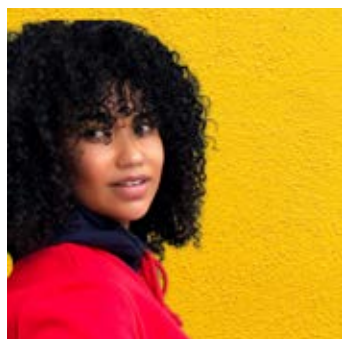
Noël Copeland

Noël Copeland's *Rainbow of Knowledge* is inspired by artwork created by youth during workshops he led at Howard Houses. Working with a basic template, children were invited to add their own images and colors. Copeland collected these various designs to complete his 105 foot artwork. The artist also looked to the community's public library and vegetable garden to inform the elements populating his design.

Noël Copeland was born in Jamaica, and studied at the Jamaica School of Art in Kingston. He then went on to receive an MFA, with Honors, in Ceramics and Sculpture, from Pratt Institute of Art and Design. Copeland's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and has received several commissions and awards. He believes artmaking should be accessible to everyone.

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*Rainbow of Knowledge*  
1580 E. New York Avenue



**Nandy  
Del Castillo**

*Community Sympathy* is a snapshot of moments witnessed between community center staff and the children they serve. According to the artist, the work highlights unnoticed stories, and aims to honor those who make a commitment to serve their community's most precious asset. Growing up in NYCHA, Del Castillo sought out the arts as a means to create a world with no limits. In her own words, "I was fortunate to find my passion after facing homelessness and I hope that I could help others find theirs too. It is my hope to pay tribute to my home."

Nandy Del Castillo is the CEO/Founder of Shop Salem365 where she creates and sells original artwork inspired by pop culture. Her work has been featured on multiple BUZZFEED lists, favored by celebrities and industry professionals on social media platforms, and displayed in art galleries in New York City. She recently published a coloring book, "Hollywood in Color," which features motivational text and images of famous Black actors and actresses.

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*Community Sympathy*  
90 Watkins Street

# INGERSOLL HOUSES

Fort Greene

The exhibition at Ingersoll Houses features four artists from Fort Greene with deep ties to the community. Artworks reflect conversations and ideas shared via art workshops that ranged from drawing, to working with inks and printmaking—and even chess playing. Workshops took place at the Ingersoll Community Cornerstone in collaboration with the Ingersoll Resident Association. Participating artists were selected by ArtBridge because of their particular relationship to the Ingersoll community and their stated visions for partnering with residents in the art making process.

## Artists

- Canary Swords: Ashley Crawford & Kenneth Tooley
- Stephanie Costello
- Terrell Tuggle
- Derick Cross





## Canary Swords: Ashley Crawford & Kenneth Tooley

*Run Wild*

160 & 162 Navy Walk

Ashley Crawford and Kenneth Tooley's *Run Wild* illustrates a fantastical world imagined by a young person on a literary journey. It was inspired by a group of youth at Ingersoll who were enthusiastically reading the same book. For the artists, it is a means of encouraging creativity and expression, particularly in the face of educational setbacks due to the pandemic.

Crawford and Tooley call themselves the *Canary Swords*, and encounter the world as a family of passionate artists who aim to equip future generations with culture and knowledge. As residents of Ingersoll Houses, they hope their work inspires others in their community to be the greatest versions of themselves.



**Stephanie Costello**

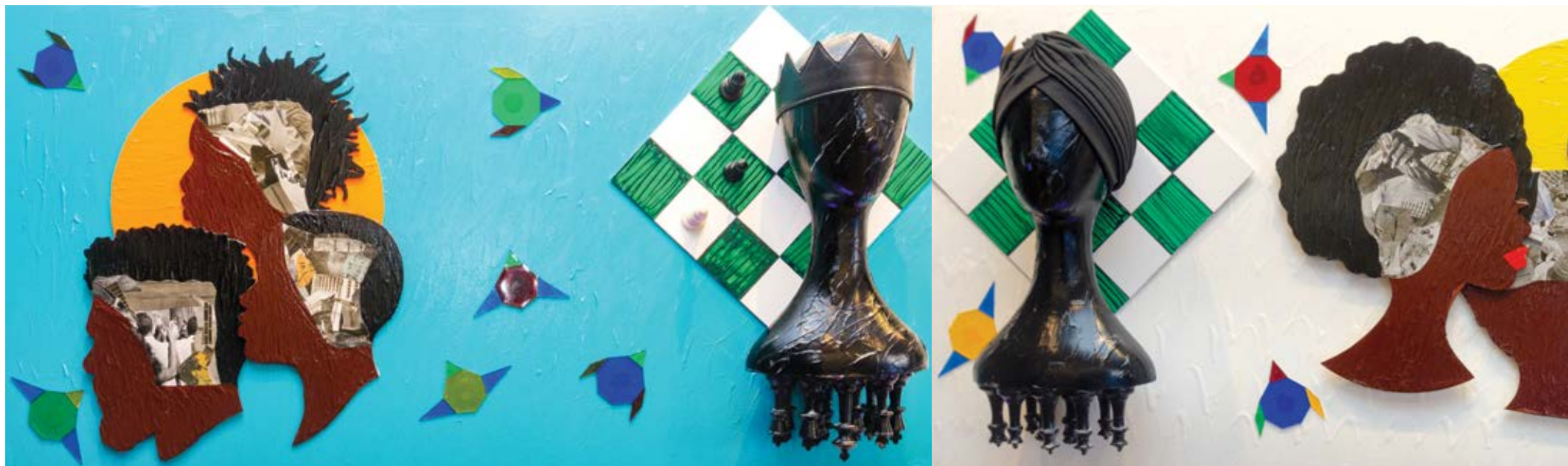
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*Obstacle Course*

16 Fleet Walk  
& 31 Fleet Walk

Stephanie Costello's *Obstacle Course* represents the struggles and opportunities that arise when navigating the city—a physical experience that can be analogous to an emotional experience. The repeating staircase motif was inspired by a teenager who attended one of the artist's workshops. It represents the dichotomy of rising and falling, at once a vehicle to go up, but also to go down. The artist has an ongoing relationship with residents at Ingersoll. She designed and produced a large-scale artwork for the basketball courts in 2020. Thus, she knows how the presence of public art can increase the value of daily life in the community.

Stephanie Costello creates artwork rooted in drawing that choreographs the energy and visual life of cities. She employs an improvised architecture and then creates movement, negotiating this structure in intricately evolving patterns and imagery. Costello received a BA in Studio Art from DePaul University, a post-baccalaureate degree in Painting from Brandeis University, and an MFA from Massachusetts College of Art. She has exhibited her work in galleries and museums in the US and abroad, including The Bronx Museum, Lincoln Center Plaza, Riverside Art Museum, and La Pan gallery in Barcelona and Shanghai.



Terrell Tuggle

Terrell Tuggle, aka ARTPEACE, the Chess Artist, created *Space is Still the Place* to merge his long affiliation with a dedicated community of chess players at Ingersoll Houses with his interest in promoting visionary positivity through Afrofuturist ideas. Representations of Black men and women as kings and queens, the sun, moon, and stars, are interspersed with mannequins and actual chess pieces. Inspired by Ingersoll community members of all ages, including Tuggle’s own chess mentor—whom the artist memorializes as an Ingersoll native—the artwork is meant to provoke love and light.

Terrell Tuggle is a filmmaker, videographer, painter, author, poet, playwright, and proprietor of The Esoteric Theater, located at 1436 Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn, NY. Known in the art community as ARTPEACE The Chess Artist, Tuggle is also a dedicated educator having served in The Department of Education for over 22 years. Currently, he is the Dean of Student Discipline at CAMPA Charter School in East New York. Tuggle is also the owner and operator of two independent film companies, FILMBARNBK, and A DOPE FILM PRODUCTION.

*Space is Still the Place*  
133 Navy Walk



Derick Cross

Derick Cross's *We Shine and Connect in Our Own Unique Way* is inspired by the energy and inner light of the Ingersoll Houses community. It reflects interactions and artworks created during workshops at Ingersoll Community Center. Referring to the specific location of the houses, including buildings and the basketball court, the artist chose to depict imagined portraits that capture the connection he felt with individuals at his art workshops. A resident of Fort Greene/Clinton Hill for the past 25 years, Cross is deeply committed to the community.

Derick Cross, aka DCross, is a multi-dimensional visual, vocal, and performance artist and arts educator. He has performed nationally and internationally in venues including Madison Square Garden and Lincoln Center. He served as a cultural hip-hop ambassador for The US State Department's Next Level Program, and has been featured on MTV, The Electric Company, Nickelodeon, TV Land, and BET's 106's & Park. Cross's visual arts projects have been exhibited nationally and internationally and are in the collections of numerous cultural figures. Cross is the Art Director of African Voices Communications and a Board Member of the National Conference of Artists, a historic African American Arts organization.

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*We Shine and Connect in  
Our Own Unique Way*  
125 Navy Walk

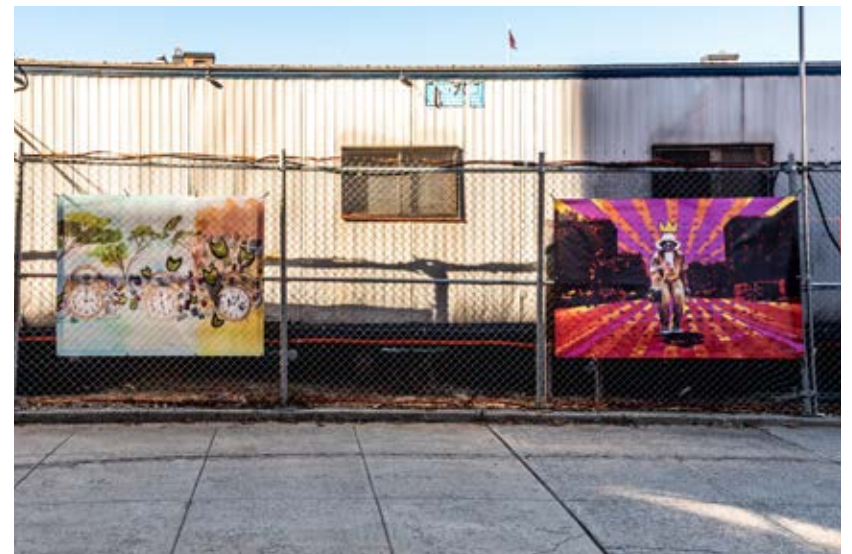
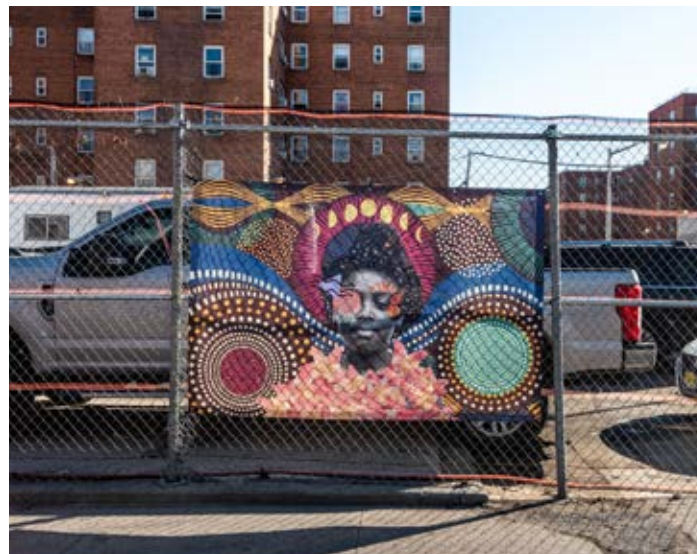
# RED HOOK WEST HOUSES

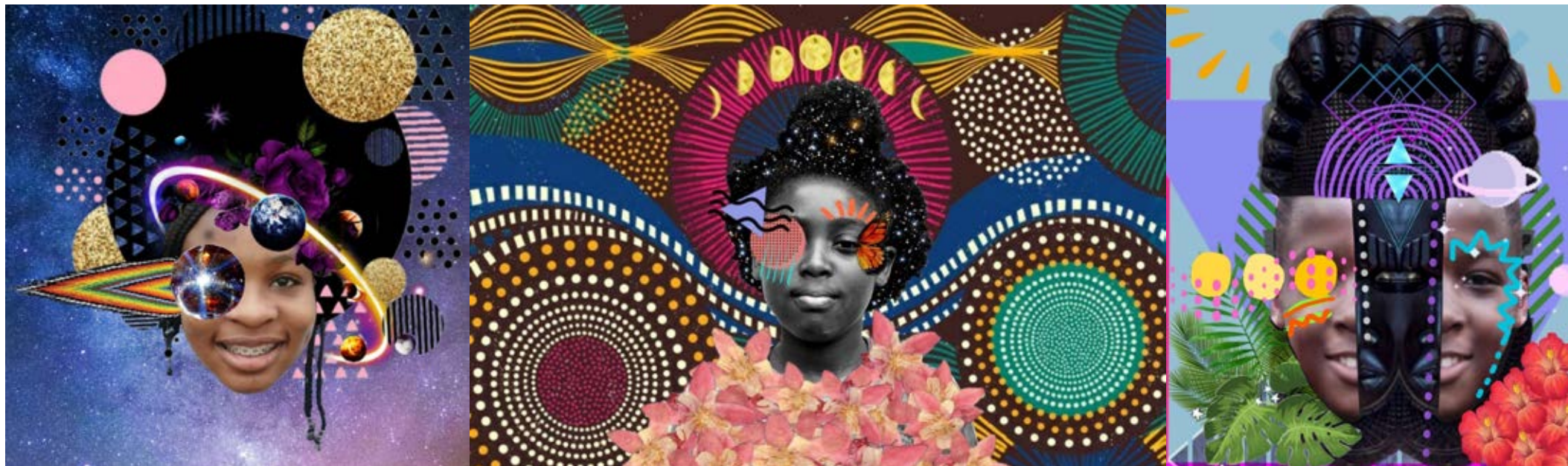
Red Hook

## Artists

- Massah Fofana
- RHAP: Red Hook Art Project

The second of three exhibitions that ArtBridge has supported in Red Hook, the works created by Massah Fofana and the RHAP Collective, a group of youth organized through the Red Hook Art Project (RHAP), portray dreams for the future, as well as communal responsibility in caring for one's home and neighborhood. Workshops were held at RHAP and centered environmental stewardship and community love.





Massah Fofana

In this exhibition, Massah Fofana showcases abundant energy and hope for vibrant futures at Red Hook Houses. Inspired by local youth—their creativity and promise, as well as their environmental stewardship—the artist hopes her collage and Afrofuturist styles inspire other creatives in the neighborhood.

Massah Fofana is a multi-media collage artist. She has worked in Red Hook as a teaching artist for eight years. She centers youth leaders and community stewardship using documentary practices. Her artwork is meant to bring awareness and encouragement towards community maintenance, while also providing vibrancy to everyday life.

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*Neoteric and Melanated:*  
*The Chromas of Red Hook*  
Columbia Street between  
West 9th & Bush Street



## RHAP: Red Hook Art Project

*We RIZE Together*  
 Fencing near Central Mall  
 & Dwight Street

The RHAP Collective is made up of seven individuals who live at the Red Hook Houses. Inspired by the environmental stewardship curriculum of the Red Hook Rize Up group in their community, they collectively created an exhibition that they hope encourages fellow residents to take part in the care of their community.

Founded in 2009, Red Hook Art Project (RHAP) is a non-profit organization that provides free visual art, music, academic, and stress management instruction to children and youth who live in and around NYCHA Red Hook. RHAP organizes a community of 30 volunteers—artists, musicians, writers, doctors and other practitioners—to teach and mentor students on a weekly basis. Tiffney Davis is the co-founder and Executive Director of RHAP, and has dedicated her life to breaking barriers in the name of the arts.

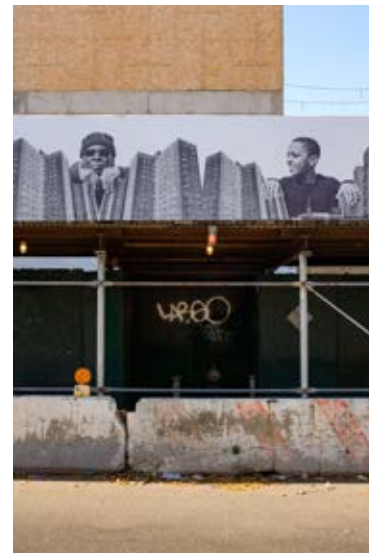
# RED HOOK EAST HOUSES

Red Hook

## Artists

- PTSD: Paul Kamuf & Tony Schloss
- Caroline Mardok

The artworks at Red Hook East developed out of an ongoing partnership with Red Hook Initiative, Pioneer Works, and local public school PS15. It is ArtBridge's third exhibition in Red Hook. Like all of our NYCHA partnerships, this collaboration was supported by, and took guidance from, community liaisons and NYCHA leaders. The artist collective PTSD met with youth organizers from RHI weekly for the months of March and April and learned about NYCHA resident concerns, previous organizing campaigns, and life in Red Hook. Artist Caroline Mardok partnered with Sam Coleman's 3rd grade class at PS15 and introduced methods of film photography, collage, and composition.





**PTSD:  
Paul Kamuf  
& Tony Schloss**

*Radiance* was created in collaboration with Youth Organizers at Red Hook Initiative. Like diamonds that glow in a mine, the youth at Red Hook Houses are bright leaders in their community. Just as a mosaic is formed from many pieces that create a greater whole, the work of the Youth Organizers accumulates from many small actions that support their larger community. A portrait of Sheryl Nash Chisholm, a tireless ally to the young people of Red Hook, accompanies the mosaic diamonds as both tribute and inspiration.

Paul Kamuf is an artist working with video, animation, and new technology. An alumni of commercial television and the commercial art world, his personal work focuses on how technology re-routes relationships. Tony Schloss believes that self expression is the key to a rich life, and seeks to encourage this in himself and others in his work as an artist, musician, father, and community organizer. The PTSD partnership came from a desire to be creative outside of commercial forces. PTSD is inspired by their environment, and aims to alter it for the better.

*Radiance*

Hicks & 9th Streets

& Centre Mall between Hicks

& Bush Streets



Caroline Mardok

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*American Dream*  
590 Clinton Street

Journeying through time, Mardok’s mural portrays the American dream from the construction of the Red Hook Houses in the late 1930’s, through post-war American vehicular aspirations, to a Rorschach reality of the buildings today. Bookended by the rising waters of the Red Hook Channel—represented by blue swirls captured through cyanotypes—the mural foregrounds climate change as a central issue facing the next generation while also celebrating the tireless internal energy uplifting the community. Created in response to workshops held in collaboration with Pioneer Works for 3rd graders at local public school PS15, *American Dream* highlights students from the school, in addition to community members from Red Hook Houses, Red Hook Initiative, and Red Hook Art Project.

Caroline Mardok is an award-winning French American visual artist whose work explores identity, race, and activism. Using various photographic methods, she creates narratives to reflect upon social issues. Her mural “Not Tired Yet,” honors the ongoing work, sacrifice and power of Black women, Black Trans women, and cis gender people leading the protests for societal change in NYC and beyond. Exhibited at the Bronx River Art Center, May 22 - July 17, 2021, the artwork portrays the multiple stories behind the protests of 2020 and the power of the people. With ArtBridge in Red Hook, her current large-scale mural explores housing, climate change, and the energy of youth in the community. She works and lives in Brooklyn.



PTSD, *Radiance*, Red Hook East Houses East



Bianca Garay, *Nourish NYCHA*, Lillian Wald Houses

***MANHATTAN***



Community Art & Resource Fair, Baruch & Wald Houses

# BARUCH HOUSES

Lower East Side

## Artists

- Ashes57
- George Torres Jr.
- Nancy Saleme

The artworks developed at Baruch Houses are a testament to the perseverance of the community and artists. The program confronted a number of road blocks due to post Hurricane Sandy construction as well as the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the local community—including the incredible Baruch Houses Resident Association, the office of Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, and residents themselves—were able to rally together to ensure that this exhibition fully represents the history, hopes, and spirit of the Baruch Houses. Workshops were held at Abrons Art Center, the Resident Association Office, and a Community Art & Resource Fair that included numerous community partners. Through these events, residents were able to contribute their own ideas to the final artworks.\*



\*Artwork not installed at time of publication. Photographs from Community Engagement event.



Ashes57

*Night by the East River*, by Ashes57, depicts a portrait of the Baruch Houses. Using her distinctive black and white palette with an occasional burst of color, the artist portrays the houses and various local landmarks. The Williamsburg Bridge, East River Park, and FDR Drive are inhabited by musicians, revelers and a cast of typical New York birds and animals milling about the streets of the Lower East Side. Residents were able to add their own characters to the artwork during the workshop that the artist led as part of the Community Art & Resource Fair.

Ashes57 is an illustrator, painter, and photographer who has captured some of the most iconic images of the underground bass music scene from the early days of dubstep to footwork and beyond. She produced flyers and posters for the legendary Dub War parties and record covers for labels including DMZ, Swamp 81, and Hyperdub. Other collaborations include artwork for Wu-Tang Clan, Enter the Dubstep, and videos for DJ Rashad. Her photography has been included in the publications *Arkitip* and *Supply and Demand - The Art of Shepard Fairey*, and has been displayed at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston.

*Night by the East River*  
79 Baruch Drive



George Torres Jr.

*Starship Imagination*

Various fences at  
72 Columbia Street

George Torres Jr.'s *Starship Imagination* invites the youth of Baruch Houses to put down their digital devices and get outdoors. His artwork features train engines and space stations, elements of jungle gyms that were placed in public housing developments across America in the 1960's. The Williamsburg Bridge and an image of two friends holding a baseball bat, their hands intertwined in camaraderie and teamwork, are also depicted. The artist put these images over abstract backgrounds inspired by workshops he held at Baruch. Torres, who grew up in the Houses, hopes his artwork offers the older generation a sense of nostalgia, while prompting the younger generation to get energized and play.

George Torres Jr. sees himself as a visitor to this earth. A self-proclaimed observer, he uses his art to narrate the world around him. He traverses the boroughs of New York on a motorized scooter, always with pen and notebook in hand. Torres grew up in the Baruch Houses and is grateful to be able to give back to his community through public art.



Nancy Saleme

Nancy Saleme's *I am Here Because I Care About You*, transformed photographs of flowers local to the Baruch Houses into vibrant digital paintings punctuated by graphic floral patterns. Her palette transitions from colors associated with sunrise to those of sunset to trace the journey of a complete day. Responding directly to a comment made during one of her workshops, Saleme designed this piece to bring joy to her community, as one resident shared, "I would like to see something that makes me smile, because there is enough sadness in the world."

Nancy Saleme is a Latinx visual artist and industrial textile designer. Her art is a visual testimony of her existence and reveals her personal experiences as a woman of color. Since 2010, she has been creating temporary and permanent artworks to transform and claim public space. A recipient of multiple commissions and residencies, including those awarded by El Museo del Barrio, John Michael Kohler Art Center, and the NYC Department of Transportation, she holds degrees from the University of Fine Arts in Poland, the National School of Fine Arts of Peru, Cristóbal Rojas School of Visual Arts of Caracas, and The Arts Students League of New York.

*I am Here Because I Care About You*

Various fences along Baruch Drive

# POLO GROUNDS HOUSES

Harlem

## Artists

- FRUIE
- Paul DEO
- Zachary Fabri

The artworks for Polo Grounds were developed over several site visits with the Polo Grounds Houses Resident Leader and in response to workshops held at the Children's Village Polo Grounds Community Center. The Community Center has a robust population of youth ranging in age from elementary to high school. The workshops were attended by a mix of these age groups.\*



\*Artwork not installed at time of publication. Photographs from Community Engagement event.



FRUIE

*Through the Concrete Into the Clouds* aims to capture and represent the many faces of the Polo Grounds community. People are situated in surreal landscapes where gardens, brick buildings, and the sky intersect—offering glimpses into private and public spaces. The imagery is intended to portray the power and beauty of the community as a whole, and as individuals.

FRUIE is a New York City based artist. Her artwork portrays the intimate dialogue between her internal experience and her relationship to the external world. She explores the imagery of her daily life, weaving in fantastical elements to create an alternative reality dreamscape. For FRUIE, working with the community, and teaching youth different ways to use sketchbooks in their daily lives, was a highlight of her experience in the Bridging the Divide program.

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*Through the Concrete  
Into the Clouds*  
2931 Frederick Douglass  
Boulevard



Paul DEO

*Spirit Of Rucker*, by artist Paul Deo, represents the energy and spirit of Polo Grounds Houses and the famed basketball court at Rucker Park, from the 1970s to today. The artwork champions the community members, their pride and the culture that exists there. Deo's intention is to draw upon the collective to establish a space for communal dialogue that ultimately inspires all.

Paul Deo is a visionary artist revolutionizing the integration of spirit and technology. Growing up between New York City and New Orleans, he found early inspiration in the Apollo Theater performances of soulful artists and in the second line parades of New Orleans. His psychedelic historical paintings and murals can be found all over NYC. In 2019 New York Magazine voted his renowned mixed media mural, *Planet Harlem*, as one of New York City's Best Places to Visit.

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*Spirit Of Rucker*  
2960 Frederick Douglass  
Boulevard



Zachary Fabri

Fabri's artwork directly references the objects of importance that were drawn by the 5 to 10-year-olds who attended his art workshops at Polo Grounds. As youth are often immersed in digital and virtual worlds, he chose to illustrate these objects with a 3D graphic sensibility. The resulting piece, *Luminous Minds, Digital Futures*, focuses on small objects that hold personal meaning, memories, and emotions.

Zachary Fabri is an interdisciplinary artist engaged in lens-based media and language systems. His explorations of public space often complicate the boundaries of studio research and social practice. Awards include, The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award, the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art, the New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship, and the BRIC Arts Colene Brown Art Prize. Fabri's work has been exhibited at Art in General, The Studio Museum, El Museo del Barrio, The Walker Art Center, The Brooklyn Museum, The Barnes Foundation, and Performa. He has collaborated on projects at the Museum of Modern Art, the Sharjah Biennial, and Pace gallery. Fabri had a solo exhibition at CUE Art foundation in spring, 2022.

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*Luminous Minds,  
Digital Futures*  
2960 Frederick Douglass  
Boulevard

# TAFT HOUSES

East Harlem

Workshops at Taft Houses were hosted in the office of the Resident Leader, a location that proved to be a hub for residents looking for resources. Bringing art workshops to the space allowed the community to discuss their concerns while engaging their creativity. The workshops gained momentum over a number of months, as did youth participation. These positive results have prompted the continuation of art workshops in the Resident Association's office.

## Artists

- Andrea Arroyo
- Coraima Santana
- Dister
- Gwendolyn Black





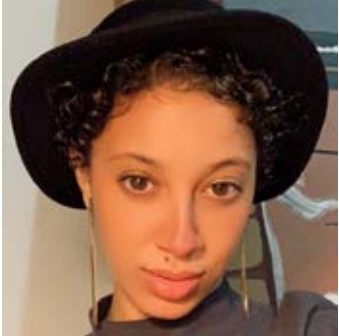
Andrea Arroyo

*Nurture Nature* is a celebration of life in New York City. The imagery was inspired by the beauty and resilience of the Taft Houses' East Harlem community. The piece features various elements symbolizing universal values. For instance, blue swirls—invoking the Aztec symbol for speech—represent the voices of the community, while butterflies represent the contributions of immigrant populations. Throughout the design, flowing, colorful human figures represent diversity and adaptability. The bouquets of flowers represent growth and resilience.

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*Nurture Nature*  
1345 5th Avenue

Andrea Arroyo works in painting, sculpture, artists books, site-specific installation, and public art. Her art has been exhibited in 50 individual, and numerous group shows in the US and abroad. Permanent collections include The Library of Congress, The Smithsonian Institution, The New York Public Library, The Richmond Museum, and The National Museum of Mexican Art. She holds awards and grants from numerous non-profit and government organizations and has permanent public art in the New York City subway, two public schools, and a children's clinic in Florida. Additional commissions include projects for The International Museum of Women, The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Museum, The Morris-Jumel Mansion, The New York Women's Foundation, The Women's Rights National Historical Park, and The Latin Recording Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her work has been published extensively in *The New Yorker* (cover art), *The New York Times*, and *The International Herald Tribune*, and has been the subject of over two hundred features in international media.



Coraima Santana

Coraima Santana's *Resilient* is dedicated to her sister Yomaira. It represents the beauty of growth and reconnection. The array of people, patterns, colors, and nature depicted within the work is an homage to utilizing the inherent beauty of the world to heal. The artist wants to emphasize that life, as it exists within us and around us, is a blessing. The overlaying graphic lines and colors are inspired by nature and are intended to be a source of tranquility and resilience.

A multidisciplinary artist and storyteller, Coraima Santana creates space for expression to shift and transform. Her subjects are often grassroots issues that call for increased public participation, self-empowerment, and centering of underrepresented groups. She wants her art to resonate with people of all backgrounds and to advocate for basic human rights. Drawing from personal and collective experiences, she seeks to expand the power of creativity to encourage difficult conversations that will propel us forward. Santana graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Production Management and a minor in Ethics and Sustainability.

*Resilient*  
1385 5th Avenue



Dister

*I Love My Hood* by Dister portrays the vibrancy of Harlem through a Hip Hop lens. Bold lines and arrows weave in and out of a typical New York City streetscape. A fire hydrant, chimi truck, and pigeon share the scene with depictions of people engaging in everyday life and expressing themselves. The artwork mirrors the eclectic power that emanates from the city's uptown streets.

Dister is an artist from Washington Heights, NYC. He is also a member of I Love My Hood, a collective of worldwide artists, educators, and activists dedicated to serving the greater good through Hip Hop. He has created and collaborated on projects worldwide, ranging from mural paintings in the Dominican Republic, to organizing community discussions of social issues in Uruguay, to Breakin' battles for youth in Kyrgyzstan.

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*I Love My Hood*  
1695 Madison Avenue



**Gwendolyn Black**

*Reflections of Our Community* combines imagery expressing the artist's own experience of living in public housing with those shared by adults and youth during her art workshops at Taft Houses. Themes of deep community bonds, pride in heritage, and beauty of place, are depicted through the patterning of people, color, and flora. Specific elements, like the church building, a school, and the image of an NBA player, were included because of suggestions made by workshop participants. The occasional floating eye represents ancestors.

Gwendolyn Black is an award winning artist who started her career as a fashion illustrator. She later moved to fine arts, where she found her niche organizing and curating exhibitions and programs. Since 1991, she has been using her work to uplift the community, most notably through the following events and organizations: Arts and Jazzfest NYC / Visual Arts and Jazzfest, Pioneer Awards: Honoring Women in Visual Arts, IAM (Incorporation of Artists on the Move, Inc.), and OpenSpace Arts. Black is a graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

*Reflections of Our  
Community*

1735 Madison Avenue

# LILLIAN WALD HOUSES

Lower East Side

## Artists

- Bianca Garay
- Jia Yan Yuan
- Mollie Serena Delaria

Themes of gardening, greenspaces, and community unite the three artworks created for the Lillian Wald Houses. Each of the artists who made these works have witnessed the development's changing landscape over many years. Due to ongoing construction in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, many of the Houses' outdoor gathering spaces are inaccessible. The artworks each emphasize the importance of shared outdoor space through the presentation of playgrounds, park areas, and digitally altered photographs of local flowers. Residents were able to participate in the creation of the pieces at a Community Art & Resource Fair and various workshops held in community gardens and at Abrons Art Center.





**Bianca Garay**

Bianca Garay's *Nourish NYCHA* was inspired by conversations she had with residents during the Community Art & Resource Fair held at Baruch and Wald Houses in April 2022. Many youth expressed a sense of loss due to the ongoing construction at the Houses. They want their playgrounds and parks back, they want more trees to offer shade on hot days. NYCHA's Recovery and Resilience plans for both the Wald and Baruch Houses are working to bring greenspaces back to these developments. In the meantime, Garay hopes the people she engaged during her workshops will see their desires reflected in the depictions of playgrounds, community gardens, and symbols of care included in her artwork.

*Nourish NYCHA*  
30 Avenue D

Bianca Garay is a queer Caribbean art illustrator from Brooklyn, New York. She is on a mission to spread authentic and visibly inspiring messages to communities around the world. She has close familial ties to the NYCHA developments in the Lower East Side and wants to create artwork that amplifies the lives of NYCHA residents. Her aim is to show youth that following your dreams is possible regardless of where you grew up. "People hear you come from housing and they assume negative things about a person and the way they grew up. I want to show the youth that we are more than our environment." Garay believes following your dreams is the way to unify and usher in the world we truly envision.



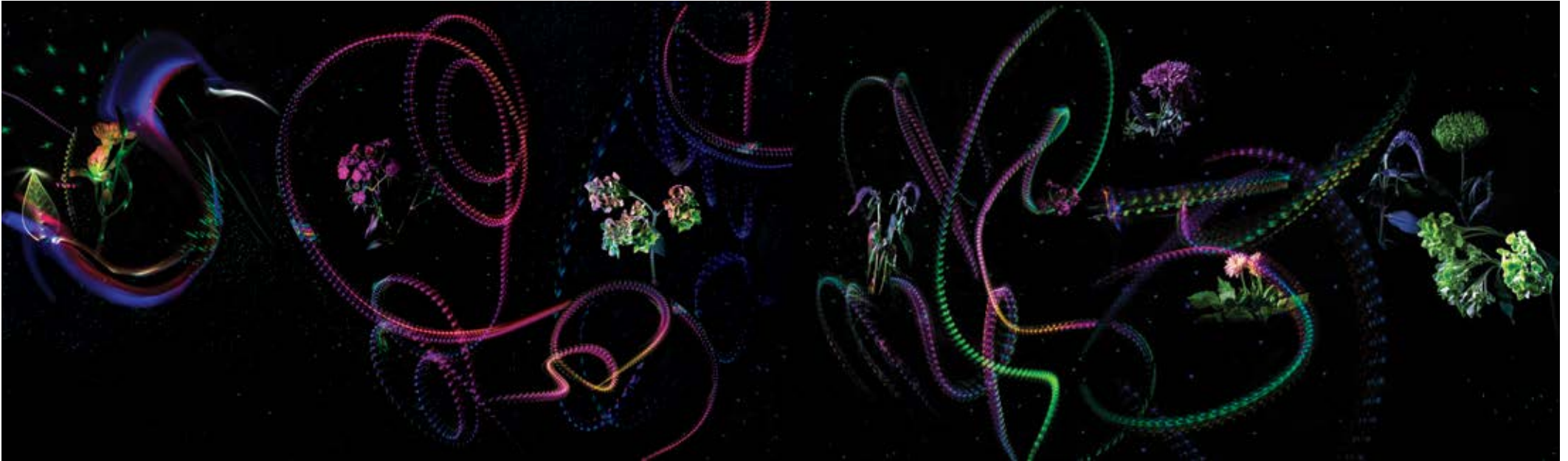
Jia Yan Yuan

*The Moments* is inspired by the residents of Lillian Wald Houses. A member of the community herself, Jia Yan Yuan noticed the loss of greenspaces and community gardening. The colors and plants she placed in her artwork are intended to be a restorative gesture to bring these elements back to the Houses. The imagery of group leisure activities are meant to portray an active community that has recovered from the pandemic.

Jia Yan Yuan is a New York based visual artist whose work explores ecological concepts and focuses on depicting a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. She aims to bring positivity to communities and society.

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*The Moments*  
50 Avenue D  
& 60 Avenue D



**Mollie Serena**

*Photon Light Garden* is a contemporary response to climate change as well as an homage to the “Green Guerrillas” of the 1970’s who used gardening to reclaim green spaces in the Lower East Side. To make this work, Dr. Mollie Serena invited Baruch and Wald residents to interact with various flash lights and light sticks, which she photographed at night using long exposures. The photographic light graffiti stands as an archive of the interactions between humans, technology, and nature. The artist hopes this project inspires reverence and responsibility for the relationship between the natural world and the ephemeral individual life.

Dr. Mollie Serena is a New York City-based interdisciplinary artist working in photography, film, sculpture, lasers, and light art. Within her art practice, she experiments and remixes mediums to synthesize projects steeped in layered visual imagery at the intersection of art, science, technology, and philosophy. Her art practice is informed by her academic pursuits as a graduate of Parsons School of Design with a BFA in Photography, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Philosophy, Art, and Critical Thought division of The European Graduate School.

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*Photon Light Garden*  
30 Avenue D  
& 10 Avenue D



Alice Mizrachi, *Faces of Our Community*, Pomonok Houses

*QUEENS*



Tipu Alam, *The Astoria Project*, Astoria Houses

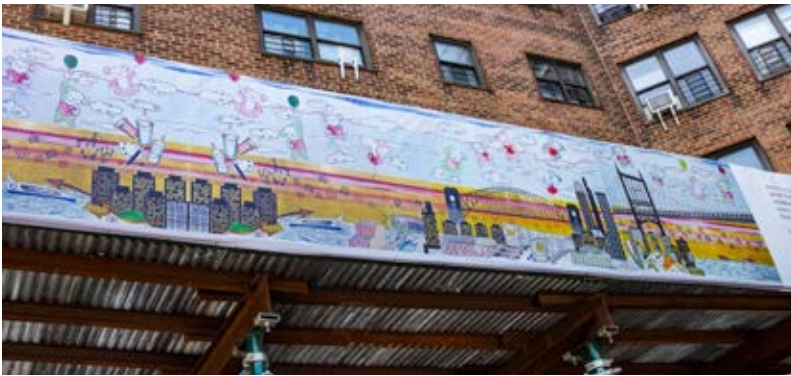
# ASTORIA HOUSES

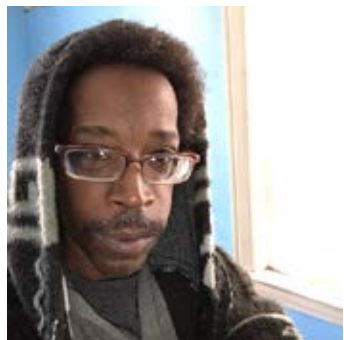
Astoria

## Artists

- Elliot Johnson
- Geobany Rodriguez
- Tipu Alam

The artworks for Astoria Houses were developed over a series of workshops held at the Astoria Community Center and the Astoria Senior Center. The workshops included anime illustration, mask making, marbling, and sticker making. Two of the participating artists are Astoria Houses residents and had prior relationships with the Resident Association at Astoria Houses, which helped in the organizing and collaboration process. The majority of participants in the workshops were local youth. Their voices are significantly present in the final designs created for Astoria Houses.



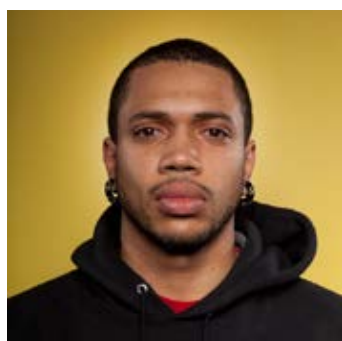


Elliot Johnson

*Astoria Houses* was created in collaboration with youth from the Astoria Houses. It was inspired by their voices and the creativity shared by community members. The artwork intersperses a kid-friendly, cartoon-like aesthetic with crisp illustrations of the New York City skyline. Johnson included representations of the W and N trains—two subway lines that culminate in Astoria—to further assert the site-specificity of this mural.

Elliot Johnson is a multidisciplinary artist from Queens, NY. He is interested in an illustrative position in an artistic environment where he is allowed to apply his creative skills to complex problems.

*Astoria Houses*  
3-02 Astoria Boulevard



**Geobany  
Rodriguez**

Geobany Rodriguez's *The View Gets Me Everytime* is composed of sketches drawn during trips to Astoria Houses. It includes images created by participants at his sticker station events—art workshops where people create their own stickers. Video games were identified as a favorite activity by many of the workshop participants. Therefore, Rodriguez prominently featured a video game aesthetic in his artwork. The title relates to another common theme shared by workshop participants—their love of the view across the East River.

Geobany Rodriguez grew up in NYC and was heavily influenced by 90's graffiti. After studying psychology at Boston University, he used art as a medium for self-expression, and enrolled in classes at the School of Visual Arts and the Fashion Institute of Technology. He completed spray paint murals at 5 Pointz and the Bushwick Collective, and participated in the mural arts scene in Boston, where he created murals for the Boston MFA's Juneteenth celebrations. Birds, most often pigeons, and increasingly fish, play a central role in many of his works, which often explore time, memory, and love.

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*The View Gets Me  
Everytime*  
3-10 Astoria Boulevard



Tipu Alam

In *The Astoria Project*, Tipu Alam layers the cityscape of Astoria behind portraits of young residents of the Houses. The youth wear masks that they made during workshops held at the local HANAC Cornerstone. Unity was the inspiration for this piece, as it came to fruition through a collaboration between the artist, the youth, and a combination of photography and digital design.

Tipu Alam is an award-winning abstract artist based in New York City. He received an MFA in Painting from Lehman College at the City University of New York and a BA in Fine Arts from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Alam has also studied at the Art Students League of New York. The artist has participated in many group exhibitions in NYC, Long Island, Washington D.C., Delhi, and Dhaka and has also had several solo exhibitions in NYC and Dhaka.

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*The Astoria Project*  
4-03 Astoria Boulevard

# POMONOK HOUSES

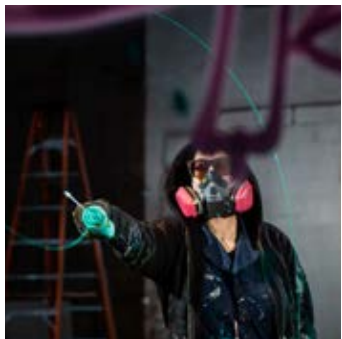
Pomonok

The artworks for Pomonok Houses were developed in collaboration with the Resident Association and the Queens Community House. The Queens Community House played a central role in recruiting for and hosting the workshops. Often these workshops were paired with events already scheduled in the community, including food pantries and craft fairs. Workshops included chalking, jewelry design, mask making, collaging, and collaborative painting, and were attended by people of all ages and backgrounds.

## Artists

- Alice Mizrachi
- Kiki Bencosme
- Shanice Figeroux





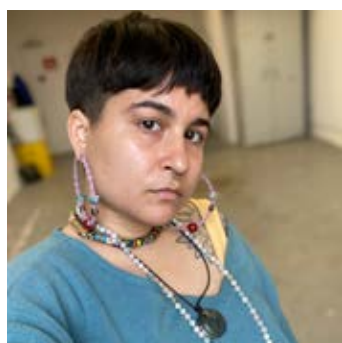
Alice Mizrachi

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*Faces of Our Community*  
70-02 Parsons Boulevard

A first generation migrant-daughter, Alice Mizrachi grew up in the melting-pot that is Queens, New York. Her artwork, *Faces of Our Community*, is intended to unite the many cultures that make up her borough. To make this mural, the artist took portraits of residents and led collage making workshops at Queens Community House. The resulting images are a mash-up of community members made by community members. A celebration of color and personality, the collages portray the interconnectedness of a diverse community.

Alice Mizrachi is a New York based interdisciplinary artist and educator working in painting, murals, and installation. Centering compassion and empathy, her work explores the interconnectedness of individuals and communities. An advocate for socially engaged art, she has developed arts curricula for various nonprofits and participated in panels on the topic at Brown University and The Devos Institute of Arts Management. She has exhibited at various museums in the US, received multiple grants and residencies, and has been featured in publications such as The New York Times, Huffington Post, and Architectural Digest. Mizrachi holds a BFA from Parsons School of Design and was a guest instructor at the School of Visual Arts in 2015.



**Kiki Bencosme**

*Dímelo Cantando* (*Tell It To Me Singing*)—an affectionate Dominican greeting—is a mural by Queens artist Kiki Bencosme. It features flowers—designed in collaboration with youth from Pomonok Houses—to symbolize the interconnectivity of the community. The artist considers the youths’ voices to be the seeds of the neighborhood. The branches depicted within the artwork refer to strands of beaded jewelry created during workshops held at the Queens Community House.

Kiki Bencosme is a Dominican-American interdisciplinary artist from Jamaica, Queens. Her work poses questions to prompt social progress. Emerging from generational poverty, she creates socio-political sculptures, installations, and illustrations that arise from her own experiences and confront issues like housing insecurity, gender-based oppression, and racism. Bencosme’s practice is community-based, involving socially engaged public art and often brings personal objects or stories into the work. She is the recipient of numerous grants and received her BFA from the School of Visual Arts.

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*Dímelo Cantando*  
70-30 Parsons Boulevard  
& 154-05 71st Avenue



Shanice Figeroux

*Stronger Together* is a mural by Queens artist Shanice Figeroux. The patterns and colors are meant to promote healing, expression, and offer light even on the darkest days. Intended to add a vibrant flair to the Pomonok Houses, the artist hopes her artwork will further unify the community and celebrate their collective energy and creativity.

Shanice Figeroux is a self-taught artist born in Queens. She works in multiple mediums including painting and spray painting and is known for her custom murals and clothing design. She has painted numerous murals for local businesses throughout NYC and has received multiple grants, commissions, and contracts with nonprofit organizations. Figeroux hopes that her use of color and abstract expression allows beautiful feelings to pour out into communities and reflect memories, events, and emotions.

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*Stronger Together*  
65-10 Parsons Boulevard

# WOODSIDE HOUSES

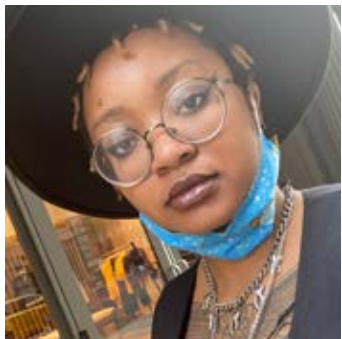
Woodside

Artworks at Woodside Houses were developed out of ideas shared during workshops at William Cullen Bryant High School, Samaritan Daytop Village's Woodside Senior Center, and Moore Jackson Cemetery and Community Garden. Workshops were promoted by the Woodside Resident Association, which was a true partner in this project, and included button making, collage, and painting on stones.

## Artists

- Chey Nelson
- Colleen Kong-Savage
- Natasha Herring
- Vanesa Álvarez Díaz





Chey Nelson

*Connections of the Past and Future*, by artist Chey Nelson represents a desire to strengthen the bonds that were tested in her Woodside community during the pandemic. Interlocking hands suggest a collective rebuilding and a conjuring of hope for the future. Using a pointillist technique related to her work as a tattoo artist, Nelson's artwork is able to convey her message through a semi-realist, yet graphic sensibility.

Chey Nelson is a visual and tattoo artist residing in NYCHA's Woodside Houses. Inks and acrylic paints are her current mediums of choice, though she has dabbled in painting on textiles, watercolors, and mural collaborations. She also creates work digitally, and often depicts characters from Japanese manga.

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*Connections of the Past  
and Future*

50-43 Broadway



Colleen  
Kong-Savage

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*At Home*, by illustrator Colleen Kong-Savage, depicts home as defined by students from William Cullen Bryant High School. Home is not only a physical space, but all that lives within it—our loved ones, our frame of mind, and sometimes loss. Built upon the principles of collage, Kong-Savage created this piece digitally, yet retains the illusion of layering finely cut patterned paper. Viewers are able to experience a sense of depth in the work, both materially and emotionally.

Colleen Kong-Savage is a fine artist with a penchant for paper. Her first children's picture book, *The Turtle Ship* by Helena Ku Rhee, was illustrated in her signature style of paper collage. Since then, Kong-Savage's artwork has crossed into the digital realm, but still adheres to the aesthetics of collage. In 2021, she was granted the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators inaugural portfolio showcase award. In addition to being an illustrator and graphic designer for small businesses and nonprofits, Kong-Savage is a mural artist who works with schools and communities. She received an MFA in fiction writing from Columbia University.

*At Home*  
31-45 49th Street



Natasha Herring

*For the Ancestors: El Barrio es la Familia*, is a digital quilt by artist Natasha Herring made in collaboration with the Woodside community. Inspired by Faith Ringgold, Heather Galler, and the Matinecock tribe, it pays homage to human connection and cultural diversity. It is a direct result of art collaborations held at Moore Jackson Community Garden, William Cullen Bryant High School, and Woodside Houses. The artist layered photography, indigenous story stones, and pictographs to capture the stories heard, observed, and documented during the art workshops.

Natasha Herring is a genre-busting storyteller, mixed-media healing artist, writer, and entrepreneur. She is a Kimbilio and Voices of Our Nations Arts (VONA) recipient and has been published in *TriQuarterly*, *OyeDrum*, and *Operating System 30/30/30*. Growing up as a latchkey kid in the Lower East Side and Gompers Houses, she was able to traverse the unorthodox, culture-filled, difficult 80s through storytelling and education. This story will unfold within the pages of her forthcoming memoir *Raining Sunshine*. Herring received her BFA from SUNY College Purchase, and was an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the City College of New York, where she received her MFA in Creative Writing.

*For the Ancestors:*  
*El Barrio es la Familia*  
31-58 51st Street



**Vanesa  
Álvarez Díaz**

*Generations*, by muralist Vanesa Álvarez Díaz, was inspired by the youth and seniors of Woodside Houses. Honoring four matriarchs of the community—Ruth, Ilona, Anna, and Carol—the dynamic colors and patterns reflect art created during workshops at William Cullen Bryant High School and the Woodside Senior Center. By incorporating graphic designs and patterns generated by the community, Álvarez Díaz seeks to reflect the creativity of Woodside Houses back to the community.

*Generations*  
49-11 Broadway

Álvarez Díaz is a Spanish muralist and visual artist based in Brooklyn. Her large-scale murals incorporate symbols, patterns, and words, often with slogans or pithy poetry. Her work has been selected for international competitions, such as Pinta Malasaña (Madrid Street Art Project) and adorns institutional settings like NYC Health+Hospitals and various NYC schools. Focusing on community empowerment and feminism, she has installed murals in Spain, Mexico, and New York City, and was a part of The Flag Project at Rockefeller Center. Álvarez Díaz has a degree in Art, Design and Advertising Graphics from Aula D, in Spain.



Misha Tyutyunik, *A View of the Hill*, Todt Hill Houses

***STATEN ISLAND***



Imara Moore, *Vibrancy*, South Beach Houses

# SOUTH BEACH HOUSES

South Beach

## Artists

- Imara Moore
- Janice Patrignani
- Jodi Dareal
- Joe Riccio

The artworks at South Beach reflect the people, landscape, and emotional lives of local community members. Each artist led multiple workshops with residents of all ages in collaboration with the South Beach Resident Association and United Activities Unlimited - South Beach Cornerstone. Workshops ranged in topic from learning self care practices, to painting rocks to give as gifts. Additional activities included photography, painting on silk, collaborative mural making, graffiti style writing, and learning how to write with light. All the participating artists reported that the conversations they had during their workshops directly informed the themes of their artworks.





Imara Moore

*Vibrancy*, by Imara Moore, presents silhouettes of South Beach residents captured during photography workshops at the UAU Cornerstone. The silhouettes, rendered in various tones, are layered over muted photographs of the landscape and buildings of South Beach Houses. The juxtaposition of solid figures over a soft background adds depth and dimension to the artwork. Raised in the Houses herself, the artist created this piece to reflect the energy and vitality of the neighborhood.

Imara Moore is a photographer and educator from Staten Island. Her work explores ideas of community, family, history, and memory. She uses photo-illustration and compositing techniques to articulate her concepts. Moore holds a MA in Media Studies from The New School, and a MA of Professional Studies in Digital Photography from the School of Visual Arts. She held the first Artist in Residence/Edward and Sally Van Lier Fellowship at the Alice Austen House Museum and has received multiple grants from the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI)/Staten Island Arts.

*Vibrancy*  
121 & 129 Norway Avenue



Janice Patrignani

*South Beach Celebrates Nature*, by Janice Patrignani, was co-created with youth and adults from the South Beach community. It invites viewers to engage their senses by visualizing a meandering journey through various landscapes, culminating at the Staten Island Greenbelt. Imagery depicting wafts of air and wind bellowing up from fields of flowers suggest the movement of floral fragrances. The foundational imagery for this work was created by community members who painted directly onto silk fabric.

Janice Patrignani is a design professional, visual artist, and art educator. She develops and teaches programs in many mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, silk painting, mosaic, encaustic, and mixed media sculpture. Her mixed media sculptures have been exhibited throughout New York. In 2005, Patrignani received third place for sculpture in *The Best of New York Artists & Artisans* book series. She holds a BS from the University of Cincinnati's School of Design, Architecture, and Art.

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*South Beach Celebrates Nature*  
100 Kramer Street



Jodi Doreal

*Essential Care* by Jodi Doreal was designed for the South Beach Community to feel seen. Representing diversity within the mural was of utmost importance to the artist. The artwork stands as a tribute to essential workers and first responders, twelve of whom are depicted, including a teacher, a garage attendant, a grocery store clerk, and a waiter. The mural is also a memorial for Tre, a United Activities Unlimited worker and former director of the South Beach Cornerstone who passed during the pandemic.

Brooklyn born Jodi Doreal currently resides in Staten Island. She uses watercolor, acrylic, and graphite to create art in various styles including realism, abstraction, illustration, and comic book design. Doreal is also a songwriter and video producer and created FIF, a rap cypher series for female rappers. She is also an educator and prolific muralist who often works with the Thrive Collective.

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*Essential Care*  
84 Lampion Boulevard



Joe Riccio

*U.N.I.T.E.D., We Rise*, by Joe Riccio, was conceptualized and developed in partnership with South Beach residents. Building upon the theme of unity, the artist intertwined various colorful symbols to portray peace, love, and strength in the community. The imagery in the artwork takes viewers on a journey of South Beach from a walk in the park to a passage on the beach. The wild turkeys of Staten Island and the various lighthouses visible from the Island are also depicted.

Joseph P. Riccio a.k.a. CIMAH - Clarity in Mind & Heart, is a Staten Island native. He creates work influenced by New York street art culture. He seeks to represent life experiences and how people are able to navigate obstacles and evolve. Riccio holds a BFA in Graphic Design from The Fashion Institute of Technology.

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*U.N.I.T.E.D., We Rise*  
106 Kramer Street

# TODT HILL HOUSES

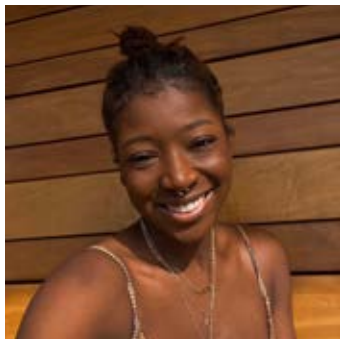
Todt Hill

The artworks created for Todt Hill Houses reflect the people, landscape, values, and buildings that make up the community. Workshops were held at the JCC Cornerstone in collaboration with the Todt Hill Resident Association and ranged in topic from exploring ways to support mental health, sharing and celebrating cultural identity, and concepts of what makes a community. Materials and methods included pour painting to make fluid art, drawing with markers, pencils, and crayons, to create symbols of community, and cutting and collaging flags.

## Artists

- Amari Hines
- Christian Penn
- Misha Tyutyunik





**Amari Hines**

*Nurture of Color*, by Staten Island artist Amari Hines, is a representation of Todt Hill. The digitized patterns that make up the background of the piece refer to poured paintings created during workshops that centered discussions on mental health. The mural's repeated central panel was painted by the artist. It presents Todt Hill's seven buildings. In addition, roses signify love and courage, and a butterfly represents hope and new beginnings. The hands holding the earth symbolize the community's ability to create change through working together.

Hines is a black American artist from Staten Island who has been painting since 2017. She is inspired by hope, family, and love, and is pursuing her craft through the creation of original art, prints, clothing, home decor, and more.

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*Nurture of Color*  
275 Westwood Avenue



Christian Penn

*World Piece*, by Staten Island artist Christian Penn, showcases the flags of over 50 countries to represent the melting pot that is NYC. Blending together varying design styles, the artist's colorful tapestry portrays a diversity of aesthetics and cultural identities. According to the artist, nations' flags share similar features, just like all humans share likenesses. Every flag represented in the artwork was suggested by a Todt Hill resident, either in person at a workshop or by responding to a flier asking people to email or text the artist.

Christian Penn is an artist and emcee based in Staten Island. He has painted and performed on stages all over the country for over 15 years. In 2009, he started offering workshops and classes in the fields of audio engineering and music production. His teaching expanded to include his other passions—djing, graffiti, and filmmaking. In 2015, Penn founded Projectivity Group, an official 501c3 not for profit organization that provides education and resources for the arts.

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*World Piece*  
815 Manor Road



Misha Tyutyunik

*A View of the Hill*, by Misha Tyutyunik, is a visual representation of the collective efforts of Todt Hill residents to articulate their thoughts and feelings about their community. The artist's final composition is based on the drawings and discussions generated during workshops. It also portrays the community's multiple cultural backgrounds. The composition includes local landmarks, pastimes, and people of all ages. The mural connects these elements through color, shape, and form, to create a timeless tapestry of symbolism specific to Todt Hill.

*A View of the Hill*  
289 Westwood Avenue

Misha Tyutyunik is a Ukrainian-born, Brooklyn based, painter, muralist, street artist, illustrator, and virtual reality artist. He creates murals around the world and is regularly commissioned to paint and illustrate for popular brands, publications, and collectors. He recently completed a Fulbright Grant in Ukraine, and was one of five artists chosen to paint a sanitation vehicle for the NYC Department of Sanitation. His artistic practice is informed by urbanism and contemporary popular culture, and influenced by 'Golden Age' graffiti, Japanese prints, Abstract Expressionism, Mexican and WPA Muralism, German Expressionism, and Social Realism. Tyutyunik is a graduate of Pratt Institute.



***CULMINATING EXHIBITION:***  
***Present Power / Future Hopes***



# /FUTURE HOPES

ArtBridge organized a culminating group exhibition to celebrate the 50+ artworks designed by 59 artists at 16 NYCHA developments for **City Artist Corps: Bridging the Divide**. The exhibition, *Present Power/Future Hopes*, was held at The Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural & Educational Center, July 9–23, 2022. Exhibiting representations of each artwork in a central location provided an opportunity for artists, residents, community partners, and supporters from all over the city to meet. It also made it possible to consider the varied aesthetic, thematic, and material approaches to making these artworks.

While the artworks on view at each NYCHA development were printed on vinyl and installed on scaffolding sheds and construction fencing, the gallery exhibition presented the artworks in a number of formats. Every artwork created for **City Artist Corps: Bridging the Divide** was included in a digital slideshow projected onto a gallery wall. Additionally, select panels from some of the artworks were turned into fine art prints and hung as individual pieces. A number of material-based artworks—collages, paintings, and a

sculpture—were also included in the exhibition. These artworks were directly related to the vinyls produced for NYCHA. We also designed a digital slideshow for a monitor that included photographic documentation of the installations and workshops from each NYCHA development. Finally, we reprinted vinyl sections from six artworks and installed them on fencing in front of The Clemente.

Viewing the artworks up close, visitors to *Present Power/Future Hopes* were able to explore the intricacies of each artist's conceptual and material approach to meshing their personal practices with community values and input. Artworks addressed the lived experiences of residents navigating the social and environmental health of their communities. The illustrations, portraits, collages, and abstract compositions paid homage to generational and cultural heritage, healthcare and frontline workers, and resilience during a time of increased gun violence and illness resulting from the pandemic. Explicit imagery relating to celebration, pride, home, and support for public space was visible in many of the artworks.

Programming related to the exhibition included an opening, a panel discussion, and a closing celebration featuring artist-led workshops and artist talks. These programs furthered connections between artists and community partners. Hosting these events at The Clemente—a multigenerational cultural venue committed to collaboration—expanded our reach. Ultimately, the exhibition *Present Power/Future Hopes* was an opportunity to celebrate ArtBridge's investment in local communities with the expanded support of New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs City Artist Corps grant.



*Present Power/Future Hopes, The Clemente Center*



## Panel Discussion

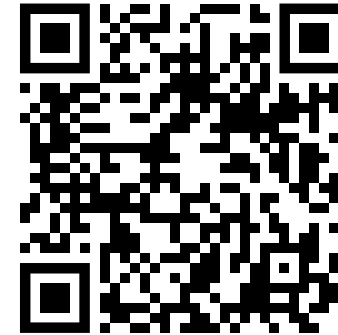
On July 21, 2022 ArtBridge convened a panel to discuss **City Artist Corps: Bridging the Divide** entitled, *How can public art empower communities?* Coinciding with the exhibition *Present Power/Future Hopes*, the panel was conceived to examine the impact of public art in public housing, with a particular focus on evaluating ArtBridge's approach to community engagement.

Moderated by Claudie Mabry, Director of Social Innovation at Kaufman Music Center, panelists included: Paul Deo, participating artist at Polo Grounds; Jazmine Hayes, participating artist at Brownsville; Kendal Henry, Assistant Commissioner, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs; and Beverly Mac Farlane, Resident Leader at Taft Houses.

Themes of representation and access were touched upon, as well as the need to adapt and be responsive to shifting circumstances. Issues relating to centering community narratives, challenges in programming, and equity in the arts were also addressed. In addition, conversation touched upon strategies for navigating systemic issues within the artworld and public housing.

*How can public art empower communities?* was produced by ArtBridge in partnership with NYCHA, The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and The Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural & Educational Center.

An abbreviated version of the panel discussion can be accessed through this QR code:



The full unedited panel discussion can be accessed through this QR code:





# ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

## Acknowledgements

A program of this size and with this many contributors could not have been completed without the partnership of numerous stakeholders and community members.

We thank the **NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)** for granting us the ability to expand our Bridging the Divide program and to partner with so many creative New Yorkers. Thanks go to Commissioner Laurie Cumbo, Shirley Levy, Kendal Henry, Ryan Max, Bliss Green-Morehead, Samantha Rauer, Sio Man Lam, and former Commissioners Gonzalo Casals and Tom Finkelparl.

We are grateful for the following **NYCHA executives**, who played central roles in making this program possible: Joy Sinderbrand, Marcela Medina, Sade Humphrey, Josephine Bartlett, Josephine Russo, and others affiliated with the office of the Chief of Staff and Capital Projects; NYCHA Resident Engagement: Michael Brown, Susan Unger, Judy Boyce, Nelson Keir; NYCHA Resident Leaders: Rhonda Bennett, Karen Blondell, Frances Brown, Darold Burgess, Serena Chandler, Claudia Coger, Freddina Fulton, Vanessa Jones Hall, Naomi M. Johnson, Scherisce Lewis-Clinton, Beverly Mac Farlane, Ann Cotton Morris, Camille Napoleon, Karrie Scarboro, Pamela Smith, Ronald Topping, Doreen Williams, and Tamika Williams; and NYCHA Property Managers: Jenny Amaya, Melissa Collins, Latricia Damon, Michelle Hall, Christopher Hague, James Luka, Dean Robinson, Kathie Shoulders, Fatima Turner, Jaritza Vazquez, Portia Waite, Thelma Lambert Watkins, and Stephan Yianh.

We are grateful to the **NYCHA residents** who welcomed ArtBridge and our artists into their communities. The stories and ideas shared by residents are the source materials for our public art. Thank you to the residents from Adams



and Mitchel Houses in The Bronx; Brownsville, Howard, Ingersoll, Red Hook East, and Red Hook West Houses in Brooklyn; Baruch, Polo Grounds, Taft, and Lillian Wald Houses in Manhattan; Astoria, Pomonok, and Woodside Houses in Queens; and South Beach and Todt Hill Houses in Staten Island.

This program could not have occurred without the support of the 50+ **Community Liaisons** – NYCHA residents who served as ambassadors of our program at each site.

Our gratitude also extends to our **community partners** – organizations that are embedded within the communities we engaged with, and that are committed to these communities' long-term wellbeing. We thank the following community partners for sharing their space and resources: Abrons Art Center, Center for Court Innovation - Neighborhood Safety Initiatives, DYCD Cornerstone, Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee, Joan & Alan Berkinow JCC of Staten Island, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, Moore Jackson Community Garden, Office

of Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, PAL Cornerstone, Pioneer Works, PS15 The Patrick F. Daly Magnet School of the Arts, Queens Community House, Ramon Velez Health Center, Red Hook Art Project, Red Hook Initiative, Save Our Streets, UJA Federation of New York, United Activities Unlimited Inc., University Settlement, William Cullen Bryant High School, and Woodside Senior Center.

So many of the community connections we made were supported by an incredible team of **Program Fellows**. They carried the administrative aspects of so many of our art workshops, art production and installation, and helped to steward our artists through each stage of their commitment to our program. A million thanks go to Myasia Mack, Claudia Maturell, Alexandra Shoneyin, and Patience Williams.

We thank the staff at **The Clemente Soto Velez Cultural & Educational Center** for supporting our exhibition of Present Power/Future Hopes. Thanks go to Libertad Guerra, Sofia



Reeser del Rio, Victoria R. Collins, Claudia Cortinez, Andrea Gordillo, Danny Rodriguez, Tal Sharon, Natasha Velez, and the numerous other staff members who helped us access the space, hold our programs, and install our artworks!

*Present Power/Future Hopes* developed from the vision and dedication of ArtBridge Board President and artist, Manjari Sharma. Her passion and belief in our programs, not to mention her own artistic sensibilities, greatly contributed to the design and conception of our exhibition.

We'd like to offer a special thank you to the following **individuals** for their partnership and support: Betty Bernhardt, Catherine McBride, and Keyon Slade from Red Hook Initiative; Jacqueline Coston and Marisa Prefer from Pioneer Works; Tiffiney Davis and Massah Fofana from Red Hook Art Project; and John Blasco from the Office of Assemblymember Harvey Epstein.

Additional thanks go to Isabel Hamdan, Ting Lin, and Giovannah Philippeaux who were instrumental in our communications strategy for this program.

#### **ArtBridge Staff**

Stephen Pierson, Executive Director  
Jon Souza, Program Director  
Rebecca Pristoop, Curator & Senior Program Manager  
Afshan Bokhari, Development Director  
Sara Sarmiento, Administrative Manager and Designer

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Michael Royce  
Eric Van Speights  
Charle Webb

## Support

Funding for sites represented in this book came from New York City's City Artist Corps initiative, via the Mayor's Office and the Department of Cultural Affairs. However, our Bridging the Divide Program (which existed prior to City Artist Corps, and which is ongoing) exists because of the generous support of the following foundations and individuals:

The National Endowment of the Arts  
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Lois Herzeca  
Jordanna Polis  
Benjamin Pierson  
Robert Shapiro  
Zach Stern



## About ArtBridge

Founded in 2008 by artist and designer Rodney Durso, ArtBridge empowers emerging artists to transform prominent urban spaces by turning street-level construction fencing and scaffolding into canvases for art. ArtBridge works with communities and artists to develop large-scale art exhibitions that represent local narratives and cultures, focusing especially on amplifying voices that have been historically marginalized. ArtBridge's outdoor exhibitions

have provided unprecedented exposure for hundreds of artists, and have covered more than 100,000 square feet of public space.

### **About Bridging the Divide**

Bridging the Divide is a series of ongoing artist residencies at NYCHA developments throughout New York City.

Through this program, artists engage with local residents through a variety of workshops and create artworks that empower residential narratives. The resulting artworks are transformed into large-scale public art, displayed on the construction fencing that surrounds the NYCHA sites.

### **About City Artist Corps**

Announced in May 2021, the New York City Artist Corps was a historic investment in artists by the City of New York. The \$25 million program was created to provide relief to the City's hard-hit arts community and reinvigorate arts and culture as part of the City's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to giving New Yorkers opportunities to experience a diverse range of free cultural programming across the boroughs, City Artist Corps ensured that more than 3,000 working artists were supported in their own right, recognizing their labor as critical to the City's recovery. Through a number of partners, City Artist Corps provided thousands of grants and support to artists in all disciplines across New York City.

### **About City Canvas**

Announced in September 2018, City Canvas allows nonprofits to install large-scale, temporary artwork on

protective construction structures — namely construction fences and sheds — throughout the five boroughs. A 48-month pilot program, City Canvas is a collaboration between NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the Office of the Mayor, and the NYC Department of Buildings designed to improve the city's visual landscape, while giving artists and organizations opportunities to bring their work to public space.

### **Photography Credits**

Collin Erickson: pp. 12, 18, 23

Zachary Fabri: p. 55

Erika Fujiyama: pp. 5, 44, 47, 104, 105

Paul Katcher: pp. 14-15, 26-27, 44-45, 48, 64, 68, 70-71, 99, 100, 108

Lloyd McCullough: pp. facing title page, 79, 84, 86, 87, 92

Destiny Mata: pp. 3, 8-9, 50-51, 101, 106, 107

Jordan Rathkopf: pp. 2, 24, 27, 31, 36, 41

The headshot of George Torres Jr. on p. 53 features the artwork of Camacho the Artist.





Tuesday  
Friday  
9:30am - 11am  
→

Coraima Santana, *Resilient*, Taft Houses





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