BRIC Annual Report 2021

WEGHLERA

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BRIClab: Film and TV Martina Sönksen, Juliana Curi, and Lívia Cheibub *Uyra, The Rising Forest* (still)

A Letter From Michael Liburd, BRIC Board Chair & Robin Jenkins, BRIC Interim President

Robin Jenkins | Photo: Krisztina Crane



On behalf of the BRIC Board of Directors and Staff, we're honored to share our inspiring 2021 Annual Report with you, the talented artists, educators, media makers, supporters, audiences, and everyone who makes up our community.

2021 undeniably brought unprecedented opportunities and challenges for the arts sector. Through it all, we learned to remain flexible and tactile while listening to the needs of our staff and communities. We kept our mission at the center of all we do, and imagined new ways of advancing opportunity, presenting bold work, igniting learning, and uniting Brooklyn while embracing change and growth. Everyday, we continue to learn as we adapt to new ways of thinking about the creative economy and the role we play in **Building Brooklyn's Creative Future**. We're excited and optimistic about the years ahead and the impact our programs will continue to have on the communities we serve across Brooklyn and beyond, both virtually and in person.

Thank You for your ongoing partnership in shaping that work, and we look forward to seeing you at a BRIC event very soon.

BRIC Board of Directors

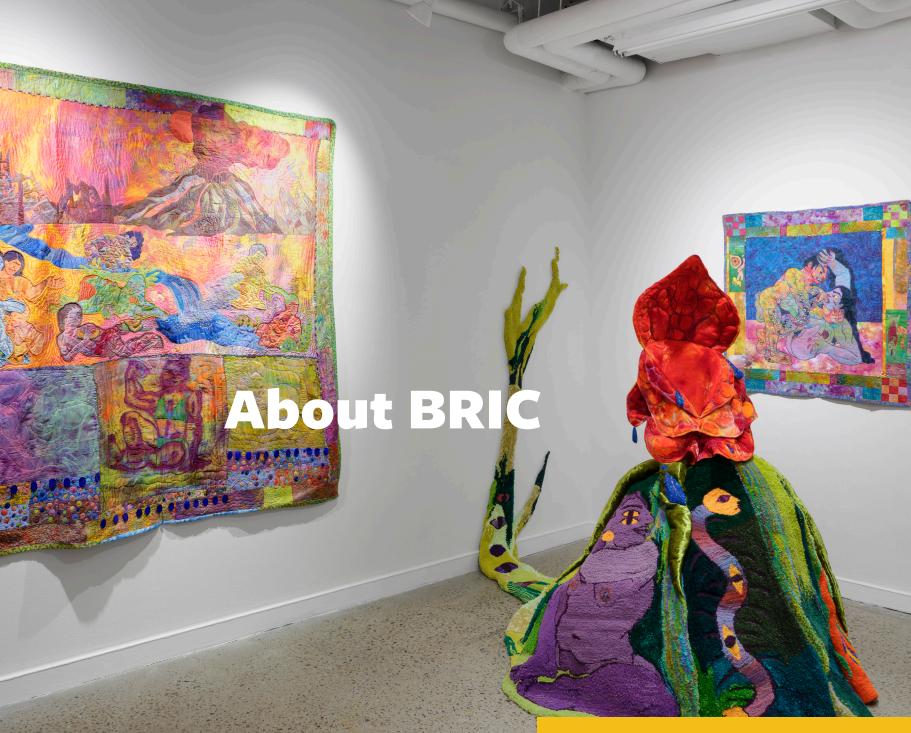
Michael Liburd, Chair Mark S. Cheffo, Vice Chair Julia Kahr, Vice Chair Christina Norman, Vice Chair Peter Aschkenasy, *Treasurer* Jessie McClintock Kelly, Secretary Leslie Cohen Lenore Cooney Ashley C. Cotton Josh Epstein Lizanne Fontaine Louis V. Greco Jr. Adam Greenberg Susan Jurevics Jin Kang Catie Marshall **Joseph Nacmias** Lynn Nottage Stephen Plumlee Winston Song Kim Soule **Brent Starks** Douglas C. Steiner Kerry Le Blanc Strong Karen Synesael Antonia Yuille Williams Jennifer Wong Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, Ex Officio

Sincerely,

Michael Liburd BRIC Board Chair

Rohn E Jenhun Robin Jenkins

BRIC Interim President



Emily Oliveira *I Saw God And She Wasn't Made of Money,* 2021 PHOTO: SEBASTIAN BACH

BRIC

We are a leading arts and media institution anchored in Downtown Brooklyn whose work spans contemporary visual and performing arts, media, and civic action. For over forty years, our institution has shaped Brooklyn's cultural and media landscape by presenting and incubating artists, creators, students, and media makers. As a creative catalyst for our community, we ignite learning in people of all ages and centralize diverse voices that take risks and drive culture forward. **BRIC builds Brooklyn's creative future**.

OUR VALUES, VISION, MISSION

Values

Rooted in **Brooklyn**, and reaching out to the world, BRIC is guided by our commitment to **creative risk-taking** and a definition of **excellence** that values creators and communities that are under-recognized in the cultural sector. We operate with **integrity**, **inclusivity**, and a commitment to **equity**. We listen and respond to our communities, ensure that our spaces allow all people to feel welcome and free, and support people with the unique resources they need to thrive.

Vision

We envision a Brooklyn where **all people** have **meaningful connections** to artistic experiences, the **tools and opportunity** to express their creative potential, and the **power** to transform their world.

Mission

BRIC builds Brooklyn's creative future. We **advance opportunity** for visual artists, performers, and media makers. We **present bold work** that reflects diverse audiences and speaks to the world. We **ignite learning** in people of all ages. We **unite Brooklyn** through art and creativity to build community and make change.

WHAT WE DO

We **ADVANCE OPPORTUNITY** for visual artists, performers, and media makers.

We **PRESENT BOLD WORK** that reflects diverse audiences and speaks to the world.

We **IGNITE LEARNING** in people of all ages.

We **UNITE BROOKLYN** through art and creativity to build community and make change.

BRIClab: Performing Arts Adrienne Westwood & Angélica Negrón [] (work-in-process) PHOTO: TOBY TENENBAUM

ADVANCING OPPORTUNITY

BRIC nurtures artists, media makers, creative individuals, and other nonprofit organizations throughout the lifecycle of their creative journey with responsive opportunities and investments of time, space, financial, and human resources. We work with diverse creatives who are asking important questions, open to having a conversation about their work and process, and positioned to take full advantage of BRIC's support.

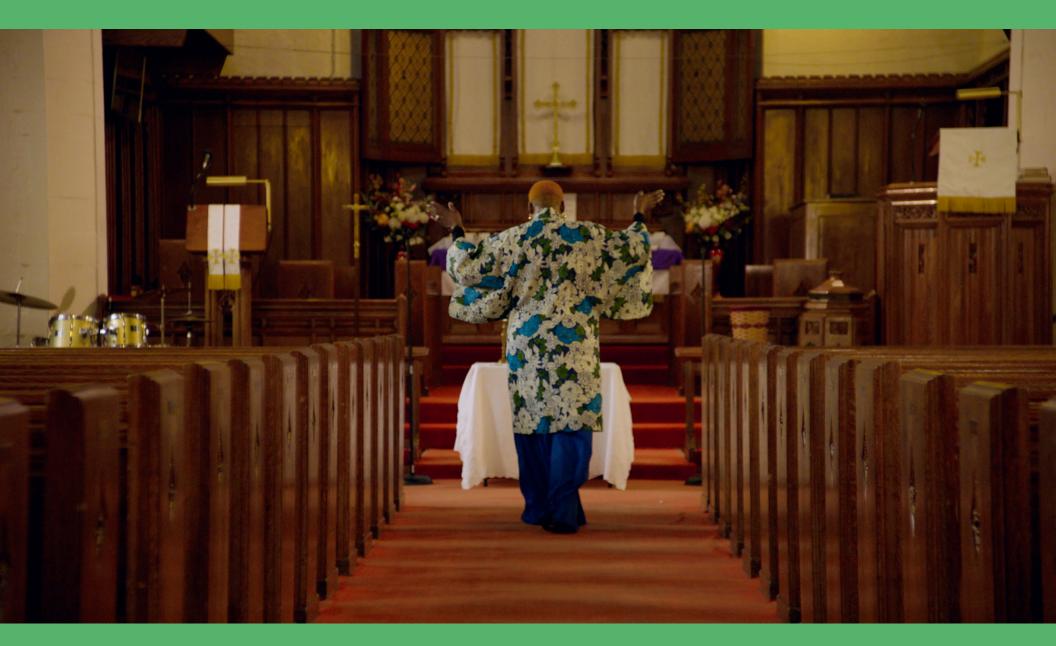
Over the last year, we continued to unify the multiple disciplines of our artist incubation program, **BRIClab**. With tracks in Contemporary Art, Video Art, Performing Arts, and Film & Television, this cohort of **32** artists utilized the space, time, financial, and human resources provided by BRIC to explore and expand the possibilities of their work. Work-in-progress showings, screenings, and sharings continued both virtually and live, bringing our community into conversation with dynamic artists and their practice.

We were thrilled to award the inaugural **Colene Browne Art Prize**, a **\$100,000** endowment intended to support underrecognized New York-based visual artists. Ten artists producing boundary-pushing work received unrestricted grants of \$10,000. BRIC's network of community producers continued to create meaningful work across the landscape of film, television, and production that speaks truth to this moment in time and pushes our culture forward. The **Community Media** team supported ten nonprofit and community-based organizations with two media education and production training programs: **Media Share**, a past winner of a New York Emmy and the **Community Media Project for Health Equity in NYC**, a collaboration with the NYC Department of Health. These cohort programs helped recipients become deeply involved with the creation of video and podcast projects to promote and inform the public about the work they do.

Studio BK, BRIC's digital content agency, saw continued growth by creating custom content and producing virtual programming for a number of NYC agencies and high-profile non-profit organizations. A series of Public Service Announcements produced for the 2020 NYC Census drove participation in historically undercounted communities. We also created successful campaigns for the NYC Department of Small Business Services, Democracy NYC, the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, and the NYC Council.



"One of the things that I really appreciate about BRIC is that it's not a traditional museum focusing on any one particular art form. Since BRIC has this very deep commitment to community and touching multiple expressions of all forms of art, it really left me open to working in many different ways. Since doing the BRIClab fellowship, I've remained involved with different BRIC-related projects that have allowed me to constantly stay in communication with myself about different ways to exist as a creator. BRIC hasn't allowed me to shrivel or settle it's forced me to remain open in some really powerful new ways of working." - Tanika Williams, BRIClab Video Art Resident



BRIClab: Video Art Tanika Williams, *Sanctuary*, 2021 | 10:15 min (still)





BRIClab: Contemporary Art Destiny Belgrave, *Dreamscapes*, 2021 PHOTO: SEBASTIAN BACH

PRESENTING BOLD WORK

BRIC presents original work of creators that are committed, boundarypushing, socially and politically engaged, open to dialogue, and sincere. We cultivate diverse audiences and value their role in the interactive moments of presentation. We utilize multiple platforms, and embrace a spectrum from uncurated to rigorously curated content. We value the vision of our curatorial leaders, as well as partners and contributors who bring new or particular knowledge.

Over the past year, **Latinx Abstract**, our groundbreaking exhibition, brought together ten contemporary Latinx artists who work with varied media and approaches and were united by their dedication to abstract languages. *Latinx Abstract* was BRIC's first major in-person exhibition following the pandemic and was lauded in the New York Times as a must-see show.

We broke into the virtual space with **BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn!:** Live Everywhere, the groundbreaking online version of our annual celebration of music, art, and community. This multi-platform event spanned two days and streamed across three different platforms, with over two million people from over 20 countries tuning in. This early adaptation to the shifting landscape of the pandemic provided a model of how BRIC and other arts institutions could embrace virtual programming going forward.

Emily Olivera: I Saw God and She Wasn't Made of Money

transformed BRIC's Project Room into a devotional space using embroidery, quilting, beading, and rug tufting. Olivera, a former BRIClab artist, has evolved her craft through a variety of BRIC programming areas, providing a model of how artists uniquely move through BRIC. We also responded to the COVID-19 pandemic directly through our programming. At the Lena Horne Bandshell at Prospect Park, **Inspired by What Is Left** was created by the collaborative duo Brooklyn Hi-Art! Machine to encourage a celebration of survival despite systemic adversity. And during the darkest days of the Covid-19 pandemic, visual artist Leigh Davis presented "**Offering**," a video piece which provided healing and space to mourn both our personal and collective loss while we were unable to gather together physically.

BRIC TV created meaningful mission-driven programming including work focusing on social justice, documentary storytelling, podcasting, and scripted series centering our community of residents, artists, and filmmakers. We further defined our collaborative efforts companywide, leveraging skills sets and curation through the lens of media.

We were able to support poets through our monthly virtual **Brooklyn Poetry Slam** that featured some of the world's more renowned writers and facilitators like Tina Chang, an American poet, teacher, and editor who was the first woman to be named Poet Laureate of Brooklyn in 2010.

BRIC JazzFest at Home featured three nights of global legends, groundbreaking artists, and exciting newcomers to jazz, bringing together music lovers from across the spectrum of Jazz music. And the **7th Annual #BFree awards** celebrated local journalism and the community-made stories that air on our Brooklyn Free Speech. Through Brooklyn Free Speech, we create possibility through education and provide a platform for all to be heard on our TV and podcast networks.



"With Latinx Abstract, I was thrilled that BRIC had the courage to do such a progressive show. The professionalism from Chief Curator Elizabeth Ferrer and the staff was invaluable. Even within the stressful time of the pandemic, there was so much organized support and structure to make sure that the work was respected, that it looked beautiful, and that people were able to enjoy it."

- Mary Valverde, Latinx Abstract Artist



View of *Latinx Abstract* exhibition; work by Mary Valverde and Candida Alvarez PHOTO: SEBASTIAN BACH



BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn!: Live Everywhere: ?uestlove DJ Set





IGNITING LEARNING

BRIC ignites learning for youth, adults, and intergenerational groups through education programs that are built on the belief that every individual has unique creative potential. We create educational activities that are participant-centric, hands-on, outcome-oriented, project-based, accessible, and culturally responsive. Created in collaboration with diverse individuals and educators, public schools, colleges, universities, and governmental and nonprofit organizations, we privilege long-term relationships and community-building.

Over the past year, our **Youth Education** department employed **25** teaching artists who worked across **55** partner schools, community centers, and organizations, helping schools continue to meet educational standards and provide students valuable opportunities for expression during remote and in-person schooling. This work culminated in our student exhibition, providing youth an opportunity to see their work in a professional setting. Over **2000** youth and families were impacted by our family programming.

Our **Adult Media Education** classes reached **6352** Students from **36** states and **23** countries who expanded their skill set by registering for **442** courses and orientations physically and virtually.

We initiated a new **Youth Education partnership with the NYC Department of Education (DOE)** encompassing three-hour weekday broadcast of educational content created by Brooklyn teachers, principals, and educators. The program aired on BRIC's Brooklyn Free Speech HD channels and provided educational content to those without broadband access, addressing the digital divide.

Our **Youth Curatorial Fellowship** created the virtual exhibition Looking Backwards, Looking Forwards, showcasing the different views these youth had of the same 2020 and highlighting the personal experiences of teens in New York City.

Our **Youth Media Fellowship** focused on developing and producing "Concrete Stories: BRIC Youth Media Festival," which featured the work of 14 producers under the age of 21. This program was planned, promoted, designed, and judged entirely by media-savvy high school students.



"BRIC is a part of my artistic journey. I was first introduced to BRIC in fifth grade when I was part of their after school program and those experiences really helped me foster a love for art and making art. In 2020, the experience of being a Youth Curatorial Fellow allowed me to have open discussions about artwork and look into the deeper meanings behind art — the elements beyond the technical and to consider what the work means to the artist. I also learned about working on a team effectively to create something that will allow other people to see what the curator's overall concept and ideas were. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this exhibition it really opened my eyes.."

- Alyssa Burke, Youth Curatorial Fellow



PHOTO: DAVID ANDRAKO

View of Youth Curatorial Fellowship Exhibition, Looking Backwards, Looking Forwards; "Addiction," 2021 by Sharon Hwang PHOTO: DAVID ANDRAKO



Together and Apart: 32nd Annual Contemporary Art Education Exhibition PHOTO: DAVID ANDRAKO

Concrete Stories Award Recipient Joaquim Ross, *The Lab*, 7 min

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UNITING BROOKLYN

BRIC builds mutually beneficial relationships through partnership and community engagement. We partner with individuals and groups, nonprofit organizations, corporations, schools, and governmental agencies to meet our mission, expand our reach, widen our perspective, share expertise, and strengthen the networks of which we are a part. We bring people together around the important issues affecting our communities and to experience joy and creativity as a means of imagining a better future.

Over the course of the past year, our longstanding **#BHeard Town Hall** series opened the floor to first-time and future voters. In this special program, 16-24 year olds engaged in dialogue with candidates running for Mayor of New York as they grappled with COVID-19 and presented their concerns and future viability of our ever-changing city in **Town Hall | Future Voters**. Through this program and other #BHeard civic engagement efforts, BRIC was able to help shape the minds and hearts of a future generation of advocates.

The Intergenerational Community Arts Council (ICAC) is a

community program proudly supported by BRIC that brings together a team of neighbors and NYCHA residents from Fort Greene and Downtown Brooklyn who create values-driven arts programming by, with, and for their communities. Through the ICAC this year, we amplified the voices of multi-generational residents of Fort Greene by creating Fort Greene Forever, a community storytelling project that bridged the gap between long legacies of arts, culture, and struggle in the face of gentrification and sought to offer new ways of being a community. Through the involvement of community partners, the program reflected on how the pandemic and uprisings protesting racial violence against Black people altered the course of this corner of Brooklyn.

"I grew up in Fort Greene and wanted to be involved with the community either as a mentor or tutor for quite some time. As a creator, I liken my experience with the ICAC to being booked to tour with an amazing ensemble where *I improved by playing (creating),* but learned more by watching others (play) create. We were each proficient, but at the start we were just playing our parts, at the end we were truly harmonious. I think my time with ICAC has made me a better person, a more instinctive creator and prouder than ever before of Fort Greene."

– Desiree Rucker, ICAC Artist



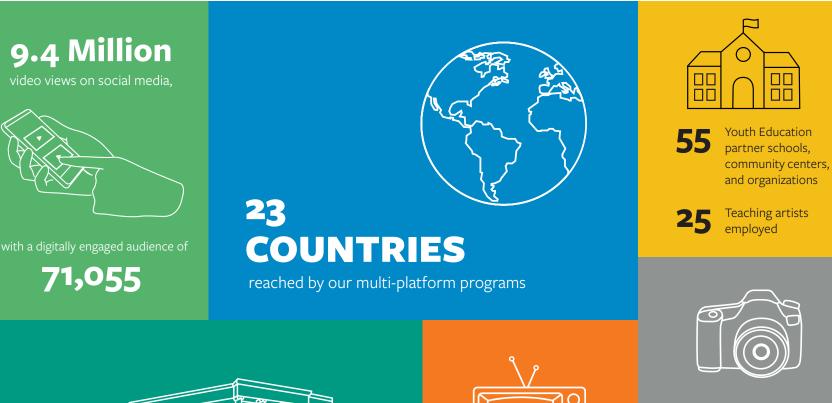




#BHeard Town Hall | Brooklyn Borough President Debate

BRIC BY THE NUMBERS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021





140,874 PEOPLE

attended and interacted with BRIC events



645 certified community producers working with Brooklyn Free Speech TV



students from 36 states and 23 countries expanded their skill set by registering for



courses and orientations physically and virtually

2020/2021 FINANCIALS

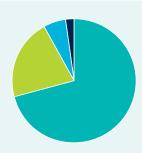
	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
INCOME			
Contributions	\$1,682,608	\$519,325	\$2,201,933
Government/Other	\$1,276,226	-	\$1,276,226
Program Service Revenue	\$661,286	\$8,420,543	\$9,081,829
Interest and Other Revenue	\$502,165	-	\$502,165
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$9,114,039	(\$9,114,039)	-
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES & SUPPORT	\$13,236,324	(\$174,171)	\$13,062,153
EXPENSES			
Program Expenses			
Community Media	\$6,356,341		\$6,356,341
Contemporary Art	\$640,551		\$640,551
Performing Arts	\$1,413,194		\$1,413,194
Interdisciplinary	\$276,007		\$276,007
Art Education	\$705,778		\$705,778
Support Services			
Management and General	\$3,146,545		\$3,146,545
Fundraising	\$543,054		\$543,054
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$13,081,470	-	\$13,081,470
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	\$154,854	(\$174,171)	(\$19,317)
Non-operating Revenue (Expense)			
Net Gain on Investments	\$4,633,128		\$4,633,128
Other Expense			-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$4,787,982	(\$174,171)	\$4,613,811
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$28,159,649	\$12,401,065	\$ 40,560,714
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$32,947,631	\$12,226,894	\$ 45,174,525

ASSETSCash & Cash Equivalents\$5,746,187Investments\$27,836,042Government and Other Receivables\$2,327,488Contributions Receivable\$1,265,393Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets\$420,979Net Fixed Assets\$12,416,697

TOTAL ASSETS

\$50,012,786

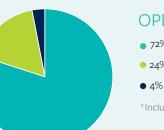
Total Net Assets	\$45,174,525
Temporarily Restricted	\$12,226,894
Total Unrestricted	\$32,947,63
Board Designated Fund	\$3,412,850
Operating	\$29,543,77
Unrestricted	
NET ASSETS	
Total Liabilities	\$4,838,26
Loan Payable	\$3,391,882
Accrued Vacation	\$397,369
Deferred Revenue	\$297,54
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$769,46
LIABILITIES	



OPERATING INCOME \$13,062,153

- 69% PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE¹
- 17% PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS (INDIVIDUAL / BUSINESS / FOUNDATION)
- 10% GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- 4% INTEREST & OTHER REVENUE

¹Includes cable service revenue and earned revenue



OPERATING EXPENSES² \$13,081,470

- 72% PROGRAM EXPENSES
- 24% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES
- 4% FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES

² Includes depreciation expense

PARTNERS

Partner Schools

Boys And Girls High School Brooklyn HS of the Arts Brownsville In Violence Out (BIVO) Center/ CAMBA Cyberarts Studio Academy East New York Middle School of Excellence Flagstone Family Center Houston Center/ University Settlement I.S. 30 I.S. 383 Philippa Schuyler I.S. 104 LS 281 J.H.S. 278 Marine Park Juan Morel Campos Secondary School Leadership Prep Ocean Hill M.S. 340 North Star Academy M.S. 352 Ebbets Field Middle School M.S. 839 M.S. 581 M.S. 582 NYPD Community Center East NY / Child Center of NY Inc. P.S. 196 The Williamsburg Bridge Magnet School for Communication & Mixed Media Arts PS 222 P.S. 284 Lew Wallace P.S. 306 Ethan Allen P.S. 308 Clara Cardwell P.S. 84 Jose De Diego School P.S. 91 P.S. 92 Passages Academy Belmont P.S. 188 Michael E Berdy Rockaway Collegiate HS Spring Creek Community School Van Siclen Community Middle School

Partner Organizations

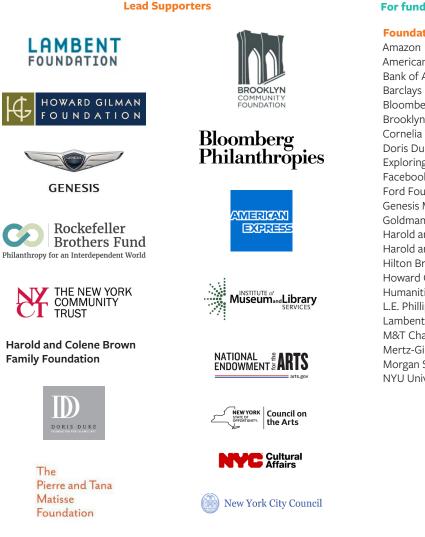
696 Build Queensbridge Arab American Association of New York (AAANY) Asian American Research Institute Audre Lorde Foundation Avaat Restaurant Bay Ridge 5th Ave Bid *BK Reader **Bronx Baptist Daycare & Learning Center Brookdale Hospital Medical Center Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Brooklyn Conservatory of Music Brooklyn Defender Services Brooklyn Hospital Brooklyn Heights Association (Lara Birnback) Brooklyn Voters Alliance Bushwick Film Festival BYKlyn Yard CAMBA Chapter Four Child Center of NY, Inc. City University of New York Collective Fare Coney Island Anti Violence Collaborative Democracy NYC Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance Downtown Brooklyn Partnership *East New York Community Land Trust *Extreme Kids & Crew Factory 25 Fifth Avenue Committee Friends of Island Academy Fulton Area Business Alliance (FAB) Future of Tommorow/Cypress Hills Organization *Girls on the Run NYC Grand Street Settlement Griot Circle House Lives Matter Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance Foundation **Man Up! Inc. Medgar Evers College MoCADA (Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts)

Myrtle Ave Brooklyn Partnership Naturally Ocurring Cultural Districts NY New York Edge NIA Neighborhood Services Network NYC Commission on Human Rights (Carmelyn Malalis) NYC Department of Consumer & Worker Protection (DCWP) NYC Department of Education (DOE) - Brooklyn North and Brooklyn South NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) NYC Parks Department Partnership with Children **Prospect Park Alliance** **Purelements: An Evolution in Dance Radio Free Bay Ridge *Soul2Soulz Inc. **The Ackerman Institute for the Family -Gender & Family Project The Lesbian HerStory Archives Two Trees United Community Schools University Settlement Urbanworld Film Festival **Venture House West Indian American Carnival Day Association (WIADCA) Worker's Justice Project Yemeni American Merchants Association (YAMA) YMCA Flatbush YWCA Brooklyn

*BRIC Media Share **BRIC Community Media Project for Health Equity in NYC

GIVING THANKS

BRIC acknowledges the following individuals, public funders, institutions, and businesses for their generous support of our work:



For funding received July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Foundations and Corporations

American Express Bank of America **Bloomberg Philanthropies Brooklyn Community Foundation** Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Exploring the Arts Foundation Facebook Inc Ford Foundation Genesis Motor America Foundation Goldman Sachs Harold and Colene Brown Family Foundation Harold and Colene Brown Family Foundation Hilton Brooklyn New York Howard Gilman Foundation Humanities New York (HNY) L.E. Phillips Family Foundation Lambent Foundation M&T Charitable Foundation Mertz-Gilmore Foundation Morgan Stanley NYU University Relations and Public Affairs

Paramount Global Rockefeller Brothers Fund Stearns Charitable Trust Surdna Foundation The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation The New York Community Trust The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation The Scherman Foundation The Scherman Foundation The Shen Family Foundation The Shubert Organization The Zankel Scala Family Foundation Tiger Baron Foundation ViacomCBS WarnerMedia





@BRICbrooklyn#BRICbrooklynBRICartsmedia.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Front cover: Brooklyn Hi-Art! Machine (Mildred Beltre and Oasa DuVerney) *Inspired By "What Is Left*". | PHOTO: DAVID ANDRAKO

Above image: BRIClab: Performing Arts Darian Dauchan, *The Brobot Adventure: Wrath of the Wackness* (work-in-procress) | PHOTO: TOBY TENENBAUM