PIVOTAL PERFORMANCES & PODCAST!

In 2019, our events reached 5,641 people - 29% of whom identify as people of color. Motus participated in 3 national conferences, influencing leaders in the fields of restorative justice, journalism, and grantmaking to support the rights of immigrants and formerly incarcerated community members. Motus also launched two podcasts - available on all major podcast platforms!

UNDOCUMONOLOGUES PREMIERE

In UndocuMonologues, DACA-mented leaders open people's hearts to the human rights threats facing the undocumented community with new autobiographical monologues. Over 1,900 people experienced 19 live performances in Boulder County, as well as some of the following special regional and national performances including:

UNDOCUMONOLOGUES WITH ARTURO O’FARRILL

Six-time Grammy Award-winning Afro-Latin Jazz pianist performed live with Motus at the Newman Center for the Arts in Denver, providing unique piano improvisations.

PODCAST LAUNCH

In the Shoebox Stories: UndocuAmerica Series podcast, Gloria Steinem, José Andrés, John Lithgow, Jorge Ramos, Nicholas Kristof, Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, and Maria Hinojosa, read the stories of Motus’ UndocuMonologists. The podcast was launched in a special event at the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance. UndocuMonologists read their own stories in the companion podcast Motus Monologues: UndocuAmerica Series.

JUSTUS MONOLOGUES PREMIERE

Partnering with the National Association of Community & Restorative Justice (NACRJ), Kirsten Wilson collaborated with formerly incarcerated leaders to develop autobiographical monologues about their experience of injustice within the justice system. At the NACRJ Conference, Motus presented a performance in which law enforcement and Colorado legislators co-read the stories with the monologists for 1,600 conference participants. JustUs was also featured along with Yo-Yo Ma, and Bryan Stevenson in plenaries at the national Grantmakers in the Arts Conference.

"I love these monologues because they shift the narrative that has enabled systems of oppression in the U.S."

—Bryan Stevenson, Founder/ED of Equal Justice Initiative

We’re in a moment of crisis, a crisis of empathy in this country. And it seems to me that the whole thrust of this project is to address that crisis.

—John Lithgow, award-winning actor (following his podcast reading of Irving Reza’s story)

"Motus Theater has provided a voice to those who were voiceless. And as a result, a lot of people are speaking about things that they weren’t speaking about; the injustices of the justice system, and it’s punitive damage."

—Juaquin Mobley, Motus JustUs monologist

“I underestimated the impact [the reading] would have on me and...on people in the audience…”

—Boulder County DA, Michael Dougherty

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“MUSIC IS THE SHORTHAND OF EMOTION” – LEO TOLSTOY

Thank you to the amazing musicians who collaborated on Motus’ performances and podcasts - Yo-Yo Ma, Arturo O’Farrill, Jennifer Berezan, the Flobots, Spirit of Grace, Robert Johnson and Adam Bodine, Sound Circle, Teresita Lozano, and violinist Sharon Park from the Boulder Philharmonic. Music gives audiences a moment to reflect on the courage, grief and experiences in each story.

CAN’T STOP, WON’T STOP!
Join us in celebrating our new team members: Kiara Chávez, Community Development & Marketing Coordinator and UndocuMonologist; Michelle Maughan, Development & Communications Director; Torrie Eberhard, Strategic Communications & Project Manager; Tania Chairez, National Outreach & Education Director and UndocuMonologist. Read more about Motus staff at motustheater.org.

2019 FINANCIALS
Motus continued to hold a solid financial position in 2019, supporting new and groundbreaking theatrical projects. The organization ended the year with $249,384 in total assets, compared to $167,742 the previous year; and $388,634 in revenue from a healthy variety of sources. Expenses totaled $317,845, supporting a range of powerful programming.

APPRECIATION & THANKS
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, GET A MUG!
Invest in Motus’ mission. Become a monthly member - at any level - and receive a Motus mug. Monthly members provide Motus with sustainable support needed to carry out our programs throughout the year. Set up your monthly donation at www.coloradogives.org/MotusTheater

Volunteer and serve as a catalyst for change! Volunteers provided more than 1,000 hours to Motus in 2019, for a value of over $38,000.

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