



ANNUAL REPORT
2023





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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with deep gratitude and immense pride that we present 651 ARTS' first ever Annual Report!

We are grateful for the opportunity to report to our community of stakeholders and supporters our activities, metrics, and outcomes for FY23. As 651 ARTS' newest leader, it has been a year of listening, learning, and leaning into growth. In the last year, 651 ARTS has reengaged its community through creative partnerships that played a pivotal role in our return to in-person programming. As a result of these strategic collaborations, we persisted in highlighting the work of Black artists across disciplines and built community relationships that will sustain us as we prepare to move into our new home in downtown Brooklyn!

Throughout the year, we hosted a series of transformative events that brought our community together, sparking meaningful conversations and inspiring artistic exploration.

Kendra J. Ross' *Portals: Traversing Black Continuums* engaged audiences through a multi-disciplinary dance work that examined everyday items in our lives as portals oscillating between Black past, present and Afro-future.

Our inaugural ***Song Salon*** series, held every Thursday in May, invited audiences into the artistic process, through intimate performances and conversations with talented artists like **Jordyn Davis, Terron Austin, Candice Hoyes, and Nicholas Ryan Gant**. These evenings not only showcased exceptional talent but also fostered a sense of connection and dialogue among attendees.

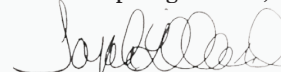
Finally, our Third Annual Juneteenth celebration, ***We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth***, was a resounding success, celebrating the abundance of Black cultural contributions and traditions. With activities ranging from the "Made Black: a Juneteenth Market" to the "Melanated Notes" spoken word session and the powerful "Stoop Sessions: Freedom Songs", the event created a space for joy, reflection and community engagement.

The breadth and diversity represented by our programming this year set the stage for our continued investment in Black creative expression across disciplines as we look to expand our footprint and offerings in 2024.

With the implementation of our 3 year strategic plan, we launched a \$2.7M *Home Campaign* in Fall 2022 to energize our stakeholders; underwrite FF&E needs for the new space; and establish an operating fund to bridge the gap between increased operating expenses and growing contributed revenue over our first five years in the building. In addition, 651 ARTS received significant funding increases from **Howard Gilman Foundation** and **Mertz Gilmore Foundation**, new funding from **Booth Ferris Foundation**, and received our first **NEA** grant in several years.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering dedication to 651 ARTS. Your support has made a tangible impact on our ability to uplift and celebrate Black arts and culture in Brooklyn. We look forward to your continued partnership as we embark on an exciting journey of growth and artistic development.

With deepest gratitude,



Toya Lillard
Executive Director
651 ARTS





introduction

651 ARTS is a 35-year old dynamic and visionary organization dedicated to showcasing and uplifting Black arts and culture with a mission rooted in inclusivity, cultural preservation, and artistic excellence.

651 ARTS creates spaces for transformative experiences, community engagement, and meaningful dialogue. Through a range of programming, from thought-provoking conversations and immersive theater experiences to community-centered events and collaborations, 651 ARTS amplifies the voices and contributions of Black artists, fostering a stronger and more vibrant artistic landscape. Guided by a commitment to partnerships and collaboration, our organization forges connections with like-minded organizations and artists, combining resources to maximize impact and create innovative artistic experiences. As a catalyst for creativity and cultural expression, 651 ARTS inspires audiences, engages communities, and celebrates the rich tapestry of Black arts and culture in Brooklyn and beyond.

our guiding principles

OUR MISSION

651 ARTS deepens the awareness of and appreciation for contemporary performing arts and culture of the African Diaspora, and provides professional and creative opportunities for performing artists of African descent. 651 ARTS presents live dance, music, and theater events in venues throughout Brooklyn, producing programming for our immediate community and the general public to participate in intergenerational lifelong learning, civic, and social engagement through meaningful exposure to art, artists, and ideas.

OUR VISION

To be a leading institution in the performing arts ecology that illuminates the evolving stories and varied cultural experiences of the African Diaspora, an institution whose impact and influence transforms individual lives, neighborhoods, and global communities.



our guiding principles CONT.

6

VALUES

Diverse African
Diaspora

Artistic
Excellence

Knowledge

Integrity

Community

Strategic Risk



5

ACTIONS

Produce

Present

Partner

Educate

Incubate



1

HOME

To serve as a haven for Black artists and creators passionately dedicated to nurturing and showcasing their talents; to champion, celebrate and elevate Black artistry, innovation and expression.



A photograph of a woman with curly hair singing into a microphone, with a man playing a keyboard in the background. The scene is lit with purple and blue stage lights. The text "our programming" is overlaid in white serif font.

our
programming

programming overview

Centered around the concept of *liminal spaces* (a metaphorical, physical or emotional place a person is in during a transitional period), this season's programming explored how these spaces have historically acted as a conduit to imagine and create more sustainable futures for Black people worldwide, offering an opportunity to think – individually and collectively – about **how we will show up in the future that we imagine.**

The season marked two very important milestones for 651, as we look toward celebrating our 35th Anniversary and preparing for the grand opening of our first-ever

permanent home located in the heart of downtown Brooklyn in Fall/Winter 2023.

Over the past year, 651 ARTS has continued to curate and present a series of impactful events and programming, spanning Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. These offerings showcased the diversity of Black arts and culture, fostering community engagement, creative exploration, and meaningful conversations.

↑ **401.34%**
ATTENDANCE GROWTH (YOY)



performing an afro future

Location:
The Center
for Fiction

In our fall season opener, we presented *Performing an Afro Future*, an engaging and thought-provoking conversation that featured a panel of esteemed artists and theater-makers. The event delved deep into the exploration of creative cartography and the envisioning of Afro futures. Our aim was to invite the audience to join us in contemplating and imagining the future of Black arts.

The panel consisted of accomplished musicians and artists, including **Martha Redbone**, a multi-award-winning musician, **Nicholas Ryan Gant** (also known as Ghetto Falsetto), a talented singer-songwriter and educator, **MX OOPs**, a multimedia performance artist, and **Alisha B. Wormsley**, an interdisciplinary artist and cultural producer. Together, they embarked on a collective journey to conceive, refine, and define how Black art can play a significant role in charting a path toward liberation.

Performing an Afro Future provided a platform for deep reflection, inspiring conversations, and the exploration of innovative ideas. Through the insights and experiences shared by the panelists, the event stimulated a broader dialogue on the power and potential of Black art in shaping a more inclusive and liberated future.



verses at work by malik work

Location:
The Mark
O' Donnell Theater

Verses at Work was a captivating hip hop theater production from **Malik Work**, a New York City-based hip hop artist, actor, and writer, who has poured his heart and soul into sharing a piece of his story intertwined with the history of NYC. The performance documented and testified to the birth of a music scene in the East Village, where hip hop and conventional jazz musicians joined forces to create a groundbreaking sound and scene during the turn of the millennium. Love, race, money, class, and struggle all converged behind the scenes, encapsulated by the band they formed: The Real Live Show.

Through a masterful blend of verse, spoken word, monologue, hip hop, and documentary elements, *Verses At Work* moved the audience to laughter and tears, simultaneously inspiring and educating.



towards a generative theater: works in progress

Location:
Weeksville
Heritage Center

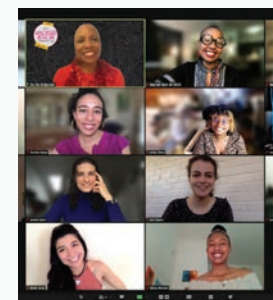
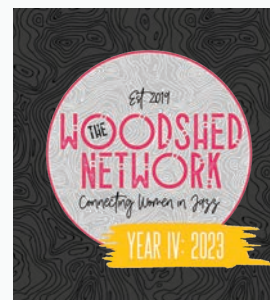
What does it really take to build a dynamic home for contemporary multi-disciplinary Black generative theater artists, critics, scholars, and audiences? Presented by 651 ARTS, in partnership with **Weeksville Heritage Center** and in collaboration with our Black Seed Grant recipients **April Matthis**, **Eric Lockley** and **Goldie Patrick** (The Black Seed cohort), *Towards a Generative Theater* presented excerpts of these artists' works currently in development and discussed their unique careers and art-making practices, while defining generative theater and presentation within Black spaces.

The presentation of these works was followed by a panel conversation featuring The Black Seed cohort, **Vinson Cunningham** (staff writer and theatre critic at *The New Yorker*), **Lindsay A. Jenkins** (culture consultant, dramaturg, producer and educator) and **Robyne Walker Murphy** as moderator.



the woodshed network: connecting women in jazz

The Woodshed Network (TWN), led by NEA Jazz Master and music legend **Dee Dee Bridgewater** and co-artistic director **Tulani Bridgewater-Kowalski**, returned in Spring 2023 marking the program's fourth year. *TWN* program was conceived as a mentorship and career accelerator program for emerging self-identifying women artists in Jazz through mentorship, knowledge-sharing, community interaction, professional development sessions and networking. *TWN* is a legacy program with deep roots in 651 and embodying the 651 values of cultivating artists and community.



3 RITES: roots party zine release

Location:
Bed-Stuy Art House

Edisa Weeks' popular Roots Party was an interactive making and conversation space where audiences were invited to join the multi-disciplinary artist in her journey of making 1,865 roots out of paper and twine for the performance installation, **3 RITES: Liberty**. During the Roots Party people were welcomed to come and go as they pleased, make roots, and enjoy a meal. The Roots Party included the release of the first Zine in a series of **3 RITES** Zines.

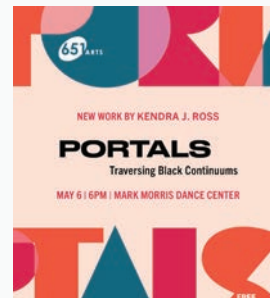
The **3 RITES** Zines document the development of **DELIRIOUS Dances** /Edisa Weeks' **3 RITES: Life, Liberty, Happiness** project, a trilogy featuring three interactive performance rituals that integrate dance, live music, text, visual installations, community discussions and shared meals to humorously and poignantly interrogate why life, liberty and happiness were included as unalienable rights in the United States Declaration of Independence. **3 RITES** explores what the right to life, liberty, and happiness means today, who has access to these rights, and how they manifest in the body.



kendra j. ross' portals: traversing black continuums

Location:
**Mark Morris
Dance Center**

A multi-sensory journey through time, space, generations, and dimensions, this work-in-progress multi-disciplinary dance work examined everyday items in our lives that serve as portals to oscillate between Black past, present, and the Afro-future. Using her Sankofic praxis—process inspired by the Ghanaian Akan term of looking back in order to understand how to intentionally move forward—**Kendra J. Ross** delved into individual and communal experiences of items that transported us across generations. Inspired by a range of portals like candy, salt, and Crown Royal Bags, audiences took a site-informed journey through space as we collectively uncovered our traditions as fuel to navigate our current societal conditions and plan for what was next. Guests and performers came together to experience and share this collectively-created Black Time Capsule formed with movement, text, and dialogue.



song salon

Location:
**The Billie Holiday
Theatre**

The *Song Salon* was a captivating event series presented by 651 ARTS in partnership with **The Billie Holiday Theatre**. Held every Thursday in May, each event featured intimate performances and conversations with artists that offered audiences a glimpse into the artistic process. The event embraced live music and encouraged interaction from the audience, creating a conversational atmosphere where attendees could ask questions and share their thoughts and feelings. Inspired by the historical significance of salons as safe spaces for Black artists and creators, *Song Salon* aimed to foster a supportive community and provide a platform for artists to experiment, reflect on their work, and engage with the audience.



song salon CONT.

The series showcased a diverse lineup of talented artists. On May 4th, **Jordyn Davis**, an award-winning bassist, composer, and multi-instrumentalist, took the stage. Davis made history as the first African-American woman to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition from Michigan State University and has worked with renowned artists like Dee Dee Bridgewater and Wycliffe Gordon. **Terron Austin**, a Brooklyn-based singer/songwriter, followed on May 11th, having lent his vocal talents to artists such as Erykah Badu and TLC. On May 18th, **Candice Hoyes**, a multifaceted artist known for her impressive vocal range and thought-provoking music, performed. Finally, on May 25th, **Nicholas Ryan Gant**, a New York-based artist and educator, showcased his exceptional talents as a vocalist and vocal composer. With his rich musical background and experience in education, Gant brought a unique perspective to the event series.

Song Salon offered an extraordinary opportunity for audiences to connect with artists, witness their performances, and gain insight into their creative processes. Through live music, engaging conversations, and a commitment to fostering a supportive community, the series celebrated the richness of Black creativity and expression. Attendees experienced an immersive event that not only entertained but also encouraged meaningful dialogue and exploration of the arts.



we outside! a brooklyn juneteenth

Location:
**The Plaza at 300 Ashland,
Downtown Brooklyn**

In partnership with **Downtown Brooklyn Partnership**, 651 ARTS presented its Third Annual Juneteenth celebration, *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth*, curated by **The Soapbox Presents**, and supported by **Two Trees Management Co.**, The Plaza at 300 Ashland in Downtown Brooklyn came alive with a full-day Juneteenth celebration honoring the brilliance of Black people and their cultural contributions to the country. The event offered a joyful and inclusive experience for all.



we outside! a brooklyn juneteenth CONT.

The event featured a vibrant lineup of activities and performances. The “Made Black: a Juneteenth Market” showcased a curated maker’s market by **Brooklyn Pop Up**, celebrating Black entrepreneurship and supporting local businesses. The family-friendly “Kid’s Korner” offered ventriloquism, arts and crafts, workshops, and exhibitions for children in the true spirit of Juneteenth.

The “Young, Black, and Gifted” segment paid tribute to HBCU culture, with marching bands, majorettes, and steppers showcasing the cultural traditions of Black fraternities and sororities.

The event also featured “Melanated Notes,” a powerful spoken word session led by Brooklyn-based artist **Mahogany L. Browne**, accompanied by live music. The evening culminated with “Stoop Sessions: Freedom Songs,” curated by The Soapbox Presents. Grammy-winning singer/songwriter **J. Hoard** opened the music activation, followed by a full band performance exploring protest music and songs of liberation. **DJ Jive Poetic** closed the celebration with an epic dance party.





impact & outcomes

The 2022/2023 season, “Liminal Spaces: Homebound,” marked a pivotal moment for 651 ARTS as the organization continued its legacy of championing Black arts and culture. Throughout this season, 651 ARTS demonstrated its commitment to uplifting underrepresented voices and fostering community connections.

This commitment was further underscored by our Home Warming initiative, which rallied board leaders and supporters to raise record amounts to outfit our new home.

Both online and in-person, our community has grown to new heights powered by the expansion of our digital presence, increased media coverage, successful community partnerships, and 651 ARTS’ rich programming at the heart of our work.

Ultimately, the measure of our success lies in the impact we leave on our community. This impact showcases the resonance of our mission and the relevance of our programming within the community.

“This was so special! Thank you @651ARTS. I’m so full. STILL.”

Nicholas Ryan Gant
Singer and Songwriter, 651 ARTS Artist



“I worked on the Ashland project back in the day for the Brooklyn Cultural District, so I love seeing this connection!”

Justin Garrett Moore
*Program Director, Mellon Foundation,
on “We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth”*

“It was such a fulfilling experience. So much love and joy. Gave me chills - so glad I got to be a part of this celebration.”

Sheri Delaware
“We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth” attendee

“It was a joyous gathering and celebration!!! Haven’t done the electric slide in over a year! Was like being at home dancing with family & friends.”

Edisa Weeks
651 ARTS Artist, Chorographer, Educator, Director of Delirious Dances

“My heart is so full! Thank you again Billie Holiday Theater & 651 ARTS. I cannot wait to rock with you all again. This experience has been life changing! Keep doing what you’re doing!”

Terron Austin
651 ARTS Artist, Singer/Songwriter



“651 ARTS has served as my artistic encyclopedia since I moved to Brooklyn in 2002. I am honored that my own work, through my company Renegade Performance Group, is now placed within this important artistic lineage of Black artists whose works have been at the vanguard of cultural recognition.

As a Black artist, the challenges of creating innovative artistic projects in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic are very real and daunting. Yet being able to work with 651 ARTS represents the resolution that I hold to continue making projects that can resonate across communities near and far. 651 ARTS, now with a new home awaiting so many of we Black artists, must continue to be a beacon for our collective artistic, communal, and spiritual gathering.”

André Zachery
651 ARTS Artist, Scholar, Researcher, and Technologist

“It is truly an honor and privilege to join the board of 651 ARTS and to continue to support the work and legacy of my aunt Mikki Shepard and my mother Mahmoudah Young who gave me an opportunity to work there as a teenager in the 80s.

Beyond that it’s wonderful to see the continued great works and offerings of the organization under the leadership of Toya Lillard. Witnessing the last performance of the Salon series at the Billie Holiday Theater just as I was officially joining the board was a grateful circle moment for me.

I’m excited to contribute to the growth and continued impact of 651 ARTS for generations to come. I’m particularly excited about the possibilities in the new space to develop new

talent and find creative ways to generate income attention and grow the audiences that support the work. Let’s go!!”

Malik Yoba
Entrepreneur, Actor, 651 ARTS Board of Directors

“It’s been a pleasure working with 651 and their team. It is clear that the mission of 651 ARTS to promote and amplify Black expression and art is something that the team holds near and dear and they are committed to realizing that vision. I can’t wait to see what 651 has planned for the future. We are excited to be a part of it!”

Kevin Gebon
Founder, Milk Glass NYC



“651 ARTS has been such a breath of fresh air throughout our partnership and collaboration over the past year. They have been exceptionally supportive, responsive, and affirming. It can feel like a treacherous and lonely road as a Black artist producing work in New York City. Since I began working with 651, I have felt the empowering embrace, nurturing, and protection of like-minded community. They have shown the foresight to put my team and I in beneficial situations, and the wherewithal and wisdom to evolve our collective approach when opportunities to exceed our original expectations presented themselves. I now consider 651 a part of my artistic family, and am increasingly confident that we can continue to create work which transforms the communities we represent, for the better.”

Malik Work
651 ARTS Artist, Actor, Writer, Professor, Musician

“I have had a long-standing relationship with 651 ARTS that began when I was a publicist. I worked with Georgiana Pickett and Anna Glass and those were happy times because we afforded so many artists a platform to present their works and gave them support. Since then I was honored when then Executive Director David Roberts, and Monica Williams, Director of Programs and Chief Curator, supported my virtual program ‘Black Dance Stories.’ 651 ARTS has been part of my artistic world for a long time.”

Charmaine Warren
Performer, Historian, Dance Writer, Producer, Curator,
Founder of Black Dance Stories

“At The Soapbox Presents, we believe in building coalitions that build community and working with 651 ARTS for their annual Juneteenth celebration was an amazing demonstration of what can be accomplished by collaborating. Working together allowed us to increase our impact and forge stronger bonds across boroughs and organizations.”

Marija Abney
Actor, Producer,
Founder of The Soapbox Presents

institutional and community partnerships

At 651 ARTS, we firmly believe that partnerships are the cornerstone of our success in advancing our mission, strengthening our programming, and maximizing our community impact. Throughout the year, we had the privilege of collaborating with like-minded organizations and companies that share our commitment to showcasing and uplifting Black arts and culture. These partnerships allowed us to combine resources, amplify our reach, and create transformative experiences for our community.

LEAD INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

The Baisley Powell
Elebash Fund

 DORIS DUKE
FOUNDATION



 FORD
FOUNDATION

 HOWARD GILMAN
FOUNDATION

LAMBENT
FOUNDATION

 NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

Council on
the Arts

NYC Cultural
Affairs

 TWO TREES
Management Co. LLC

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

THE
BILLIE
HOLIDAY THEATRE

THE
SOAPBOX
PRESENTS 

 WEEKSVILLE
HERITAGE CENTER

Center ^{THE}
FOR
Fiction

 Entertainment
Community Fund
Formerly The Actors Fund

PUBLICITY & MEDIA COVERAGE

651 ARTS had a record-breaking year in the public eye

with media coverage showcasing our extensive programming, successful partnerships, and profound community impact. Our organization garnered significant attention through numerous interviews, TV and magazine features, and reviews in both local and national media outlets.

The media coverage served as a testament to the exceptional quality and significance of our work. Thought-provoking conversations, immersive theater experiences, and community-centered events captivated journalists, critics, and the wider public alike. The recognition we received underscored the importance of our mission in showcasing and celebrating Black arts and culture.

295

PIECES OF
COVERAGE

1.6B

TOTAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS



*651 ARTS Fox 5 Good Day Street Talk
Toya Lillard Interview*

651 ARTS
HAS BEEN
FEATURED IN

ALL*ARTS

BKReader

Brooklyn Paper

Brownstoner



CBS



DAILY NEWS

do·N·Y·C

family



Patch

SPECTRUM NEWS NY



TimeOut



yahoo!

social media

FACEBOOK REACH ↑ 122% FROM FY 2022

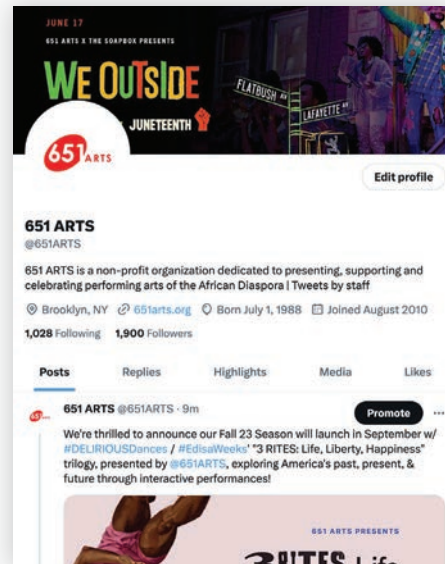
INSTAGRAM REACH ↑ 1.1K% FROM FY 2022

TWITTER/X REACH ↑ 140% FROM FY 2022

newsletter

SUBSCRIBER GROWTH ↑ 7.03% FROM FY 2022

OPEN RATE 31% industry average: 21.5%



THANK YOU to EVERYONE

that showed up and showed out to make our "We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth" celebration, presented in partnership with [Downtown Brooklyn Partnership](#) and in collaboration with the INCREDIBLE [The Soapbox Presents](#), such a joyous experience and such a resounding success! Your presence, support, and energy helped make our



home warming



home warming

Home Warming is 651 ARTS's initiative to establish our first permanent space as Downtown Brooklyn's premiere hub for Black artistic creation, and our opportunity to boldly declare: **the world is our stage but Brooklyn is our home.** Through generous gifts, Home Warming is infusing our new space with the passion, enthusiasm, and generosity of 651's supporters as we embark on this new chapter of our legacy, while outfitting our new facility with much needed equipment and fixtures. Home Warming draws inspiration from the community-centered practice of bringing food, gifts, and good cheer to transform a house into a home.

A permanent home at 10 Lafayette is a watershed moment in our history; our new 12,500 sq ft, multipurpose facility is 651 ARTS' first ever rooted space. For 35 years, 651 ARTS has been an arts presenter of innovative performing arts from across the African Diaspora. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication of our supporters in service of art from the African Diaspora that authentically reflects community, ambition, and self-determination.

Thank you for believing that Black Art Matters.



home warming by the numbers

Board-led initiative with the first **\$25,000** pledged coming from Board leadership

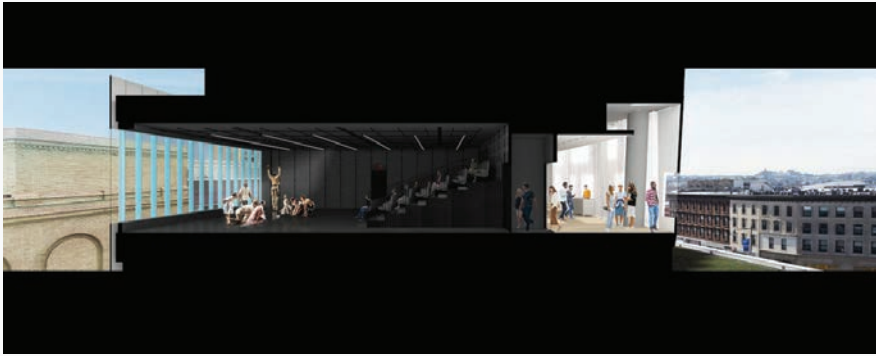
400% increase in donations from individual supporters compared to the previous fiscal year

\$605,000 pledged and raised through institutional and government support, almost a third of which comes from first-time partners eager to support the organization

Home Warming is the first year of the **Home Campaign**, a multi-year initiative to build 651 ARTS' legacy and community in this new era. Aligned with the Strategic Plan led by P.S. 314, 651 ARTS will Stabilize, Sustain, and Scale our singular model for nurturing Black artistry to better uplift our communities and meet the opportunities of the next 35 years.

HOME CAMPAIGN MAJOR PARTNERS

- Booth Ferris Foundation
- Howard Gilman Foundation
- Lambent/Tides Foundation
- Mertz Gilmore Foundation
- NYC Department of Cultural Affairs





looking ahead

As we bid farewell to a year filled with marvels of Black expression and community, we look forward with excitement and anticipation to all that lies ahead. Our move into 10 Lafayette will empower us to provide a new home to a robust lineup of performances, collaborations, partnerships, and community events, strengthening our organization to make an even greater impact in the years to come.

financial overview

\$1,158,561

IN PLEDGES + GIFTS

in Fiscal Year 2023

FY23 SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

\$100,000+

- Baisley Powell Elebash Fund
- Doris Duke Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Howard Gilman Foundation
- Lambent/Tides Foundation
- New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

\$20,000-\$99,999

- Anonymous
- Bay and Paul Foundations
- The Black Seed Fund
- Con Edison
- Mertz Gilmore Foundation
- Coalition of Theaters of Color
- The New York Community Trust MOSAIC Network and Fund
- New York State Council on the Arts

\$1,000-\$19,999

- Burberry
- Obadele Davis
- Claude Johnson and William Terry
- Bahia Ramos
- Mikki Shepard
- Lise Suino
- Wallace Foundation

\$1-\$4,999

- Anonymous
- Crystal Boyd
- Angela Briscoe
- Dr. Raymond Codrington
- Tara Duviver
- Dana Edell
- Lulu Fogarty
- Robert Henderson
- Kinsey Keck
- Linda Lopes
- Aaron McKinney
- Leith ter Meulen
- Robyne Walker Murphy
- K. Neale
- Gary Padmore
- Andrea Smith
- Kelly Wallace
- Crystal Wei

our team



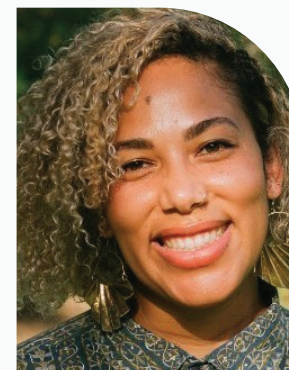
TOYA LILLARD

Executive Director



ROBERT HENDERSON

*Director of Production
& Operations*



FARREN WOOD

*Manager of Programs &
Community Engagement*



PIERRE VOLTAIRE

Marketing Manager



ALISHA DELISSAINT

Program Assistant

board of directors

OUR BOARD

Yvonne Joyner Levette, *Chair*

Obadele O. Davis, Esq., *Vice Chair*

Andrea E. Smith, *Treasurer*

Theodore Bennett, Esq., *Secretary*

Johari Jenkins

Claude M. Johnson

Robyne Walker Murphy

Bahia Ramos

Lise Suino

Malik Yoba

This year we are proud to welcome Malik Yoba and Robyne Walker Murphy to our Board of Directors! They each bring a wealth of experience, passion, commitment and expertise that will enrich our collective journey.



MALIK YOBA

*Community and youth
advocate, serial entrepreneur,
actor, real estate developer*



ROBYNE WALKER MURPHY

*Art and social
justice educator
& administrator*

acknowledgments and gratitude

Behind every extraordinary endeavor are the people who make it possible. We extend our thanks to the dedicated team at 651 ARTS who bring our mission and vision to life and our deep gratitude to our cherished artists, Board of Directors, partners, community, and sponsors whose support fuels our mission. Together, we continue to illuminate the world with the brilliance of Black art.

conclusion

As we draw the curtain on FY 2023, we reflect on the profound journey that has brought us here. At 651 ARTS, our commitment to championing Black artists and voices in our community remains unwavering. With passion, determination, and joy, we step into a future continuously guided by our vision, mission, and values in service to the transformative power of the arts and community.

photography credits

01. Tony Turner - *Verses At Work*; Alex Bershaw - *Song Salon, We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth*
02. Tony Turner - *Performing an Afro Future*
03. Richard Louissaint - *Toya Lillard*
04. Alex Bershaw - *Towards a Generative Theater*
05. Alex Bershaw - *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth*
06. Alex Bershaw - *3 RITES Roots Party Zine Release (2), Song Salon*
07. Tony Turner - *Verses At Work*
08. Alex Bershaw - *Towards a Generative Theater*
09. Tony Turner - *Performing an Afro Future*
10. Tony Turner - *Verses At Work*
11. Alex Bershaw - *Towards a Generative Theater*
12. Kimberly M. Wang / Eardog Productions - *The Woodshed Network*
13. Alex Bershaw - *“3 RITES” Roots Party Zine Release*
14. Alex Bershaw - *Kendra J. Ross’ Portals*
15. Alex Bershaw - *Song Salon*

photography credits CONT.

16. Alex Bershaw - *Song Salon*
17. Kay Hickman - *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth*
18. Kay Hickman - *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth (2)*, Edna Holifield - *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth*
19. Alex Bershaw - *Song Salon*
20. Alex Bershaw - *Towards a Generative Theater*; Kepler Auguste - *Song Salon*; Kay Hickman - *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth*
21. Alex Bershaw - *Kendra J. Ross' "Portals"*, *Song Salon*; Tony Turner - *Performing an Afro Future*
22. Edna Holifield - *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth (2)*; Alex Bershaw - *Kendra J. Ross' "Portals"* (center)
24. Kay Hickman - *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth*
26. Kay Hickman - *We Outside! A Brooklyn Juneteenth*
27. TEN Arquitectos/Enrique Norten with ASA/Andrea Steele
28. TEN Arquitectos/Enrique Norten with ASA/Andrea Steele
29. TEN Arquitectos/Enrique Norten with ASA/Andrea Steele

