



VIBE THEATER EXPERIENCE

annual report

2021



2022

Empowering Black girls, young women, and gender-expansive youth through the performing arts since 2002, NATIONALLY since 2020!

viBe Theater Experience produces original theater, music, and media about real-life issues written and performed by teenage girls, young women, and non-binary youth of color from around the country.



VIBECOLLAB "SHADOW
WORK'N WORKSHOP"

20 years ago, the seeds of our organization were planted when 8 girls came together to “Say It How It Is.”

Directed by Co-Founders Dana Edell and Chandra Thomas, the originally written play addressed issues most important to the teens: misogynoir, domestic & state violence, homophobia, social & economic justice, teen pregnancy, and more. It’s from this seed that viBe has flourished into a youth-led space that offers 10 programs (and counting)!

As Co-Executive Directors, we are honored to steward an organization that has meant so much to so many. It’s through our community that we’re able to be a staff entirely led by BIPOC women who are 30 and under.

With her transition in November 2021, our predecessor Toya Lillard advanced her commitment to paving the way for youth to lead. This yielded paradigm shifting results that enabled us to proudly step into our roles as viBe’s new Co-Executive Directors in April 2022, with existing institutional knowledge and demonstrated success in growing the organization.

Returning to the co-executive director leadership model at this moment is truly sankofic— a hearkening back to the past leadership of our co-founders, who led when they were both under the age of 25, and a stride forward to an even more viBrant future that centers young people’s leadership.

And as we enter this new chapter, leading viBe’s next phase of expansion and impact, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our community who has made this work possible:

To our Board of Directors - Thank you for your commitment to viBe’s mission. Your dedication to operationalizing viBe’s values is always felt and seen. This fiscal year alone you worked together to raise over \$43,000 and invited new funders to uplift the work viBe does to invest more deeply in the leadership of Black women, all while stewarding an executive transition.



To our Junior Board- Thank you for your passion in fulfilling viBe’s mission through grassroots fundraising efforts like in-kind donation and crowdfunding. Your investment in shifting what philanthropic giving looks like and who can participate in it is incredibly necessary.

To our Participants and Alum- Your creativity is the lifeblood of viBe and has fueled our vision for the last 20 years: thank you! By saying it how it is, you continuously break the mold of what devised theater is, inspire your communities to listen more closely to young people, and support each other’s art.

To our Funders- Your partnership remains vital to our growth! viBe has gone further because of your commitment to nurturing relationships based in trust and close listening with our organization.

In fiscal year 2022, your support ushered viBe over the **\$1 million** threshold for the first time! It has enabled us to build our capacity and hire Kayla Lewis, a viBe alumna to our Operations team and deepen the impact of our Wellness Program.

These accomplishments are possible because of you! As we close out this fiscal year by kicking off a year-long celebration of our 20th anniversary, we invite you to take part by helping us reach our **\$50,000** campaign goal which will advance our work in building pathways to career development, institutionalize wellness as an organizational pillar, continue creating quality programming for our talented artists, and strengthen the infrastructure of our organization.

Cheers to 20 years and 20 more to come!

viBrantly,

beryl briane ford and michelan le'monier
Co-Executive Directors

FROM
THE HEART



The role of Board Chair of a non-profit organization comes with many responsibilities including duty of care, duty of loyalty and duty of obedience, all designed to ensure the organization's sustained success and health!

That's the "what."

The "why" is something I call duty of heart – the personal reasons, vision and drive to contribute to something bigger than yourself. As the beneficiary of a loving and nurturing family and community, the opportunity to pour into others was a no-brainer. It's what prompted me to accept the invitation to join viBe's Board of Directors in 2016 and serve as Board Chair since 2017. Over the years, I've been privileged to get to know viBe staff and participants, understand the teaching process and be exposed to the incredibly relevant content produced by participants. I've been both passionate and serious about growing viBe during my tenure.

And as we wind down another phenomenal year – my last as Board Chair – I'm filled with pride and so much appreciation for the experience. During fiscal year 2022, we've enjoyed a productive and fruitful year at viBe. Highlights include appointing Mimi and Beryl as co-leaders and naming Mica Le John to the Board. These accomplishments are the result of the passion, commitment and collaboration of our incredible Board of Directors.

I believe fate always conspires with action to lead us where we truly belong. viBe is the organization I was meant to serve and the work has been unexpected and meaningful.

viBe's impact on girls, young women and non-binary individuals of color is true, real and enduring. It's been enriching to have a hand in the organization's development, expansion and leadership evolution. More than that, I've enjoyed supporting the Board and viBe staff as a sounding board, cold caller, spokesperson, and sister-friend.

It's been a learning and a privilege to contribute to viBe. As new Board Chair Mica Le John takes the helm, the organization will continue to thrive and innovate under her leadership. As we enter viBe's 20th anniversary year, its impact on girls, young women and non-binary individuals of color has never been more meaningful – or needed.

On behalf of our Board, thank you for another great year. I have a simple request: help us expand our 'viBe-a-verse' by telling someone new about our what and your why. Encourage them to lend some time, their talent and a donation to viBe this year. Our impact is already powerful and can only multiply if we do this...TOGETHER!

With deep gratitude,

cheryl overton
Chair, Board of Directors



SIERRA, GABBI, SOPHIE -
THREE OUT OF EIGHT MEMBERS
OF OUR VIBEJUNIOR BOARD

We, as the Junior Board, have been honored to work with viBe throughout this fiscal year: from our Executive Director transition, the onboarding of new Teaching Artists, and reaching the \$1-million bracket for the first time in 20 years!

Returning to a Co-Executive Director leadership model has allowed for deeper collaboration and the exchange of innovative ideas to take place, which has resulted in more wellness and performance opportunities for viBe's community.

To continue to support #viBetriBe in this period of growth, as a body of young leaders and a group who deeply believes in the impact of this organization, we felt it was important to expand our knowledge of the organization, its origins, and the sector it resides in. With that, we began a professional development series to keep us informed and ready to INTENTIONALLY contribute. Our first session was a conversation with our co-founder, Dana Edell, on the Non-Profit Industrial Complex and the origins of viBe. Just in time for the celebration of our 20 year anniversary!

It is also very exciting to announce that in FY21-22 year, the Junior Board raised **\$4,308.19**; which is **\$1,518.20 (35%)** more than FY20-21 and the highest we've ever raised since our 2019 conception. We are proud to say that the Junior Board continues to grow with the organization both in skill and in numbers as we look forward to working as a **10-member team** in the upcoming new year!

According to recent findings from our nonprofit advocate & partner organization– Youth INC– the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on youth development organizations and the young people they serve across New York City’s five boroughs. From disruption to housing stability, food security, mental and physical wellness, and inequitable access to remote education, viBe spent fiscal year 2022 assessing our participants’ needs and adapting our programming to meet them.

As cited in the 2022 Raising Our City Pandemic Report, viBe is part of the 84% of nonprofit organizations that changed program models to accommodate new and urgent community needs that arose during the pandemic. The result: in FY2022 viBe implemented a “less is more” programmatic approach that served:

226

Total Participants (Directly)

368

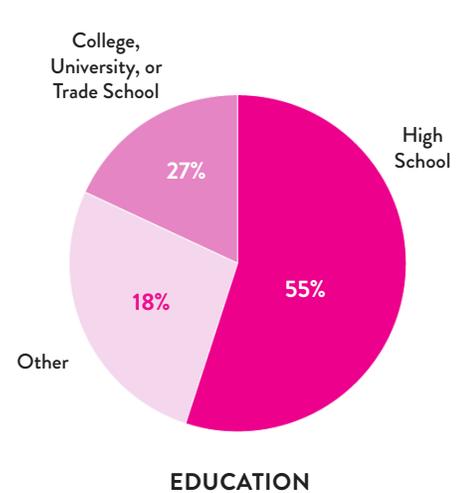
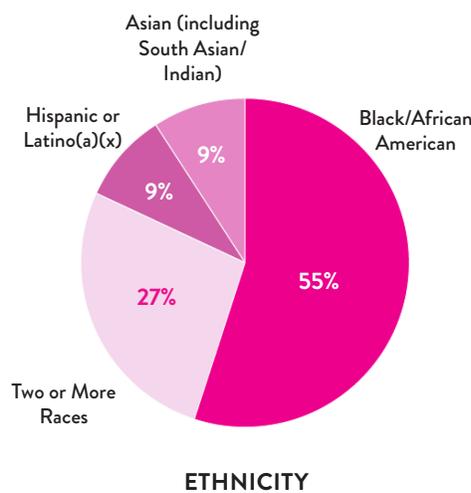
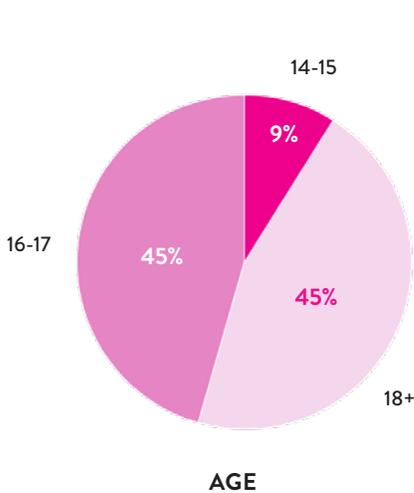
Total Participants (Virtually)

713

Total Audience (Including virtual audience)

1,307

Total Served





In FY2022, viBe’s programmatic model encouraged our teaching artists to delve deeper into the artistic curriculum and our youth participants to explore more curiously the essence of the artistic process, including their personal self-expression. Value was placed even more so on depth, quality, pace, and integrity of our programming. This ultimately led our artistic staff and youth to be closer in community with one another and to produce even more thoughtful work.

According to Pre-Surveys, provided by Hello Insight, at the start of viBe programming:

The lowest rated areas of knowledge were in networking and public speaking, recorded to be 27% and 36% respectively.

- 36% of participants were emerging and 64% were advanced in their capabilities of Adaptive Mindset and Growth Orientation
- 55% of participants were emerging and 45% were advanced in their capacities for Applied SEL and Communications

According to post-surveys, provided by Hello Insight, at the end of viBe programming:

Participants reported their knowledge in networking and public speaking both increased by 45%. Additionally, the following learning capabilities were enhanced:

	Pre	Post
Work with Peers	64%	86%
Hands-On Project/Activity	64%	71%
Work with Adult One-on-One	36%	100%

64% of participants also grew or maintained their capacities for Adaptive Mindset and 55% of participants grew or maintained their capacities for Growth Orientation.

91% of participants grew or maintained their capacities for Applied Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and 100% of participants grew or maintained their capacities for Communication!

In the category of Building Relationships, 100% of participants reported feeling heard, seen, and understood in our programming! This outcome reinforces the importance of:

- Carving out time in your day to learn about and listen to young people
- Letting young people know how much you value their ideas when they share
- Taking the time to really understand young people and their lives outside the program

Ultimately, valuing our young people impacts their ability to persist through and adapt to challenges by encouraging them to try their best, to believe that mistakes help them learn, and to ask for help. It also supports their capacity to envision a positive future and set a path forward to achieve their dreams; which can lead to improved communication, public speaking, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and adaptive skills.

**BRING VIBE TO
YOUR COMMUNITY**

**In the category of
Envisioning a Positive Future**

- 73% of participants reported being engaged in creating a plan towards achieving their future vision
- 80% of participants reported being supported in setting goals for their future
- 82% of participants reported being supported in envisioning what a successful career looks like
- 100% of participants reported being encouraged to explore different options for their future

In the category of Support Networking

- 91% of participants reported leaving the program with good or great career knowledge and skills
- 80% of participants reported being supported in understanding what is needed to apply for a job directly or by mentors and older peers
- 90% of participants reported maintaining positive relationships with staff and mentors that last beyond the program

**In the category of
Broadening Possibilities**

- 82% of participants reported feeling encouraged to take a risk and try something new, even when it seemed difficult to do
- 90% of participants reported being supported in meeting and connecting with new people
- 91% of participants reported having opportunities to engage in activities they like to do

In the category of Fostering Reflection

- 82% of participants reported having an environment where mistakes were celebrated as an opportunity to learn and grow
- 90% of participants reported having an environment to review and work on their goals
- 91% of participants reported having opportunities to reflect on what's going well and what isn't

While NYS public high schools have a 86% overall graduation rate and 80% graduation rate for Black and Latinx students, viBe maintains a 100% graduation rate from all its participants.



VIBEPAGES TO STAGES
"LOST IN THE STORIES"

Over 90% of viBe participants continue on to pursue undergraduate and advanced degrees attending universities such as: University of Virginia (UVA), Stony Brook University, SUNY Geneseo, University of California at San Diego, Brooklyn College, Hampshire College, Miami Dade College, John Jay College, Queens College, and The City University of New York.

At the end of programming, our young people were asked to report on a scale from 1 (Definitely Not) to 5 (Definitely Yes) whether they would recommend viBe to a friend. We used this question to create a Youth Satisfaction rating for viBe's programming and **across all of our programs, 100% of participants** reported Program Satisfaction!

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 participants.



Bring viBe to Your Community

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.

PERFORMANCES

viBe performances are professionally produced in notable theatrical venues across NYC. viBe emphasizes the power of narrative and seeks to create performances that move the lived experiences of girls and young women of color from “margin to center.” We believe that by centering the narratives of those most vulnerable, communities can uncover the everyday ways to create more healthful conditions, for girls and young women of color in this country, and the world.

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.

Our audiences range in age, gender, and ethnicity, mirroring our participants’ demographics. We create an environment where our audiences can experience high-quality theater without financial barriers.

VI.BE AT NEW SETTLEMENT
“V.I.B.E.T.V PRESENTS:
SABERTUBE GOES VIRAL”





Reflecting on this fiscal year as viBe's Artistic Director, I can say a lot has changed since I was a 15-year old viBe participant.

Over the last 15 years, I've grown alongside this organization, learning about myself as a woman, leader, performer, and artist.

viBe's former Executive Director always reminded me of my directional influence— encouraging me to lead with my intuition and leverage the intensive training I received to advance viBe's unique artistic pedagogy. She reinforced that my involvement with viBe and connection to my community is vital to viBe's ongoing success.

In FY2022, success looked like adapting to a “less is more” programming model, ensuring that through the year's transitions all of our artists were still being heard and valued. By appointing two teaching artists per program, we upheld the integrity and quality of the work done in our rehearsals, as well as what was presented in our hybrid spaces. This intentionality is rooted in viBe's legacy of nurturing our community.

We kicked off our 2021-2022 season with viBe's FIRST “hybrid” production since our inception and first IN-PERSON performance since 2019! Directed by yours truly, the full-length play “InSomnia” successfully premiered in November 2021 with a two-night, sold-out showing at Mark O'Donnell Theater in Brooklyn!

FY2022 also fueled the creation of a new artistic residency that places MORE artistic autonomy with the artists of our organization. viBeCollaB highlights the talent of our seasoned performers

(ages 18 & up), provides artistic professional development and creates space for them to write, stage, direct, and perform their own multi-disciplinary original production.

viBe's newly adapted co-leadership model inspired changes at the programmatic level, creating more opportunities for our participants to collaborate and expand their artistic process. The shift to a shared-leadership model serves as a reminder to decenter hierarchy and encourages collaboration and equity in our community. In this spirit, we leaned further into centering the lives and experiences of youth through representation by welcoming viBe alumna Kayla Lewis as our Operations Assistant.

Throughout the year, we also maintained our focus on the mental health and well-being of our participants and staff by listening to our community leaders and members as well as establishing “viBolicies” that create, encourage, and sustain brave spaces of expression and truth telling of our artists.

In my second year as Artistic Director, I am blessed to have been able to find the beauty within myself and create space through art for others to find that too. I am also proud to say that viBe is continuing to nurture and honor our participants in ways our predecessors would be proud. In viBe's future, I am affirming more abundance, more opportunities for wellness and healing for our participants and staff, more collaboration and creation with all of our community.

Love and light,

monique letamendi
Artistic Director

“Coming into viBe, I was very intrigued because I haven’t really heard of a program like this, that gives back to women of color and just women in general.”

Kaydenze Brathwaite,
viBePages to Stages Spring 2022



viBeCompany 2022

September 14, 2021 - November 6, 2021
Tuesdays & Saturdays, HYBRID (Zoom/In-Person)
11 members

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: viBeCompany is our paid pre-professional multidisciplinary theater ensemble for young adult artists to create art by collaboratively investigating a question of the times through the lens of their lived experiences. We use tools such as, but not limited to writing prompts, discussion-based questions, poetry and video analysis to create our artwork. We then produce this writing by incorporating devised theatrical elements and staging to culminate into a final show with screening. We also offer professional development and theater training to support them in their professional careers. Artistic Director Monique Letamendi worked with viBe participants Michelan Le’Monier, Amanda Gardner, Myrlevens Adrian, Kziana Flores, Laylanie Farris, Kenya Lewis, Geanina Riley, Alexandria Russell, Hanifah Johnson, Le’ianna Gladden and Sandra Cruz to combine elements of theater and film into a first-ever hybrid production where in-person performers work side by side with virtual performers to create a cohesive intermersive show. Analyzing works from artists like Lucille Clifton and Yrsa Daley Ward, this year’s cohort examined what “The Terrible” is for each of us and reflected on our experience interacting with our own version of it and worked with Dramaturgist, Phanesia Pharel, to investigate questions around why Black women aren’t allowed to dream, but are constantly living out their nightmares.

SHOW: “InSomnia” performed on November 5-6, 2021 from 7-9 PM
Directed by Monique Letamendi
Dramaturg: Phanesia Pharel
Stage Manager: Nicosie Christophe
Mark O’Donnell Theater with Hybrid Q&A over ZOOM

A healing ritual where a collective of black girls reclaim their dreams and fight the nightmare of oppression they’re constantly under.

viBePhrases

February 14, 2022 - June 17, 2022
Mondays, HYBRID (Zoom/In-Person)
2 members

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: viBePhrases is a movement and theater based program that began in Fall of 2020. Young girls and femme-identified youth ages 13-19 work collaboratively to create conversation through devised theater and storytelling through movement, resulting in a full-length choreoplay. In this iteration, we worked with Tahannah Jordan and Ashley Hernandez through intensive conversations, workshops, and rehearsals to expand on the origins of choreoplay, which was created by Ntozagi Shange. That, combined with an in-depth practice of filming techniques sculpted a choreopoem film that spoke and moved through the reclamation of self through demystifying self love vs. self care, peeling back the many layers of relationships, and navigating high school dynamics.

SHOW: “Breaking the Silence” performed on Friday, June 17, 2022 at 6-7 PM
Co-Directed by Le’ianna Gladden and Alicia Pilgrim
Virtual

An 8-minute movement film that explored self love and self care as a means to examine different forms of relationships as they relate to the experiences of high school.



viBe AT NEW SETTLEMENT "A BRONX TALE LA PERDIDA"

viBeCollaB

March 14, 2022 - August 22, 2022
Tuesdays and Saturdays, HYBRID (Zoom/In-Person)
4 members

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: viBeCollaB is a residency where viBe Theater produces expansive work for our viBe alum (ages 18 and up) to collaborate, create, produce, write and perform original multidisciplinary culminating events. In this new program, participants experience leadership through collaboration with each other without the facilitation of a Teaching Artist. viBeCompany alum Christina "Titi" Akinsanya, Nicosie Christophe, Geanina "Nina" Riley, and Amanda Gardner embrace more roles in their creation journey led by fellow alum Kenya Lewis and Myrlevens Adrien.

SHOW: "Shadow Work n' Workshop" performed on August 22, 2022 at 5 PM
Director: Kenya Lewis
Stage Manager: Myrlevens "Levy" Adrien

An interactive 2-hour workshop guided by the artists of viBeCollaB designed to uncover how to do inner shadow work and healing through storytelling.

viBeSongMakers

February 8, 2022 - June 11, 2022
Tuesdays and Thursdays, HYBRID (Zoom/In-Person)
6 members

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Our paid 6-month songwriting and composing program for young Black girls ages 13-19 runs every Spring season. For the first half of the program, participants collaboratively and individually write original music from prompts, images and lived experiences. Through basic lessons in songwriting, song structure, song elements and other artistic tools, Solange McClellan, Jessica Ramone, Anaya Bomani, Kiana Serrette, Alicia Alexander, Sephora Diejuste were led through a process that introduced them to song composition in the first half of our program and shared with a team of producers who collaborated with them to bring those songs to life. Our participants then continued their musical journey by recording their originally written songs in a studio, which culminated in a final album.

SHOW: "Having Everything Revealed" performed on June 11, 2022 at 6 PM
Director: Safa Ishmel-Muhammad
Lead Producer: Marcela "Uniq Being" Carbajal
Producer: Crystal Rose Speros
Recording & Performance at 131 Blank Bamboo

Intimate and laid-back, "Having Everything Revealed" takes you through the minds of six incredible artists who express their coming-of-age journey through music. With various genre expressions ranging from folk to R&B, our audience is taken through multiple stories of emotional development and growth.

“viBe has helped me grow into a better version of myself. They have shown me that I as an individual matter no matter where I am, whether it’s in a workplace or even in everyday life. viBe has also properly introduced me to personal wellness which has played a big part in my mental and physical health this summer.

*Two of the most important things they’ve shown me is that even though it’s quite a challenge nowadays, our voices can and do have an effect no matter how little. They need and deserve to be heard. And not to say the least, there is definitely **STRENGTH IN NUMBERS!**”*

Talia Russell,
viBeApprentice Summer 2022



viBeApprentices

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: A paid year-long internship program sectioned in seasons that offers participants the opportunity to develop their skills and provide tools for viBe alumni that are interested in careers in the theater sector by collaborating to create final projects that help with the progression of our programming this year.

- Solange McClellan
- Christina “Titi” Akinsanya
- Mavera Rahim
- Emma Bautista
- Charlotte Feliz
- Emma Olsen
- Grace Wang
- Nicosie Christophe
- Phanesia Pharel
- Brianna Chavez
- Talia Russell
- Amelia Brown
- Sandra Cruz
- Monica Cancion
- Miosori Polanco
- Kenya Lewis
- Myrlevens “Levy” Adrien

viBe is fueled by ongoing artistic partnerships with other nonprofit and community-based organizations doing impactful work in New York City and across the country. In FY2022, viBe is pleased to have partnered with organizations committed to storytelling and youth empowerment.



v.i.Be Residency in partnership with New Settlement Program for Girls at New Settlement Community Center

September 2021- May 2022
Mondays and Wednesdays, HYBRID (Zoom/In-Person)
12 Participants

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: viBe Theater Experience partnered with New Settlement Community Center to provide v.i.Be, an after-school residency program hosted in the Fall and Spring where participants (ages 13-19) collaborated to write, stage and perform two original full-length plays:

SHOW: “A Bronx Tale: La Perdida” performed on December 10, 2021 at 6pm
Co-Directed by Monique Letamendi & Camryn Bruno

In this production, Yesenia Cruz-Castro is a young 19-year old Queer queen running away from many things: her sexuality, her insecurities and the judgment of the folks in her community. Centered in the Bronx, we accompanied Yesenia, their friends, their family and foes through the journey of bringing Yesenia back home. Through storytelling and movement, Felicity “Feli” Munero, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Alexis Rogriguez, Nakayla Teague, and Gianee Wilson used their characters to explore self-expression.

SHOW: “v.i.BeTV Presents: SaBerTube Goes Viral” performed on May 27, 2022 at 7pm
Directed by Monique Letamendi
Co-Directed and Stage Managed by Sandra Cruz

In this production, we joined Felicity “Feli” Munero, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Alexis Rogriguez, Nakayla Teague, and Gianee Wilson as they utilized character development to create four SaberTubers (Sora, Maisie, Eliza and Kourtney) as a navigation tool to create a whole new world that questioned their relationship to digital platforms. Through world-building exercises and an art gallery created and presented by Elizabeth Rodriguez, our participants created SaberTube- a social media platform that glitches due to cyberhacking and requires them to examine the hidden meaning behind ignoring real world issues to go viral.



viBePages to Stages

*The Women’s Project (WP) Theater & viBe Theater Experience
Fall 2021-Spring 2022*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: viBePages to Stages focuses on the process of stage production from conception to final culminating performance. Participants are given the opportunity to explore the various fields within the theater sector included, but not limited to playwriting, lighting design, costume design, set design and directing. viBe and WP Theater work together to support young people in producing and staging, while fostering deeper connections with ensemble members and professionals in the field of stage production in two phases. Structuring the program this way gave us the opportunity to embrace both the participants that wanted to write and perform and be a part of staging a production.

PHASE I: Participants created 10-minute plays informed by their learnings from workshops with professionals in the field.

*October 6, 2021-December 15, 2021
Mondays and Wednesdays, HYBRID (Zoom/In-Person)
6 Members*

SHOW: “Lost in the Stories” performed on December 15, 2021 at 6 PM

Co-Directed by Phanesia Pharel and Camryn Bruno
Zoom rehearsals/In-person reading and filming at WP Theater

As we find a voice for our characters, a voice for ourselves, a voice for what we don’t yet understand, a voice for the unspeakable, a voice for the voiceless. We share the readings of six ten minute plays in progress, from the participants of the fall Pages 2 Stages 2021 program– Brianna Chavez, Oriquidea Geraldino-Guzman, Aponi Kafele, Charlotte

Feliz, Solange McClellan, and Grace Wang. Our participants utilized these plays as a creative outlet but also as a process of self discovery.

PHASE II: Participants focused on the production (ie. costume, lighting, directing, etc) and staging of the play, while learning more about the production process.

*March 14, 2022-June 3, 2022
Mondays and Wednesdays, HYBRID (Zoom/In-Person)
4 Members*

SHOW: “Leadership by Virtue of Story” performed on June 3, 2022 at 7 PM

Directed by Phanesia Pharel
Stage Managed by Brianna Chavez
Dramaturgy by Monica Cancion
viBe Artistic Director: Monique Letamendi
Playwright Mentor: Gethsemame Herron-Coward
Sound Design Mentor: Christopher Darbassie
Costume Design Mentor: Hahnji Jang
Scenic Design Mentor: Teresa L. Williams
Zoom rehearsals/In-person reading and filming at WP Theater

While often depicted as unreliable narrators, young people and their imaginations and visions are essential for the forward momentum of our society. The viBePages to Stages program embraces young leadership by virtue of story. The production of three 10 minute plays written by three brilliant program alumnae and directed by the spring 2022 cohort of program participants — Aleah Alexander, Kaydenze Brathwaite, Cindy Forster, Nerfertiti Stanton— exemplifies the necessity of theater in forward moving.

Throughout FY2022, viBe continued institutionalizing wellness into the culture of our organization. In response to increased demand from our community, viBe continued existing partnerships with Liberation-Based Therapy, founded by Tanisha Christie LCSW and expanded partnerships with new individuals & organizations like Ati Egas, MA, LCSW of Ready to Soar and Aishia Grevenberg, MSW, LCSW of Breakthrough Therapy.



HERBAL WALK WITH RENEE SMITH OF AKIKA FLOWERS AND ESSENCE APOTHECARY

Reproductive Justice 101

Facilitated by Taja Lindley of Colored Girls Hustle Inc.

An interactive community workshop about the 'reproductive (in)justice' of the femme body using discussion, as well as games that examine attitudes and beliefs centered in reproductive justice.

Community Conversation: Reproductive Justice

Facilitated by Taja Lindley and Jasmine Burnett

After the overturning of Roe V. Wade, Taja Lindley and Jasmine Burnett held space for a candid community conversation with viBe participants and artistic and administrative staff about its impact on black women bodies and how to show up through community work and collective collaboration.

Igniting Your Purpose: Self-Love as a Guide Yoga Workshop!

Facilitated by Linda Lopes of LL in Wellness

An Open Level Vinyasa and Restorative Workshop that will open up the Heart and Sacral Chakra through Movement, Breathing, and Meditation.

Truth to Power: Courage as a Guide Yoga Workshop!

Facilitated by Linda Lopes of LL in Wellness

An Open Level Vinyasa and Restorative Workshop that opens up the Throat and Solar Plexus Chakra through Movement, Breathing, and Meditation.

Group Pilates Sessions

Facilitated by Avél Juliette of Avél Juliette Pilates

A free and recurring one-on-one, duet, or group pilates workshop offered to members of the viBe community.

Herbal Walk Prep and Activity at Prospect Park

Facilitated by Renee Smith of Akika Flower Essences and Apothecary

viBe artistic and administrative staff learned about the importance of nature in wellness by exploring the properties, history, and benefits of the plants that grow in Prospect Park.

Reiki and Flower Essence Sessions

Facilitated by Renee Smith of Akika Flower Essences and Apothecary

viBe administrative and artistic staff, and viBeApprentices explore the benefits of energy work and flower essences as wellness modalities through introductory group workshops, check-ins, and individual sessions.



viBe continues to lead the way in the arts and culture sector regarding wellness work for the community they serve and for themselves.

They are putting praxis into practice. Living their values through action and not just words. Participants who have received wellness services with Liberation-based therapy have a new understanding of what mental health and wellness is for them, are legacy breakers for their intergenerational families by seeking out continued therapeutic services when growing up with negative perceptions of therapy. viBe is an arts organization FIRST and it deeply understands that the art alone doesn't make people or communities more whole, it's the village that's needed to support the artists in their very hard and necessary work. I am proud they have chosen LBT to work and to be part of the village."

- Tanisha Christie, LCSW, Founder/CEO of Liberation-Based Therapy

professional development

Financial Health Workshop 2-Part Series

Facilitated by Brook Richie Babbage, LLC

Administrative staff discussed the vision and goals of the organization's overall financial health and learned new strategies to achieve them.

Strategic Visioning

Facilitated by Brook Richie-Babbage, LLC

A workshop for viBe administrative staff to collaboratively imagine and strategically plan for the vision they have for the organization through investigating and addressing questions that staff had compiled prior to the workshop.

Prosperity Fuel Collective Series

Youth INC

viBe participated in a 8-month program designed to sharpen revenue strategy and provide peer-to-peer group coaching opportunities.

Youth INC and Morgan Stanley Institutional Nonprofit Collaborative (MS INC)

Youth INC & Morgan Stanley

viBe partnered with Morgan Stanley to complete a financial analysis project that provided tools that supported the organization's strategic insight and scenario planning.

workshops & events

The Body Ecology: Conjuring Community, Conjuring Change

Facilitated by Ebony Noelle Golden of BDAC

As these liberation traditions encompass Black spirituality and the emergence of Black female/feminized archetypes, participants question the binary separation of the sacred and secular in individual and collective rituals, including meditation, dialogue, movement explorations, and ritual building.

viBeLeadership Circle Meet & Greet

Facilitated by viBe administrative staff (Michelan Le'Monier)

The viBe community mingled with viBe's new collective of WOC dedicating their time and resources to uplifting the next generation of leaders as well as tell vLC what they are looking for in mentorships, workshops, and resources to fulfill their life goals.

Creating with Spirit: Ancestral Veneration Workshop 3-Part Series

Facilitated by Taja Lindley of Colored Girls Hustle Inc.

viBe staff and participants experience a new approach to artistic process through projects and methodologies that co-create with ancestral energies, digital and virtual performance practices Taja employ and have witnessed, Film screening of Taja's works, Creative prompts and community discussion and Q&A.

20 Years at viBe: A Behind the Scenes TalkBack & Book Launch

Facilitated by viBe administrative staff

viBe's first event kicking-off our 20th anniversary where a panel of viBe alumnae reflected on their experiences with viBe and viBe co-founder, Dana Edell, donated \$3,000 to start our \$50,000 goal, in addition to giving the majority percentage of her book sales from "Girls, Performance, and Activism: Demanding to be Heard (2022, Routledge)" to viBe.



viBe is grateful for the vision our funders have for philanthropy— from awarding more unrestricted multi-year grants and reducing reporting requirements to facilitating learning exchanges that close the gap between grantee and grantmaker. It's clear that you are leaders in the field who are invested in supporting the arts and equity! Special thanks to:

List of Funders (FY22)

Brooklyn Community Foundation (Invest in Youth)
The New York Community Trust
Mosaic Network & Fund in The New York Community Trust
Tides Foundation (The Advancing Girls Fund)
The Howard Gilman Foundation
Harman Family Foundation
Charles E. Culpeper Arts & Culture Grant (Rockefeller Brothers Fund)
The New York Women's Foundation
The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund
Masto Foundation- Trust Black Women Initiative
The NYC Fund for Girls and Young Women of Color
Grantmakers for Girls of Color (Love is Healing Fund)
Youth, INC
Youth, INC COVID-19 Response Fund
The Samuel H. Scripps Foundation
Benevity
Gartner

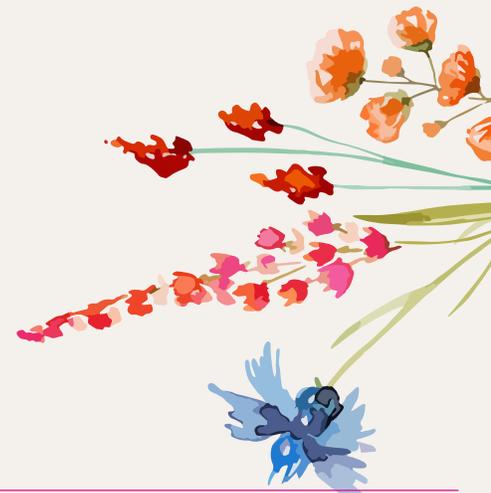
Coalition of Theaters of Color
National Endowment for the Arts
The New York State Council on the Arts
The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

and individuals like YOU!

viBe is a proud member of:
Coalition of Theaters of Color
NYC Arts in Education Roundtable
The Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance
Alliance of Resident Theaters/New York
Youth, INC.

Institutional Partners

Bard High School Early College - Queens
Camille A. Brown and Dancers (CABD)
Youth INC.
Betty's Daughter Arts Collaborative (BDAC)
Women's Project Theater (WP Theater)
Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York (A.R.T./ New York)
Colored Girls Hustle Inc.
Liberation Based Therapy
Ready to Soar, Ati Egas, MA, LCSW
The Morgan Stanley Institutional Nonprofit Collaborative (MS INC)
Breakthrough Therapy, Aishia Grevenberg, MSW, LCSW
LL in Wellness, Linda Lopes
Akika Flower and Essence Apothecary, Renee Smith
Brooke Richie Babbage, LLC
Leeja Carter & Associates
Martin Awano, LLC
Shante Carlan Photography





Board of Directors of viBe Theater Experience

Cheryl Overton - Board Chair
Dashiell Flynn - Treasurer
Allison Pincus - Secretary
Stessy Mezeu
Fatima Ali
Mica Le John
Tania Ali
Toya Lillard

The following listing includes individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies that have contributed to viBe Theater Experience, providing support for all of our organization's programming.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

Brooklyn Community Foundation (Invest in Youth)
Tides Foundation (The Advancing Girls Fund)
The New York Community Trust

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

Mosaic Network & Fund in The New York Community Trust
The New York City Fund for Girls and Young Women of Color
New York City Council Initiative-Coalition of Theaters of Color
The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund

\$25,000 AND ABOVE

Harman Family Foundation
Charles E. Culpeper Arts & Culture Grant (Rockefeller Brothers Fund)
Mid-Atlantic Arts Regional Resilience Fund
Youth INC COVID-19 Response Fund

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

The Howard Gilman Foundation
Masto Foundation (Trust Black Women Initiative)
The Beacon Group
The Samuel H.Scripps Foundation
The Black Seed Fund
The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
National Endowment for the Arts
The New York State Council on the Arts

\$5,000 AND ABOVE

North Star Fund's NYC Capacity Building Collaborative Healing Justice Fund
New Settlement Community Center
G4GC Love is Healing COVID-19 Response Fund

\$1,000 AND ABOVE

Benevity
viBe Junior Board
Cheryl Overton
Allison Pincus
Dashiell Flynn
Mica Le John
Toya Lillard
Leeja Carter, Ph.D.

\$999 – \$500

Margaret Crane
Meredith Suttles
Stessy Mezeu
Brooklyn Community Foundation
Bard High School

\$499 AND UNDER

Maryanne Olson
Tania Ali
Barrie Segal
Manon Slome
Behzod Sirjani
Robin Reed

Cadence Dubus
Aude Mezeu
Pam Boehm
Avel Muller
T. Dyer
Naeiri Zargarian
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Gabrielle Gilliam
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Lissy Alden
Taylor Valentine
Tabari Bomani
Lisa McNulty
Daria Ilunga
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Robert Cook
Gabrielle Bailey
Robertha Saunders
Kada Clyne
Juliyen Davis
Samantha Morales
Kayla Lewis
Andrew Campbell
Crystal Speros
Ericka Medina
Mikayla Griffin
Marcus Colombo
Dineo Manamolela
Solange McClellan
Yoland Gillespie
Dakota Mitchell
James Rosario
La-Ne Neal
Quentin Feliz
Jalea Eveillard
Ronnica Baptiste
Paloma Ruiz-Hernandez
Tammy Beasley
Lamarr Coles III
Lindsey and Michael Sag
Michelan Lemonier
Safa Ishmel-Muhammad
Emily Sproch
Brooklyn Academy Of Music

Beryl Ford
 Cynthia Pompa
 Kyle Rosenbaum
 Lauren Cortizo
 Yvette La Rue
 Donnetta Lavinia Grays
 Mary Ellen Keating
 Michelle Bufano
 Nancy Sanchez-Taylor
 Jennifer Risi
 Fatima Jones
 Alyssa Garnick
 Chris Vine
 Nanya-Akuki Goodrich
 Wilma McDaniel
 Philip Alexander
 Samuel Robotham
 Delia Taylor
 Lisa Gierszal
 Ellen Finn
 Arthur Taylor
 Sarah Burd-Sharps
 Kevin Marseille
 Maame-Esi Otoo
 Maggie Hoffman
 Ryan Kearns
 Christoph Saddler
 Yvette Doig
 Dan'yelle Williamson
 Dominique Banas
 Sara Zatz
 Chantae Moore
 Willette Redfern
 Jasiri Kafele
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 Janani Sreenivasan
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 Vivian Ogu
 Michael Young
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 Adam Coy
 Tanisha Christie
 Julie Dastine
 Marcella Tillett

Beth Allen
 Hunter Eastburn
 Salem Tsegaye
 Lisa Williams
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 Philip Johnson
 Samantha Lambert
 Samael McCausland
 Andrew Colarusso
 Lewis Nelson
 Julie Emra
 Takiyah Gray
 Deitria Gladden
 Kayana Waller
 Aisha Jackson
 Vivien Jackson
 Trojan Jackson
 Charlotte Hecht
 Gina Desantis
 Deja Robinson
 Justin Winley
 Sasha Doster
 Jasmine Shabazz
 Christopher Galarza
 Mollie Reid
 Ellen Mullan-Jayes
 Maya Doig-Acuna
 Kerry Warren
 Emilie Woods



VIBESONGMAKERS' PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF AT THE "HAVING EVERYTHING REVEALED" ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

"It is an honor to partner with viBe Theater Experience and work with talented young women, girls, and gender non-confirming beings. Incorporating Wellness into the arts is highly beneficial, as it allows for space to move beyond the physical body, tap into our subtle energy body and have a deep and personal conversation with ourselves.

Wellness practices can support our creativity as we find spaces within us that are not always present and didn't know existed, and we can create from a space that is authentic and special. It has been powerful and moving for me to guide practices that can potentially make this happen for the participants, as their stories and the stories in their bodies need to be seen and heard.

- Linda Lopes

staff



Michelan Le'Monier
Co-Executive Director



Beryl Briane Ford
Co-Executive Director



Monique Letamendi
Artistic Director



Camryn Bruno
*Marketing and
Communications Manager*



Kayla Lewis
Operations Assistant



Phanesia Pharel
viBePages to Stages



Alicia Pilgrim
viBePhrases



Le'ianna Gladden
viBePhrases



Marcela "Uniq" Carbajal
viBeSongMakers



Safa Ishmel-Muhammad
viBeSongMakers

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Board Chair



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Secretary



Meredith Suttles



Toya Lillard



Mica Le John



Stessy Mezeu



Fatima Ali



junior board



Michelan Le'Monier
(Ex Oficio)



Sophie Sharps



Gabrielle Woods



Rashaad Philips



Maya Doig-Acuna



Delia Taylor



Deja Robinson



Sierra Jackson



VIBE THEATER EXPERIENCE

annual report

2021 - 2022



viBe Theater Experience produces original theater, music, and media about real-life issues written and performed by New York City teenage girls, young women, and non-binary youth of color.

vibetheater.org