2018 was an exciting year for Motus Theater. Motus events reached more than 2700 new audience members, 26% of which identified as people of color, via powerful live performances. Thousands more were reached through live streaming of performances, and via KGNU Community Radio.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY
Motus started 2018 off with a bang, with a powerful evening of slam poetry featuring the award-winning African-American feminist slam poet Dominique Christina. From January through October, Motus hosted 6 Motus Meals with talkbacks featuring Women of Resolution and Law Enforcement Leaders Read ‘Do You Know Who I Am?’, and 3 university screenings of the film Law Enforcement Leaders Read ‘Do You Know Who I Am?’.

APRIL
Motus wrapped up the Creative Courage Initiative with film premieres in English and Spanish, of the groundbreaking performance Law Enforcement Leaders Read ‘Do You Know Who I Am?’ Premieres took place in Lafayette, Louisville, and Boulder. 48% of the audience was Latino, securing Motus as a well-known organization in the Latino community.

MAY
Motus began developing the unprecedented UndocuAmerica Performance & Media Project, in response to national threats to DACAmented leaders and their families. This program features performances of autobiographical monologues for stage, podcast and radio, written in collaboration with young adults brought to this country as children. Elements of this project include: a Monologue Workshop, UndocuMonologue Live Performances, The Sanctuary Project, and a collaboration with the University of Colorado, and the Boulder Weekly.

JULY
For a Piece of Paper was presented in collaboration with BMoCA. The performance wove 3 autobiographical monologues by DACAmented leaders with the healing singing of Teresita Lozano and the beautiful artwork of Sebastián Sifuentes & Kirsten Wilson.

AUGUST
Motus collaborated with the world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who performed a musical response to Ana Casas’ performance of her monologue about her brothers’ deportation entitled La Frontera. Former Boulder County DA Stan Garnett read an excerpt of her monologue questioning the gap between justice and the law.

OCTOBER
In collaboration with the Boulder Weekly, Motus created and presented Women of Resolution, as a pilot performance for the Sanctuary Sundays Series, in which Colorado State Legislators read the stories of four Colorado women living in sanctuary. The performance featured acapellist, Teresita Lozano, renowned slam poet Dominique Christina, and photography by award-winning photojournalist Joel Dyer. Hosted at eTown Hall, the sold-out performance was live streamed across the country. Motus also collaborated on an Indigenous Day public art project with the Native American Rights Fund entitled “NARF Open House: Indigenize Your Eyes”.

DECEMBER
Motus completed the UndocuAmerica Monologue Workshop with 10 DACAmented leaders sharing stories of the dangerous limbo their families live in and negotiate daily. The monologues will be the basis for the 2019 project Shoebox Stories, which will include a national podcast, community readings and live performances.

“I’m most pleased with this piece because you see the humanity and that’s what comes out for me. We have to tell our stories. That is how we change laws and policies, but most importantly, how we change hearts and minds.”

—CO State Representative, Leslie Herod, on reading Women of Resolution

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—UndocuMonologue Writer/Performer

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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS
Motus’ work continues to be recognized and celebrated in the community. Artistic Director, Kirsten Wilson, received the 2018 Women Who Light the Community Award from the Boulder Chamber of Commerce for her powerful healing arts-based work in Boulder County. Motus also won the Colorado Pledge 1% Nonprofit Competition during Boulder Startup Week.

In 2018, Motus’ work has been featured on KGUNU, in the Boulder Weekly and in the TRENDS Report for encouraging community conversations and inspiring action through our community-based, social justice-grounded arts projects.

MOTUS IS GROWING!
After hiring our first full-time employee in 2017, Rita Valente-Quinn, Motus has been on a roll. We hired Laura Peniche as our Production & Engagement Manager, and Kiara Chavez as our Administrative Assistant. Peniche and Chavez bring to Motus their experience negotiating documentation status as DACA recipients, storytelling, design and communications. Motus has invested in development and continues to diversify sources of funding for general operations. As well, Motus welcomed Rita’s son Dennis in 2018!

2018 FINANCIALS
Motus Theater held a solid financial position in 2018, broadening our groundbreaking theatrical projects. The organization ended the year with $167,742 in total assets, compared to $158,357 the previous year. The year ended with $228,954 in revenue from a healthy variety of sources. Expenses totaled $222,840, supporting a range of powerful programming while paying local performers and staff.

WE COULDN’T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU
Motus Theater’s work is made possible by the generous support of many individuals, foundations, businesses, and local and federal governments. For a full list of our supporters and partners, please visit motustheater.org.

GET INVOLVED
Invest in Motus’ mission to create original theater to facilitate dialogue on critical issues of our time, by becoming an annual or monthly donor. Set up your donation at www.coloradogives.org/MotusTheater/overview

Volunteer and serve as a catalyst for change! Volunteers provided more than 1,300 hours to our programs and projects in 2018 for a value of over $20,000.

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