

EMPOWERING NEW YORK CITY GIRLS  
THROUGH THE ARTS



Theater Experience

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# DEAR VIBE FAMILY,

When FY19 began, in September 2019, viBe was poised to celebrate its 15th anniversary, and have its biggest, best year yet. Years of work had gone into rebranding and rebuilding the organization from the ground up, with the intention to be more mission-driven; have the folks on our staff, Board, and even our volunteers be reflective of the girls and communities that we serve; have viBe's leadership include young Black women; and have our programs provide both artistic and leadership opportunities. We began our season with *The Feminism You Left Out*, a performance commissioned by Gloria Steinem for the November 5th book launch of *The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off!* at PioneerWorks. We conducted fall residencies at The Young Women's Leadership School and Achievement First University Prep High Schools, both in Bushwick. We also raised over \$46,000.00 through our participation in the Youth, Inc. Celebration fundraising training program, all stirred and led by viBe's Board of Directors.

We began 2020 with plans to produce four shows, a full-length album, and two new programs: viBeOut, for LGBTQIA Black femmes, and the viBe/WP Professional Mentorship Initiative, which gave a cohort of five young women from viBe the opportunity to be part of the artistic team for Donetta Lavinia Grays' *Where We Stand*. Our viBeSongMakers and viBeSolos programs were in full swing, and viBeCompany was hard at work on their mainstage show after having enjoyed a riveting performance at the Poetic License Theater Festival's *Generation Now*.

## THEN THE WORLD STOPPED.

We closed our offices on March 14th, halting production and all viBe programming. The decision to "transition" to virtual programming was made by viBe staff and participants. I couldn't envision how we would be able to continue on, and I feared that all of the "pivoting" that was happening at other organizations would not work for viBe. How can theater and music be made in a virtual setting? What kind of experience could we offer girls, who lived in some of the most challenged and under-resourced communities, pre-COVID? For viBe it was necessary to first ask our participants what they need. We quickly discovered that therapy and healing spaces were necessary additions to our offerings, as well as providing equipment like microphones and props, to those working on producing music and theater. Our viBeOut participants decided that they wanted to produce a zine for their final project, which launched viBe into the world of publishing! Look out for viBePublications, which will include a new book written by viBeGirls.

During the spring of 2020, in quarantine, our staff and young women worked hard to support each other, continue their artistic pursuits, and also make a contribution to the Movement for Black Lives. Artistic partnerships with WP Theater and The New York Philharmonic fueled the creativity of our young women, and connected their writing and performances to larger, more visible cultural organizations. Virtual offerings included the viBeSolos performance *Flowers and Butterflies: Emerging from Our Chrysalis*, the reading of *La Limpieza* by Monique Letamendi, a listening party for our viBeSongMakers 2020 group *RoyalBlu*, and a record release show for *RoyalBlu* in August. We also served 250 girls through our summer programming, in partnership with Black Feminist Futures. viBeLeadership Institute and viBeSongMakers Express all happened virtually, and both programs included a paid stipend for participants in order to address the growing economic crisis that was exacerbated by the cancellation of the Summer Youth Employment Program.

**We did more than we could have ever imagined this year, and served our youth in ways that we could not have predicted.** Through a pandemic and a social movement to end the senseless murder of Black people, and within a school system that often fails to protect or educate them, our girls and young women showed us all what it means to make art, make a way out, and conjure new ways of being that will enable them to survive and be of use when this pandemic is over. I have learned so much from the young folk on our staff, and in our programs, about real resiliency, courage, strength, and wisdom.

As we begin FY21, we need your support more than ever. We are working to shore up our resources, and viBe's capacity to meet the needs of our participants in new ways. For example, viBe has offered free yoga and movement classes led by yoga teachers Aimee Cox and Linda Lopes. There are two series: one for girls of color and their caretakers, and another for cultural/youth workers of color. Community care is crucial if our communities, which are deeply hurt right now, are to heal and thrive again. In FY21 we plan to continue to 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. To that end, in September we will welcome viBe's first Artistic Director, Monique Letamendi!



Thank you to our FY20 partners: **The New York Community Trust, NoVo Foundation, Brooklyn Community Foundation, The NYC Fund for Girls and Young Women of Color, The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Coalition of Theaters of Color, Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund, Harman Family Foundation, A.R.T./New York, The Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, Ms. Foundation for Women Gloria Steinem Fund, Hyde and Watson Valentine Perry Snyder Fund, and Youth, Inc.,** as well as our COVID-19 response partners: **Grantmakers for Girls of Color "Love is Healing" COVID-19 Response Fund, New York Women's Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund, Puffin Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund, the Black Women for Black Girls Giving Circle, Councilmember Robert Cornegy, Jr. 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. 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. We are excited about the future, and hopeful that change is coming soon. We hope that you will join us in supporting viBe's growth and expansion in our 16th year. **Thank you for your support as we look toward FY21 and beyond!**

**vibrantly,**

**TOYA A. LILLARD**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
VIBE THEATER EXPERIENCE



I have never felt more proud and purpose-driven in my commitment to viBe than in the past fiscal year. Not only have we continued to provide participants with opportunities to develop leadership skills through our innovative, high-touch, free arts programming, we've managed to do so – and expand our reach – under the historic circumstances of a global pandemic and an explosive reckoning on anti-Black racism in the U.S.

viBe's consistent and now digital-first presence in the lives of our community marked a powerful shift in response to current events. As a Black-led and predominantly Black-serving organization, we were uniquely prepared to understand the emotional and physical needs of our community and to answer the increasing

demands for expert Black voices on topics of social justice and women's empowerment. We have always looked matters of social justice squarely in the eye; this year, the world was ready for our POV.

With predominate Black leadership, Board, and team makeup, viBe served as a model for how organizations can ensure the voices influencing organizational action are inclusive and representative of the communities they serve.

If anything, the events of the past year have proven the necessity of this work. Our commitment is redoubled. We will continue to remain a consistent and positive force in our participants' lives, regardless of fluctuating resources and priorities. We will shout loud and knock on more doors to ensure Black and Brown girls and young women are given every opportunity to become the leaders we know them to be.

Your support this past year has been tremendous; please join us again as we continue the fight.

**#Onward,**

**CHERYL OVERTON**  
BOARD CHAIR,  
VIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# viBE PROGRAMS

## 2019-2020

### viBeStages OCTOBER – MARCH

This year's viBeResidencies served as an altered version of our viBeStages program and allowed students to collaboratively work with professional theater directors to write and perform an original show in school! At Achievement First, Director Monique Letamendi worked with viBe girls Geornae Davis and Adesode Otagho to present *System of Life* ("Two high school girls battle not only their mental demons but the pressure and hurt from their physical world as well. Follow them for a glimpse into their lives at school, at home and how they get through the day, being in this thing called the SYSTEM OF LIFE") on December 16th, 2019. At The Young Women's Leadership School in Brooklyn, despite an abrupt end due to COVID-19, Directors Michelan Le'Monier and Camryn Bruno got to work with Shanilla, Jessenia, Cece, Lishaye, Samya, Malaya, Alexis, Rihanna, Brenda, Jaleah, Samantha to explore original writing and theatre-making.

### viBeCompany NOVEMBER – SEPTEMBER

viBeCompany is viBe's pre-professional group of young adult artists who receive ongoing training and paid performance opportunities, and who devise original theater for viBe's invited performances. viBeCompany produces and performs one full-length show each year. 2019's *Abrupt* opened on September 25th, directed by Monique Letamendi and starring Myrlevens Adrien, Amanda Gardner, Nicosie Christophe, Christina Akinsanya, Hanifah Johnson, Michelan Le'Monier, Chelsea Allison, Kenya Lewis, Khadijah Boney, and Monica Cacacion.

### viBeOut FEBRUARY – MAY

viBeOut is a new viBe program that began in Spring 2020. In this 15-week program, LGBTQIA femme-identifying folks have the opportunity to place the Black queer icons of the past in conversation with those currently continuing the fight for equal representation in mainstream culture, culminating in a final project that empowers participants to become icons in their own right. Through dance, theater, storytelling, and art in all forms, participants learn ways to be more in touch with ourselves, their identities, and learn the ways in which past black queer icons have paved the way for them, and for us all. In this debut year, program director Mikaela Berry worked with participants Anais Richard, Avery Gilliam, Maliyah Ellis, Jaela Coello, and Angelina Rodriguez on an e-magazine. Our inaugural viBeOut group created and published viBeOut Magazine on May 8th, 2020.

### viBeSolos FEBRUARY – MAY

viBeSolos is an advanced performance program where girls craft and perform their own 15-minute "one-girl" solo pieces in collaboration with an ensemble cast. This year, writers/performers Jahliyah Desiree, Tamia Copeland, Hanifah Johnson, Angelina Rodriguez, Gabrielle Saintfluer, and Jhanay White devised and debuted *Flowers and Butterflies: Emerging from Our Chrysalis* ("Transformation takes growth. From cocoon to butterfly and from bud to flower, these six girls are exploring what it means to be confident, open-minded, free, and safe in this life!") This production was directed by Michelan Le'Monier and Camryn Bruno and performed on May 8th, 2020.

### viBeSongMakers FEBRUARY – AUGUST

viBeSongMakers is a six-month program that provides the tools for viBe girls to express themselves through writing/recording, composing, and arranging a full-length album of songs. Professional musicians work with participants to offer basic music instruction and guide girls through the song-writing and recording process, resulting in an album and live performance. Co-directors Felisha George and Monique Letamendi led 2019-2020 group Royalblu (Haylee James-Stewart, Ashley Lawerence, Jahnice Griffith). Royalblu's album, *Palette Ouverete* ("Feel the colors. Feel and hear how open we are and how open you can make yourself. Colors alone can express emotions that have a variety of interpretations. When listening to *Palette Ouverete* we ask you to make your own") was shared at a May 29th listening party and August 9th record release event.

**viBeApprenticeship** – a leadership program geared toward viBe Alumnae in high school and college who have expressed an interest in exploring careers in theater. Program facilitators Toya Lillard and Michelan Le'Monier worked closely with participants Phanesia Pharel (Leadership Institute), Kianna Heyward (SongMakers Express), Twilight Jones (Administrative), and Gabrielle Pflugrad (viBeCompany).

**viBeSongMakers Express** – a six-week version of our viBeSongMakers program which provides the tools for viBe girls to express themselves by creating 1-2 original songs. Program director Felisha George led summer group "Revolution X" (Brianna Jordan, Danielle Robinson, Aponi Kafele, Solange McClellan, Taylor Williams, Jolan Grant, Lena Santana, Max Salters, Kuenique Allicock, Grace Wang, Alexa Quitian, Kayla Lewis, Andreelina Barthe, Sasha Padmore, and Aniaha Ortiz), which released songs "Eyes of the Young" and "LOVE N ME" (about the many ways the youth see our world, and what it means to be a young person of color in America) on August 14th.

## SUMMER 2020

**viBeLeadership Institute** – a training program for girls, young women, and nonbinary youth of color aged 14-24, created to help them develop the skills necessary to lead arts programs, and become arts practitioners in the field. Participants Kayla Saintard, Yasani White, Valerie Ramroop, Saqirah Lewis, Orquidia Geraldine, Leonor Duran, Anais Richard, Avery Gilliam, Kimberly Pereyra-Montero, Miosori Polanco, Mia Tiwari, Brianna Chavez, Sephora Dieujuste, Yanique Bundick, Destiny Castro, Paige Thomas, Adesode Otagho, Geornae Davis, Ariah Scott-Johnson, and Nya Bovian worked with Program director Mikaela Berry to create projects ranging from poetry collections to short plays to photo stories, which were shared publicly on August 12-13th.

## EVENTS 2019-

### NOVEMBER

**5/** viBeCompany performs *The Feminism You Left Out* performance at Gloria Steinam's book launch (PioneerWorks)

**6/** Program director Monique speaks on NYU Educational Theatre Department panel

**9/** viBeCompany performs at *Sign of the Times: The Role of the Arts and Education in Advancing Racial Equity and Combating White Supremacy*

**13/** Youth, Inc Celebration to Benefit NYC Kids Gala

### DECEMBER

**16/** viBeResidency Achievement First University Prep final performance, *System of Life*

### JANUARY

**9/** viBe members start as part of the first WP Theater cohort to assist production of Donette Lavina Grays' *Where We Stand*

**10-26/** WP Theater cohort is in rehearsal process

**28/** Bard High School Black Lives Matter Day of Action Workshop

**31/** First Preview of *Where We Stand* by Donette Lavina Grays

### FEBRUARY

**1/** viBeApprentices attend IGNITE: Young Women Run NY; viBeCompany performs at BLM Performance at Harvest Collegiate HS

**21/** NYC Arts Day of Learning Equity & Inclusion Panel & Performance

**26/** WP/viBe Mentorship Initiative culminates in a viBe Cohort Night/Post Show Panel

**27/** viBeCompany members lead a performance & talk-back at Madwell Company for their Black History event

**28/** viBe attends "Fabulation" at Harlem School of the Arts & viBeCompany member Amanda hosts youth panel

### MARCH

**1/** Closing night of *Where We Stand* by Donette Lavina Grays, directed by Tamilla Woodard

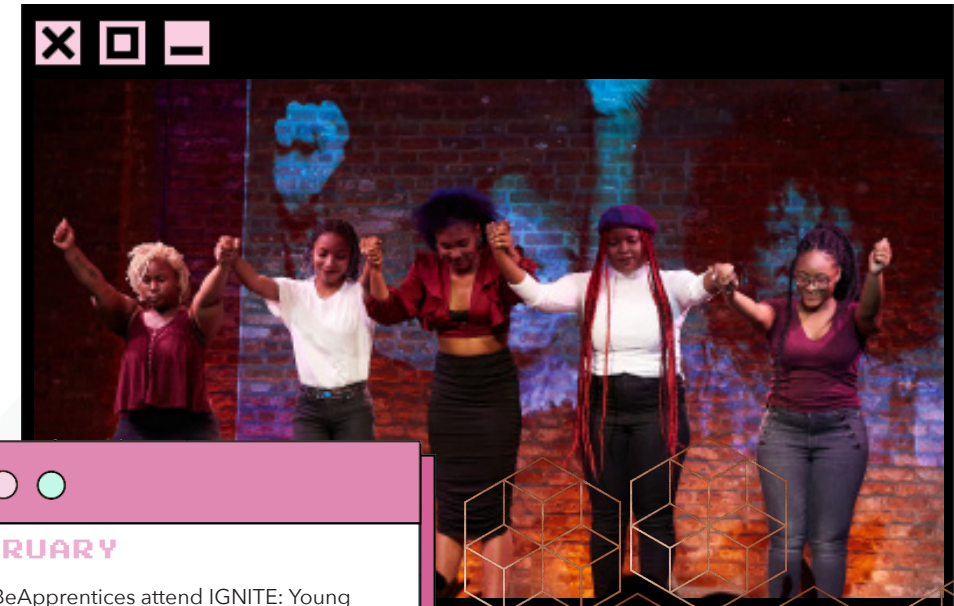
**8/** viBeCompany performs at Poetic License Festival: Generation Now

### APRIL

**15/** viBeCompany members perform at NYC Arts in Education Roundtable Face to Face Conference

### MAY

**8/** viBeSolos [virtual premiere](#): *Flowers and Butterflies: Emerging from Our Chrysalis* & viBeOut launches [digital magazine](#), *viBeOut Class of 2020: Envisioning a Queer Future*



**22/** Virtual reading of *La Limpieza*, written & performed by Program Director Monique Letamendi

**29/** viBeSongMakers' RoyalBlu hosts virtual [listening party](#)

### JUNE - JULY

viBe Sponsors virtual June Yoga Sessions: "Caretakers Take Care," hosted by Linda Lopes on Wednesdays/Fridays, & "Embodied Poetics," hosted by Aimee Cox on Fridays

### JULY

**8/** viBe hosts two virtual workshops for Macquarie Leads

### AUGUST

**1/** Members of viBeCompany & RoyalBlu and Program Director Monique Letamendi perform at BLM Mural located at Restoration Plaza, Brooklyn

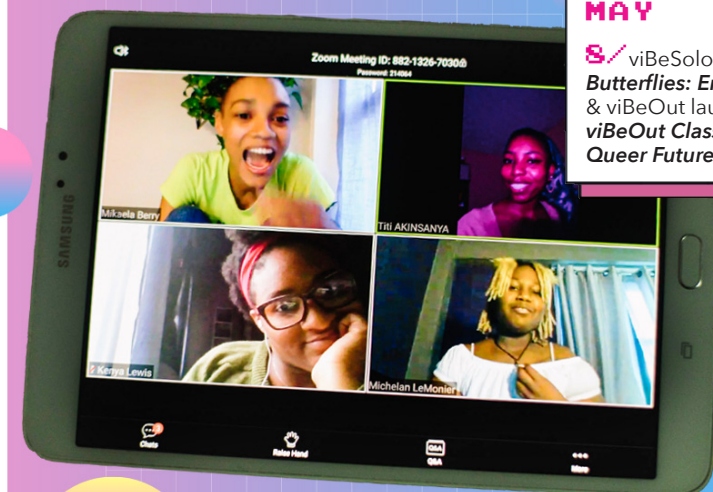
**7/** viBeSongMakers record their music videos at & in partnership with Friends and Lovers BK

**9/** viBeSongMakers group, RoyalBlu, premieres four music videos from their "Palette Ouverete" album & viBe hosts virtual after-party with DJ Reborn

**11/** Women in Music talk with DJ Reborn

**12-13/** viBeLeadership Institute participants host virtual reading/sharing for their culminating projects

**14/** viBeSongMakers Express group, Revolution X, premieres their music video for original song "Eyes of the Young"



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# THE NUMBERS SAY . . .

## // BLACK + LATINX GIRLS ARE READY TO LEAD



According to a new report, **Ready to Lead**, published by Girls Leadership in July 2020, **Black and Latinx girls are our most skilled and ambitious leaders.** This is something that viBe Theater Experience, and our participants, have echoed for years, in the plays, music, and media created by our participants.

According to **pre-survey reports** provided by Hello Insight, at the start of viBe programming, **92%** of young people served were challenged in at least one writing capacity. **61%** of the participants saw themselves as “emerging” in academic self-efficacy, but **67%** of participants saw themselves as having advanced social skills. A majority – **59%** – of participants saw themselves as having advanced social capital. This underscores the idea that **Black and Latinx girls see themselves as leaders, but often lack the academic support, or support from adults, to fuel this belief.**

**< BLACK + LATINX GIRLS THRIVE WHEN WORKING COLLABORATIVELY + IN COMMUNITY >**

According to **post-survey reports** provided by Hello Insight, at the end of viBe programming, **80%** of participants saw improvement in academic self-efficacy. **82%** of participants saw significant improvement in their self management skills. Through their participation in viBe programs, **participants were able to sharpen their Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) capacities,** as well as their academic self-efficacy.



In viBe programs, **100%** of young people demonstrated gains in at least one writing capacity, and **100%** of participants demonstrated gains in at least one SEL capacity. See all our data at: <https://ins.gt/S0QnJG>.

**In 2019-2020, viBe served 483 young people through our programs & residencies, and an additional 1,826 people by way of our events, workshops, & performances.**



I WENT FROM DOING REALLY BAD TO GETTING MY WHOLE LIFE SITUATED. THAT WAS A BIG JUMP FOR ME; AS THINGS GOT BETTER IT GAVE ME HOPE I STARTED TO LEARN AND VALUE LIFE.

WRITING HELPS US UNDERSTAND OUR OWN EXPERIENCE.

I'M PROUD OF [MYSELF] FOR BEING BRAVE,  
I'M PROUD OF [MY] GROWTH AND PROGRESS.

Having the viBe Cohort as part of Where We Stand was much more than a simple mentorship. **These women became true collaborators** over the course of our time together and offered a real exchange of experience and knowledge that added such valuable insight into the play. As they gained exposure to the multitude of roles around professional production (i.e. Dramaturgy, Stage Management, Playwright, Performance, Producing, and Directing) they gave, in return, **their open-mindedness, their passion, and their hearts** to the piece. Most importantly, they got to have a seat at the table. And they were given the tools to not only sit at other tables, but to create their own. I look forward to what the future holds for each of them!

**DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS**  
PLAYWRIGHT / ACTOR - **WHERE WE STAND**

We are so grateful for the **brilliant, thoughtful, diligent, resourceful, and dedicated young women of viBe!** The five artists who joined us for the Off-Broadway premiere of Where We Stand by Donnetta Lavinia Grays **amplified our production in every way**—we were so grateful to have them join us on that journey, and can't wait for what we will make together in the future.

**LISA MCNULTY**  
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - **WP THEATER**

. . . **BUT WE ALREADY KNEW THAT!**

# 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 TimeOut New York describes as "sending small waves of uncommon jubilation through the seen-it-all local set!"

## INDIVIDUALS

Beverly Abegg  
Taishya Adams  
Mahesh Agarwal  
Megha Agarwal  
Chitra Aiyar  
Yagmur Akyildiz  
Marien Alejandro  
Kevin Alexander  
Alyssa Alexander  
Charline Alexandre  
Sabien Ali  
Tricia Allen  
Lisa Anderson  
Brittany Applewhite  
Gonzo Araya  
Karina Attar  
Nina B.  
Michelle Bae  
Makayla Bailey  
Anna Barker  
Terry Barnes  
Rebecca Barnett  
Deema Bayrakdar  
Paul Bedard  
Lorraine Bell  
Melissa Bender  
Jasmin Benward  
Randi Berry  
Aditi Bhatnagar  
Yasmin Blackburn  
Pam Boehm  
Lynne Boudreau  
Joe Branch  
Juliette Brody  
Dorienne Brown  
Joseph Buck  
Malik Burke  
Emma Burnham  
Elizabeth Burr  
Sarah Joy Eillott Burton  
Debbie Ann Campbell  
Meredith Cappel  
Emily Carpenter  
Victoria Carr-Ware  
Hope Cartelli  
Sharina Castillo  
Peggy Cheng  
Charell Star Chiger  
Nana Chinara  
Victoria Cho  
Elvira Clayton  
Melanie Closs  
William Closs  
Barron Collodi  
Robert Cook  
Abigail Corcoran  
Megan Crane  
Michael Criscuolo  
Rosemary Criste-Baldwin  
Yukina Crul  
Lori Custodero  
DeLana Dameron  
Kara Davis  
Jessica Day  
Antonio De La Vega  
Katherine C. Delaney  
Gina DeSantis  
McCorkle Terence Diamond  
Vanessa Diaz

Jennifer DiBella  
Magdelaine Dickinson  
Maya Doig-Acuna  
Beth Donati  
Elizabeth Dreyer  
Cadence Dubus  
Tara Duvivier  
Dana Edell  
Emily Edwards  
Maura Egan  
Laura Elliott  
Chelsea Escher  
Janelle Farris  
Ellen Finn  
Mallory Fischer  
Caroline FitzPatrick  
Dashiell Flynn  
Trevor and Erin Foley  
Courtney Friedersdorf  
Kelli Gail  
Kricket Gaillot  
Eric Gelb  
Jani Gerard  
Dana Gilland  
Gabrielle Gilliam  
Rebecca Kelly Golfman  
Katharine Gray  
Luciana Haese  
Sophia Harrison  
Franklin Blair Hartley  
Carrie Hawks  
Bruce Hayes  
Jacqueline Hayot  
Daniella Henry  
Rebecca Herron Mayo  
Amanda Hinkle-Wallace  
Finley Hunt  
Robyn Jackson  
Rimple Jain  
Gladys Jeffrey  
Philip Johnson  
Fatima Jones  
Matt & Liza Jones  
Sylvia Carr-Ware  
Ranbir Kapoor  
Susan Karabush  
Sarah Katz  
Mary Ellen Keating  
Leah Keith  
Christina Kelley  
Linda Kelly  
Gavin Kendall  
Amirtha Kidambi  
David King  
Jenna Klorfein  
Samantha Knowlton  
Robert Laine  
Terrance Latimer  
Giancarlo Latta  
Michelan LeMonier  
Sulu Leonimm  
Marty Lessner  
Deborah Levine  
Gregory Lewis  
Jeffrey Lewonczyk  
Angela Lewonczyk  
Toya Lillard  
Lenise Logan  
Angela Long

Linda Lopes  
Angel Lopez  
Richard Louissaint  
Christine Lowe  
Norman Lowrey  
Daphne Makinson  
Al Malonga  
Kristin Marting  
Caitlin Masters  
Shivani Mathur  
Nicole McCray  
Kelly McGill  
Blake McKay  
Reena Mehta  
Bijal Mehta  
Jagat Mehta  
Scott Meller  
Sweta Merchant  
Matthew Merkt  
Eli Miles  
Patrice Miller  
Amelia Morck  
Paul Murphy  
Courtney Murphy  
Gerry Murray  
Roger Nasser  
Earon Nealey  
Haili Nelson  
Aneyn O'Grady  
Maryanne Olson  
Ayodele Oti  
Amy Overman  
Cheryl Overton  
Katie Palmer  
Anjali Panchal  
David Perez  
Marlon & Erica Peters  
Catherine Petty  
Gabrielle Pflugradt  
Mia Pollard  
Lianna Rada  
Cynthia Reddrick  
Willette Redfern  
Robin Reed  
Mollie Reid  
Shea Richburg  
Edyta Riley  
Andrea Roberts  
Alicia Robinson  
Olivia Rocklin  
Ben Rogerson  
Ariela Rosa  
Kyle Rosenbaum  
Lucie Rosenthal  
Holly Rothschild  
Chantelle Roulston  
Tim Rousseau  
Kristin Rowe  
Katy Rubin  
Claudia Rush  
Brittany Russell  
Mi Ryung Song  
Michael Sag  
Kishore Sakhrani  
Mauricio Salgado  
Danielle Sanois  
Rebecca Schall  
Tracee Scott  
Mihir Shah

Sophie Sharps  
Pamela Shifman  
Sandra & Chris Siconolfi  
Rebecca Sides  
Capellan  
Steranie Siegal  
Priya Sircar  
Meredith Smith  
Adam Spiegel  
Katie Spoth  
Ajanay Squire  
Craig Stekeur  
Ryan Stepanian  
Aaron Stevens  
Richard Stohlman  
Meredith Suttles  
Donald & Edith Suttles  
Cressida Suttles  
Niki Svava  
Kim Swann  
Patrice Tanaka  
Brian Thornton  
Delia Torres-Taylor  
Anne Townsend  
Maria Travis  
Konrad Trewick  
Zoe Tsuchida  
Medford & Sametta Turrentine  
Evan Tyor  
John Uricchio  
Taylor Valentine  
Taylor Valentine  
Marie Varghese  
Marie Varghese  
Chris Vine  
Claudine Waite  
Mikel Washington  
Nichole Washington  
Nicholas Weiss  
Eric Weiss  
Larry Welch  
Meng Wen  
Joe Westermann  
Allison Whitehall  
Zachariah Wichman  
Danielle Wieder  
Erin Wight  
James Willey  
Courtney Williams  
Jovon Williams  
Jay Williams  
Samantha Williams  
Eric Williamson  
Jaelyn Wolff  
Tamilla Woodard  
Melanie Woods  
Gabrielle Woods  
Blair Y.  
Laura Ye  
Shenhav Yehzkel  
Elizabeth Yow  
  
Anonymous  
Fifth Third Bank  
WINE-O

## INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

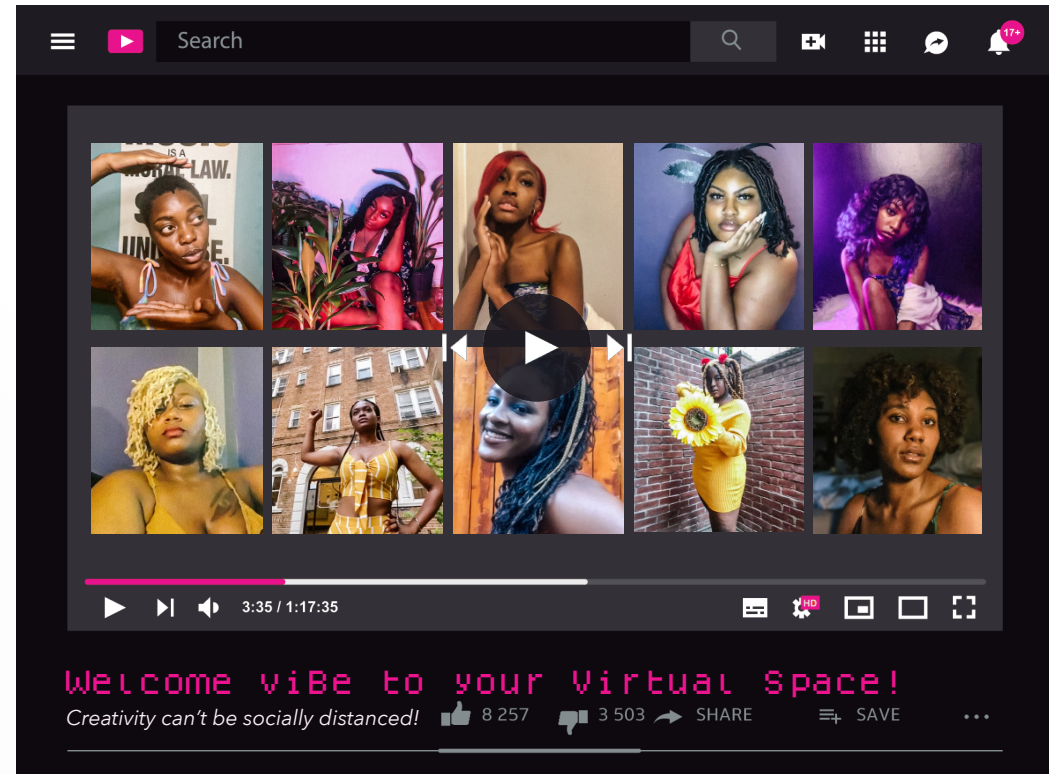
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New York Community Trust  
Brooklyn Community Foundation  
The NYC Fund for Girls and Young Women of Color  
Valentine Perry Snyder Fund  
The New York Women's Foundation  
The Donald and Shelley Rubin Foundation  
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Puffin Foundation  
Ms. Foundation for Women (The Gloria Steinem Fund)  
The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
Coalition of Theaters of Color  
Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo  
Councilmember Robert Cornejo  
New York State Council on the Arts  
National Endowment of the Arts  
Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York  
New York Women's Foundation  
New York Women's Foundation  
COVID-19 Response Fund  
Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund  
Grantmakers for Girls of Color "Love is Healing" COVID-19 Response Fund  
Youth, Inc.

## ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

Black Feminist Futures  
Friends and Lovers BK  
The New York Philharmonic  
The New School  
WP Theater

## VIBE IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:

Coalition of Theaters of Color  
Theater Communications Group A.R.T./NY  
The Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance  
NYC Arts in Education Roundtable



## BRING VIBE INTO YOUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY!

viBe Theater Experience is happy to provide virtual spaces for our participants as we understand the importance of creating safe spaces that approximate an in-person atmosphere for Black girls during this time. While the value of in-person touch can never be underestimated, viBe continues to commit to our participants' ability, need, and desire to create despite the restrictions that the world has placed on us.

Our team of skilled arts practitioners has the capacity to bring interactivity into virtual spaces, and help to guide participants virtually through viBe's tried and true creative process. Our participants have already produced albums, zines, socially distanced photoshoots, and community building through Zoom and other online platforms. Our administrative staff is equipt to provide **virtual Professional Development** for Educators, Parents, and Corporate Teams, including Racial Equity, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training. If you are interested in viBe Residencies, we are more than happy to accommodate all of your needs, and we are willing to provide a seamless transition from an in-person to virtual space if needed. viBe aims to go above and beyond the call of duty to continue to find interactive ways to foster creativity in our girls, young women, and non-binary youth.

Bring viBe to your virtual space and engage youth in expressing their creativity anywhere around the world, because **creativity can't be socially distanced**. Invite viBe into your virtual spaces and allow youth to explore full expression of their creativity, from anywhere around the world, because **6 feet apart is still close enough to stay connected**.

**PP** I had no idea when we started the cohort that the women [involved] would be **so generous, open, curious**. We provided space & context, but **THEY provided...interrogation of purpose & intention, questioning, & expansion**. Where We Stand was richer, deeper, more thoughtful because there were five **exquisite artists** standing beside us as partners, making it stronger, & more meaningful than we'd imagined. I look forward to supporting them, working with them, swinging doors wide for/with them, &- soon-working for them.

TAMILLA WOODARD

## DONATE

Give directly to viBe to make sure your dollars help viBe thrive and support teenage girls! Visit us online to donate today.

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT

### 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](http://vibetheater.org/volunteer)

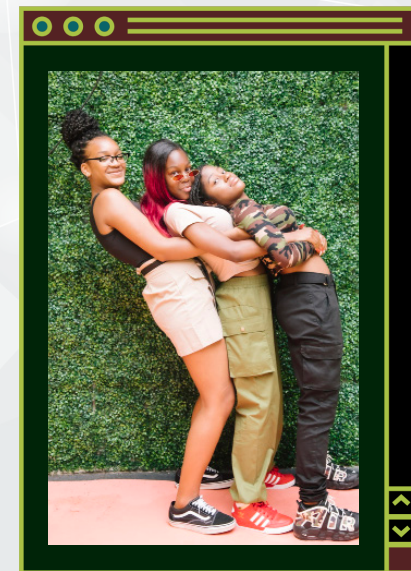
### ADVERTISE IN OUR NEXT PROGRAM BOOKLET!

- \$75 for a two-page spread
- \$50 for a full page
- \$25 for a half page

### CHECK OUT VIBE'S MERCHANDISE!

- T-shirts: \$15
- Tote bags: \$12
- Masks: \$7

You can visit us online for more information.



LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL THE WAYS TO SUPPORT OR GET INVOLVED AT

VIBETHEATER.ORG



# THE VIBE TEAM

## ADMIN



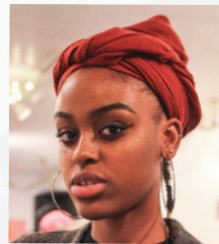
**TOYA LILLARD**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**MICHELAN LE MONIER**  
PROGRAMS MANAGER



**CAMRYN BRUNO**  
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

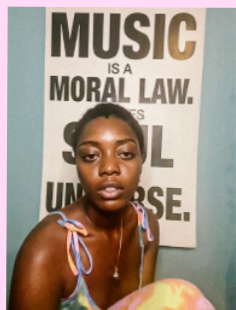


**JULIANY TAVERAS**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



## PROGRAM DIRECTORS

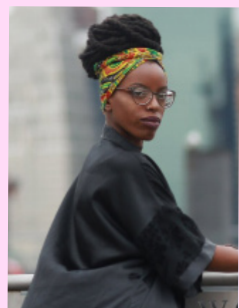
**MONIQUE LETAMENDI**  
VIBESTAGES,  
VIBESONGMAKERS, &  
VIBECOMPANY



**MIKAELA BERRY**  
VIBELEADERSHIP  
INSTITUTE, VIBEOUT



**FELISHA GEORGE**  
VIBESONGMAKERS,  
VIBESONGMAKERS  
EXPRESS



## BOARD



**CHERYL OVERTON**  
BOARD CHAIR



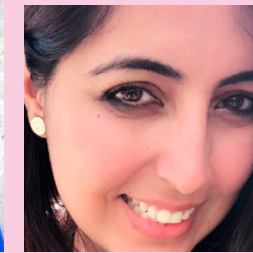
**DASHIELL FLYNN**  
BOARD TREASURER



**SAMANTHA WILLIAMS**



**MEREDITH SUTTLES**

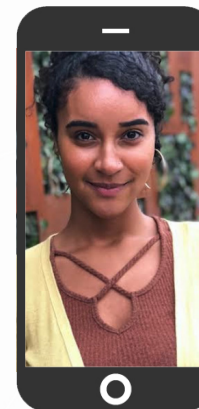


**SWETA MERCHANT**

## JUNIOR BOARD



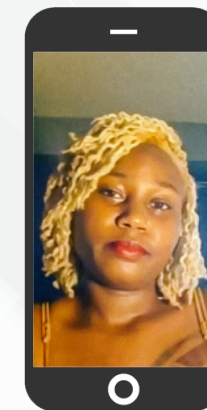
**AMEYA BIRADAVOLU**  
JUNIOR BOARD CHAIRMAN



**MAYA DOIG-ACUNA**



**DELIA TAYLOR**



**MICHELAN LE MONIER**



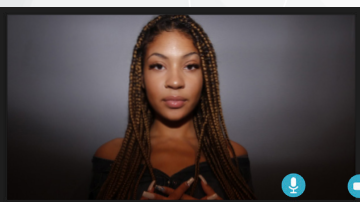
**SOPHIE SHARPS**

## VIBEAPPRENTICES

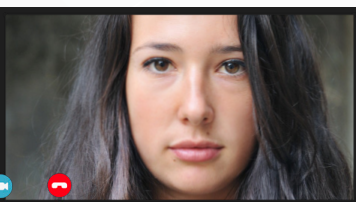
**KIANNA HEYWARD**



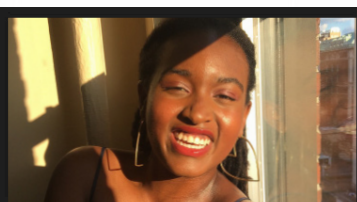
**TWILIGHT JONES**



**GABRIELLE PFLUGRADT**



**PHANESIA PAREL**



*I have been inspired by Toya Lillard and the young women at viBe Theater Experience for the past few years. The New York Philharmonic was fortunate for viBe's partnership in a recent project surrounding the civil rights song We Shall Overcome. **Their contribution was the highlight of this production.** Young Black women unapologetically and creatively addressed anti-Black racism within the context of gender, sexual orientation, and class. Soon after its release this piece garnered over 60,000 views on our social media channels, and that number has grown steadily within our community. **We look forward to many more years of partnership and learning with this company.***

**GARY PADMORE**

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC



## Theater Experience

PROVIDES GIRLS, YOUNG WOMEN, AND NON-BINARY YOUTH OF COLOR (AGED 13-25) IN NEW YORK CITY WITH FREE, HIGH QUALITY ARTISTIC, LEADERSHIP, AND ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES. VIBE WORKS TO EMPOWER ITS PARTICIPANTS 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.