

# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



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# MISSION

Art and Resistance Through Education (ARTE) engages young people to amplify their voices and organize for human rights change through innovative human rights and visual arts programming facilitated in schools, community-based organizations, and jails.

*First*, ARTE educates youth on human rights and equips them with the knowledge to identify the root causes of systemic inequity.

*Then, ARTE provides youth with a space to use the visual arts to explore and express their own experiences with human rights.*

*Finally*, ARTE helps youth develop organizing skills that enable them to mobilize others and steer society towards justice.



Artist: Olsmaël

# HISTORY

Since creating our first mural in the Bronx in 2011, ARTE has worked extensively with communities throughout New York City, providing quality, interactive arts-based activities that educate young people about human rights. After realizing that there was a great disconnect between human rights theory and practice in day-to-day life, ARTE developed as a collaboration between young people, community organizations, and local artists to support communities in realizing and advocating for their inherent human rights.

In this collaboration, ARTE has found that participants become more knowledgeable, interested, and passionate about human rights through the creation of public art, particularly public murals. Public murals are a valuable component of the ARTE curriculum, as they are designed to empower both students and local communities to engage in questions surrounding human rights advocacy and art as a tool for social change.

ARTE's first mural focused on the issue of human trafficking. Since then, community members have learned about human rights issues and movements both within the United States and internationally, including racial discrimination, immigration and detention, mass incarceration, and abolition. Ultimately, ARTE strives to offer a platform through which students can freely and safely express themselves and their opinions, all the while providing an arts education that their schools and communities are often unable to offer.

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

Elevating the voices of young people and empowering them with the tools they need to address social and racial justice has never been more important. In 2021, students in New York City public schools returned to fully in-person learning. ARTE continued to support young people as they learned to navigate a new normal against a backdrop of pervasive social and racial injustice, amplified by unequal pandemic responses and resources.

To continue to engage youth and better integrate the feedback and perspectives of the youth we serve into every level of our organization, ARTE launched a Junior (Youth) Board. This group of young leaders was drawn from past program participants, and we will continue to support their connection to other powerful youth, building a sustainable network of cultural organizers for social justice change who support one another's wellbeing, self-care, and healing.

In 2021, we also stepped up opportunities for young people through Youth Voices Lead, a new digital community training program for youth organizers (ages 14-18) to strengthen their human rights knowledge and artistic tools and explore how to take action for racial justice change. Ten young people were selected from over a hundred applicants through an open call for proposals in New York City. Through leading workshops they developed and implemented during a final community summit, our 2021 cohort came together to educate community members on a wide-variety of human rights issues, including climate justice, inequality in NYC public schools, and the impact of mass incarceration. As one Youth Voices Lead participant best shared with us:

*“The knowledge I’ve gained and topics I’ve learned have opened my eyes on issues I would usually overlook because I felt like there could be nothing done. That mindset however, was wrong and it’s because of ARTE that I realized this. Everything I do matters.”*

In all of our work this past year, whether engaging students in the Youth Voices Lead program, delivering programming in our school partnership with the Urban Assembly School of Music and Art in Brooklyn, or leading virtual workshops on human rights activism through the visual arts, we continued to build empathy and work towards collective action. ARTE develops a culture of human rights by implementing visual arts projects to captivate the general public. In 2021, we understood that the arts are a tool to capture the hearts and minds of society and enable them to take action around the issues youth care about most. In 2022 and beyond, we will continue to do just that.

Thank you for always believing in the power of art, resistance and education.

Sincerely,

Katherine Potaski, ARTE Board of Directors

Cristian Medina, ARTE Board of Directors

Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, ARTE Executive Director

# PROGRAMMING

## COLLABORATING WORKSHOP/EVENT PARTNERS

- Alliance for Higher Education in Prison (Denver, CO)
- Behind the Book (Manhattan, NY)
- Big Walnut High School (Sunbury, OH)
- Build Peace / Build Up (CA)
- Central European University (Vienna, Austria)
- Community Healthcare Network / Teens PACT (Manhattan, NY)
- Continuing the Conversation (CtC) (Cambridge, MA)
- Justice Arts Coalition (Silver Spring, MD)
- Justice-in-Education Initiative, Center for Justice at Columbia University (Manhattan, NY)
- Metropolitan Museum of Art (Manhattan, NY)
- National Guild for Community Arts Education (Manhattan, NY)
- Rutgers University Graduate School of Education (New Brunswick, NJ)
- Teachers College, Columbia University (Manhattan, NY)
- Touro University (Vallejo, CA)
- University of Dayton (Dayton, OH)
- Urban Assembly School of Music and Art (Brooklyn, NY)
- Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights (Vienna, Austria)
- WNET (Manhattan, NY)



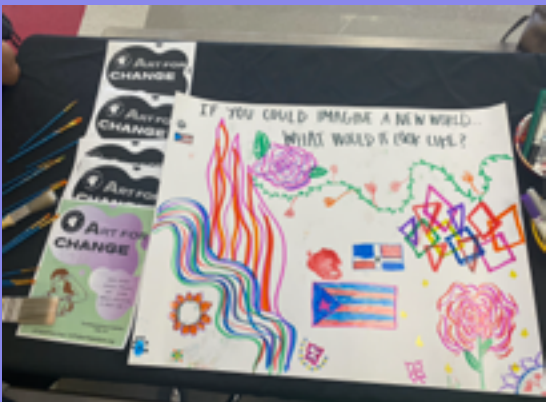
# ARTE WORKSHOPS AND LONG-TERM PROGRAMMING

## INCARCERATED COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMMING

WITH COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR JUSTICE (THROUGH JULY 2021)

Over the last several years, ARTE has partnered with Columbia University's Justice-in-Education Initiative (JIE) in the Center for Justice to engage incarcerated adolescent men and women in visual arts programming. The program focused on women's rights, gender equality, and toxic masculinity. With the COVID-19 pandemic necessitating the shutdown of in-person events and programs, ARTE transitioned to a remote version of the partnership.

Between Fall 2020 and Summer 2021, ARTE and JIE worked together to create educational worksheets on artist activists (activists). These worksheets, which were sent to jail facilities on a weekly basis, included artist biographies and interviews, art galleries, and art and writing activities.

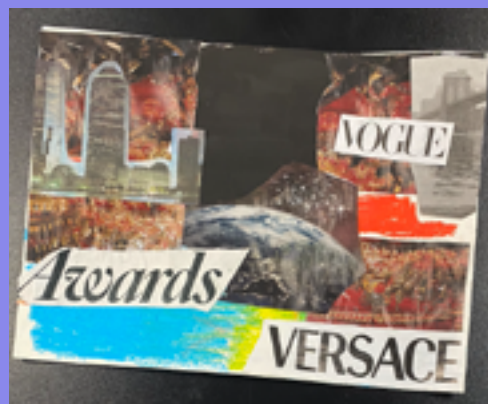
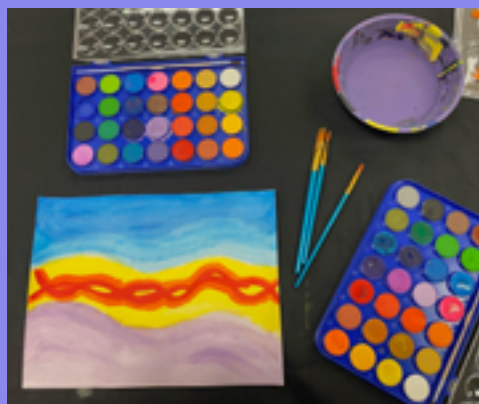
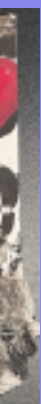




## URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ART (UAMA) (SEPTEMBER 2019—ONWARDS)

In an ongoing partnership with the Urban Assembly School of Music and Art (UAMA), ARTE continued to engage high school students in human rights programming using an arts-based curriculum to foster learning, civic engagement, and self-expression in 2021. The program provided participants with an opportunity to learn about various human rights and social justice issues—including mental health and healing justice, gender justice, immigration, racial discrimination, climate justice, etc.—basic art techniques, and create meaningful pieces of art to advocate for positive social change.

After pivoting to a digital platform for the Spring 2021 semester, students were able to restart in-person programming in Fall 2021. Through collaborating with a UAMA advisory class and an after-school club, ARTE helped student artists harness their talents to further express themselves creatively, build collective leadership, and learn how to engage their peers around the issues most important to them.



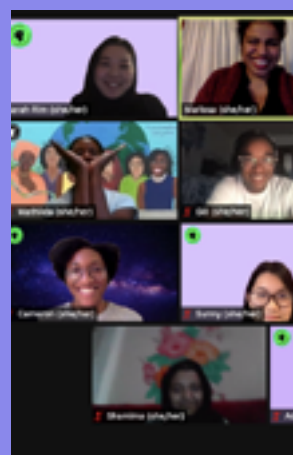
## YOUTH VOICES LEAD

(JANUARY 2021–APRIL 2021, SEPTEMBER 2021–DECEMBER 2021)

In Winter/Spring 2021, ARTE created Youth Voices Lead (YVL), a paid, digital training program for youth organizers to strengthen their human rights knowledge, discover how to take action for racial justice change, learn how to create artwork for self-expression, and build community with other youth organizers and leaders from across New York City.

YVL was developed during the pandemic as a way to continue building youth leadership and activism at a time when young people across New York City felt disconnected from one another. Within a few weeks of launching the program in December 2020, we received 100+ applications.

From January to April (Cohort 1) and September to December (Cohort 2), 20+ organizers (ages 14-18) bravely came together from diverse neighborhoods throughout the city to learn about the important issues directly impacting their communities, including the right to housing, the right to health, mass incarceration, climate justice, and the right to education. Both program sessions concluded in a final community event, during which participants shared their final projects, community teachings, and tools for activism.



## DIGITAL WORKSHOPS (MARCH 2020—ONWARDS)

Over the course of 2021, ARTE continued developing, hosting, and participating in digital workshops to ensure that young people and their communities still had access to arts-based programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the year, ARTE led virtual workshops for 170+ youth and adults in New York, Austria, and Ohio. Topics ranged from the power of activism to human rights and arts education to creating non-hierarchical learning environments in correctional facilities. Through these workshops, ARTE continued educating and inspiring community members to use art as a tool for social change, even during the most challenging months of the pandemic.



## PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (SEPTEMBER 2020—ONWARDS)

In Fall 2020, ARTE launched a virtual, 16-week, paid, part-time internship program. The program gave interns unique insight into how a non-profit organization is built and run, provided them with the opportunity to work virtually with local human rights organizations, artists, and youth-based community centers, and presented them with hands-on experience working in the field of human rights education, arts education, and community organizing.

This program continued to run successfully throughout 2021, with new interns joining the organization during the spring and fall semesters. Interns supported ARTE in many capacities, including social media and communications, graphic design, development and fundraising, and curriculum and facilitation.



# ARTE IN THE COMMUNITY

## SELECTED CONFERENCES / PANELS / EVENTS 2021

### JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- Student Workshop—Collaboration with Behind the Book (Virtual)
- Smooth 'n Soothe: A creative resistance collaboration with Currie Blackwell (Virtual)
- Visions of Justice 2021: A Virtual Fundraising Celebration for ARTE (Virtual)

### MARCH-MAY

- Implementing HRE Projects in Diverse Settings—Lecture at Rutgers Graduate School of Education (Virtual)
- Reimagining a More Just Future: The Intersection of Human Rights and the Arts—"Diversity Now" panel at Touro University (Virtual)
- Reimagining Human Rights—Panel at "Activism: The Power of Art for Social Transformation" event, in collaboration with Adelphi University and Columbia University Teachers College (Virtual)
- Student Workshop—Collaboration with Behind the Book (Virtual)
- #WorldWithoutIncarceration: Using Visual Art to Reimagine Abolitionist Spaces—A CALL (Connecting Art and Law for Liberation) to Imagine Abolitionist Futures Festival workshop (Virtual)
- Activism digital public mural tour with Macaulay Honors College at City College of New York (Virtual)
- Activism digital public mural tour with Mercy College (Virtual)
- Youth Voices Lead Racial Justice Summit: The Impact of 13 (Virtual)

## JUNE-AUGUST

- Get in Loser, We're Going Healing—Workshop at Community Healthcare Network's 16th annual youth conference, "The Power of Activism: Using Art as a Tool for Social Justice" (Virtual)
- Exploring Human Rights Activism (Art + Activism)—Workshop at Central European University (Virtual)
- Get Home Safe—Art as Resistance, Education, and Liberation in Incarcerated Spaces—Lecture at Central European University, School of Public Policy (Virtual and in-person in Vienna, Austria)
- Leaning in Horizontally: Creating Volunteer Communities for Art-Based Programming—Workshop at the 2021 Justice Arts Coalition National Convening, "Art for a New Future" (Virtual)
- Digital Activism + Artmaking Workshop—Teens Take the Met! (Virtual)
- Big Walnut High School Workshop Series (Virtual)

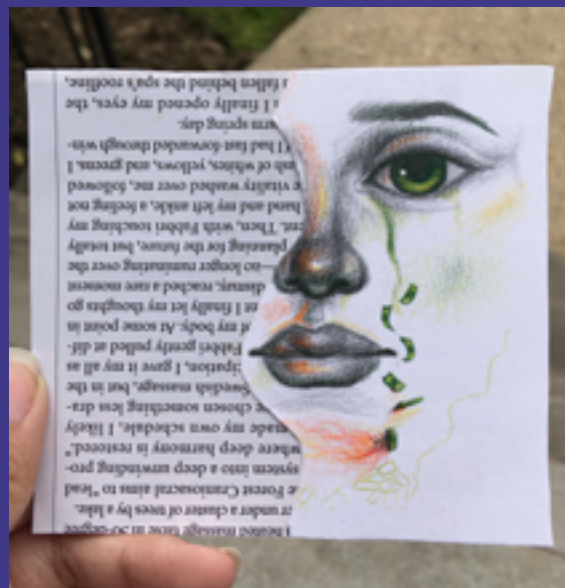
## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

- Lunch and Learn: Youth, Arts, and Social Change—Community Connections Panel for WNET (Virtual)
- Professional Development—Urban Assembly School of Music and Art (Brooklyn, NY)
- University of Applied Arts Masters in Human Rights Program Workshop (Virtual)
- Adaptation through Amplification: Youth Voices Lead!—"Short talk" presentation at the 2021 Build Peace conference (Virtual)



## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- Peace and Human Rights Education—Workshop at Columbia University Teachers College (Virtual)
- Real Talk Story Sharing Panel—National Guild for Community Arts Education's 2021 "Groundwork: Healing Within Community Arts Education" community gathering (Virtual)
- #FreeThemAll! Art to Amplify the Rights of Youth in Jail—Presentation in partnership with Continuing the Conversation at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (Virtual)
- Get Home Safe: Art as Resistance, Human Rights Education, and Liberation in Incarcerated Spaces—Presentation at the University of Dayton Human Rights Conference (Dayton, OH)
- Leaning in Horizontally: Creating Volunteer Communities for Art-Based Programming—Workshop at the National Conference on Higher Education in Prison (Denver, CO)
- University of Applied Arts Masters in Human Rights Program—Workshop series (Virtual)
- Youth Voices Lead Summit: Human Rights and Racial Justice—(Virtual)



Artist: Talia



# 2021 STATISTICS

## ARTE FAST FACTS

**5**

Since 2015, ARTE has awarded 5 scholarships to exceptional ARTE artists and activists who completed an ARTE community program to further their educational pursuits.

**3**

Since 2020, ARTE has awarded 3 Visions of Justice Awards to women artists of color who use their art for social change in their community.

**10,000**

From 2014 through 2021, ARTE has engaged nearly 10,000 community members in our pedagogy, including youth, teachers, artists, and activists.

**4/10/6**

In the course of its existence, ARTE has led workshops in 4 out of 5 New York City boroughs and throughout New York State, across 10 additional states, and in 6 different countries.

## 2021 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**ARTE**

is building the foundation for a long-lasting, youth-led movement to advance human rights and cultivate the next generation of social justice leaders.

**2,000**

Total number of community members worked with and served virtually (youth and adults) through workshops, presentations, and panels

**30**

Total number of unique ARTE community partnerships (includes schools, jails, community organizations, universities, etc.)

**7**

Total number of regular ARTE team members (interns, staff, facilitators) who supported ARTE in 2021

# WORDS FROM OUR PARTNERS

*Over the past two years, Behind the Book partnered with ARTE to deliver art workshops to our programs in NYC. ARTE marries art and social justice themes to encourage learners to think critically about their environments. Through ARTE's remarkably robust workshops, students routinely create beautiful artwork while examining their capacity to create sustainable change. Every ARTE workshop is developmentally inclusive and the facilitation of the workshop is supportive of students and partnering educators.*

**KETURAH ABDULLAH (SHE/HER)**  
CURRICULUM DEVELOPER  
BEHIND THE BOOK

*ARTE has presented to my high school classes the last couple of years. At first, I was hoping students would simply learn how nonprofits work. Thankfully, they got much more. Through this collaboration, my students were able to learn about the structure of nonprofits and the positive change they are providing to the world by looking at the important work ARTE does to show the importance of art and how it can improve the quality of life for people from all walks of life.*

**JEFF STIMMELL (HE/HIM)**  
EDUCATOR

*ARTE's teaching was a true highlight for our human rights master's students.*

*The workshops were built on concrete connections between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the power of participatory public art to be used as a tool to address discrimination. ARTE's pedagogical approach was intentional, skillful, and finely tuned to online learning, while allowing ample space for reflection as our students explored the ways in which art can be connected to specific case studies and human rights violations. It must also be mentioned that ARTE's didactic materials are beautifully crafted and the timing of workshops precisely designed in order to keep students effectively engaged online. Working with ARTE is a high-impact experience, and we look forward to ARTE teaching our future generations of students.*

**MARILYN VOLKMAN (SHE/HER)**  
**ARTISTIC STRATEGIES & STUDENT AFFAIRS COORDINATOR**  
**VIENNA MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED HUMAN RIGHTS**

# PARTNERS, SPONSORS, AND SUPPORTERS

## INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND/OR DONORS

- Arts Connect International, Ripple Grant
- Broadway Advocacy Coalition
- Citizens Committee of New York
- Human Rights Educators–USA
- Humanity in Action and the Landecker Democracy Fellowship
- Initiative for a Just Society, Columbia University
- Justice Cream
- Justice-in-Education Initiative, Columbia University
- Robert Sterling Clark Foundation–NetLab
- The Confined Arts/Art, Justice, and Safety Coalition
- ThoughtMatter
- Urban Assembly School of Music and Art

## ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| • Allison Iurato  | • Martha V. Gutierrez    |
| • Constance Kane  | • Michael Hirschhorn     |
| • Grace Garner    | • Michelle Bhattacharyya |
| • Jason Chuon     | • Nancy Flowers          |
| • Jeffrey Liberty | • Sean Capaloff-Jones    |
| • Karen Robinson  | • Shauna Curphey         |
| • Kieran Clifford | • Tony Tsai              |
| • Kristina Filler |                          |
| • Lucia Field     |                          |

# BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aissatou Barry, The Legal Aid Society of New York

Ana Seastone Stern, The Moth

Carmela Muzio Dormani, PhD, Mercy College

Cristian Medina, Macy's Inc.

Katherine Potaski, Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO)

Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, ARTE + Initiative for a Just Society at Columbia University

### OUTGOING:

Myra Hellerstein, Non-Profit Management

### INCOMING (2022):

nora rahimian, #CultureFix

Simmi Goomer, Eye to Eye National

## 2021 JUNIOR BOARD

Bijou

Felecia

Jose

Kenisha

Salma

Talia

Tyia

**OUTGOING:** Cecilia

**INCOMING:** Ariel, Sunny

## 2021 BOARD OF ADVISORS

Alex Gavryushenko  
H.I.H Princess Ariana Austin Makonnen  
Dr. Constance F. Kane  
John Gershman  
Matthew Hanson  
Michael Hirschhorn  
Nelli Agbulos  
Sabine Blaizin  
Hon. Dr. Sadaf Jaffer  
Tarisse Iriarté  
Valentina Canavesio

## ARTE TEAM

Executive Director: Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario  
Program Director: Cameron Lee  
Social Media Manager: Deimoni Brewington  
Interns: Anjali Seegobin, Gill Bartels-Quansah  
Program Facilitators: Alicia Abbaspour, Sarah Rim

## 2020-2021 ARTE AMBASSADORS

Amy Helfant  
Brianna Swartz  
Carina D'Urso  
Dr. Constance Kane  
Currie Blackwell  
Ellen Cosgrove  
Grace Garner and Juanita Garner  
Grace Webster  
Ian Plunkett  
Jenn Meyer  
Jesse McBrearty  
Jessie McGuire

Karen Robinson  
Kristi Rudelius-Palmer  
Mia Ruyter  
Michael J Hirschhorn & Jimena P Martinez  
Page Hersey  
Phelim Kine  
Dr. Sadaf Jaffer  
Stephen Tosh  
Valentina Canavesio  
Members of the College of Social Justice: Abby  
Crum, Angela Kelly, Deva Jones, Gina Collignon,  
Heather Vickery

# GET INVOLVED

## IDENTIFY A WALL FOR FUTURE MURALS

Know of a wall that would make a great mural? We always need help finding space for our next community art piece! If you've got a great spot in mind, take a picture and/or send the wall's location to [info@artejustice.org](mailto:info@artejustice.org).

**\$25**



25 pocket-sized  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights  
booklets for students.

**\$50**



Paper and markers  
for a human rights  
classroom activity.

## DONATE

**\$75**



Snacks to fuel youth  
as they work on an art  
project to beautify their  
local community.

**\$100**



Two art packets with  
art supplies and human  
rights resources mailed to  
two youth artists.

## BE OUR FRIEND



[artejustice.org](http://artejustice.org)



@artejustice



@Art and Resistance Through Education (ARTE)

To get involved in the ARTE movement in any other way, please e-mail [marissa@artejustice.org](mailto:marissa@artejustice.org).

