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RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

YBCA Annual Report 2019-20

OUR PATH FORWARD

Dear YBCA Friends and Family,

The social and political landscape of 2019-2020, from the movement for racial justice to the battle against a deadly pandemic, accelerated a process of metamorphosis at YBCA. As the COVID-19 virus, racial violence, and systemic inequity called for us to step up, the YBCA staff, board, artists, and community members doubled down on our commitment to shift power away from top-down institutional practices and towards an artist and community-led ecosystem that builds equity with every action.

In Spring 2020, we presented ***Come to Your Census: Who Counts in America?***, an art and civic experience designed to increase public knowledge and engagement around the 2020 Census. With San Francisco's initial mandated shelter-in-place order coming mere weeks before the scheduled launch, *Come to Your Census* was forced to pivot to an online presentation. Our team worked relentlessly and collaboratively to create a virtual and interactive program with art, video games, films, digital conversations, and more. As YBCA staff embraced the opportunity to explore new ways to connect online, we presented the ***See Black Women*** conversation series led by curator Ashara Ekundayo in tandem with Black women artists from across the Bay Area. Together they asked us all to interrogate the historical erasure of Black women and celebrate the artists who resist.

As our Senior Fellow Liz Lerman once advised us: "We are at our most inventive when we are falling." This year we fell alongside so many, but we got right back up by working hand-in-hand with one another. Seeing the immediate economic effects of the pandemic on artists, we teamed up with Zoo Labs to create the **Artists Now relief fund**, which provided emergency grants to over 300 artists in the Bay Area. We launched the **Artist Power Center**, a digital platform for artists to find relief grants, connect with other artists, and have access to real-time support for health, legal, and accounting services. We also took a leading role in the **San Francisco Arts Alliance** to advocate for federal, state, and local governmental support of artists and arts organizations in COVID-19 recovery efforts. You'll find further examples of the resilience from YBCA and the artists that inspire us in this report.

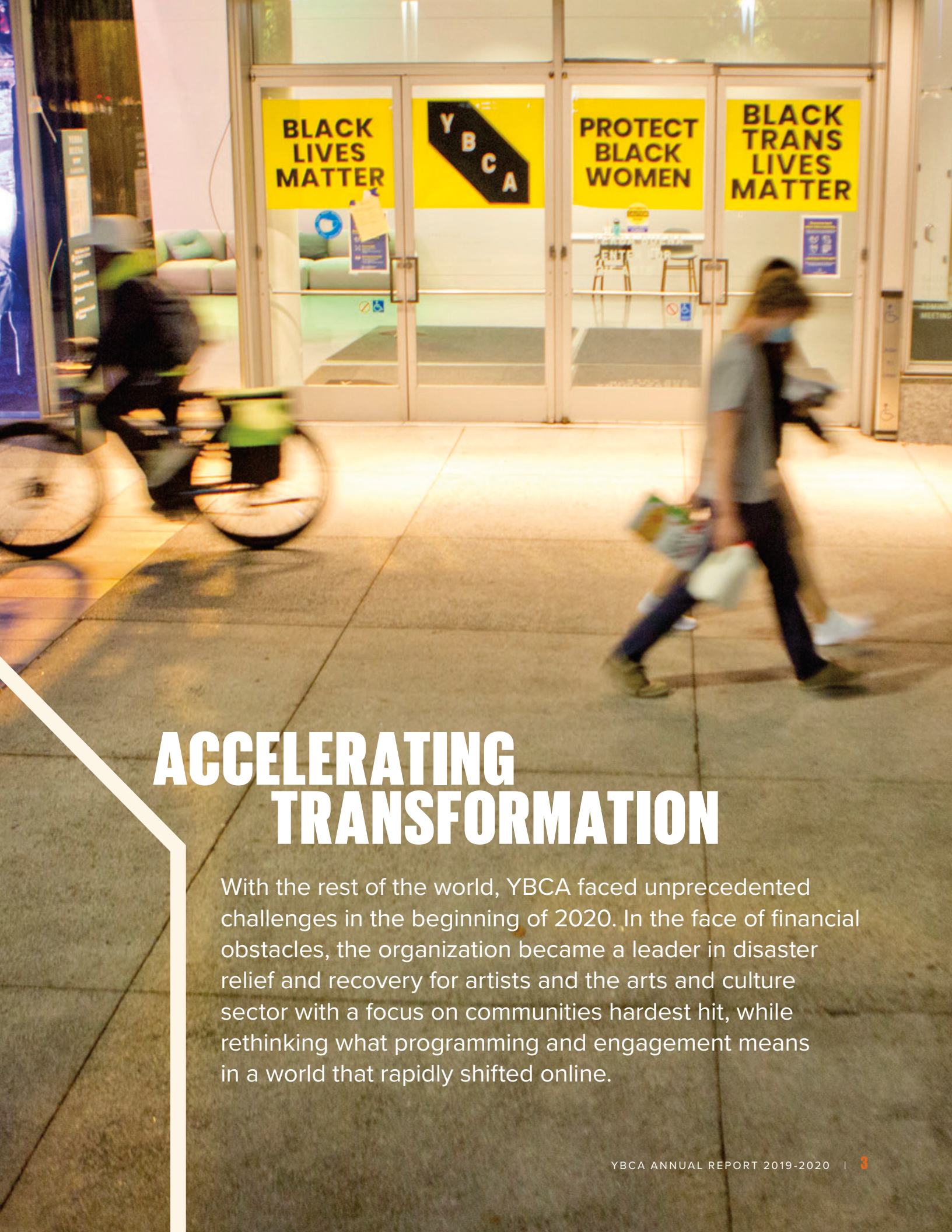
We continue to learn as we do the work and create the art center our world needs right now. Our Chief of Program, Meklit Hadero, worked with the YBCA team and community to develop and test new approaches to an integrated artistic program that emphasizes relationships and centers artists, with a focus on Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, LGBTQIA+, and disabled artists. Senior Fellows Brett Cook and Liz Lerman guided our board through integrating our commitment to equity across all the work we do. This transformation is no easy feat, but with your support we will continue to build a creative home that champions and invests in artists working to advance equity and well-being in our communities.

Warmest regards on behalf of all of us at YBCA,

Deborah Cullinan, *Chief Executive Officer*
Sara Fenske Bahat, *Board Chair*



Works by Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo featured in *Come To Your Census: Who Counts in America?*



ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATION

With the rest of the world, YBCA faced unprecedented challenges in the beginning of 2020. In the face of financial obstacles, the organization became a leader in disaster relief and recovery for artists and the arts and culture sector with a focus on communities hardest hit, while rethinking what programming and engagement means in a world that rapidly shifted online.

A LEADING VOICE FOR THE ARTS





At the onset of the pandemic, YBCA understood the deep and ongoing economic implications happening in real time, and responded quickly. Our leadership team assumed roles in federal, state, and local lobbying efforts through the San Francisco Arts Alliance and beyond.

YBCA managed the San Francisco Arts Alliance's COVID-19 Arts Impact Survey, completed by 151 organizations in March 2020, just weeks after the initial shelter-in-place mandate. This survey found that by the end of March, San Francisco's cultural organizations were already struggling to keep artists and arts workers employed. 28% were making plans to lay off employees, 44% to reduce employees' hours, and 61% to reduce the hours of contractors—some of the sector's most vulnerable workers.

Through the Alliance, YBCA partnered with dozens of local arts organizations, partners, and leaders to advocate with federal leadership for the inclusion of the non-profit arts in the March 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) package and ensuing federal bills that build on this recovery support.

YBCA CEO Deborah Cullinan also served on San Francisco Mayor London Breed's Economic Recovery Task Force, representing, alongside other leaders, the needs of our arts community in the city's recovery efforts.

YBCA's leadership role in advocacy led to Cullinan's appointment as the sole arts representative to Governor Gavin Newsom's Jobs and Business Recovery Task Force, where she advocated for artists and the organizations that support them. In this role, Cullinan helped secure a budgetary allocation from the Governor of \$15 million over two years to implement the California Creative Corps. This pilot program employs artists in service to the public health crisis and is the first state-sponsored program of its kind in the United States.

ENGAGING ONLINE

YBCA's artistic programs adapted to move almost entirely to digital platforms. Our online experiences—artist conversations, artworks, fellowships, and more—tackled some of the most pressing social and political concerns of our everyday life including civic participation, racial justice, and uplifting community voices.





COME TO YOUR CENSUS

In spring 2019, YBCA teamed up with Art+Action to develop an arts-driven campaign to mobilize communities around the 2020 Census. Together, YBCA and Art+Action sought to inform the public of the fundamental role the Census plays in our democracy, with a specific focus on reaching and engaging the hardest to count communities in our city. This collaboration created an art and civic experience like no other, titled *Come to Your Census: Who Counts in America?*

Come to Your Census brought local artists and community organizations together to explore the questions: What does it mean to be counted? What does it mean to belong? Ranging from site-specific and participatory installations to paintings, films, ceramics, and photographs, the works offered ruminations on identity, visibility, and citizenship. Pivoting to an online presentation at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, YBCA reimagined the physical launch for a virtual space. *Come To Your Census* took a variety of forms, including interactive video games, virtual gatherings, and newly commissioned written and filmed artist responses, to underscore the Census as an essential service which ensures our communities' long-term health and strength.



Miguel Arazabe
'Here'

**MGA
NANGUNGUPAHAN/
RENTER
SAGUTAN
NATIN
ANG SENSUS.**



Jay, Recology



Gabby, Business
Liaison of Calle 24
Latino Cultural District



Ashara Ekundayo



Brett Cook



Liz Lerman

ENGAGING ONLINE (continued)

SEE BLACK WOMEN

As part of the online programming for *Come to Your Census* we teamed up with the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) and curator Ashara Ekundayo to present *See Black Women*, a two-part conversation with Bay Area Black women artists about visibility, grief, and our present paradigm shift in culture and practice.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FELLOWS

The 2019-2020 fellowship cohort of artists, activists, community members, and everyday people alike was assembled for a yearlong process of inquiry and dialogue under the question: How do we uplift and mobilize our public participation? Forced to pivot their projects to a virtual space in the midst of their time at YBCA, the Fellows developed online exhibitions, communal poems, musical compositions, photographic series, and more considering urgent themes such as racial justice, the 2020 Census, the November 2020 elections, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

ALCHEMY OF THE RESET

In November 2019, YBCA invited choreographer, performer, writer, and educator Liz Lerman and artist and educator Brett Cook to join the organization as our first Senior Fellows, a multi-year partnership with YBCA to help reimagine what an arts organization could be. In the wake of 2020's many cultural seismic shifts, Cook, Lerman, and YBCA Chief of Program Meklit Hadero developed *Alchemy of the Reset*. This digital conversation series engaged with artists and creative leaders to share their stories of reset as inspiration for the public to find their own power and take action.

Left top and bottom: From the series *The Essentials*, a photo essay by 2019-20 YBCA Public Participation Fellow Cheyenne Concepción.

BUILDING ARTISTS' CAPACITY

YBCA understands that artists are key players in the development of regenerative communities, but cannot play this role without real financial and resource investment. Prior to the pandemic, YBCA began reinvestment work through the CultureBank initiative and greatly expanded once the economic impact of COVID-19 on artists first became apparent.





CULTUREBANK

Since 2016, YBCA has worked with SOCAP (Social Capital Markets) to bring artists and arts and cultural leaders together to identify and enact social reform through CultureBank. In Summer 2019, YBCA's CultureBank initiative launched a new artist cohort in West Oakland with an investment of \$30,000, in partnership with Zoo Labs. Each cohort places artists and their enterprises at the center of community investment strategies. The work of the West Oakland cohort is increasingly urgent following waves of real estate development and the rise of residents who are not deeply rooted in Oakland's cultural history, as well as new issues brought about by the pandemic. Chosen by community members, the cohort's goal was to activate existing physical spaces in West Oakland neighborhoods in order to involve the creative community in determining the future of those places and a more equitable future for the city itself.



BUILDING ARTISTS' CAPACITY (continued)

ARTISTS POWER CENTER

Out of a moment of crisis, we work to create resiliency. Recognizing that our artistic community was one of the most economically hard hit by the pandemic, YBCA built the Artist Power Center (APC), a digital platform created to help artists and cultural workers navigate emergency relief and continue to build long-term careers. We engaged with artists directly to develop the APC into an inclusive and dynamic platform focused on building the strength and resilience of our creative community. Artists can navigate existing and forthcoming relief funds and have real people standing by via phone and text chat to connect artists to job listings, grant opportunities, and resources in accounting, legal, and health services.

ARTISTS NOW

Near the onset of the pandemic in Spring 2020, YBCA collaborated with Zoo Labs, Black Joy Parade, and Always Win Together to launch Artists Now, a relief fund offering financial support to those Bay Area artists most directly affected by the extreme economic challenges caused by COVID-19, with a specific focus on female, POC, and LGBTQIA+ artists. Of the artists funded, 79% identified as BIPOC, 43% identified as LGBTQIA+, and 50% reported a household income as less than \$25,000. Artists Now brought financial support to Bay Area artists deeply impacted by the pandemic so that they can continue to create the art and inspiration we so desperately need.



I lost my primary income due to the pandemic, which left me anxious, fearful of financial instability, and disconnected from my arts community. I was feeling really down about my identity as an emerging artist and my future prospects, until I got your email noting that I was going to receive the emergency fund. As if to say, "Hey, you are a part of this, keep going." It was the first sign of hope I felt in a very long time. — AVA, BERKELEY





ARTIST

POWER

CENTER

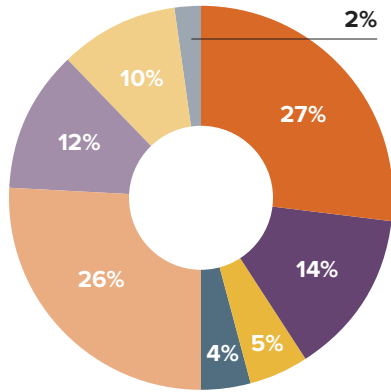
2019-20 FINANCIALS

In March 2020, YBCA closed its facilities in accordance with the San Francisco shelter-in-place order. Programs that would have been hosted during this time were postponed or cancelled, others shifted online.

YBCA made a commitment to retain staffing levels with the support of a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan through June 30, 2020. In order to maintain the sustainability of the organization, staff capacity was reduced by 38% in July 2020 accompanied by tiered salary reductions and a deeper commitment to our strategic direction to invest in, champion, and create with artists. These financials represent our reduced operating budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

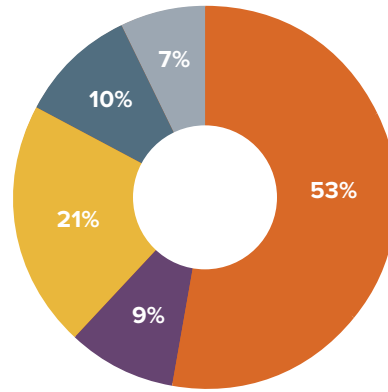


Total Revenue: \$12,493,772



- Support from the City of San Francisco
- Contributions
- Fee for service
- Subsidized community programs
- Facility rentals
- Raffle ticket sales (net of expenses)
- Naming rights
- Other income

Total Expenses: \$13,607,843



- Arts programming and engagement
- Subsidized community programs
- Rentals
- General administration and operations
- Fundraising

THE Body ELECTRIC

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019–JANUARY 26, 2020

Smart phones, tablets, and computers. Wearable tech, artificial intelligence, and viral videos. In the first decades of the 21st century, we constantly shift between the physical world and digital realms that are accessed through technology. As a result, divisions between the real and the virtual, the body and the machine are being eroded.

The Body Electric presents work by an intergenerational group of artists from the past 50 years who use technology to explore identity, class, race, and sexuality. Video games, record private moments and public spectacles, photographs capture intimate personal, and digital avatars simulate human behavior. Together, they reveal ways that technology and digital avatars simulate human behavior. Together, they reveal ways that technology changes our collective understanding of the body, everyday life, and sense of self. From the inviting and familiar to the provocative and unsettling, the works in the exhibition move adeptly from the material world to the space of the screen and back again.

Note: You may encounter mature content, smoke effects, and drinking liquor in this exhibition.
The Body Electric is organized by the Walker Art Center. The exhibition is made possible by generous support from the Cull Foundation, The Body Electric Foundation, and the Walker Art Center. Additional support is provided by Elise and Joe Berg and the Paul and Linda Walker Foundation. The Body Electric is curated by Paul Peck, Curator, Visual Arts with Julie Colquhoun, Curatorial Fellow, Walker Art Center. The YBCA presentation is organized by Sara Kerner, Curator of Exhibitions. Additional thanks to David Hirschfeld, Curator, YBCA. Support for The Body Electric is provided by the Changing the Rules Council of Artists, National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. YBCA exhibitions are made possible in part by the Minneapolis Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation. YBCA programs are made possible in part by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the James Irvine Foundation. National Endowment for the Arts, General, and YBCA donation.

Bloomberg Philanthropies
The James Irvine Foundation
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

2019-2020 DONORS

THANK YOU TO YBCA CONTRIBUTORS!

YBCA gratefully acknowledges contributions of \$500 or more received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

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

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

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The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
The James Irvine Foundation
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Kenneth Rainin Foundation

Individuals

Anonymous

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Institutions

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\$5,000 – \$9,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Roni Raulwing

Mick and Sabrina Hellman

James C. Hormel and
Michael P. Nguyen, in
memory of
Nancy Livingston

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\$500 – \$999

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GIFTS IN-KIND

That's It

Unica Party Rentals

Waterloo Sparkling Water

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Captions and Photo Credits

On the cover: Lava Thomas, *Freedom Song No. 5 (We Shall Not Be Moved)*, 2019, installation view, *Come to Your Census: Who Counts in America?*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photograph by Charlie Villyard.

Page 2: Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo, *THIS IS BETWEEN JANUARY AND OCTOBER 2019, THE LIST HAS GOTTEN TOO LONG, IT MUST STOP NOW. WE SAY ASHE AFTER EVERY NAME, WE WILL NOT FORGET YOUR NAME (part 2)*, 2019, installation view, *Come to Your Census: Who Counts in America?*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photograph by Charlie Villyard.

Page 6: Cece Carpio, *Actual Enumeration series*, 2020, installation view, *Come to Your Census: Who Counts in America?*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photograph by Charlie Villyard.

All other photography by Tommy Lau.

Page 7, top photo: Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo, *Who Gets Counted?*, 2020, installation view, *Come to Your Census: Who Counts in America?*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photograph by Charlie Villyard.
Page 7, bottom photo: Courtesy Art+Action.

Page 8: From the series *The Essentials*, a photo essay by 2019-20 YBCA Public Participation Fellow Cheyenne Concepción.

Page 10-11: CultureBank Dallas cohort member Clyde Valentín with installation by fellow cohort member Fred Villanueva/Ash Studios. Photograph by Kim Leeson.

Page 13: Brett Cook, *smARTpower/Sharing Culture*, 2012. Courtesy the artist.

Page 18: Works by Micah Bizant, installation view, *Come to Your Census: Who Counts in America?*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2020. Courtesy Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Photograph by Charlie Villyard.

JOIN US

To our YBCA community, this year has truly been like no other. We have seen unprecedented challenges and continue to persevere in the belief that a more equitable future is within our grasp. We are in this together.

Your support enables us to pursue bold new ways to transform our cities and communities through art and culture. **Donate today at ybca.org/support.**

