



Theater Experience

EMPOWERING NEW YORK CITY GIRLS THROUGH THE ARTS

2017-



ANNUAL REPORT

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT



VIBESTAGES AND VIBERESIDENCY 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!

—KHYSTA EVANS, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

IT WAS EXCITING TO CONNECT THEATER OF THE OPPRESSED NYC AND VIBE THIS YEAR, TO SHARE APPROACHES TO INCOME STRATEGIES, AND **BUILD LONGER-TERM ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS** THAT CAN OFFER SUPPORT ON THE TOPIC OF SUSTAINABILITY FOR ART AND NON-PROFITS. THIS EXCITEMENT IS ALSO FED BY **MY DEEP RESPECT FOR THE POWERFUL PERFORMANCES** CREATED BY THE YOUNG WOMEN OF VIBE, WHO **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 GOLFMAN
RACIAL JUSTICE FACILITATOR, THEATRE-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.**

—LAURIE CUMBO
CITY COUNCIL MAJORITY LEADER

DEAR VIBE FAMILY,



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 PROGRAMS 2017-2018

viBeStages Summer Intensive 2017

July - August 2017

viBe alum and program director Monique Letamendi worked with choreographer Patrice Miller and 10 viBe girls to create their original 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 ask, 'are you listening?' and discuss their truths, which have, for too long, been ignored." Written and performed by Alexis, Shania, Nathalie, Taliquah, Dorothy, Michelan, Crystal, Gabrielle, Imani, and Vanessa. Performed on August 17th at JACK in Brooklyn, NY.

viBeStages Fall 2017

October - December 2017

Through Our Eyes: A Black Girl's Perspective, written and performed by the ladies of viBeStages Fall 2017 after-school program, is an imagining of a day in the life of the "Leesburg Girls," 12 African-American girls aged 13-15 who were detained in substandard living conditions and removed from contact from their families in Leesburg, GA for two months in 1963. Their crime? Protesting segregation. *Through Our Eyes* calls upon each of us to remember those whose stories are still untold, and protect the stories of those who are with still with us. This original show was written by Yanique, Angilene, Kaitlyn, and Taliyah; directed by Ianne Fields Stewart; and performed on December 18th at HERE Arts Center. Excerpts from the show were performed at Norwood Club on November 10th, and at the Youth Inc. Annual Town Hall for Partner Non-Profits in January. In July 2018, the cast and director of *Through Our Eyes: A Black Girl's Perspective* traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for a residency with Humanity in Action, where they were invited to perform their show at the Auburn Avenue Research Library for a packed audience, which included Congressman John Lewis and a survivor of the Leesburg Stockade.

viBeSolos 2018

January - May 2018

Director Ianne Fields Stewart and Assistant Director Julianny 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*. *Scratches* is an exploration of the journey to womanhood; coming of age, coming into one's own strength, and coming to question the world around you. The viBeSolos cast wrote powerful solo performances, alongside music, movement, and poetry. Written and performed by Angeline, Kaitlyn, Taliyah, Yana, and Yanique. Performed on April 30th and May 1st at JACK. viBeSolos girls also performed on February 18th at The Wild Project for the Poetic Theater Productions' 6th annual youth poetic theater showcase, Generation Now. On April 12th, viBeSolos girls also led a workshop, entitled "Writers Group: Teaching Femmes Writing Through Theatre," discussing their artistic process.

viBeSongMakers 2018

January - June 2018

Director Monique Letamendi worked with four viBe girls to create their original album, *Shut Up and Listen*, by U.S.A (comprised of Ua, Aniaha, and Shania, with Kianna). The girls also worked with a group of trained professional musicians (M Elijah Caldwell, vocal coach; Savannah Harris, percussion; Joe Hendix, guitar; Matthew Fishman, bass; and Rona Siddiqui, keys) who guided the girls through music theory and lessons on the keyboard, bass, and drums, and facilitated the writing 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, and is available for listening on Bandcamp at vibesongmakers.bandcamp.com/album/shut-up-and-listen.

viBe Leadership Institute 2018

July - August 2018

During the summer of 2018, a group of 11 viBe girls worked 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 analyzed themes of leadership, intersectionality, feminism, micro-aggressions, and gentrification in a thoughtful examination of why the world need girls to lead. Written and performed by Angeline, Twilight, Anais, Leonor, Kuenique, and Aniaha. Performed on August 9th at t.A.R.T. NY South Oxford Space (The Great Room).

viBeResidencies

ACHIEVEMENT FIRST UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY
HIGH SCHOOL • October - December 2017

The viBe girls at Achievement First wrote 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 Wislediy. 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

RIKERS ISLAND • July - August 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.

viBeCompany

This year's viBeCompany full length show *Are You Trippin'?* was about the mental and physical 'trippin' of four unlikely travelers in search of joy in these trauma-inducing times. *Are You Trippin'?* examined mental health, trauma, coping mechanisms, and how young women can find their joy in 2018. Performed on June 10th at BRIC Arts Media and June 14th at JACK.

In 2018, viBeCompany was also commissioned and invited to perform at numerous events:

JAN 18

Youth Inc. Annual Town Hall For Partner Nonprofits

FEB 18

Generation Now! at the Poetic Theater License Festival

APR 4-5

NYC Arts in Education Roundtable's Face to Face Conference

APR 19-21

NYU Educational Theatre Forum 2018. "Performance as Activism"

JUN 9

Community Celebration for Camille A. Brown and Dancers

JUN 24

Central Brooklyn Arts & Culture Walk (CBACW)

advocacy,
leadership,
development,
community engagement

At viBe, we believe that artistic experience outside of rehearsal can be just as crucial to the creative process as the curriculum conducted within it. Our Executive Director's motto is, "Take a girl everywhere you go" — and she does! Check out all that we accomplished in the community in 2018:

january viBeCompany performed for a class of 5th graders at Harlem Village Academy

february viBe staff & participants gave testimony at a New York City Council hearing on "Art as Resistance in Trump's America" to the Committee on Cultural Affairs

march viBe performed & presented at the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable's "Day of Learning on Equity & Inclusion"

april viBe presented at the "Phenomenal Women: Girls Doing Activism" Panel at Hunter College, hosted U.S. Representative Yvette Clarke for the Internet Association's

"Crown Heights Internet Crawl," and performed & presented at the NYU Steinhardt School's Forum on "Performance as Activism." viBeGirls helped test a new app/social media platform called Maverick before traveling to Los Angeles to present at the launch event, MaverickLive. viBe's Development Professional was also invited to attend a series of monthly workshops called the Breakfast Club hosted by Cause Effective at The Foundation Center!

may viBe presented & performed at both the "More Than Just Sex" Conference at St. Francis College and the "Bates Conference" at Bates College. viBeGirls also attended a private class at Sephora Stands' "Classes for Confidence" and the New York Women Foundation's "Celebrate Women" Breakfast

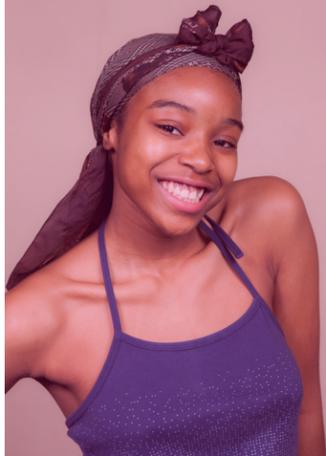
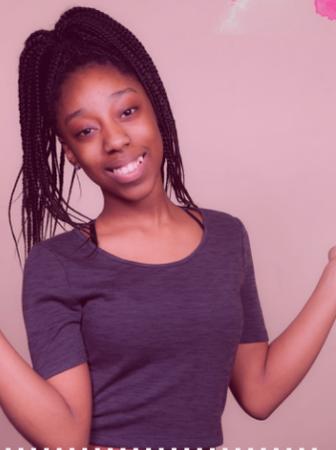
june viBeStaff members were invited to attend the 2018 "Women Serving Women" Summit at the Omega Institute

july viBe traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for a one-week residency with Humanity in Action, where they were invited to perform *Through Our Eyes: A Black Girl's Perspective*



VIBE OPENED UP PARTS OF ME THAT
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT.

—ANAIS



VIBENEFIT 2017

THE MOST VIBIN' PARTY OF THE YEAR

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.



our leaders of tomorrow — today!



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



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.**

—BRIANA

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

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 viBeSongMakers full-length albums, where viBe girls write and compose their own unique 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 Angelopoulos
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
Rubin Carasco
Hope Cartelli
Peggy Cheng
Charell Chiger
Elvira Clayton
Melanie Closs
Megan Crane
Betsy Crenshaw
Michael Criscuolo
Maura Cuffie
Daniel Dejene
Jean Donatto
Kathryn Eastburn
Dana Edell
Jason Yuseffe Evans
Ellen Finn
Dashiell Flynn
Eugene Foney
Raquel Ga
Vanessa Garcia
Gabrielle Gilliam
Janna Gjesdal
Katharine Clark Gray
Anne Green
Maranda LeBlanc Harris
Carrie Hawks
Rebecca Herron
Kaitlin Hines
Rebecca Houlding
Robyn Jackson
Teneshia Jackson
Jacqueline Jenkins
Tomasia Kastner
Jennifer Kessler
Amirtha Kidambi
Christina Kiljian
Lisa Kovner
Doriel Inez Larrier
Scott La Rue
Yvette La Rue

Jeff Lewonczyk
Duane Lillard
Herbert Lillard
Marie Greene Lillard
Samantha Lillard
Richard Louissaint
Kwana Martinez
Kristin Marting
Leydin Mata
Kim McCreight-Prentice
Kara McCune
Wilma McDaniel
Hyacinth Meade
Derrick Mickie
Manning M. Mott
Mauda Moran
Eileen Morris
H. Michael Morse
Sarah Mullins
Robyne Walker Murphy
Roger Nasser
Ajanette Nettles
Dr. Jen Nixon
Adepeju Olujemisi
Cheryl Overton
Janice Parker
Gabriela Ponce
Dhira Rauch
Willette Redfern
Donna Renella
Royan Richard
Andrea Roberts
Katy Rubin
Angel Rush
Kishore Sakhrani
Robert Schwartzman
Steranie Siegal
Judith Sloan
Kimberleigh Smith
Josephine Son
Ianne Fields Stewart
Robyn Streisand
Laura Striese
Nicole L. Taylor
James V. Thomas
Farnoosh Torabi
Kirya Traber
Konrad Trewick
Tia Troutman
Claudine Waite
Keitavious Walk
Micheal Warner
Tanya Washington
Carolyn Wells
Takiya Williams
Vee Wyatt

Government Support

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

Foundation Support

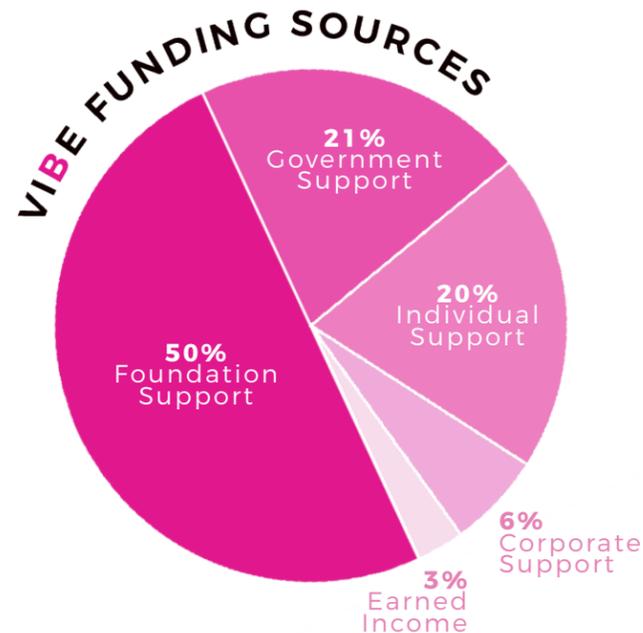
Black Women for Black Girls Giving Circle
Creative Space Grant (A.R.T./New York)
Creative Opportunity Fund (A.R.T./New York)
Harman Family Foundation
NoVo Foundation
New York City Fund for Girls and Young Women of Color
Youth Inc

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

\$350 PER (2 HOUR) WORKSHOP
\$500 PER HALF-DAY (4 HOUR) WORKSHOP

INVITED PERFORMANCES

\$500 PER 90MIN PERFORMANCE/TALK-BACK

IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCIES

\$2000 PER 20 VISITS (~3 MONTHS)

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



THE IMPACT

VIBE GIRLS SERVED FY18

- viBeResidencies
- viBeStages
- viBeSolos
- viBeSongmakers
- viBeLeadership Institute
- viBeCompany
- viBeApprentices
- viBe Teen Audiences
- viBe Stand-Alone Workshops

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED: 326

THE VIBE TEAM

STAFF



TOYA LILLARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AMEYA BIRADAVOLU
DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATE



IANNE FIELDS STEWART
VIBESTAGES & VIBESOLOS
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



MONIQUE LETAMENDI
VIBESONGMAKERS & VIBESTAGES
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



JULIANNY TAVERAS
TEACHING ARTIST
& GRAPHIC DESIGNER

BOARD



CHERYL OVERTON
BOARD CHAIR



CHRISTINA KILJIAN
SECRETARY



DASHIELL FLYNN
TREASURER



**REBECCA KELLY
GOLFMAN**



ROCHELLE HERRING

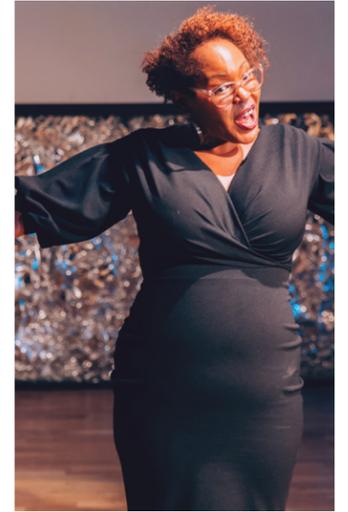


ARTI RAM

2017 - 2018

TEACHING ARTISTS

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

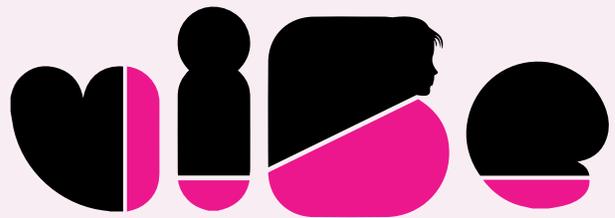


MY VIBE JOURNEY
TAUGHT ME THAT
**MY VOICE
MATTERS.**
WHAT I HAVE TO
SAY, IT HOLDS
**STRONG,
POWERFUL
MEANING.**

-TATIANNA

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

ANNUAL REPORT DESIGNED BY **JULIANNY TAVERAS**



Theater Experience

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 radioplays 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.

||||| **VIBETHEATER.ORG** |||||



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