THEATER EXPERIENCE
EMPOWERING NEW YORK CITY GIRLS THROUGH THE ARTS

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-

2018
VIBESTAGES AND VIBE RESIDENCY HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS ADDITION TO ACHIEVEMENT FIRST UNIVERSITY PREP. THE ATMOSPHERE THAT VIBE PROVIDES ALLOWS OUR STUDENTS A SAFE SPACE TO PROCESS THEIR OPPORTUNITIES, FEELINGS, & EXPERIENCES. I HAVE SEEN OUR VIBE GIRLS DEVELOP INTO YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE MORE CONFIDENT IN THEMSELVES. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERSHIP!

—KHLOYY STARR EVANS, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

IT WAS EXCITING TO CONNECT THEATER OF THE OPPRESSED NYC AND VIBE THIS YEAR TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER AND BUILD LONGER-TERM ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT CAN OFFER SUPPORT ON THE TOPICS OF SUSTAINABILITY FOR ART AND NON-PROFITS. THIS EXCITEMENT IS ALSO FED BY MY DEEP RESPECT FOR THE POWERFUL PERFORMANCES I SHINE ON STAGE AND SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS! —SULU LEONIMM JOKER & PROGRAM DIRECTOR, TONYC

VIBE HAS SHOWN GREAT STRENGTH, CHARACTER, AND FLEXIBILITY SINCE JOINING THE YOUTH INC PARTNER NETWORK. UTILIZING THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THEM, VIBE HAS SEEN TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. RECENTLY, VIBE WAS AWARDED A BRIDGEFUND GRANT TO CONTINUE TO BUILD THEIR STAFFING CAPACITY AND HAVE ALSO BEGUN THE METRICS PROGRAM TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THEIR GIRLS. WE ARE EXCITED TO TAKE THIS JOURNEY WITH THEM IN SUPPORTING THEIR GROWTH AS AN OUTSTANDING YOUTH-CENTERED ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK CITY.

—TRACIE GILSTRAP, YOUTH INC SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

VIBE’S WORK IS ENGAGING, PROVOCATIVE, AND ABOVE ALL ELSE HONEST. IN A SOCIETY THAT OFTEN TRIES TO SILENCE AND CONTROL THE EMOTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES OF GIRLS OF COLOR, THEIR CANDOR IS DEEPLY REFRESHING. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF FACILITATING A WORKSHOP WITH THEM AND WITNESSING FIRSTHAND HOW THEY’VE CREATED A REAL SENSE OF COMMUNITY, CONFIDENCE, AND DEEPENING OF THEIR OWN ARTISTRY. I AM THRILLED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND HONORED TO BE A PART OF THE ORGANIZATION’S GROWTH!

—REBECCA KELLY GOLDFMAN RACIAL JUSTICE FACILITATOR, THEATER-ARTIST, & VIBE BOARD MEMBER

VIBE IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT. THEIR WORK WITH YOUNG WOMEN OF COLOR IS PHENOMENAL, AND THEIR ORIGINAL PERFORMANCES SPEAK TO MANY ISSUES THAT WE SHOULD ALL CARE ABOUT!

—TY HUNTER FASHION DIRECTOR & STYLIST TO BEYONCÉ

THESE AMAZING WOMEN TESTIFIED AT THE NYC COUNCIL ON THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF ARTS IN TRUMP AMERICA. VIBE THEATER EXPERIENCE INSPIRES TEENAGE GIRLS TO WRITE AND PERFORM ORIGINAL THEATER, VIDEO, AND MUSIC ABOUT REAL LIFE ISSUES.

—LARUIE CUMBO, CITY COUNCIL MAJORITY LEADER

IN FY18, viBe Theater Experience served 326 girls through six free after-school programs, school residencies, and viBe internships. viBe produced five full-length plays: Through Our Eyes: A Black Girls’s Perspective, Maze Behind My Identity, Scratches in the Water Help Clear the Air, Are You Trippin? and What Goes Unseen Must Be Heard through our viBe-Company, viBeStages, viBeSolos, and viBe Leadership Institute programs. We also produced one full-length album (Shut Up and Listen by U.S.A.) through our viBeSongMakers program. Through these programs, productions, and other activities, viBe girls performed for audiences of over 1,500! In addition, we had more invited performances than EVER, participating in the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable’s “Day of Learning on Equity Diversity and Inclusion,” performing at and participating in the NYU Steinhardt School’s Educational Theatre Forum: Performance as Activism, Camille A. Brown and Dancers’ Community Celebration, and conferences like the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable’s Face to Face Conference. Additionally, in 2018 viBe welcomed the support of new partners like the Harman Family Foundation and the Black Women for Black Girls Giving Circle.

We are also proud of the fact that we have continued to train and hire young women of color to direct our programs through our viBe Leadership Institute and viBeApprentices programs. We also celebrate the fact that, in FY2018, viBe once again maintained a 100% high school graduation rate, and a 90% college acceptance rate.

Lastly, viBe’s advocacy efforts, as well as our pedagogical approach have led our girls to address issues that affect them, and our nation, the most. Our girls have tackled racism, homophobia, sexism, sexual harassment, poverty, and police brutality head on In FY18. They bravely spoke in front of the NYC Council in March, hosted Rep. Yvette Clarke on an “internet crawl” through Crown Heights, met Congressman John Lewis in Atlanta Georgia, and performed for a survivor of the 1963 Leesburg Stockade! What’s more, each of our productions has intentionally focused on the perspectives of those at the margins, and given young women of color a platform and an audience to amplify their voices, and create their own solutions.

Thanks to our FY18 partners: NoVo Foundation, Youth Inc, Harman Family Foundation, The NYC Fund for Girls and Young Women of Color, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Coalition of Theaters of Color, BlackRock, the A.R.T./New York Creative Opportunity Fund, the Black Women for Black Girls Giving Circle, and Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo (Women and Girls Initiative). Partnerships with Foundations, Corporations, City and State agencies, and individuals has helped viBe to maintain the quality of its programs as we continue to grow to scale. Your support helps us keep our programs high in quality and free of charge as we serve girls and communities that have a dearth of free arts programming. Thank you for your support as we look toward FY19, and beyond!

viBrantly,

TOYA A. LILLARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VIBE THEATER EXPERIENCE
viBe Residencies

**ACHIEVEMENT FIRST UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL** • October - December 2017

This Fall viBe created their own original show, **Maze Behind My Identity**, that explored growing up in America in 2017 and pondered what will be necessary for young black women to lead full lives. Through honest and courageous writing, these young artists tackled issues like gender equity, sexual harassment/abuse, misogyny, depression, food justice, self-hatred, and joy. Written and performed by Amaka, Aniyah, Keyara, Jessica, Shania, Taliquah, and Waledy. Directed by Monique Letamendi. Performed on December 18th, 2017 at HERE Arts Center and on December 20th at Achievement First University Preparatory High School.

**Brooklyn High School of the Arts**

**April - May 2018**

During the summer of 2018, viBe launched a new, ongoing six-week residency program at the Rosie M. Singer Center at Rikers Island. At the end of the six weeks, Program Director Ianne Fields Stewart shared with us how their curriculum this summer centered the creative process rather than the creative product. viBe is ecstatic to share our artistic process as we continue to guide the powerful work that emerges from systems-involved girls and young women of color.

**ViBeSoloS**

**January - May 2018**

Director Ianne Fields Stewart and Assistant Director Juliana Taveras, as well as choreographers from Camille A. Brown and Dancers, worked with five viBe girls to create their original show, **Scratches in the Water Help Clear the Air.** from Camille A. Brown and Dancers, worked with five viBe girls to create their original show, **Scratches in the Water Help Clear the Air.**

**ViBeLeadership Institute 2018**

**August - September 2018**

With the support of 11 viBe girls working with directors/professors Dana Edell and Toya Lillard to create their original show, **What is Unseen Must Be Heard**, a work that interrogates what girls need and deserve from the world. The show explored the concept of loss: from the loss of a friend, to losing yourself, or losing patience; these young women and 10 viBe girls to create their original show, **WWIII: Mad and Moody**

**ViBeSongMakers 2018**

**March - June 2018**

Director Monique Letamendi worked with four viBe girls to create their original album, **Shut Up & Listen.** by U.S.A (comprised of Ua, Aniya, and Shania, with Kianna). The girls also worked with a group of trained professional musicians (M Eljah Caldwell, vocal coach; Savannah Harris, percussion; Joe Hendix, guitar; Matthew Fishman, bass; and Ronna Siddiqui, keys) who guided the girls through music theory and lessons on the keyboard, bass, and drums, and facilitated the creation of a full-length album, for which all participants will collaborated on lyrics. Their album was recorded on May 21st at Figure 8 Studios in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, then performed live at a record release show on June 9th at Friends and Lovers BK. Shut Up and Listen explores self-love, encouragement, empowerment, and the struggles of daily life.

**ViBeStages Summer Intensive 2017**

**July - August 2017**

viBe alumn and program director Monique Letamendi worked with choreographer Patrice Miller and 10 viBe girls to create their original solo show, **WWIII: Mad and Moody.** The show explored the concept of loss: from the loss of a friend, to losing yourself, or losing patience; these young women and girls were in search of joy in these trauma-inducing times. Written and performed by Angeline, Twilight, Anais, Leonor, Keriique, and Aniha. Performed on August 9th at 1.A.R.T. NY South Oxford Space (The Great Room).
viBenefit is our signature annual fundraising event with proceeds supporting our programming and operations. viBenefit 2017 was held on Monday, November 6th, 2017 at Norwood Club. What a night! We had beautiful ambiance and delicious food and drink. We also honored viBe Alumna Aissatu Young! We would like to extend our gratitude to viBe’s Board of Directors, our special guest Ty Hunter, our gorgeous attendees, our sponsor Tito’s Vodka, our auction donors, and all the viBe supporters who came out to celebrate our youth and their work.

viBeGirls/Staff with some of our amazing community leaders and supporters (top left to bottom right): activist & #MeToo founder Tarana Burke, U.S. Rep Yvette D. Clarke, actress & politician Cynthia Nixon, NYC Council Member Laurie Cumbo, & U.S. Rep John Lewis

— BRIANA

VIBE IS TEACHING ME TO
BE MORE OPEN
WITH PEOPLE
AND MAKE SURE
THERE’S SOMEONE
OUT THERE THAT
LISTENS TO WHAT
I HAVE TO SAY.
With the generous support of individuals, government funds, foundation grants, and corporate support, viBe Theater experience has been able to serve hundreds of girls through our programs. These contributions cover costs ranging from theatre space, funding for teaching artists and theater professionals to work with viBe girls, materials, transportation for viBe girls, print materials to promote our programs, and digital productions of viBeSong full-length albums, where viBe girls write and compose their own melodies that Time-Out New York describes as “sending small waves of uncommon jubilation through the seen-it-all local set!”

**Individual Support**
Kaisa Acknerlund
Taishya Adams
Jim Akers
Christina Angelopoulou
Eva Marie Arena
Caroline Beasley-Baker
Anza Becnel
Lorraine Bell
Mason Bendewald
Mary Bowers
Renee Bragg
Lina Briscoe
Sarah Joy Elliott Burton
Monika Bustamante
Kweli Campbell
Vee Wyatt
Takiya Williams
Tanya Washington
Micheal Warner
Keitavious Walk
Claudine Waite
Tia Troutman
Konrad Trewick
Kirya Traber
Farnoosh Torabi
James V. Thomas
Nicole L. Taylor
Laura Striese
Robyn Streisand
Ianne Fields Stewart
Josephine Son
Steranie Siegal
Robert Schwartzman
Kishore Sakhrani
Angel Rush
Katy Rubin
Andrea Roberts
Royan Richard
Donna Renella
Willette Redfern
Dhira Rauch
Gabriela Ponce
Janice Parker
Ehna Rauch
Willlette Redfearn
Donna Renella
Royan Richard
Andrea Roberts
Katy Rubin
Angel Rush
Kishore Sakhrani
Robert Schwartzman
Sieranie Siegal
Judith Sloan
Kimberleigh Smith
Josephine Son
Ianne Fields Stewart
Robyn Streisand
Laura Striese
Nicole L. Taylor
James V. Thomas
Famosh Torabi
Kriya Traber
Konrad Trewick
Tia Troutman
Claudine Waite
Keitavious Walk
Michael Warner
Tanya Washington
Carolyn Wells
Takaya Williams
Vee Wyatt

**Government Support**
City Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo
Coalition of Theaters of Color (DCA)
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs

**Foundation Support**
Black Women for Black Girls Giving Circle
Creative Space Grant (A.R.T./New York)
Creative Opportunity Fund (A.R.T./New York)
Harman Family Foundation
NoVo Foundation
New York City Fund for Girls and Young Women

**Corporate Support**
BlackRock
Alamo Drafthouse

**viBe is a member of the**
Youth Inc partner network
Coalition of Theaters of Color
Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance

**BRING VIBE TO YOUR COMMUNITY**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS, TEACHING ARTISTS, & ADMINISTRATORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$350</td>
<td>PER (2 HOUR) WORKSHOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>PER HALF-DAY (4 HOUR) WORKSHOP</td>
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**INVITED PERFORMANCES**

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<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>PER 90MIN PERFORMANCE/TALK-BACK</td>
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**IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCIES**

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<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>PER 20 VISITS (-3 MONTHS)</td>
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**DONATE**

Give directly to viBe to make sure your dollars help viBe thrive and support teenage girls! Visit us online to donate today. Here’s what a contribution can provide:

- **$25** PAYS FOR A METROCARD FOR A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT
- **$200** PAYS FOR 4 TEACHING ARTISTS VISITS FOR ONE PROGRAM
- **$800** PAYS FOR PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING DESIGN FOR A YEAR
- **$1200** PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL VIBE GIRLS TO & FROM REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES FOR A YEAR
- **$2500** SPONSORS ONE VIBE GIRL FOR A YEAR’S PARTICIPATION IN OUR PROGRAMS

**VIBE FUNDING SOURCES**

- 20% Individual Support
- 50% Foundation Support
- 21% Government Support
- 5% Corporate Support
- 3% Earned Income
- 1% Advocacy Support

**VIBE GIRLS SERVED FY18**

- Total Youth Served: 326
- Girls Served: 153
- Parent Involvement: 120
- Community Engagement: 11
- School Attendance: 6
- District Engagement: 4

**Thank You to All Our Supporters**

**Youth Inc**

**Alamo Drafthouse**

**BlackRock**

** Coalition of Theaters of Color**

**Youth Inc partner network**

**Coalition of Theaters of Color (DCA)**

**City Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo**

**Community Design**

**Creative Space Grant (A.R.T./New York)**

**Creative Opportunity Fund (A.R.T./New York)**

**Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance**

**DCA**

**Donations**

- 50%
- 21%
- 20%
- 14%
- 6%

**Government Support**

- **Total Youth Served: 326**
THE VIBE TEAM

STAFF

TOYA LILLARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AMEYA BIRADAVOLU
DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

IANNE FIELDS STEWART
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

JULIANY TAVERAS
DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR AMAZING STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS AT VIBETHEATER.ORG

BOARD

CHERYL OVERTON
BOARD CHAIR

CHRISTINA KIJJIAN
SECRETARY

DASHIEL FLYNN
TREASURER

REBECCA KELLY
GOLDFMAN

ROCHELLE HERRING

ARMI RAM

MY VIBE JOURNEY TAUGHT ME THAT MY VOICE MATTERS. WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, IT HOLDS STRONG, POWERFUL MEANING.

—TATIANNA

TEACHING ARTISTS

MIKAELA BERRY • M ELIJAH CALDWELL • DANA EDELL
MATTHEW FISHMAN • EBONY NOELLE GOLDEN • SAVANNAH HARRIS
JOE HENDIX • ANGEL KABA • RONA SIDDIQUI

ANNUAL REPORT DESIGNED BY JULIANY TAVERAS
works to empower underserved teenage girls to write and perform original theater, video, and music about the real-life issues they face daily. viBe provides a safe, creative space for under-served girls to express their voices, take on challenges, and gain the self-confidence necessary to succeed personally, artistically, and academically. viBe empowers girls through intensive, free programs, which engage and inspire them to write, create, publish, direct, and perform personal, truthful, collaborative theater and music. Since 2002, more than 60 viBe productions have brought free theater, live musical performances, videos, and radio plays to diverse audience members, changing their perceptions about the kind of art that young women can create, and what can be achieved through collaborative, process-based methods.