

An abstract painting with a dense, layered composition of colors and textures. The palette includes vibrant greens, yellows, blues, reds, oranges, and purples, set against a dark, almost black background. The brushstrokes are thick and expressive, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and creative exploration.

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

THERE ARE  
NO MISTAKES  
IN ART.



**In 2022, thanks to your support, Free Arts NYC continued its mission of increasing arts access and mentorship in underserved communities.**

This year, 2,000 young people received art supplies, workshops, mentorships, internships, and connections to the arts economy. Testimonials from our students confirm that these activities have increased their feelings of creativity and confidence. Feedback from our community partners reveals that Free Arts NYC has opened doors, positioning these youth with the skills to succeed in our changing world.

Our DEI work continues to foster equitable representation in arts sectors through active outreach, tangible support, improved accessibility, and the removal of financial barriers to participation. We also re-commit to ongoing cultural competency training for our staff, board, volunteers, and mentors, as well as intentional representation in leadership.

The past few years presented complex challenges for all, but together we rose to the occasion. We are extremely grateful to the artists, volunteers, mentors, donors, and partners who make our work possible.

Free Arts NYC believes our city will continue to produce the most exciting artists on the planet, and we're moving into 2023 poised to support these young people as creators, individuals, and the thought-leaders of the future.

Warmly,

**Liz Hopfan**  
Executive Director

## **IN OUR 25TH YEAR, OUR COMMITMENT IS TO...**

**BUILD** new relationships with artists, mentors, and partners

**ADD** new skill-building workshops including Web3 and Art Law

**PAIR** college students with mentors to support student success

**LAUNCH** the “Futura for the Future Scholarship Program,” thanks to a generous gift from Lenny McGurr, aka Futura

**INCREASE** the number of in-person Free Arts Days for elementary-aged youth with a focus on summer and school holidays while including more artist engagement

**REDESIGN** our website to highlight our programming, supporters and showcase our young people and their work

**WELCOME** people in our newly designed and updated office space

**DEVELOP** a set of recommendations and guidelines to create a more inclusive board that reflects our community

**FREE ARTS NYC EMPOWERS YOUTH FROM UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES THROUGH ART + MENTORING PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP THEIR CREATIVITY, CONFIDENCE, + SKILLS TO SUCCEED.**

Our program offers personalized, long-term 1-on-1 mentoring for students ages 13-21 to explore the arts academically and professionally.



Guggenheim Museum: Gillian Wearing

96 TEENS + 96 MENTORS SPENT 70-128 HOURS BUILDING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS THROUGH:

**PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT**

Teens and mentors research prospective schools, develop a visual arts portfolio, and prepare for the rigorous application, interview, and audition process.

**CREATIVE LAB**

Youth and mentor pairs meet bi-monthly, to visit artists' studios, museums, creative companies, and participate in professional development workshops.

**INTERNSHIPS**

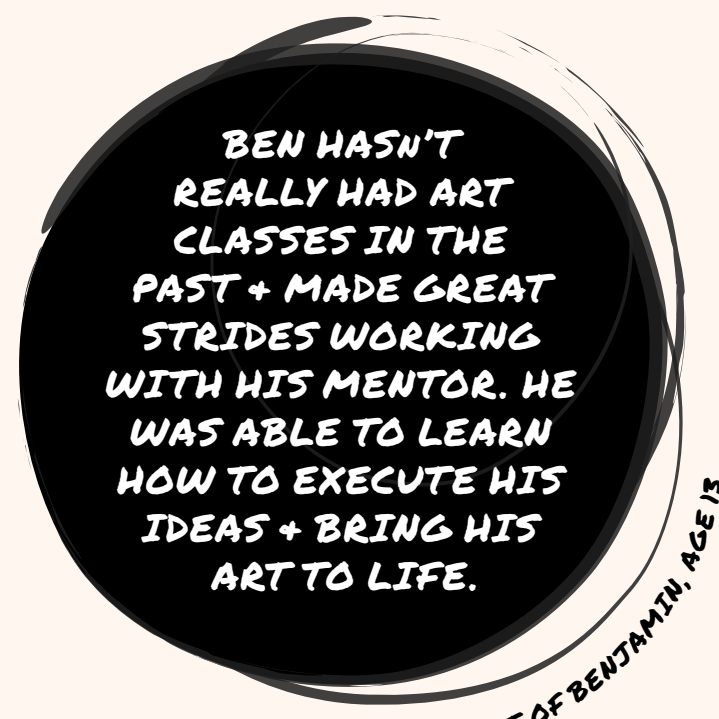
High school and college students earn paid internships hosted by creative companies.

TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION IS EQUITABLE, FREE ARTS SUBSIDIZES TRANSPORTATION COSTS PROVIDES EQUIPMENT, MEALS, + STIPENDS FOR ART SUPPLIES.

High-quality, high-impact, transformative programs through art and mentorship.

Art education and 1-on-1 mentorship has a proven, long-lasting impact on high school retention and graduation rates, college admissions, and future career success.

- PARTICIPANTS IN OUR PROGRAM WERE ACCEPTED TO + ATTEND:**
- Colleges:** FIT, Baruch College, Mercy College, Hunter College, SUNY Plattsburgh, NYU, City College, University of Wisconsin, Bard College, Howard University, BMCC, & Brooklyn Community College, Cornell University, The Fashion Institute of Technology, City College of New York, SVA, The State University of New York at Albany, Hunter College, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY Lehman College, Queens College, New York City College of Technology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Marymount Manhattan College
- High Schools:** High School of Fashion Industries, Albert Shanker School for Visual & Performing Arts, Millennium Art Academy, Pelham Lab, Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health & Science Charter School, Art & Design High School, Abraham Lincoln High, LaGuardia High School
- Middle Schools:** Mott Hall II, Central Park East, Albert Shanker School for Visual & Performing Arts, Graham Windham, Achievement First Apollo Middle Charter School, Dream Charter School



KAY W., PARENT OF BENJAMIN, AGE 13

- 100% ACCEPTED TO A SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE
- 100% DEMONSTRATED GAINS IN POSITIVE SELF-ESTEEM + SELF-MANAGEMENT
- 100% FELT SUPPORTED + MOTIVATED BY THEIR MENTORS
- 95% EMPLOYED IN THEIR FIRST PAID INTERNSHIP
- 87% INCREASED SOCIAL CAPITAL VIA POSITIVE BONDS WITH PEERS + INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS



7th and 11th graders spend 90+ hours building their professional arts portfolio, researching art high schools or colleges, preparing for submission, interview, and audition processes with their mentors, and are supported through a guided application process.



Armory Show



Tour of Sleep To Dream with Shaniqwa Jarvis

**STUDIO VISITS + FIELD TRIPS**

- Armory Show
- Jeff Koons
- Melissa Joseph
- Nada Art Fair
- Shaniqwa Jarvis
- Kapp Kapp Gallery
- Anna Zorina Gallery
- Spring Break Art Fair
- Independent Art Fair
- National Portfolio Day
- Artist Talk with Angel Otero at Hauser & Wirth
- Artist Talk with Julian Schnabel at The Brant Foundation

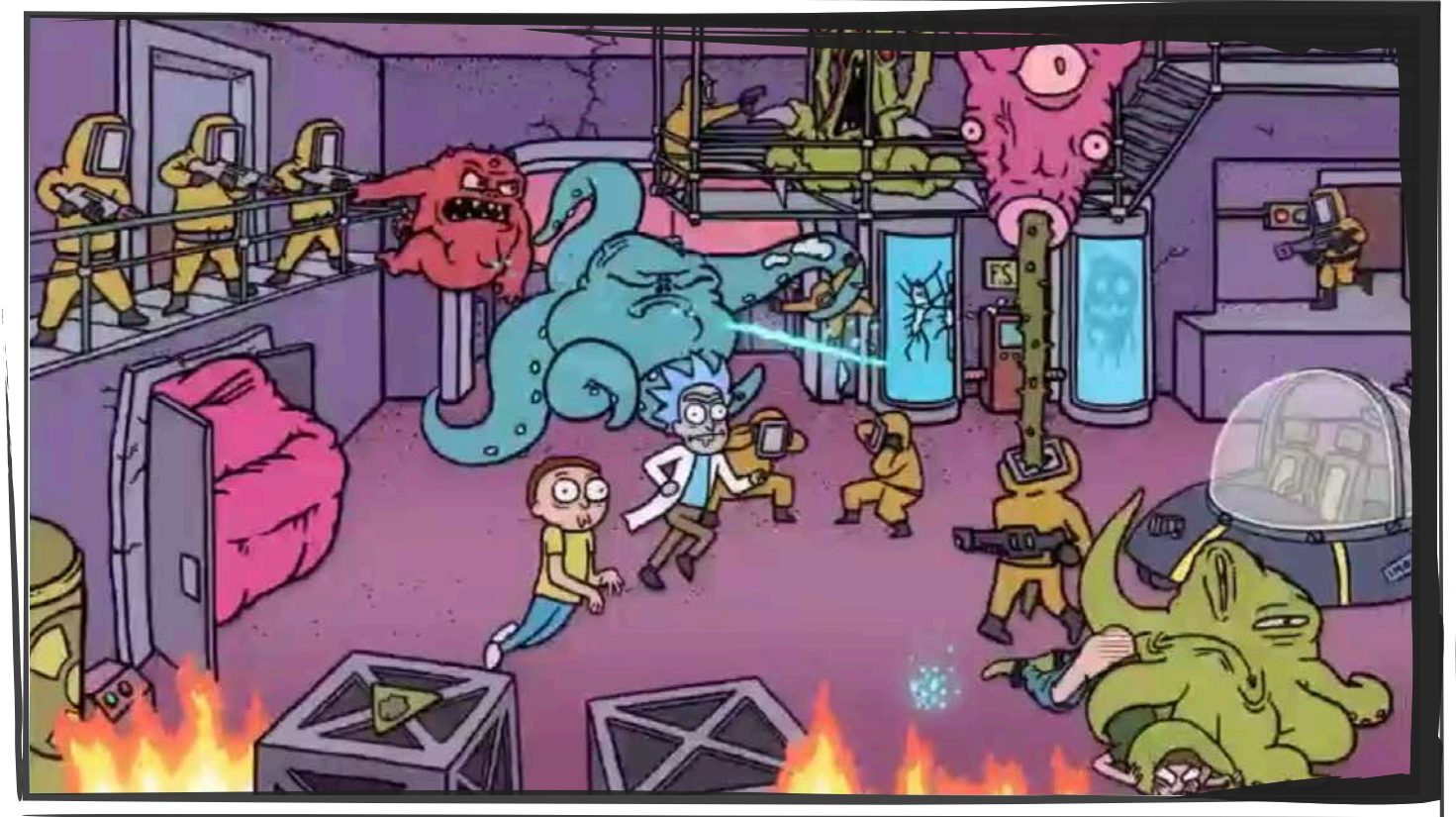
**WORKSHOPS**

- Framing with Michael Kondel
- Still Life & Figure Drawing with Katie Almirall
- Application & School Choices
- Slideroom Submissions
- Photographing & Presenting Artwork

**THIS PIECE COMBINES THE ART OF MULTIPLE EXTRUDING LIMBS WITHIN SOME OF THE DEITIES IN DESI CULTURE WITH THE NATURAL HAND MOVEMENTS NOT TYPICALLY SEEN IN WESTERN CULTURE.**

YEASTIN, AGE 17

We introduce students to careers they dream about and others they didn't know existed while providing opportunities that show how their creativity and talent can be transformed into career paths.



Slide from Animation Workshop with Titmouse

**MY MENTOR IS AN INSPIRATION TO ME. THEY SPECIALIZE IN UI DESIGN + MEDIA ADVERTISING—THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE. THE TITMOUSE COMPANY VISIT WAS ALSO REALLY INSPIRING AS I'D LOVE TO WORK ON A SHOW IN THE FUTURE.**

CHRIS, AGE 17

**COMPANY VISITS**

- PepsiCo
- Titmouse
- 1stDibs
- Bustle
- Equity by Design
- Maharam
- Calvin Klein
- Tiffany & Co.
- Snap Inc.

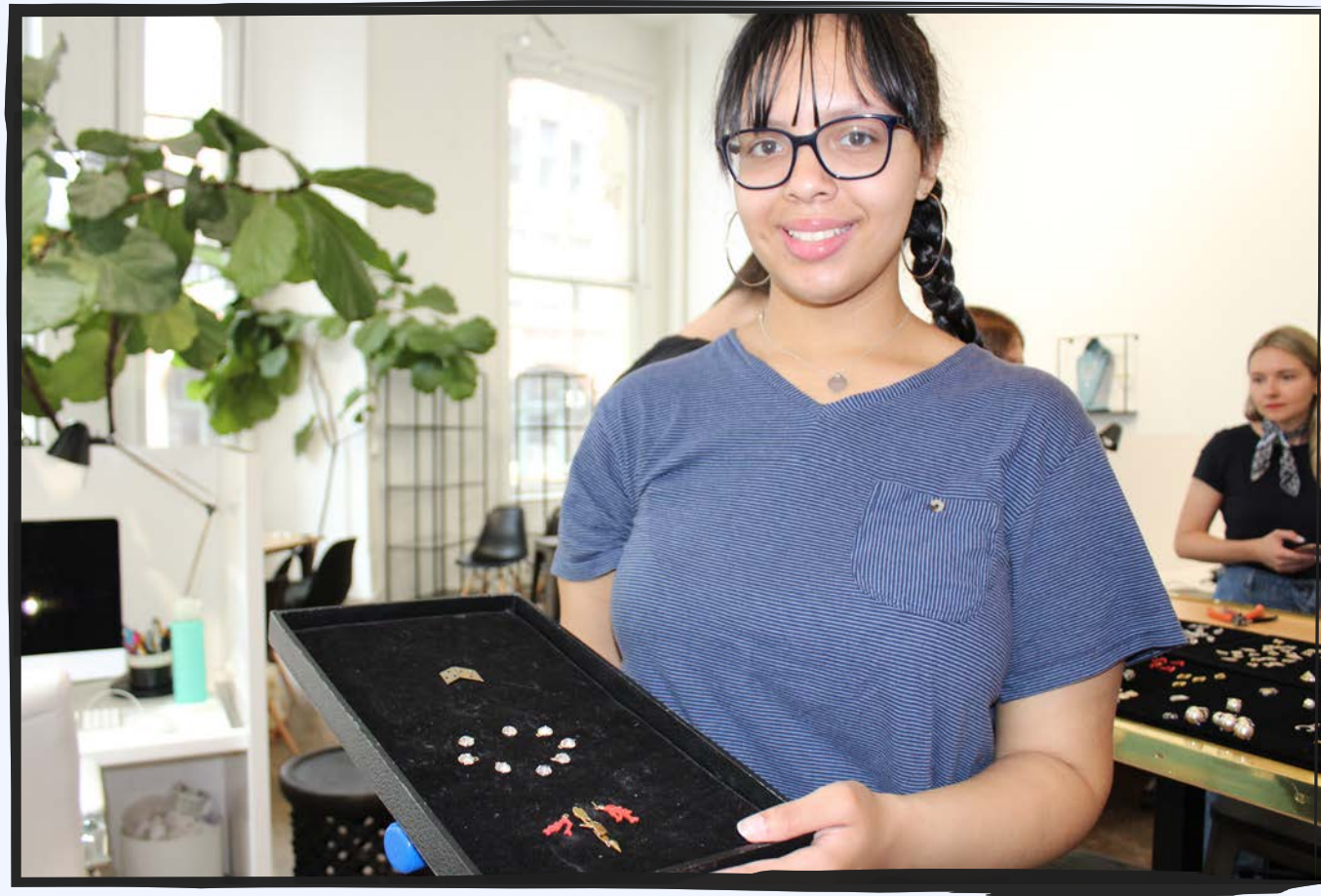
**WORKSHOPS**

- Networking & Resume Writing
- Financial Literacy
- Mock Interviews
- Applying for Scholarships & Grants
- Marketing Your Work
- Building An Online Presence

**9TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS SPEND 500+ HOURS LEARNING ABOUT NYC'S VIBRANT CREATIVE SECTOR!**



We expanded our Internship Program to create year-round opportunities for high school and college-aged students with **71 paid internships at 35 companies**, building social capital and career readiness skills.



Nashalae joined Free Arts NYC in 2018. On a visit to Paramount during Creative Career Week, she was inspired to learn that employees in the Integrated Marketing department held varying degrees. She realized she could explore all of her interests without being deterred from her eventual career goal. She is now studying advertising, communications and fashion, and writing for the school's online magazine.



**Elite DAILY**  
FASHION  
Ferrari Debuted Its First RTW Clothing Line — But Not Everyone Was Happy  
Some Instagram users claimed a few of the brand's designs were pretty similar to those of other designers.  
BY NASHALAE MARTIN  
JUNE 22, 2021

**MIKI HIGASA, FOUNDER + PRESIDENT, KALEIDOSCOPE CONSULTING**

**SHE'S A ROCKSTAR + WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OFFERING HER A PERMANENT POSITION AFTER SHE GRADUATES.**

- WORKSHOPS**
- Financial Literacy
  - Careers in the Arts
  - Google Suite & Data Entry
  - Logo Design in Illustrator
  - Cover Letter Writing
  - Pitch Perfect
  - Pricing Your Work
  - Building an Online Presence
  - Applying for Scholarships & Grants

Shelby joined Free Arts NYC when she was 17 and was paired with a mentor who helped her build her portfolio, explore creative career options and navigate the college process. After graduating from The High School of Fashion Industries, she continued her studies at SUNY Plattsburgh, maintaining active participation in our Internship Program. After attending a learning pod with Blueprint NYC in 2020, she returned as their Communications Intern this summer and received a **JOB OFFER!**

Since 2020, Nashalae has interned at Bustle, Orchard Street Ventures and Elite Daily. This spring she began an internship at Kaleidoscope Consulting where **she's thriving!** Nashalae is graduating from the Fashion Institute of Technology next year. Her plan is to work for a few years before applying to attend Polimoda in Florence, Italy, to obtain her Master's Degree in Fashion Trend Forecasting.



The Free Arts Day Program introduces children, ages 6-12, to artists, art movements, styles and materials. This year we worked with **1,800 children** through:

**FREE ARTS DAYS**

pair children 1:1 with a volunteer mentor for an afternoon of art making and “mini mentoring.” Themes this year centered around Community and Change with projects inspired by **Cristina Iglesias, Faith Ringgold** and **Futura** among others. After a two and half year hiatus, we were thrilled to host **14 in-person events** with **425 volunteers** and **500 children**.

**VIRTUAL FREE ARTS DAYS**

were developed during COVID and continued through the first half of 2022. Art supplies were sent to our community partners and over **200 children** participated from their classrooms across **46 events**, and **3 workshops** with **The Neon Tea Party**.

**ART KITS + FUN CARDS**

are inspired by a variety of artists including **Derrick Adams, Devin Troy Strother** and **Nina Chanel Abney**. In partnership with **Supplies for Success** we sent **3,400 art kits** and **1,800 backpacks** to youth to ensure they were able to have continued access to art making. 50% of these students are living in transitional housing.

**FAD STUDIOS**

are bi-monthly, skill-based workshops for elementary age students who show a deeper interest in art and a way to transition into the Teen Arts Program. The group visited **Journal Gallery with Marcus Leslie Singleton**, enjoyed a workshop with **Dionis Ortiz**, and worked with **Art Random** on a collaborative project designed around the art we see everyday.

**MATERIALS ARE PUBLISHED IN SPANISH, FRENCH, CHINESE, + ARABIC TO SERVE AS MANY CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE.**

**Additional Featured Artists:** Cecile Chong, Firelei Baez, Guimi You, Hisham Echafaki, Jen Stark, Jessie Bearden Maxwell, JooYoung Choi, Karla and James Murray, Marcos Chin, Maya Lin, Nettrice Gaskins, Nick Cave, Song Dong, Suchitra Mattai, Takashi Murakami, Yayoi Kusama





**We are dedicated to supporting the next generation of young artists. Participants are invited to exhibit their creative work in our Annual Youth Showcase, hosted by Sotheby's.**



**WHEN MAKING THIS, I WAS HAPPY + I HAD A REFERENCE I LIKED + I STARTED PAINTING. THERE WASN'T A RUSH. I'M HAPPY BECAUSE I MADE IT + IT'S MINE.**

*PAOLA, AGE 16, 11TH GRADE*



A core pillar of our program is to address the lack of equity in the arts by providing access and opportunities into a wide variety of creative paths. The experience youth gain through exhibiting their work at such an esteemed cultural institution empowers them to showcase their talent and build confidence.



**I MADE THIS BEAUTIFUL ART PIECE BECAUSE I LIKE DRAWING. THE ART PIECE IS \$5.99.**

*GISELLE, 5TH GRADE*





**This Year 40 Corporate Partners & Over 1,200 Employees Championed:**

- 14 FREE ARTS DAYS
- 45 ART PARTIES TO PACK ARE KITS + PREP MATERIALS
- 9 COMPANY VISITS + RESUME WRITING WORKSHOPS FOR OUR TEENS
- PRO BONO ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSLATIONS, LEGAL + HR SUPPORT
- SUPPLY DRIVES

These opportunities create meaningful connections amongst employees and within the community by offering ways to continue to give back in support of the next generation.



We are inspired by the brands and creatives who align with our mission through partnerships and love highlighting the generosity of our community that nurtures creativity and helps lift up the next generation of artists.

**THE ATHLETIC CLUB / NYRR MARATHON**



The Athletic Club & Team Free Arts NYC raised over \$100,000 through the NYRR Marathon

**PARTNERS**

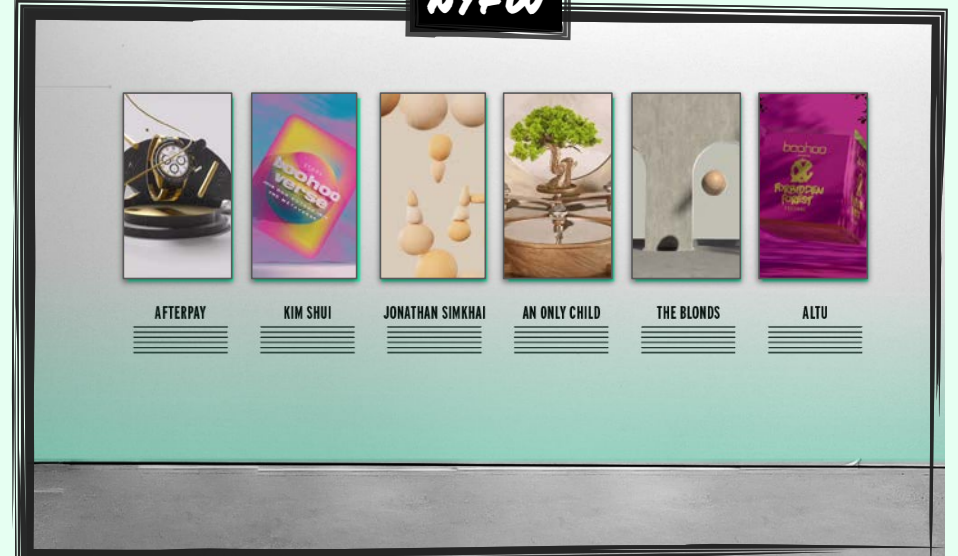
- Art Random
- Artspace
- BLICK
- ICNCLST
- Madison Square Park Conservancy
- MasterClass
- Neon Tea Party
- Party Horses
- Phaidon
- Renna Jewels
- Sotheby's
- Supplies for Success
- Vistaprint

**ARTSPACE + PHAIDON**



Devin Troy Strother released a print series with Artspace & Phaidon benefiting Free Arts NYC

**NYFW**



5 designers released NFT Keys to NYFW and donated proceeds of \$20,000



Our incredible community raised a record 1.2 million dollars honoring FUTURA and presented by long-time supporter, Marc Jacobs.



The evening began with cocktails and music by **Matthew Jamal**. **Jeremiah Stone** and **Fabián vonHauske** of **Contra & Wildair** served dinner on tables adorned with florals by **Field Studies Flora**. Board member, **Sky Gellatly** gave a toast ahead of the live auction—guests clinked glasses of Johnnie Walker Blue Label and proceeded to pledge an unprecedented amount of support towards making the art world a more equitable space.



**ARTISTS**

- Marina Adams
- Charlie Ahearn
- Daniel Arsham
- Ana Benaroya
- Katherine Bradford
- Ernesto Burgos
- Harry Chadha
- Henry Chalfant
- Julia Chiang
- Jake Clark
- Oliver Clegg
- Ethan Cook
- Martha Cooper
- Will Cotton
- DAZE
- Erik den Breejen
- Jane Dickson
- Enivo
- Sam Friedman
- Othelo Gervacio
- Keith Haring
- Eric Haze
- Todd James
- Shaniqwa Jarvis
- Peter Joseph
- Alex Katz
- KAWS
- Kimia Kline
- Hein Koh
- Curtis Kulig
- Shantell Martin
- Eddie Martinez
- Jo Messer
- Erik Parker
- José Parlá
- Lee Quinones
- Josh Reames
- Ed Ruscha
- André Saraiva
- Julian Schnabel
- Marcus Leslie Singleton
- Stash
- Brent Wadden
- Jonas Wood
- 13thWitness

**PARTNERS**

- Artsy
- Candywagon
- Eric Firestone Gallery
- GRIMM
- ICNCLST
- iD Magazine +
- Alastair McKimm
- Johnnie Walker
- Noguchi Museum
- No More Rulers
- Supreme
- Vistaprint
- YSDS



I LEARNED OF FREE ARTS FROM MY OLDER SISTER. SHE SHARED HER EXPERIENCES WITH ME + I WANTED TO BE A PART OF THAT TOO. FREE ARTS HAS BROUGHT A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN MY LIFE; I STARTED SEEING MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAT NEEDED TO BE DONE. I VIEWED LIFE LIKE TIME, + IT COULDN'T BE WASTED— I HAD TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

EDITH GONZALEZ

Credit: Photographer, Casey Kelbaugh  
Workshop with FUTURA & Marc Jacobs at ICNCLST



1st Dibs  
 AEO Foundation  
 Alliance Bernstein  
 American Eagle  
 Arison Arts Foundation  
 Away  
 Beyond The Streets  
 Blick Art Materials  
 Bloomberg Philanthropies  
 Bluestone Lane  
 BNP Paribas  
 Bonobos  
 Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation  
 Calvin Klein  
 Capital One  
 Christie's  
 Churchill Family Fund  
 Citi  
 Coach Foundation  
 Daily Harvest  
 Deutsche Bank  
 Edward & Verna Gerbic Family Foundation  
 Endeavor  
 EP Engineering  
 Evoke Kyne  
 First Republic  
 Ford Foundation  
 Fortune Media  
 Gerson Lehrman Group  
 Goldman Sachs  
 Goodwin Procter LLP  
 Joy of Giving Something  
 Kohl's  
 Laura B. Vogler Foundation  
 Leroy Neiman & Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation  
 MasterClass  
 McKinsey  
 Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation  
 MoMa  
 Mostyn Foundation  
 Muna & Basem Hishmeh Foundation  
 National Endowment for the Arts  
 NBC Universal  
 New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
 New York State Council on the Arts  
 Paramount  
 PitchBook  
 Plus Magazine  
 PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
 Publicis Health  
 Ralph Lauren  
 Renna Jewels  
 Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust  
 Salesforce  
 Sony Corporation of America  
 Sotheby's

Supplies for Success  
 TD Bank Charitable Foundation  
 The Brant Foundation Inc.  
 The James B. Mitzner Foundation  
 The Knot Worldwide  
 Theodore Eckert Foundation  
 The Richard & Natalie Jacoff Foundation  
 The Ruth Stanton Foundation  
 Tiffany & Co.  
 UBS  
 Wilson Sonsini

**INTERNSHIP +  
 LEARNING POD PARTNERS**

ABDB Designs  
 Alvin Ailey  
 Anne James New York  
 Aperture Foundation  
 Artnet  
 Artnoir  
 Blueprint NYC  
 Bustle  
 Canvas NYC  
 Carnegie Hall  
 Catbird  
 Conrad Hotel  
 Creative Time  
 Derek Fordjour Studios  
 Dragon Rouge  
 Eddie Martinez Studios  
 Elliott Berman Textiles  
 Equity Through Design  
 Framestore  
 Gramercy Design  
 Harboring Hearts  
 Jen Lewin Studios  
 Kaleidoscope Consulting Inc.  
 Kehinde Wiley Studio  
 LGDR Gallery  
 Maharam Studios  
 Masc Hospitality Group  
 Mendes Wood DM Gallery  
 NoMAA  
 PepsiCo  
 Resnicow & Associates  
 Room57 Gallery  
 Sotheby's  
 Stitchroom  
 Studio Museum of Harlem  
 Tariku Shiferaw Studios  
 The Winter Show  
 Vilcek Foundation  
 White Columns Gallery

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**Melissa Levinsohn** Grant Writer  
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**Raquel Friedman Vargas** Chief of Staff  
**Sarah Thirkield** Finance & Operations  
 Associate  
**Zatara McIntyre** Senior Manager,  
 Internships & Alumni, (Interim Director  
 of Programs)

*Free Arts is striving to ensure that staff and leadership are reflective of our community. As a result, of the staff members who participated in a survey, 15% identified as Hispanic/Latinx/e, 7% identified as Asian/South Asian, Black/African-American, Middle Eastern or chose not to identify, and 38% of staff members spoke at least one language beyond English. In addition, 7% are non-binary and 30% of staff identify as part of the LGBTQIA community. 15% members have a disability/diversability.*

**DONATE NOW**





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