empowering new york city girls through the arts

2018-2019

annual report
viBe's unprecedented growth this past year is a testament to the commitment and compassion of our entire community—our girls, artists, financial supporters, volunteers, and incredible staff. We thank you. And while we are proud of what we've accomplished, this is the time to focus on goals and set new standards. And we thank you, in advance, for partnering with us to reach new heights in programming, activism, community building, and fundraising.

The late, great Toni Morrison said, “This is the time for every artist in every genre to do what he or she does loudly and consistently... This is no time for anything else than the best that you’ve got.” We’ll take that on. It will challenge us to reinvent our processes and make tough decisions. It will involve shifts in thinking as we broaden our footprint of service. It will require us to ask for more from our supporters. It will encourage us to dream bigger and in color. The result of all that effort will be undeniable.

Our Board knows that vision is attainable — if we work together. Are you with us?

Dear ViBe Family,

In FY19, viBe experienced unprecedented growth and expansion, serving over 450 girls through our six free, after school programs, while also presenting and performing at conferences and symposia all over the country! We have truly enjoyed spreading the word about viBe’s unique pedagogical approach, and giving our girls and young women the platforms that they deserve in order to speak their truths. As we begin viBe’s epic 15th Anniversary year, we need your support more than ever. We are working to build viBe’s capacity, and move towards “thrivability” as we serve, train, and employ girls and young women of color to lead arts programs, and give them artistic and leadership opportunities on and off the stage. We hope that you will join us in supporting viBe’s growth and expansion in our 15th year!


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 FY20 and beyond!

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ViBrantly,

TOYA A. LILLARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
VIBE THEATER EXPERIENCE

CHERYL OVERTON
BOARD CHAIR,
VIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
*viBe programs 2018-2019*

**viBeSolos 2019**  
January - May

Director Ianne Fields Stewart and Assistant Director Jackie Torres worked with 11 viBe Girls to create their original show, the HELL is a WOMAN? - TAKE IT or LeAVE IT, the HELL is a WOMAN? was a lesson for the audience on the everyday introspections of Generation Z. It took you through a school day where classes include Woke 101, Failing Chemistry, and Sociology. The viBeSolos cast wrote powerful solo performances, alongside music, movement, and poetry.

Written and performed by Aniaha, Orquedia, Kuenique, Nathalie, Taliyah, Leo, and Kaitlyn. Performed on April 19th and 20th at The Mark O'Donnell Theater at The Actors Fund Arts Center.

**viBeSongMakers 2019**  
January - June

Director Monique Letamendi worked with 17 viBeGirls to create their original album, *Insert Here* by A.A.K.K.V (comprised of Tazed Petal, Arie, India Sullivan, Key Wavy, Kaitlyn Ross, and Vicky Sin). The girls also worked with a group of trained professional musicians (Ava Mendoza, Jeni Ortiz, Genessis Mejia, and Felice Ross) who guided the girls through music theory and lessons on the guitar, bass, drums, and piano and facilitated the writing of a full-length album, for which all participants collaborated on lyrics. Their record release party was on June 1st at Friends and Lovers BK.

**viBeLeadership Institute 2019**  
July - August

During the summer of 2019, a group of 11 viBeGirls worked with directors/professors Dana Edell and Monique Letamendi to create their original show *The Truth of Life*, a work about a brave group of girls that speak their truths, support each other, engage the audience, and demand change.

Written and performed by Shania, Stephanie, Kianna, Aniaha, Desire, Gabrielle, Kuenique, and Lenonor. Performed on August 16th at A.R.T. NY South Oxford Space (The Great Room).

**viBeStages 2019**  
viBeStages at the Young Women’s Leadership School of Brooklyn was led by Juliana Taveras and Jackie Torres, and ran from October to March and May to June every Wednesday morning. The show premiered on March 20th at the Young Women’s Leadership School of Brooklyn for an audience of approximately 300. The Truth of Life with Girls was about being a girl in an all girls’ middle school. In their show, the girls gave a sneak peak of their lives and explore identity, friendship, and lots of drama.

viBeStages at Achievement First University Prep High School was led by Monique Letamendi and ran from October to January every Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

The show premiered on January 17th at Achievement First University Prep High School for an audience of approximately 50. A Black Girl’s Tale was a reimagining of a Christmas Carol. In the story, Akeelah, the main character, meets Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Nina Simone, Whitney Houston, and Aretha Franklin, who all individually take her through time to help her realize the majesty of her roots.

viBeStages at Rikers Island was led by Ianne Fields Stewart and Mikaela Berry, and ran from October to December every Tuesday and Thursday and April to July every Monday and Tuesday. The program consisted of a series of small performances within each workshop. This curriculum was built around our experience running the program in that it builds in elasticity to accommodate inconsistencies in attendance. This is due to the transient nature of being involved in institutional systems.

**viBeCompany 2019**  
This year’s viBeCompany full-length show *Monolith to Monarch* was a call to take space for seven black women. It was a theatrical celebration of the chrysalis of the Black girl experience!

It was performed on May 24th and 25th at The Mark O’Donnell Theater at The Actors Fund Arts Center.

**viBeResidencies 2019**

viBe also hosts curated residencies with our organizational partners where we delve into viBe’s pedagogy, curriculum, and practices. Our workshops give participants useful strategies and techniques for collaborative art-making—specifically and intentionally with girls and young women of color, many of whom face unique challenges in finding safer spaces to express themselves, uncensored and unfiltered by restrictions on what they say, how they speak, and/or misperceptions about their capabilities. This fiscal year viBe held curated residencies with the Ensemble Theatre in Houston (November), Harold Hunter Foundation (May), The New School (January-May), University of Pennsylvania (February/March), and YOGShare (July/August).

Moreover, 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 some of our commissioned events, curated residencies, and institutional partnerships this year.

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**Advisory Board:**  
In Solidarity We Rise: Healing Opportunity and Justice For Girls Conference hosted in Atlanta, Georgia  
Jayackle Foundation Conference  
The New School’s William Sheller Sixth Annual “Road 2 Success” Youth Summit  
American Alliance for Theater Education Pre-Conference  
7th Annual Generation NOW! hosted by Brave Rock Girl  
2018-2019
Studies show black girls and young women disproportionately experience violence at school, on the job, at home, and in their neighborhoods. The recently published report "Girlhood Interrupted" found that American adults tend to view black girls as "less innocent and more adult-like" than their white peers, also known as "adultification bias," which contributes to the over-policing of black girls within educational and criminal-justice systems. Furthermore, reports like "Black Girls Matter" and scholarship like Monique Morris' "Pushout" also note that black girls are unfairly disciplined, undereducated, and denied leadership opportunities. According to reports by the GSA Network, these disproportionate outcomes also hold true at the intersection of GNC and LGBTQ youth of color.

Because of this reality, viBeGirls are particularly vulnerable to push-out trends such as the school-to-prison pipeline. The ACLU defines the “school to prison pipeline” as “a disturbing national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.”

viBeGirls come from over 20 public high schools as well as countless social service organizations. A 2015 survey on national suspension rates administered through the Civil Rights Data Collection showed that schools where viBe regularly recruits are among those at which girls are disproportionately disciplined, suspended, and expelled.

While NYS public high schools have an overall graduation rate—and a graduation rate for Black and Latinx students—viBe maintains a 100% graduation rate from all its participants. Over 90% of viBe girls continue on to enroll in college, attending universities such as Syracuse, Temple, Hunter, St. John’s, SUNY Purchase, and Simmons. Over 50% of our alumnae since 2002 remain engaged with us via social media and email, attend viBe performances, and return as volunteers, interns, and lecturers for current viBe girls.
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 “singing small waves of uncommon jubilation through the seen-it-all local set!”

individuals
Nicole Achreampong
Dante Acuna
Ayotunde Adejumunni
Juliette Alice
Sophie Anne Barker
Evyn Augustine
Marva Babal
Kevin Baptiste
Cheyenne Battato Sao Roque
Justin Beach
Andrea Berchowitz
Sarah Beth Berman
Madhura Bhattachar
Grace Bland
Tahj Blox
Francine Borden
Miles Bolton
Ianay Bughton
Teka Briscoe
Rachel Brody
Evian Brown
Fred Camara
Danielle Cammecere
Kweli Campbell
Monica Cancian
Philip Carroll
Cliff Carson
Phil McComish
Michael Mbamelu
Jennifer Martinez
Matt Luckett
Juliana Mor
Elisabeth Morgan
Joseph Naserawy
Narelle Negron
John Nesbitt
Danielle Newton
Rochelle Newman-Carrasco
Sherrye Nicole
Dan Othus
Barbara Ofoos-Somuah
Katherine Orozco
Clinton Oyedeyübuc
Emmanuel Orji
Cheryl Overtor
Michael Paige
Rich Penn
David Perez
Nigel Philbert
Patty Pina Slutsky
Cheryl Pinkard
Lotonya Rogby
Chris Raul-Scheiden
Laura Reaard
Shea Richburg
Andrea Roberts
Chesley Rosbestuck
Tiffany Rogers
Tim Rousseau
AnnMarie Rousseau
Stephanie Rua
Daphne Amalia Rub-Vega
Clavel Ruiz
Kathleen Sanderson
Sophie Sharp
Katie Shelstof
Stefanie Sieger
Rebecca Silberman Rich
Matt Sippo
Gage Smith
Josephine Son
Xico Souta Moura Bos
Richard Souto
Joan Spivak
Stephen Stanley
Cleo Stamb
Ken Stein
Stefanie Syman
Randi Taylor
Evan Terrell
Thasa Tirado
Leigh Torrence Taylor
Della Torres-Taylor
Frances Turner
Hannah Viek
Chris Vine
Henry Wainhouse
Claudette Wei
Georgia Wei
Nicola White
Samantha Williams

foundations
Brooklyn Community Foundation
Invest in Youth Initiative
Kendedy Taylor and Donald Rubin Foundation
Art and Social Justice Initiative
NoVo Foundation
Grant-Making Program
Black Women for Black Girls Giving Circle
Believe in a Black Girl Initiative
Black Arts Futures Fund
Spring Funding Cycle
Youth Inc.
Bridgefund Grant
Harman Family Foundation
Direct Service Grant
A.R.T./New York
Creative Space Grant
New York Women’s Foundation
NYC Fund for Girls and Women of Color

government
New York City The Urban League
Communities of Color Non Profit Community Stabilization Fund
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
Cultural Development Fund
Coalition of Theaters of Color
City Council Discretionary Expense Funding
from New York City Council
Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo

workshops
viBe hosts workshops delivering useful techniques for collaborative art-making, specifically and intentionally with girls and young women of color. Many girls and young women of color face unique challenges in finding safer spaces to express themselves, uncensored and untethered by restrictions on what they say, how they speak, and/or mis-perceptions about their capabilities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS, TEACHING ARTISTS, & ADMINISTRATORS

PER 20 VISITS (~3 MONTHS)
$350 PER (2 HOUR) WORKSHOP, 1 FACILITATOR
$500 PER HALF-DAY (4 HOUR) WORKSHOP, 1 FACILITATOR
$250 PER ADDITIONAL FACILITATOR

IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCY
Per Day (Up to 15 days)
$1200 LIGHTING DESIGN FOR A YEAR
$800 PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING DESIGN FOR A YEAR
$1000 PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL VIBE GIRLS TO & FROM REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES FOR A YEAR
$2500 SPONSORS ONE VIBE GIRL FOR A YEAR OF PARTICIPATION IN OUR PROGRAMS

PER ADDITIONAL FACILITATOR
$250

PER (2 HOUR) WORKSHOP, 1 FACILITATOR
$250

PER DAY PER ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBER
$250

PER 90MIN PERFORMANCE/TALK-BACK
$500 PER 90MIN PERFORMANCE/TALK BACK

PER 90MIN PERFORMANCE/TALK BACK FOR HARMAN FOUNDATION TRAVEL
$1000 PER 90MIN PERFORMANCE/TALK-BACK

PER DAY PER ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBER
$1000

residencies
viBe is committed to a radical healing framework which calls for collaborators to uplift young artists by encouraging them to express themselves fully through collaborative ensemble performances. We hold space in rehearsals for girls and young women to get what we call their “nugget of free,” and to show up fully.

IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCIES
$2000 PER 20 VISITS (~3 MONTHS)

founded

O R T H E R W A Y S T O S U P P O R T

Join Us in Making a Difference
viBe welcomes professionals who share the passion for viBe’s mission to lend their talents on one of our volunteer communities at vibetheater.org/volunteer.

Advertise in Our Next Program Booklet!

$75 for a Two-Page Spread
$50 for a Full Page
$25 for a Half Page

Check Out viBe’s Merchandise!

Tee-Shirts: $15
Tote Bags: $12

You can visit us online for more information.
VIBE GIVES YOUNG WOMEN A PLATFORM TO EXPLORE THEIR EMOTIONS, EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS, BENEFITING NOT ONLY THEM AND THEIR HEALING, BUT ALL OF US WHO ARE TOUCHED AND HEALED BY THEIR VULNERABILITY AND POWER. I WISH THAT ALL GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN, PARTICULARLY GIRLS AND WOMEN OF COLOR WHO RECEIVE SO MANY MESSAGES TO THE CONTRARY, HAD MORE OPPORTUNITIES EARLY ON TO LEARN THAT THEIR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT, VALID, AND BEAUTIFUL. WATCHING THE YOUNG WOMEN OF VIBE ONSTAGE IN FLOW, STANDING IN THEIR POWER, IS SUCH A JOY. I AM SO PROUD TO PLAY EVEN A SMALL PART IN SUPPORTING THESE WISE AND WONDERFUL QUEENS.

"samantha williams
BOARD MEMBER"

VIBE HAS SET THE BAR FOR WHAT ORGANIZATIONS FOCUSED ON YOUNG WOMEN OF COLOR SHOULD BE: GROUPS THAT CURATE SAFE SPACES FOR THEM TO EXPLORE ALL OF THEIR IDENTITIES AND HELP THEM FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL. THE WOMEN VIBE SERVES ARE MORE REFLECTIVE AND MORE POWERFUL WITH EACH PERFORMANCE, AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP CREATE THAT REALITY.

"Tahj Blow
JUNIOR BOARD MEMBER"
provides girls (ages 13-19) and young women (ages 18-24) in New York City with free, high quality artistic, leadership and academic opportunities. viBe works to empower underserved teenage girls to write and perform original theater, video, and music about the real-life issues they face daily. viBe’s performing arts and training programs provide the platform for participants to amplify their voices and “speak truth to power” by creating an artistic response to the world around them.