

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



YERBA BUENA
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS

LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



DEBORAH CULLINAN

CEO, YBCA



ERIK MAYO

YBCA Board Chair

Dear YBCA Friends and Family,

This year marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of YBCA's founding. The occasion inspired us to look to YBCA's past and the founding vision for the organization to help articulate our future. Revisiting our origins while also celebrating the breadth of creativity around us led us to reaffirm our original mandate to be a creative home for the diverse communities of the San Francisco Bay Area. With this renewed approach, we are placing an ever stronger emphasis on providing opportunities and support for our creative communities as an arts programmer and presenter, a community center, a civic leader, and a space for social and cultural exchange.

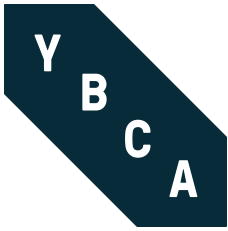
In 2018–19 we demonstrated YBCA's unique ability to bring the arts into critical conversation and collaboration across sectors. We announced a multiyear partnership with Blue Shield of California, which began with our namesake theater being renamed The Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA, and ongoing collaboration on public programs and initiatives that demonstrate our belief in art and its role in delivering healthy outcomes in communities. For example we presented *Identity and Pride: Youth Art Show*, a powerful exhibition in partnership with **Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco** and **San Francisco Pride**, to underscore the essential role that art plays in the healthy development of young people.

We believe that art is a valuable part of our world, and that art is for everyone. In 2018 we endorsed and played a leading role in working with City Hall and members of the San Francisco arts community to pass Proposition E, a ballot measure that restored arts funding from the Hotel Tax Fund—a much-needed victory for the arts community.

On stage and in our galleries we supported and uplifted artists and their craft. In our galleries we presented the eighth edition of *Bay Area Now*, highlighting works by nineteen Bay Area contemporary artists and six architects and designers. It was amazing to witness the immense creativity and resiliency that exists in the Bay Area. On stage, as part of our spring performance lineup, YBCA commissioned the world premiere of *We Have Iré*, a multidisciplinary theater work created by San Francisco-based poet, performance artist, and playwright **Paul S. Flores**. This beautiful and very personal performance revealed the challenges of being an immigrant artist and celebrated the triumph of establishing one's voice in a new country. These are just a few highlights among many that illustrate this year of growth and impact. You will find many, many more in this report.

For twenty-five years, YBCA has cut across outdated dichotomies of art and community. With your support we will continue to manifest our commitment to being San Francisco's center for art and . . .

Warmest regards,
Deborah Cullinan and Erik Mayo



2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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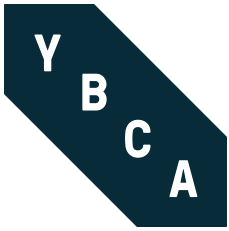
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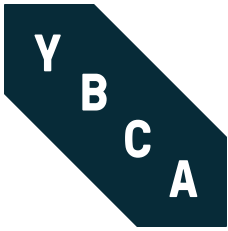
MISSION

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

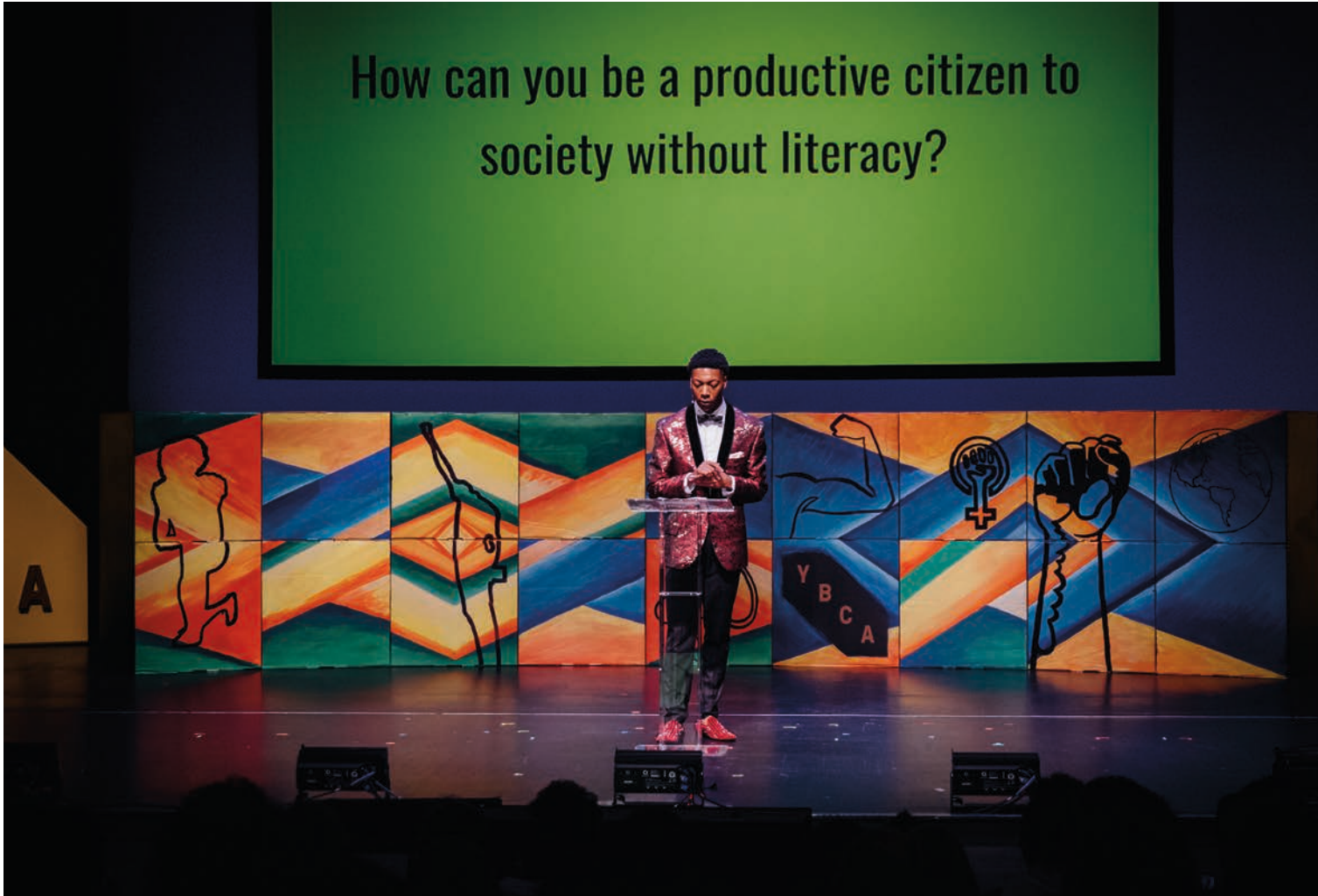
Our mission is fulfilled through five key platforms:

- 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





2018-19 AT A GLANCE



2018 YBCA 100 Summit. Photo by Brittney Valdez.

STAFF

- 95** Full-time
- 20** Part-time and on-call
- 200** Volunteers and interns

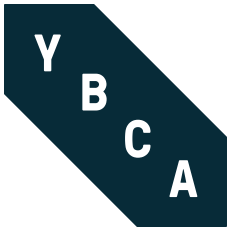
PARTICIPATION

- Over **50,000** People
- 1,126** Members
- 5,508** Gallery Admissions on Free Days
- 13,156** Attendees to shows by local artists

PROGRAMMING

- 44** Public programs
- 14** Commissioned artworks and creative projects
- 5** Gallery exhibitions
- 4** YBCA Presents performances
- 22** Community rental partner productions

YERBA BUENA
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS



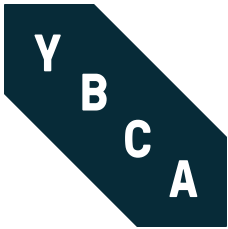
YBCA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

When Yerba Buena Center for the Arts opened in 1993, it welcomed the public with a fierce dedication to the diversity, complexity, and ingenuity of our home community. It is powerful to consider the context and the ultimate conditions that would create a contemporary arts center with a mission that was at the time notable: to be an inclusive center for the people.

On March 30, 2019, we celebrated YBCA's 25th anniversary with "This Is Not a Gala," a blowout bash to benefit YBCA's work on stage, in schools, and throughout communities. Mayor London Breed took the stage surrounded by photos of YBCA history to proclaim March 30 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Day. The party, honoring founding YBCA board members Rena Bransten and Ned Topham, included circus acts, burlesque, hip-hop, drag, live music, DJs, booze and bites, and more! Every dollar raised helps YBCA continue to be a creative home for youth, artists, and other change makers who move us to think, to feel, to question, and to act.



"This is Not a Gala" 25th Anniversary Celebration. Photo courtesy of Drew Altizer.

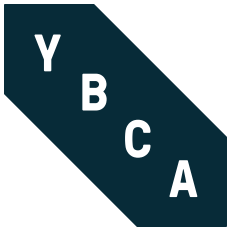


2018 YBCA 100 SUMMIT

The fourth annual **YBCA 100 Summit** took place on **Saturday, November 3, 2018**, at the YBCA Theater. The convening was a thought-provoking interactive experience celebrating the YBCA 100 – the people, organizations, and movements using their platforms to push society forward. Showcasing compelling talks and moving performances aimed at inspiring attendees, the Summit kicked off with **The Future of Visual Culture**, a conversation about how representation in visual culture has become a key factor in the struggle for socioeconomic, racial, and political equity, featuring **Rafael Casal**, **Kat Gordon**, and **Nnedi Okorafor**. The session began with comedian and writer Luna Malbroux, and concluded with audience questions and a series of provocative and energetic performances featuring countertenor John Holiday and poet, writer, and educator Chinaka Hodge.

In **Reimagining Political Power**, **Tarana Burke**, **Janet Mock**, and special guest **Charles M. Blow** discussed methods of reimagining and envisioning who can elicit cultural change. “People say, ‘The arc of the universe bends toward justice.’ No, it must be bent toward justice,” said Blow. “Now people have been shocked, traumatized, and pushed out of this comfort zone that you can just sit back and the world will glacially move in a positive direction.” Moderated by **Chinaka Hodge**, the session began with a performance by **Jo Kreiter’s** aerial dance company **Flyaway Productions** and an address from YBCA CEO **Deborah M. Cullinan**. An electrifying jam session with Sacramento-based soul-inspired band **Mino’ Yanci’**, countertenor **John Holiday**, poet **Tongo Eisen-Martin**, and Oakland youth arts group **Young Gifted and Black** wrapped up the session.





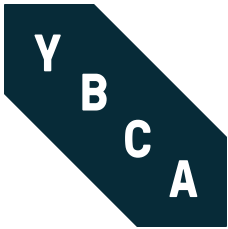
BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA THEATER LAUNCH EVENT

With the shared belief that art, creativity, and culture have measurable impacts on individual and community health, YBCA has entered into a multi-year partnership with **Blue Shield of California**, which began with our namesake theater being renamed **The Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA**. On **April 3, 2019**, we celebrated the launch of this partnership with the “Art of Health Symposium,” featuring special performances from local artists and presentations from inspiring health practitioners incorporating art into health care. This included performance artist **Dohee Lee**; **AXIS Dance Company**; chief health officer of Blue Shield of California, **Dr. Terry Gilliland**; and music therapist **Matthew Logan** of UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital.

To strengthen the resiliency and vitality of our communities, we are committed to presenting public events that demonstrate our belief in art and its role in delivering healthy outcomes.



AXIS Dance Company at Blue Shield of California Launch Event. Photo by Tommy Lau.



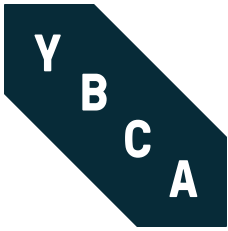
CIVIC IMPACT: PROPE AND BEYOND

YBCA is the Bay Area's center for art and progress and the creative home for civic action. We believe that art is for everyone and a valuable part of our world. In 2018, YBCA endorsed and played a leading role in working with City Hall and members of the San Francisco arts community to pass Proposition E, a ballot measure that restored arts funding from the Hotel Tax Fund. We view civic engagement as a critical part of our mission. This is why we position our organization as a hub for civic action by educating and registering San Franciscans and serving as a polling place for our neighborhood.

And this work continues beyond elections. We create artistic responses to pressing social questions through our YBCA Fellows program. We inspire San Francisco's youth to use creative skills to become more engaged in the lift of their communities through deep partnerships with public schools. We incite thought and action through highly visible public artworks throughout the city.



Photo by Tommy Lau.



LOCAL ARTISTS

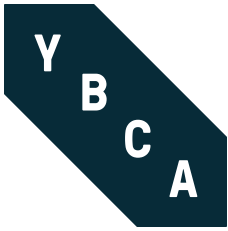
Bay Area Now returned for its eighth edition highlighting the immense creativity and resiliency that exists in the Bay Area. On view **September 7, 2018 through March 24, 2019**, *Bay Area Now 8 (BAN8)* featured existing and newly commissioned works by nineteen Bay Area contemporary artists and six architects and designers—the latter included in YBCA’s signature triennial for the first time. With a focus on art in the making, *BAN8* presented a wide range of creative practices: painting, photography, ceramics, textiles, video installation, performance, digital media. Despite the troubled political climate, these works pictured a buoyant and resilient Bay Area by using materials as surrogates for the body and environmental politics. Each artist’s particular approach to media offers nuanced reflections on individual and personal histories, ritual ceremonies, and marginalized identities.

As part of our spring performance lineup, YBCA commissioned the world premiere of *We Have Iré*, a multidisciplinary theater work created by San Francisco–based poet, performance artist, and playwright **Paul S. Flores**. The bilingual performance combined spoken word, dance, and live music and featured Grammy-nominated saxophonist **Yosvany Terry**; award-winning dancer and choreographer **Ramón Ramos Alayo**; **DJ Leydis**, the first Afro-Cuban female DJ to play at the White House; and **Flores**. *We Have Iré* reveals the challenges of being an immigrant artist and celebrates the triumph of establishing one’s voice in a new country. *We Have Iré* was performed in English and Spanish on **May 10 and 11, 2019, in the YBCA Forum**.

UnderCover Presents returned to YBCA with *A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest’s Midnight Marauders*, one of the most influential hip-hop albums of all time. In celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversaries of both *Midnight Marauders* and YBCA, *UnderCover* invited thirteen local bands working in a wide range of genres to reinterpret the classic album that bridged the gap between hip-hop and jazz. Featuring Grammy-nominated music producer **Starita**, the show incorporated elements from all four pillars of hip-hop—DJing, MCing, writing (graffiti), and B-Boying (breakdancing)—along with the minimalism and free-form nature of jazz instrumentation. Through this tribute, YBCA and *UnderCover* invited audiences to think about how hip-hop can break down barriers and foster equality and unity. *A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest’s Midnight Marauders* ran **May 16–18, 2019, at the YBCA Forum**.



We Have Iré. Photo by Tommy Lau.



MAJOR ART EXHIBITION PARTNERSHIPS

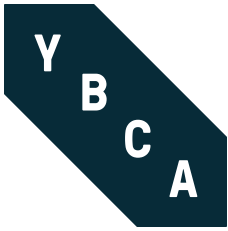
YBCA partnered with San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) to present **Suzanne Lacy: We Are Here** from April 20 through August 4, 2019. The first full retrospective of the Los Angeles-based artist, co-organized by YBCA and SFMOMA in collaboration with YR Media, Youth Speaks, MediaJustice, Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Middle School, artist Caleb Duarte, and the eponymous artist, *Suzanne Lacy: We Are Here* was conceived as one exhibition at two venues.

The YBCA presentation focused on an experimental approach to authorship and participation by exhibiting two of Lacy's groundbreaking works, *The Oakland Projects* (1991–2001) and *La piel de la memoria / Skin of Memory* (1999), as an entry point to examine today's youth culture and media activism. Central to the exhibition was YBCA's celebration of the rich legacy of youth-focused work in the Bay Area through the inclusion of organizations and artists, such as the aforementioned collaborators, who are putting young people in control of their stories and representations. The SFMOMA presentation featured approximately seventy solo and collaborative works, from Lacy's earliest feminist performances and photographs to her recent immersive video installations.

Inspired by conversations and ideas brought to light while co-developing *Suzanne Lacy: We Are Here*, on July 27, 2019, YBCA gathered artists, cultural workers, and community members for "**Where We Are: Defining Youth Engagement and Social Practice**," an afternoon convening that explored youth organizing, civic engagement, and social practice.



Suzanne Lacy: We Are Here. Photo by Tommy Lau.

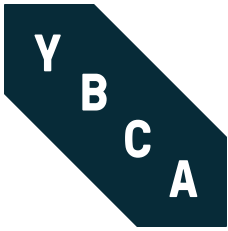


MAJOR ART EXHIBITION PARTNERSHIPS

To underscore the essential role that art plays in the healthy development of young people, **YBCA, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, and San Francisco Pride**—three nonprofit organizations founded in San Francisco and representing more than two hundred years of combined history—announced a partnership to present *Identity and Pride: Youth Art Show*. The exhibition featured artworks developed by youth members of Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco’s Citywide Arts Program, and explored broad themes of identity: gender, ethnicity, culture, community, love. “The whole issue of identity and pride is everything that a young person feels,” says Patricia Zamora, citywide director of creative arts for the Boys & Girls Clubs. On view **June 18 through July 14, 2019**, in YBCA’s second-floor galleries, *Identity and Pride* offered a glimpse into the perspectives of youth aged six to eighteen from the Western Addition, Bayview–Hunters Point, Excelsior, Tenderloin, and Mission communities.



Identity and Pride: Youth Art Show. Photo by Tommy Lau.



A WARM THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

YBCA gratefully acknowledges contributions of \$500 or more received between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Special thanks to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

INSTITUTIONS

Bloomberg Philanthropies
Blue Shield of California
California Arts Council
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
The James Irvine Foundation
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Kenneth Rainin Foundation
Surdna Foundation
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

\$50,000 - \$99,999

INSTITUTIONS

Walter & Elise Haas Fund
The Kimball Foundation
Panta Rhea Foundation
Salesforce.com

\$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
Ignite Arts Dallas at SMU Meadows
Koret Foundation
The MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Meyer Sound
National Endowment for the Arts
New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The Bernard Osher Foundation
Verizon
Wells Fargo
Yerba Buena Community Benefit District
Anonymous

INDIVIDUALS

Nicola Miner and Robert Mailer Anderson
Meridee Moore and Kevin King
David J. Weber and Renu Agrawal
Anonymous

\$10,000 - \$19,999

INSTITUTIONS

Grosvenor Americas
Ketel One Vodka
The Sato Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

Rekha Patel
Ned Topham
Rachel and Ned Topham
Karen H. Wickre Fund
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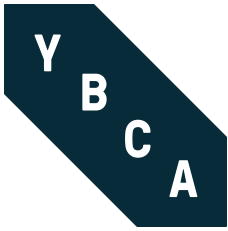
\$5,000 - \$9,999

INSTITUTIONS

Heron Arts
HMS Associates
Macy's
The MCJ Amelior Foundation
MOCA Foundation
Tencue

INDIVIDUALS

Ana Athanasiu Family Trust
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The Beard Family
Alex Bould
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Carla and David Crane
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Jonathan Ennis and Arline Klatte
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Eileen and Peter Michael
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Meg Spriggs
Jocelyn and Paul Startz
Amanda Weil
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\$2,500 - \$4,999

INSTITUTIONS

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Plant Construction Company, L.P.
Rena Bransten Gallery
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Mrs. George R. Moscone
Leslie and Merle Rabine
Corinne Sklar
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Roselyne C. Swig
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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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The Shalleck Collaborative, Inc.
Studio O+A
Studio VARA

INDIVIDUALS

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Trish Bransten and David Gallagher
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Darryl Carbonaro and Jonathan Moscone
Jeff and Lourdes Chang
David Cost and Kate Stechschulte
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Penelope Douglas and Jim Harrigan
Jennifer and Matias Duarte
Gloria and Saul Feldman

Matthew Goudeau

Wayne Hazzard

Renuka Kher and Sandeep Solanki

Richard Laiderman and Jung-Wha Song

Joonho Lee and Kiyoung Nam

Alvin and Rosanne Levitt

Michael Manning and Glenn McCoy

Bruce McDougal and Daniel Rey

Nancy and Steven Oliver

Lisa Olson and Thomas Lau

Sarah Novotny and Jonathon Fletcher

Jan and Howard Oringer

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Maggie and Tony Pico

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Nicole Ward-Parr

Zak Williams

Forest and Jane Young

Anonymous (3)

\$500 - \$999

INSTITUTIONS

Anglim Gilbert Gallery

Auerbach Pollock Friedlander | Auerbach Glasgow

The Cultivist

Doran & Associates

INDIVIDUALS

Jerry Bailey

Michaela Cassidy and Terry C. Whitney

Yvette Chalom and Paul Fogel

Stuart and Barbara Cianos

Fahrettin Cirit

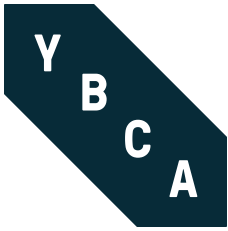
Austin Conkey

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Francesca Eastman and Edward Goodstein

Colin Eykamp

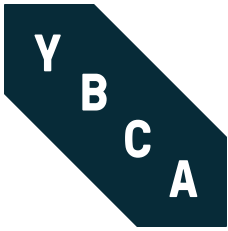
Marcia Feitel



Rebecca Follo
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Brian Gross and Dana Hart-Stone
Elna Moore Hall, Ph.D.
Thomas E. Horn
Priya H. Kamani
Maureen and James Knoll
Nancy Levinson
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Merissa Mann
Connie and Haig Mardikian
Jessica Marshall
Jennifer Mei and Dr. Hanmin Liu
John and Em Minor
Mark Mullen and Julie Campbell
Jim Newman and Jane Ivory
K. Oberhaus and L. Gathers
Mathieu Reeves
Ted Russell
Malia Simonds
Barbara Sklar
Djinnaya Stroud and Jason Bradford
Lava Thomas and Peter Danzig
Sarah and David Woodward
Robel Yemiru and Alison Duncan
Anonymous

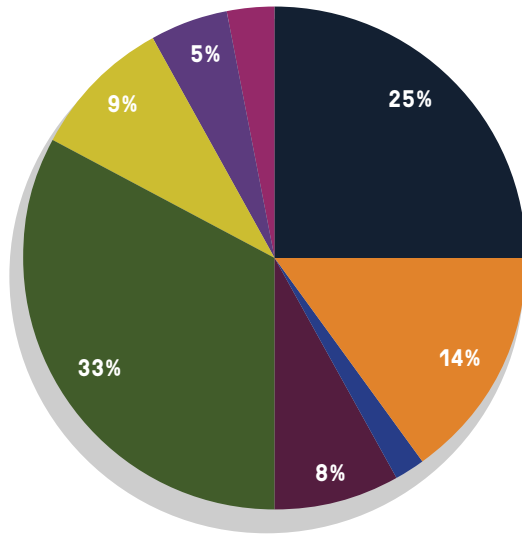
GIFTS IN-KIND

Austerity Wines
Fort Point Beer Co.
Ronald W. Garrity
KQED
Line 39 Wines
The New York Times
Sephora
Tessitura
Young's Market



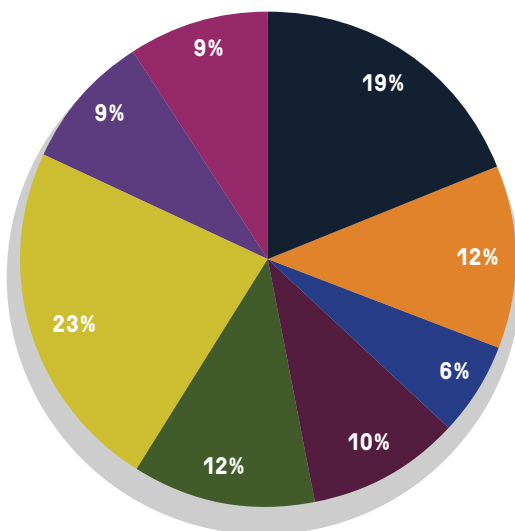
2018-19 FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE \$13,141,978

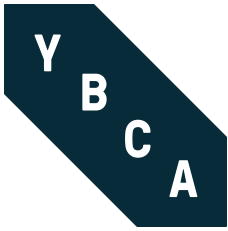


- Support from City of San Francisco, **25%**
- Contributions, **15%**
- Box Office ticket sales, gallery admissions, travelling exhibition fees, **2%**
- Subsidized community programs, **8%**
- Facility rentals, **33%**
- Raffle ticket sales (net of expenses), **9%**
- Naming rights, **5%**
- Other income, **3%**

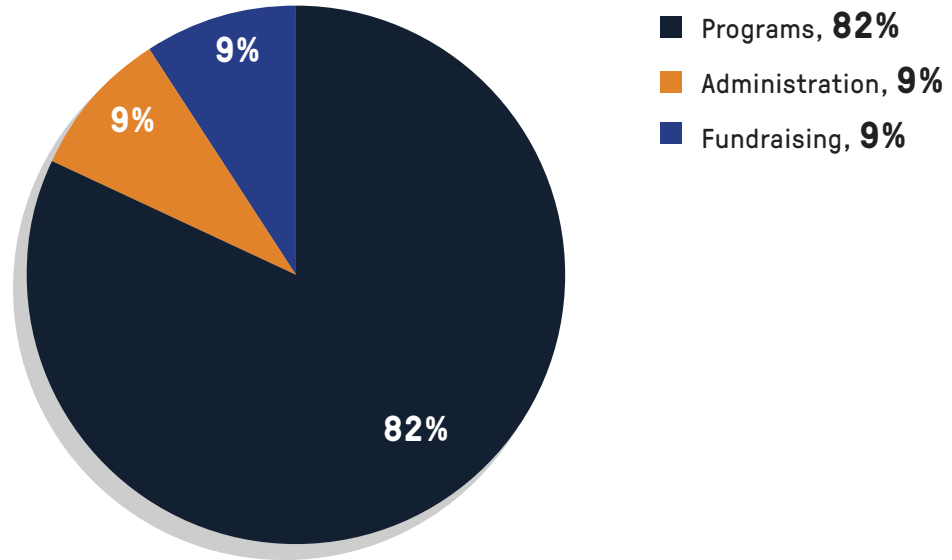
TOTAL EXPENSES \$15,456,147



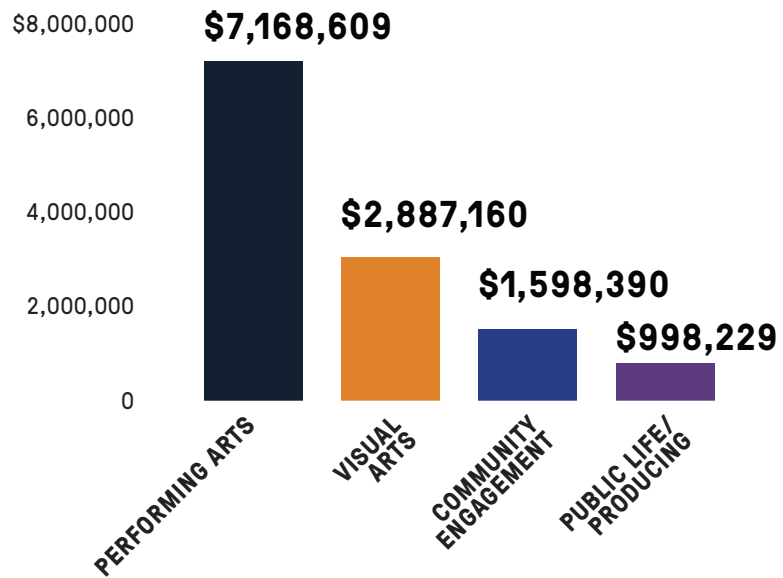
- Visual arts, **19%**
- Performing arts, **12%**
- Public Life/Producing, **6%**
- Community engagement, **10%**
- Subsidized community programs, **12%**
- Rentals, **23%**
- General administration and operations, **9%**
- Fundraising, **9%**



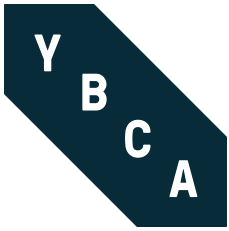
TOTAL EXPENSES \$15,456,147



ARTISTIC PROGRAM EXPENSES



The operating deficit in fiscal year 2018-19 is due to a mix of unexpected challenges in the fundraising context and planned investment from strategic reserves. YBCA is confidently managing shifts in the nonprofit arts landscape by reimagining our programs and strategically deploying cash reserves, which remain healthy.



JOIN US

YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES US TO PURSUE BOLD NEW WAYS TO TRANSFORM OUR CITIES AND LIVES THROUGH ART AND CULTURE. DONATE TODAY AT [YBCA.ORG/SUPPORT](https://www.ybca.org/support).



Bay Area Now 8 Opening Night Party. Photo by Tommy Lau.