

# SHIFTING POWER

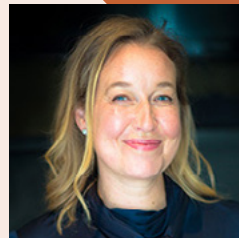
ANNUAL REPORT  
2020–2022



YERBA BUENA  
CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS



# LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



**SARA FENSKE BAHAT**  
CEO AND FY20-21 BOARD CHAIR



**RENUKA KHER**  
FY20-21 BOARD CHAIR

This two-year annual report covers the period when YBCA was largely closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an important moment for YBCA—unplanned years that put us in the unenviable position of asking ourselves how we continue to show up when our community is unable to gather. Our team and communities rose to the challenge, and we're pleased to share the results of their hard work here.

YBCA has a long-standing history of advancing art making aimed at systemic injustice and racial inequity. Closed on short notice for an indefinite amount of time, we were pushed to reconsider the role of arts institutions in our communities. We acknowledged we are more than (daring, engaging) galleries and a (beautiful, beloved) theater. We carefully and wholeheartedly explored the side of YBCA that is a dynamic hub for artists to connect, hold dialogue, find resources, and create together in community.

While our commitment is to growing and sustaining YBCA in service to the communities we serve, our priorities over these years shifted to meet the current needs. Our framing took the form of:

**YBCA Create**, which included artist residencies, fellowships, neighborhood commissions, and art experiences. Working with artists, we built creative opportunities for our community to engage with the most pressing issues at hand. YBCA offered artists a platform to be ambitious, bold, and innovative to positively impact the health and well-being of their communities.

**YBCA Champion** amplified the civic role artists can play. Working at the local, state, and national level, we pushed for artist involvement in cross-sector advocacy initiatives. We built opportunities for artists to showcase their leadership and partner with communities in order to imagine new ways of being.

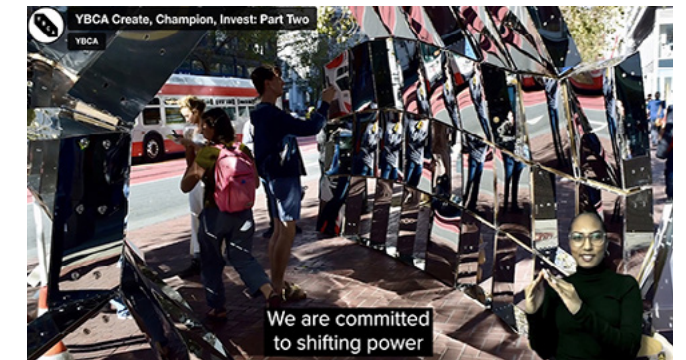
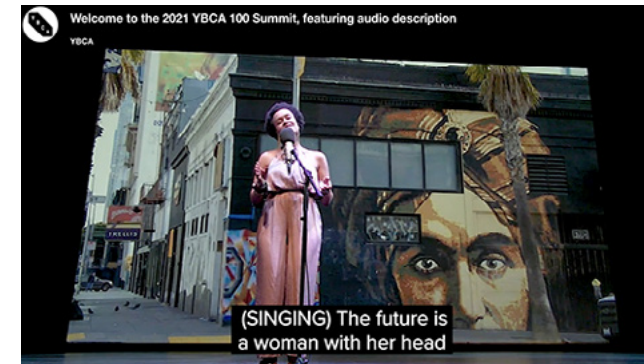
**YBCA Invest** took the form of direct investment in artists to find new economic solutions. By putting funds into artists' hands through the Artist-Led Giving Circle and Guaranteed Income Pilot for Artists, we put resource and decision making in the hands of recipients, making room for artists to do their crucial work.

Now reopened and looking forward, we are integrating learnings from this critical time into our current offerings at YBCA. We invite you to join us in our journey as we create engaging new ways to be together, fill our spaces with programming, and invest in the individual livelihoods of so many Bay Area artists and change makers.

Warmest regards on behalf of all of us at YBCA,

Sara Fenske Bahat  
Renuka Kher

# CENTERING ARTISTS

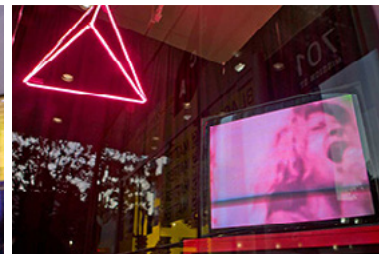


The COVID-19 pandemic revealed a deeper purpose for YBCA as a creative home—not just a physical one—for artists, change makers, and communities who are actively working toward a more equitable future.

YBCA was founded almost thirty years ago as the art and culture anchor of downtown San Francisco, with the mission of abundantly populating our spaces with world-class programming. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed forward experiments grounded in three focus areas: creating art for the public, championing artists, and investing in our local creative ecosystem. The following pages feature a selection of initiatives that platformed our artistic community on both a local and a national scale.



## CENTERING ARTISTS



## AFTER LIFE (WE SURVIVE)

November 2020–February 2021

Presented simultaneously online and around the YBCA campus, YBCA Open Call selection *AFTER LIFE (we survive)* presented independent curator and scholar Thea Quiray Tagle's series of transdisciplinary exhibitions responding to the dire effects of environmental collapse, policing and surveillance, health disparities, and loss of homes and land on communities of color by exploring speculative and real modes of survival. *AFTER LIFE* asked: How can new media, visual art, and performance help us imagine new ways of surviving and thriving, and how can creative proposals for more just and livable futures support and amplify the grassroots organizing led by LGBTQ, Indigenous, Latinx, Black, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities in the Bay Area and beyond?

**FEATURED ARTISTS:** alejandro t. acierto, Art 25 Collective (Lehua M. Taitano and Lisa Jarrett), Jeremiah Barber, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, micha cárdenas, Coven Intelligence Program (Margaretha Haughwout, Suzanne Husky, and efrén cruz cortés), FIFTY-FIFTY Art Collective (Lisa Bulawsky and Laurencia Strauss), Courtney Desiree Morris, Super Futures Haunt Collective (C. Ree, F. Sam Jung, and Angie Morrill), and Rea Tajiri

## CENTERING ARTISTS

## YBCA 100 SUMMIT

### FIRST VIRTUAL SUMMIT

April 3, 2021

The YBCA 100 is an annual list that celebrates artists, activists, and community leaders for their extraordinary commitment to innovating in community practice. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time since its inception, the YBCA 100 Summit was presented entirely online. This interactive virtual convening featured performances, stories, and rituals in a joyous group experience.



## YBCA 10

April 2021–September 2022



Born out of the COVID-19 pandemic and a spirit of experimentation, as an evolution of our long-standing Fellows Program, we selected ten artists of the YBCA 100 to deeply engage with the organization to imagine and design creative prototypes that would impact the health and well-being of communities. Cohort members were each awarded \$50,000 to support work focused on racial equity, climate justice, and their intersections. The program emphasized YBCA's commitment to building transformative relationships with artists by investing in them deeply to develop innovative and incisive work.

**FEATURED ARTISTS:** Alex J. Bledsoe, Leticia Hernández-Linares, My-Linh Le, Nikiko Masumoto, Ayodele Nzinga, Hasain Rasheed, Darryl Ratcliff, Dorothy R. Santos, and Deanna Van Buren

Grounding their projects in collaboration, the YBCA 10 also selected a creative cohort of twenty artists and activists to advise them throughout.

The YBCA 10 program concluded with the *dreamseeds* closing ceremony, where the artist cohort showcased their efforts. The interactive exhibition built on conversations the artists had with one another and their communities while creating the prototypes.



# CREATE CHANGE

As a home for risk takers and forward thinkers, YBCA works with artists as they creatively address the pressing needs of their communities.



## PUBLIC ART

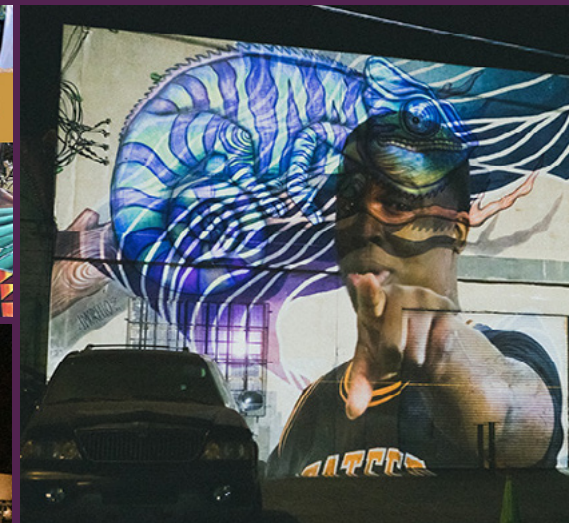
### CALEB DUARTE: THE MONUMENT AS LIVING MEMORY

October 2020–  
April 2022

Caleb Duarte's *The Monument as Living Memory* illustrated the closure, dismantling, and restructuring of institutions, the toppling of monuments, and the uprising of a palpable collective spirit across our country. Taking form as a larger-than-life board in the public space, this work echoed the simultaneous temporary closure of YBCA's galleries and opening of a platform for public voices. The board had a distinct cutout in the shape of a monument, and asked audiences to question what is behind the shadows, what is haunting us, and how art and art institutions can work toward its dismantlement. With this evolving artwork, Duarte brought together artists and collectives from across the Bay Area to build a reflection of ourselves, and of the moment, through an architectural intervention that was as ever-changing as the world in which we live.

CREATE  
CHANGE

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES



## SF URBAN FILM FEST CITY IS ALIVE

October 17, 2020

As part of YBCA's neighborhood commissions, artists in residence SF Urban Film Fest and Bayview-based partner organizations Imprint City and Young Community Developers presented *City Is Alive*, a one-day digital and in-person celebration of everyday heroes who fight for resources and have brought joy to the Bayview.

*City Is Alive* presented Imprint City's signature annual event BayviewLIVE, the only festival in San Francisco dedicated to urban arts and culture, in tandem with Bayview murals come to life by the community through the creative power of Crux, an XR movement founded by and centering Black technologists.



# ARTIST RESIDENCIES



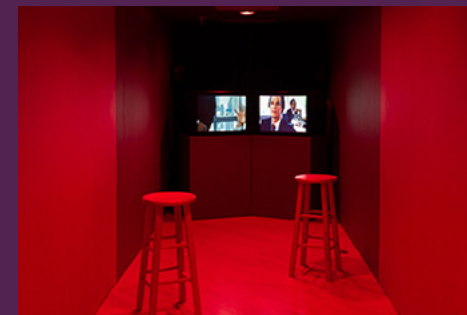
## SF URBAN FILM FEST MOURNING IS AN ACT OF LOVE

February–May 2021

*MOURNING IS AN ACT OF LOVE*, an in-person experience of the 2021 SF Urban Film Fest, brought the public faces of YBCA's buildings to life with photography, video, glass painting, poetry, and large-scale projections. The featured artworks asked us to reconsider memorials and reimagine how we build public experiences that are rooted in our histories, acknowledge our grief, and use love to inspire us to work together for our collective future.

**FEATURED ARTISTS:** Logan Lynette Burroughs, Cheyenne Concepcion, Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, Javiera Godoy, Adrian Garcia Gomez, Susan Horowitz, Melinda James, Monica Magtoto, the National Public Housing Museum, Ada Pinkston, Mark Ramos, Adam Sings in the Timber, Susannah Smith, and Michael Warr.

# ARTIST RESIDENCIES



## IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION THE HEALING PROJECT

March–September 2022

2022 marked a very important milestone: the return to in-person programming at YBCA. It launched with the exhibition *The Healing Project*, organized by renowned jazz virtuoso Samora Pinderhughes, a Bay Area native and prison reform advocate. It documented experiences of incarceration, detention, and structural violence around the United States, but also strategies of community care that imagine and nourish. By highlighting the specific stories of Keith LaMar, Pitt Panther, Cyril Walrond, and others who have urgent cases in regard to their imprisonment, *The Healing Project* aimed to shine light on their situations and ultimately help free the incarcerated artists.



# CHAMPION COMMUNITY

Arts and culture workers are essential to our communities. YBCA recognizes their importance and collaborates with creatives to build paths for affirmational work.



## SAN FRANCISCO ARTS ALLIANCE

June–September 2021

YBCA continued its partnership with dozens of arts organizations through the SF Arts Alliance, working collaboratively to highlight the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the Bay Area's cultural sector and advocate for federal, state, and city relief funding. In June 2021, YBCA was instrumental in the Alliance's call to the United States Conference of Mayors to pass a September 2021 resolution urging Congress to increase support for arts and cultural institutions during our nation's rebuilding and recovery. Through the Alliance, YBCA also supported the #BayAreaArtsTogether campaign aimed at building confidence for the safe and healthy return to in-person arts performances, exhibitions, and events.



## SAN FRANCISCO CREATIVE CORPS

October 2020–May 2021

Collaborating with the mayor of San Francisco and other city arts organizations, YBCA engaged artists as community health ambassadors through live and online performances, videos, and murals. Through the San Francisco Creative Corps, artists inspired the public to care for themselves and one another by practicing COVID-19 safe behaviors.







# Artist Power Center

## May 2020–ongoing

YBCA continued its work refining the Artist Power Center, an app designed to help artists and cultural workers explore job listings, find affordable housing opportunities, navigate grant opportunities, and build long-term careers. First imagined in spring 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic-related economic crisis, the APC was created after artists began reaching out to YBCA staff for leads on relief funds and job opportunities.

In December 2020, the APC received the Arts Impact Endowment grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission to serve as the city’s arts hub, offering critical relief resources for artists.

In summer 2021, the APC onboarded four San Francisco arts organizations to serve as founding partners: Dancers’ Group, ArtSpan, Theatre Bay Area, and Intersection for the Arts. These partners provided key feedback on how the app could serve the livelihoods of organizations as we broadened our community reach in the Bay Area and beyond.

# PEDAGOGY OF HOPE

## UNCAGE, REUNIFY & HEAL



## March–July 2022

YBCA partnered with Galería de la Raza and Colombian American artist Paola de la Calle to present *Pedagogy of Hope: Uncage, Reunify, Heal*, a textile- and photography-based exhibition surveying the Caravan for the Children campaign, a one-hundred-day movement launched in January 2021 as a national effort to demand the release, reunification, and healing of migrant children separated from their families at the US-Mexico border due to the 45th presidential administration’s 2018 zero-tolerance policy. In addition to photography, art, and media documentation of the initial hundred-day campaign, the exhibition also featured quilts created by de la Calle to offer a “warm embrace” to children separated from their families. The Caravan and exhibition culminated with a rally in May 2022 in Washington, DC, to drop off personalized advocacy postcards at the US Department of Homeland Security.



# INVEST IN CREATIVES

## ARTISTS' RESOURCES

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we began to explore new economic models—rooted in equity for artists of all backgrounds and disciplines—that seek to address the limitations of traditional arts funding. Through this work, we were able to reimagine how we support artists economically, which led to groundbreaking new programs.



## GUARANTEED INCOME PILOT

May 2021–October 2022

In May 2021, YBCA launched the San Francisco Guaranteed Income Pilot for Artists (SF-GIPA) to support artists living and working in the city during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The six-month pilot provided monthly payments of \$1,000 to 130 eligible San Francisco artists facing financial insecurity, with a comprehensive and community-centered outreach strategy targeting those hardest hit by the pandemic. Following a generous grant from Start Small, Square, and Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey's philanthropic initiative, the original 130 participants received extended monthly payments until October 2022. This pilot was administered in partnership with the Office of Racial Equity at the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and the Arts Impact Endowment, cofunded by the San Francisco Arts Commission and Grants for the Arts.

## CCCGI COALITION

June 2022

Following the SF-GIPA launch, and after receiving feedback from our community that we could be doing more and better, in June 2022 YBCA supported the launch of the Creative Communities Coalition for Guaranteed Income (CCCGI), an initiative convened by YBCA and led by six San Francisco arts and culture organizations dedicated to economic justice: Black Freight Press, Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, The Transgender District, Dance Mission Theater, Galería de la Raza, and the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company. The community-led initiative, funded by Jack Dorsey's #StartSmall Foundation and some of YBCA's grant from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, implements a \$1.3 million, eighteen-month guaranteed income program focused on San Francisco artists grappling with the harms of structural racism, displacement, and inequities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## ARTIST-LED GIVING CIRCLE

October 2020–October 2022

YBCA invested \$250,000 in the Artist-Led Giving Circle, a group of artists working toward social change from around the country—the Bay Area, Alaska, Atlanta, Dallas, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and beyond—who have track records of creative practice in service of the health and well-being of their communities. Giving Circle members were invited to present their work at SOCAP22; SOCAP is a conference that convenes social impact investors from around the world to share their work, connect with one another, and build a more equitable economic future for all communities.





# NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT

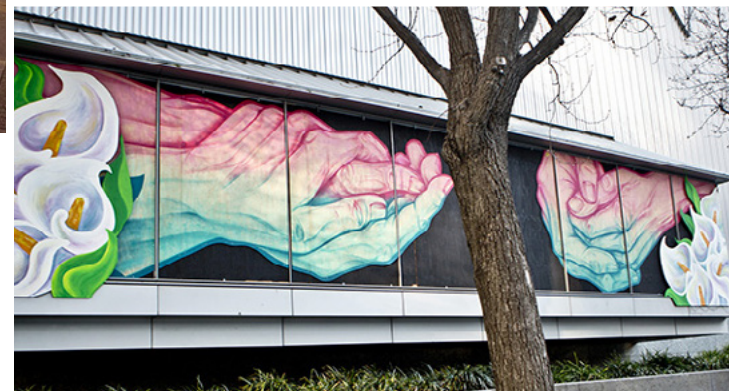
# INVEST



## COMMUNITY HUBS

August–December 2020

Early in the pandemic, YBCA answered Mayor London Breed’s call to support students with high levels of need during the crisis. Our galleries transformed into community hubs for socially distanced learning, providing safe educational support for students at Bessie Carmichael Elementary. As part of their time here, students worked with YBCA Teaching Artists Kim Epifano and Fred Alvarado to engage with crucial arts education and build creative skills.



## SOMA PILIPINAS X CECE CARPIO MURAL

March 2021–ongoing

In collaboration with SOMA Pilipinas, YBCA commissioned artists Cece Carpio and Miguel “Bounce” Perez to create a mural on YBCA’s Mission Street glass passageway. Inspired by Carpio’s work with San Francisco elders throughout the pandemic, *Tend Your Orchard* (2021) reminds us to tend to our communities, our loved ones, and ourselves as we see our way through this crisis.

## LAWN ART BY TOSHA STIMAGE

September–October 2020

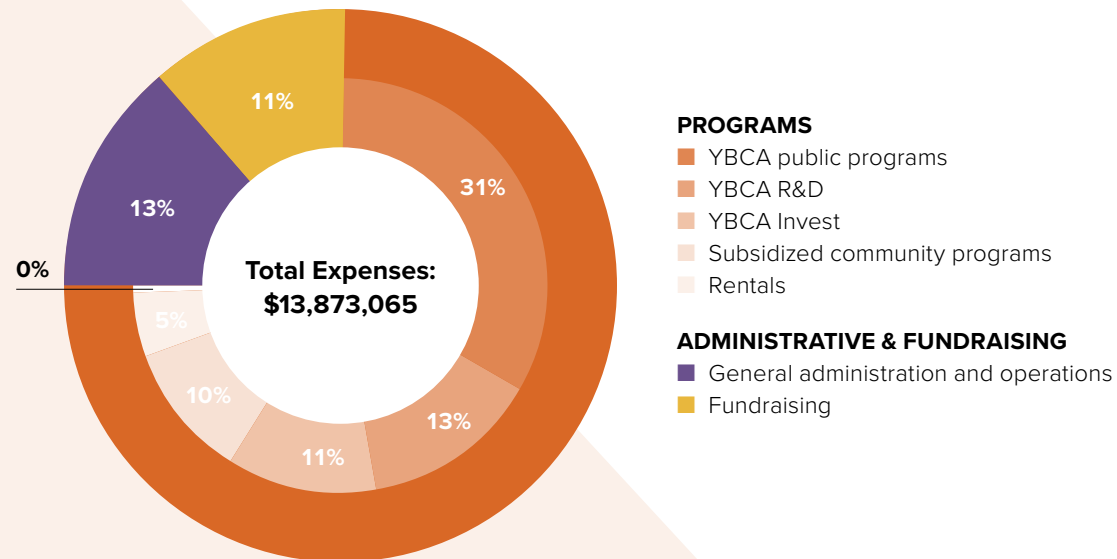
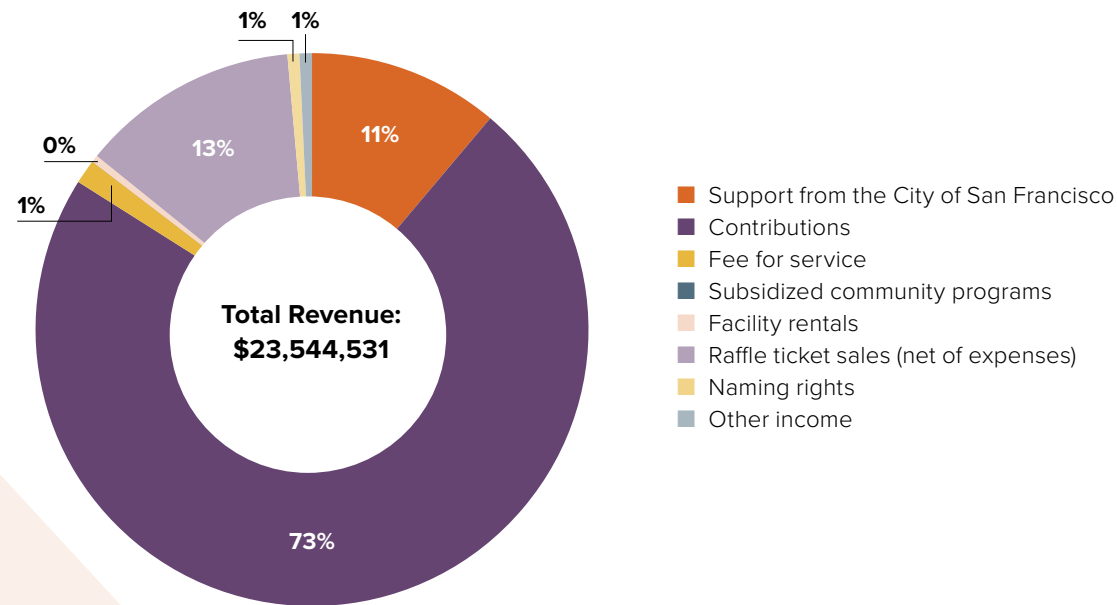
*Infinite center, infinite sun* by multidisciplinary artist, educator, and former YBCA fellow Tosha Stimage was a public artwork in which our community could connect and gather safely once again. Created with grass-safe paint on the lawn at Yerba Buena Gardens, it featured twelve-foot explosions of color in a repeating, socially distanced pattern that expanded outward from a central point.



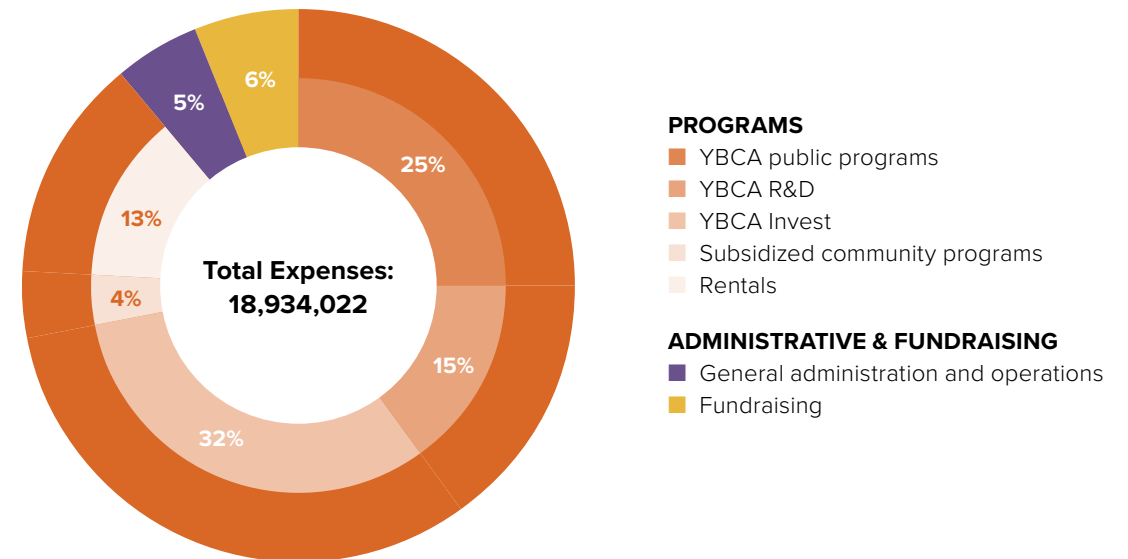
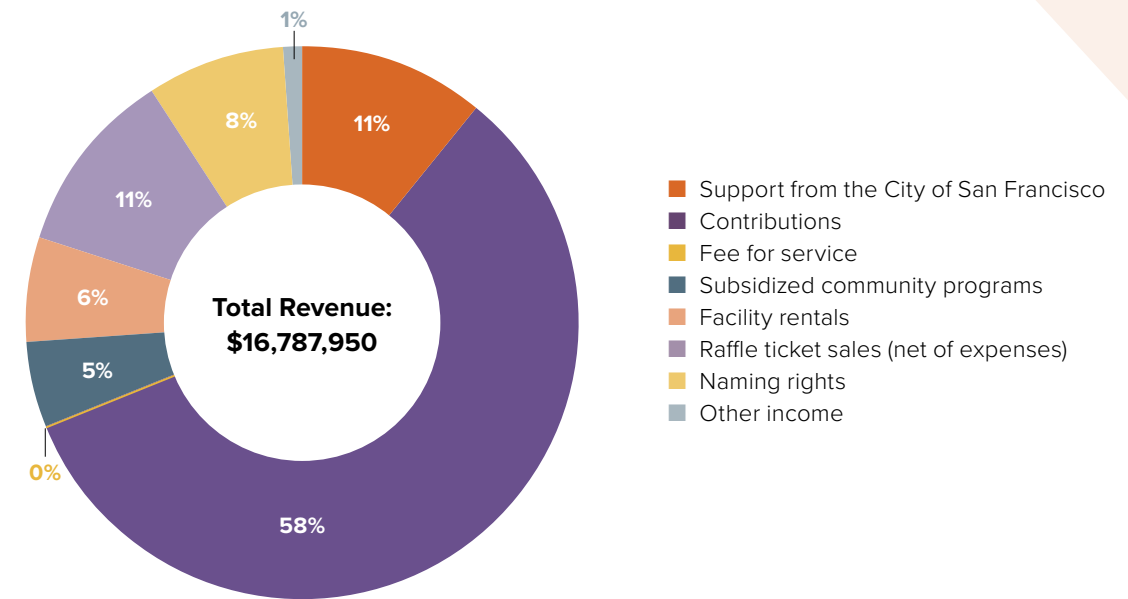


# FINANCIALS

## 2020-21



## 2021-22



With YBCA's earned revenue historically coming from rentals, conferences, and live events, in these two years, YBCA's finances continued to be affected by ongoing cancellations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A \$6 million unrestricted gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott—which YBCA was honored to receive in June 2021—now strengthens our reserves as we begin the hard work of once again establishing an annual balanced budget while meeting community needs for artist-led inspiration, creativity, and connection.



# 2020-22 DONORS

## THANK YOU TO YBCA CONTRIBUTORS!

YBCA gratefully acknowledges gifts of \$500 or more made in the past two fiscal years, from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022.

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

### \$100,000 AND ABOVE

Blue Shield of California  
California Arts Council  
California Office of the Small Business Advocate  
Marilyn Conrad Trust  
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation  
Ford Foundation  
Walter & Elise Haas Fund  
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Kenneth Rainin Foundation  
San Francisco Arts Commission  
MacKenzie Scott  
Small Business Administration  
#StartSmall  
Tambourine

### \$50,000–\$99,999

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### \$20,000–\$49,999

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### \$10,000–\$19,999

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\* In-kind contribution

### Captions and Photo Credits

**FRONT COVER:** Caleb Duarte and Arte urGente, *DO NOT COME, DO NOT COME*, 2022, from *The Monument as Living Memory* series. Installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020–22. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photograph by Tommy Lau.

**PAGES 5 (LEFT), 9, 13:** Photographs by Charlie Villyard.

**PAGE 6:** Caleb Duarte, *The Monument as Living Memory* series. Installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020–22. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photographs by Tommy Lau.

**Clockwise from far left:**

Cheyenne Concepcion, *Triumph of a Woman*, 2021  
Irene Shiori, *Vote Now, Cry Later*, 2020  
Cece Carpio and Tina Bartolome, *What Is to Be Done?*, 2021  
My-Linh Le and Jeffrey Yip, *The Origin Story of No Name*, 2021  
Fredericko Alvarado and YBCA's Community Hub Youth, *Untitled*, 2020

**PAGE 7:** SF Urban Film Fest and Crux XR, *City Is Alive*, 2020. Photographs by Shantré Pinkney.

**PAGE 10–11 (CENTER):** Photograph courtesy Paint the Void.

**PAGE 14–15:** Photographs by LexMex Art.

**PAGE 16:** Caleb Duarte, Fredericko Alvarado, and YBCA's Community Hub Youth, *Untitled*, 2020, from *The Monument as Living Memory* series. Installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020–22. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photographs by Tommy Lau.

**BACK COVER:** BACK COVER: Art 25: Art in the 25th Century, *Future Ancestors*, 2019. Installation view, *AFTER LIFE (we survive)*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020–21. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photograph by Thea Quiray Tagle, exhibition curator.

All other photography by Tommy Lau.



## JOIN US

We are so grateful for the support of our YBCA community. We will continue to be a center that brings together creatives, cultures, and communities in bold, innovative, and accessible ways to deepen public understanding of, and engagement in, the critical questions of our time and place.

Your gift enables us to create ideal conditions for artists and culture makers who are transforming our cities and communities and building a more equitable future.

Donate today at [ybca.org/donate](https://ybca.org/donate).

### Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

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