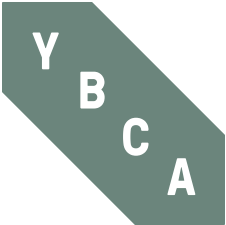


ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



Photo by Tommy Lau

**YERBA BUENA
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS**



LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



DEBORAH CULLINAN

CEO, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts



ERIK MAYO

Incoming Chair, Board of Directors

Dear YBCA Friends and Family,

As the creative home for our community, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is deeply committed to bringing all kinds of people together for shared experiences that foster both empathy and inspiration, and do so in ways that help connect us to one another.

With that guiding vision over the past year, YBCA has served the community in myriad ways:

- As a performance space and a polling place
- As an exhibition hall and a classroom
- As a commissioner of new works and a launch site for innovative products
- As a champion for youth and their creativity as well as their hopes and dreams
- As a place for quiet reflection and also impassioned activism
- As a sanctuary for the most vulnerable among us and as a stage for the boldest voices

Without question, the theme of coming together, both at the Center and in the community, rippled throughout YBCA's activities this year.

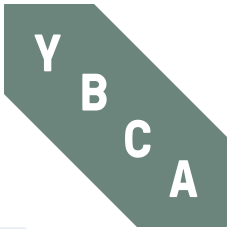
And it resonated with the governance of the organization, as the board of directors and staff leveraged YBCA's diversified revenue streams to make strategic investments in its people and programs.

In the report that follows, we are pleased to share the highlights of how, together with your support, YBCA manifests its mission to generate culture that moves people.

Warmest regards,

Deborah M. Cullinan
CEO

Erik Mayo
Incoming Chair,
Board of Directors



2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MISSION

YBCA generates culture that moves people, and believes that culture is an essential catalyst for change. Therefore, it's the responsibility of arts institutions to spur and support societal movement.

YBCA's mission is fulfilled through five key platforms:

- The presentation of leading-edge contemporary art
- The incubation of game-changing creative ideas
- A commitment to inquiry and asking the urgent questions of our time
- Convenings that bridge people, communities, and sectors
- Civic coalitions that create lasting change and policy shift



Public Square photo by Tommy Lau

2017-18 AT A GLANCE



Public Square photo by Tommy Lau

STAFF

89 Full-time
570 Part-time and on-call
157 Volunteers and interns

PARTICIPATION

Over **100,000** People
1,297 Member households

PROGRAMMING

70 Public programs
20 Commissioned artworks and creative projects
20 Community festivals and celebrations
3 Public art installations
5 Gallery exhibitions
92 Films screened
78 YBCA performances



THOUGHT LEADERS PROMPT SOCIAL INQUIRY AT THE YBCA 100 SUMMIT

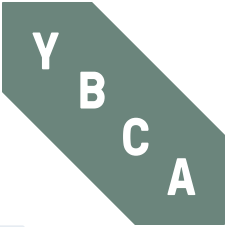
Every year, YBCA recognizes 100 people, organizations, and movements that are using their platforms to create change and move society forward. On October 29, 2017, YBCA celebrated these provocateurs, instigators, and innovators through the **YBCA 100 Summit**, with attendees participating from all over the Bay Area. The summit brought together hundreds of Bay Area thought leaders from different sectors—including art, philanthropy, business, activism, technology, and education—to name and interrogate the urgent questions facing our community. The day, moderated by choreographer Liz Lerman, included panel conversations and talks by journalist Jose Antonio Vargas; founder and executive director of Center for Media Justice Malkia Cyril; performer, producer, and community organizer Boots Riley; and activist and BART director Lateefah Simon.

Keynote addresses were given by Jill Soloway, director of Amazon’s acclaimed family drama *Transparent*, executive director of ACLU - Northern California Abdi Soltani, and YBCA’s CEO Deborah Cullinan.

The day featured high-energy performances by dancer Lil Buck; award-winning poet Saul Williams; writer, poet, and activist Staceyann Chin; Iranian American comedian Zahra Noorbakhsh; and composer, pianist Samorah Pinderhughes.



Boots Riley and Lateefah Simon photo by Patrick T. Power Photography

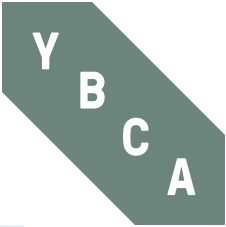


YBCA'S FELLOWS UNVEIL WORK AT PUBLIC SQUARE

The **YBCA Fellows** program brings together some of the most daring artists, thinkers, and creative citizens from across the Bay Area to engage in a year-long process of inquiry, dialogue, and project generation. Each fellow cohort explores and responds to a question that emerges from the annual **YBCA 100 Summit**—this year's questions were “*Where is our Public Imagination?*,” “*How can we find and empower Truth?*,” and “*Can we make Creative Dissent matter?*” All three cohorts came together at YBCA's **Public Square**, where fellows unveiled projects that answered these questions through workshops, visual and performance art, dance, music, and more. These projects provide platforms to share new ideas and information and drive new possibilities into the public imagination.



Public Square photo by Tommy Lau



DREAM INSTALLATION INSPIRES IN A BIG WAY

On September 22, 2017, YBCA unveiled **DREAM**, a public art installation by visual artist Ana Teresa Fernández, which came out of the artist residency program that manifested itself from YBCA's partnership with San Francisco Unified School District and Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Middle School. Inspired by the life of Mike "Dream" Francisco, a graffiti writer and peace fighter who was killed in 2000, Fernández's sculpture is a sign to compel individuals, including the diverse neighbors that work, live, and go to school in the area, to consciously identify their goals and to begin pursuing them. The 50-foot wide sculpture, on the east side of Bernal Hill and situated less than a mile from Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Middle School, seeks to bring inspiration to YBCA's custom-designed curriculum that engages sixth through eighth-grade students in creative thinking and the arts and reflects the framework for YBCA's work with youth in San Francisco.



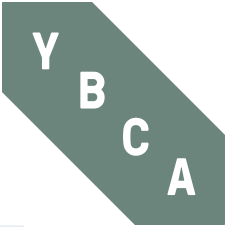
Ana Teresa Fernández and DREAM photo by Carlos Avila Gonzalez, The Chronicle

YOUTH INITIATIVES BRIDGE CREATIVE WRITING AND FOOD JUSTICE

In the 2017-18 school year, YBCA strengthened its commitment to youth by furthering partnerships with **826 Valencia, Bessie Carmichael Elementary School, Precita Eyes Muralists, San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), TNDC's Tenderloin People's Garden.** In collaboration with Bessie Carmichael, YBCA developed a thirteen-week curriculum around visual arts, writing, and community gardening for third through fifth graders. The curriculum kicked off with a three-week poetry workshop—led by 826 Valencia's Tenderloin Programs Director, Jillian Wasick—where students wrote about the healing powers of vegetables and penned creative stories featuring super-power granting vegetables. The following ten weeks of the curriculum took students through a visual arts workshop, led by teaching artist-in-residence Fred Alvarado from Precita Eyes Muralists. The workshop culminated with a published book and artistic and colorful signage in the school's community garden. YBCA also continued to work with TNDC in creating the Tenderloin People's Garden. The garden reflects both organizations' work towards food justice, by bringing together hundreds of volunteers of all ages, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses to grow food and build community. Through collaboration with community partners and artist educators, YBCA leverages their collective resources to provide a platform for youth to learn, explore their creativity, and acquire valuable skills.



Bessie Carmichael Elementary students at City Hall photo by Tommy Lau



YBCA'S THEATER REFLECTS DIVERSITY OF PARTNERS

YBCA is more than just a space. It is a vibrant community that thrives on inspiration. In 17-18 through convenings, summits, conferences, film festivals and staged presentations, YBCA advanced its mission to reimagine the role an arts institution can play within its community.

A variety of corporations and organizations selected YBCA as the place for transforming ideas into enduring and inherently creative experiences, including SEMICON, ORACLE Open World, Google Chrome, Dreamforce, Accenture, Game Developers Conference, and Knowledge Architecture. Some of the world's best-known companies presented timely discussions with writers, thinkers, innovators, and changemakers pushing the national conversation forward, including NPR's *How I Built This* with Guy Raz, *In Conversation with Mother Jones*, and MSNBC's inaugural town hall series with Recode's Kara Swisher, MSNBC's Ari Melber, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, and YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki. Hosted convenings and partnerships included Confluence Philanthropy's Annual Practitioners Gathering Gala, featuring panelists Deborah Cullinan, W. Kamau Bell, Jeff Chang, and Steve Oliver.



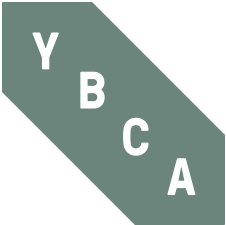
Your Harvard photo by Tommy Lau

TALKING TO POWER FEATURES LONG-TERM PROJECTS OF TANIA BRUGUERA

In June 2017, YBCA and renowned artist and activist Tania Bruguera embarked on a wide-ranging collaboration focusing on the ways an art center performs the functions of a civic institution. Bruguera works at the intersection of activism and performance art to address structures of power, devise new utopian models of authority, and create alternative institutions that aim to transform and redistribute power. This has resulted in long-term art projects that take the form of social movements, newspapers, schools, and provocative gestures. Through the survey exhibition, ***Tania Bruguera: Talking to Power / Hablándole al Poder***, YBCA presented—for the first time ever—all of Bruguera’s long term art projects initiated between 1985 and 2017. The exhibition included the launch of the *Escuela de Arte Útil*, which transformed the YBCA galleries into a classroom with an 8-week curriculum taught by Bruguera and other prominent artist-educators on topics such as systems of power and sustainable outcomes.



Installation view, *Tania Bruguera: Talking to Power / Hablándole al Poder*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, 2017.



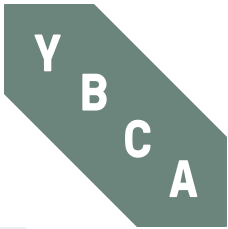
TRANSFORM FEST EXPLORES CRITICAL QUESTIONS THROUGH PROVOCATIVE PERFORMANCES

In 2017-18, YBCA's **Transform Fest** convened leading contemporary artists for a provocative showcase of dance, music, and theater.

YBCA's **Transform** launched in September 2017 with seven Bay Area performance groups responding to the question of *"Why Citizenship?"*; performers included Larry Arrington; Minoosh Zomorodinia, and Sandra Lawson Ndu; Jesse Hewit and RAWdance; Embodiment Project; Fogbeast; Amy Seiwert's Imagery; and Fauxnique. Each program featured a variety of contemporary performance that included drag, dance theater, music, ballet, and unique experiences. With contextual programming from each performance group, the fall 2017 **Transform** resulted in an exciting confluence of performances, innovative art, inquiry, and new models of audience-centered convening. The May 2018 festival was built around the question: *"Where is our Public Imagination?"* An international spectrum of eclectic and progressive musical presentations included rock-funk, hip-hop-infused electronics, jazz (Jessica Care Moore's Black Women Rock!, DJ Spooky, Mark de Clive-Lowe), dance, dance cirque (Capacitor, Printz Dance Project), and interdisciplinary theater-driven works (Roger Guenveur Smith with Campo Santo, Okwui Okpokwasili, Lars Jan/Early Morning Opera).



Transform Fest artists photos by Tommy Lau



A WARM THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

YBCA gratefully acknowledges contributions of \$500 or more received between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Special thanks to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

INSTITUTIONS

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
The James Irvine Foundation
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Panta Rhea Foundation
Surdna Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

INSTITUTIONS

California Arts Council
Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows Program
Kenneth Rainin Foundation
Salesforce.com
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

INDIVIDUALS

Kevin King and Meridee Moore

\$20,000-\$49,999

INSTITUTIONS

The Creative Work Fund, a program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund also supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
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Theatre Communications Group
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Anonymous

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous

\$10,000-\$19,999

INSTITUTIONS

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Zak Williams
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\$5,000-\$9,999

INSTITUTIONS

Abundance Foundation
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New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project and National Theater Project, with lead funding from The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects

INDIVIDUALS

Sara and Roy Bahat
Mrs. Mary L. Bianco
Erik Mayo
Rekha Patel
Leslie and Merle Rabine in memory of Bea Wahl
Sharon Simpson
Meg Spriggs
Jocelyn and Paul Startz



\$2,500–\$4,999

INSTITUTIONS

La Mar Cebichería Peruana

INDIVIDUALS

Berit Ashla and Aron Cramer
Rena G. Bransten
Randi and Bob Fisher
Elna Hall, PhD
James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen
Kevin Johnson and Karen Jenkins-Johnson
Catalina Ruiz-Healy and Jonathan Kevles
Srinija Srinivasan
David Joseph Weber and Renu Agrawal
Mitchell and Kristen Yawitz

\$1,000–\$2,499

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Pacific Market International, LLC
Stanford University
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INDIVIDUALS

Verda Alexander and Primo Orpilla
John Bankston and Robert C. Goodman
Michelle Branch and Dale Cook
Jeff Chang
Deborah Cullinan and Kevin Cunz
Jennifer and Matias Duarte
Amy T. Eliot
Gloria and Saul Feldman
Edward Frank and Sarah Ratchye
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Lava Thomas and Peter Danzig
Marc and Megara Vogl
Harvey and Leslie Wagner Foundation
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Feifei Xue
Anonymous

\$500–\$999

INSTITUTIONS

Anglim Gilbert Gallery
The Cultivist
Doran & Associates
Google Matching Gifts

INDIVIDUALS

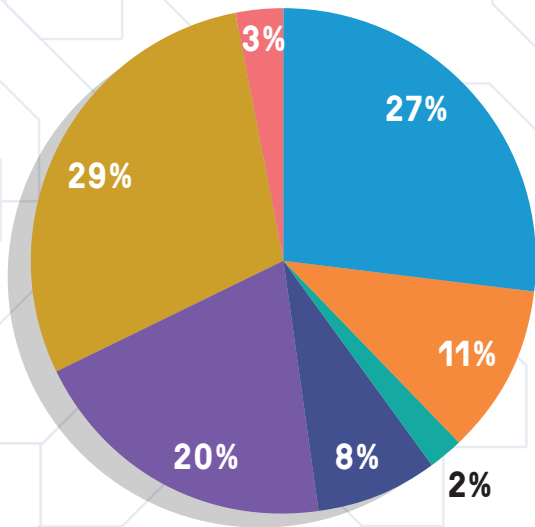
Jerry Bailey
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Neal Strickberger and Melissa Alexander
Djinnaya Stroud and Jason Bradford
Avery Ucker and Sophia Poirier
Johann Zimmern and Sharon Lepper
in memory of Christian Zimmern

GIFTS IN-KIND

111 Minna Gallery
Ronald W. Garrity
Zola

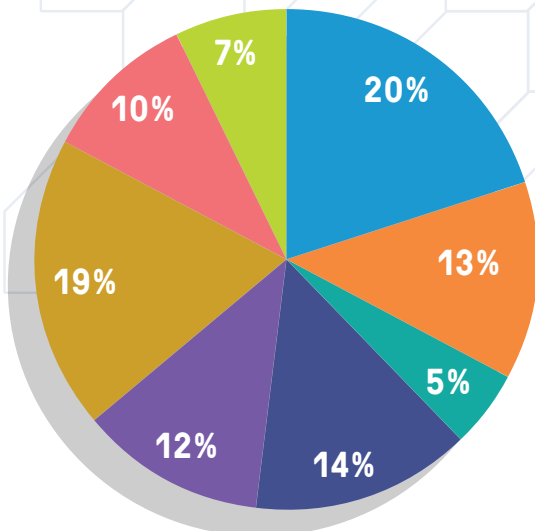
2017-18 FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE: \$12,279,137



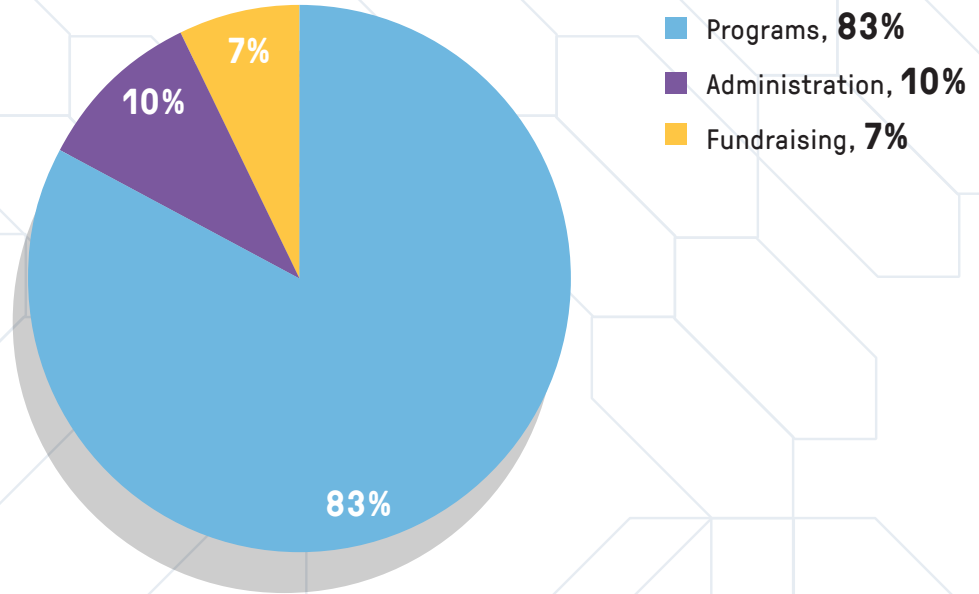
- Support from City of San Francisco, **27%**
- Contributions, **11%**
- Box Office ticket sales, gallery admissions, traveling exhibition fees, **2%**
- Subsidized community programs, **8%**
- Facility rentals, **20%**
- Raffle ticket sales (net of expenses), **29%**
- Other income, **3%**

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$14,422,987

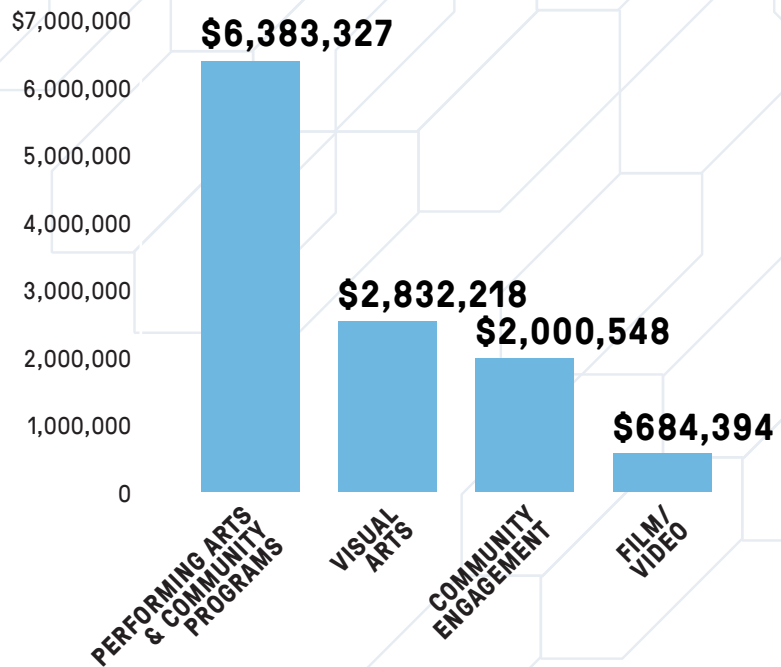


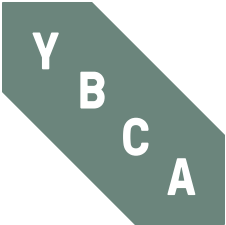
- Visual arts, **20%**
- Performing arts, **13%**
- Film/video, **5%**
- Community engagement, **14%**
- Subsidized community programs, **12%**
- Rentals, **19%**
- General administration and operations, **10%**
- Fundraising, **7%**

TOTAL EXPENSES \$14,422,987



ARTISTIC PROGRAM EXPENSES





JOIN US

YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES US TO PURSUE BOLD NEW WAYS TO TRANSFORM OUR CITIES AND LIVES THROUGH ART AND CULTURE. DONATE TODAY AT WWW.YBCA.ORG/GIVING.



YERBA BUENA
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Bessie Carmichael Elementary School "People's Garden" photo by Tommy Lau