

YBCA 2023-2024 Annual Report



Celebrating Creativity,
Resilience, and Impact



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ABOVE *Nick Dong: 11 to 88*, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2024. Photo by Corey Marsau.

COVER *Nick Dong: 11 to 88*, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2024. Photo by Corey Marsau.

At YBCA, we believe in the transformative power of art—and the 2023-2024 year showcased how multidisciplinary arts programming can spark dialogue, inspire communities, and move people.

We began the year celebrating our signature triennial exhibition, ***Bay Area Now 9 (BAN9)***, a survey of the Bay Area's most dynamic and provocative artists. As part of the exhibition, we hosted an extraordinarily wide range of supporting public programming: from poetry lunches to weaving workshops to podcasts about cult films to sketching sessions in our galleries.

Following ***BAN9***, ***Nick Dong: 11 to 88*** captivated thousands of visitors with a unique multisensory journey that was designed to calm, heal, and enlighten. We were also proud to continue our longstanding partnerships with some of the region's most esteemed dance institutions, including Alonzo King LINES Ballet, ODC/Dance, and Smuin Contemporary Ballet.

Our values—belonging, inclusive collaboration, optimism and curiosity—are the foundation of everything we do: from the exhibitions we present, to the educational programs we lead, to the community gatherings we host. Together, they ensure that YBCA is a space for belonging and inspiration for communities across the region.

INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends and Supporters of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts,

In January of 2025, I joined YBCA as Chief Executive Officer, and I'm absolutely thrilled to lead an institution with a legacy of vibrant, daring, and groundbreaking arts programming.

Over the last couple of months, I've been working closely with my team to identify what's working well, and the places where we need to grow. Certainly, cultural institutions in cities like ours face many challenges today—but I'm eager to seize this moment, because I believe that this is a time where bold commitments to creativity, artistic expression, and community collaboration can make a difference.

This annual report—which spans July 2023 through June 2024—showcases much of the organization's momentum and the ways that we've contributed to the culture of downtown San Francisco. Looking ahead to 2025 and 2026, we have even more planned and I truly hope that you'll be a part of it.

Thank you for your support, which makes everything we do possible. Together, we are building a future where creativity thrives in the heart of our wonderful city.

With gratitude,
Mari Robles
Chief Executive Officer
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts



ABOVE YBCA CEO, Mari Robles. Photo by Aaron Wojack.



YBCA Board of Directors (2025)

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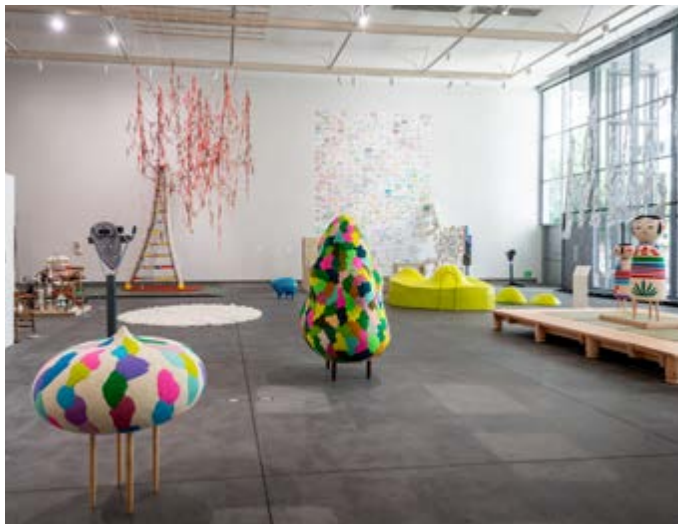
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ABOVE طراوت | *TARAVAT*, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2023. Photo by Tommy Lau.

CENTER Nick Dong: *11 to 88*, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2024. Photo by Corey Marsau.

BELOW *Bay Area Now 9*, installation view. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2023. Photo by Charlie Villyard.

A Year in Reflection: Our Key Programs

The 2023-2024 year at YBCA was a testament to the transformative power of art to inspire and connect. Through innovative exhibitions, groundbreaking performances, educational initiatives, and investment in artists and communities, we demonstrated our commitment to fostering creativity across the Bay Area.

Each of our programs reflected a unique aspect of YBCA's mission—to be a gathering space for creative expression that fosters meaningful connection for all. From immersive art experiences to community-driven workshops, we look back on the highlights of the year.



Bay Area Now 9, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2023. Photo by Charlie Villyard.

Visual Arts

The visual arts were at the heart of our programming this year. **Bay Area Now 9** brought together a remarkable array of local artists whose works reflected the creativity and cultural richness of our region.

Nick Dong: 11 to 88 transformed our galleries into an immersive exploration of light, sound, and spirituality, drawing thousands of visitors.

Performing Arts

Through music, dance, and theater, we fostered connections and amplified voices, making the performing arts an integral part of our year's offerings. A full list of performances will be highlighted in the detailed section of this report.

Together, these efforts exemplify YBCA's role as a cultural anchor, where art is not just experienced but truly lived. As we reflect on the year, we are energized to continue building programs that inspire, engage, and create lasting change for the communities we serve.

Education

Education is a cornerstone of YBCA's mission. This year, we launched our free weekly art workshops, offering hands-on creative experiences that encouraged exploration and self-expression. Our ongoing partnership with Bessie Carmichael School continued to enrich the lives of students through tailored arts education programs.

Artist and Community Investment

Through the California Arts Council's Creative Corps program, we awarded grants to artists whose work addresses critical social issues, particularly within underserved communities. These investments reflect YBCA's belief in the power of artists to lead change, which resonates far beyond the walls of our institution.





Hyakki Yagho, Night Parade of One Hundred Demons – One Million Years of Journey with Ruby Red Fox and Their Company, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2023. Photo by Charlie Villyard.

A Year of Artistic Excellence

The 2023-2024 season at YBCA was marked by a vibrant array of exhibitions and performances that showcased the depth and diversity of artistic talent in the Bay Area and beyond.

Exhibitions

Taravat (طراوت) (May 13–July 23, 2023) - This exhibition by Iranian-American artist Taravat Talepasand explored themes of women's freedoms and Muslim identity, transforming complex cultural legacies into beautiful and provocative works.

Bay Area Now 9 (October 6, 2023–May 5, 2024) - The ninth iteration of YBCA's signature triennial exhibition highlighted 30 artists working across the Bay Area's nine counties, offering a snapshot of contemporary artistic practices in the region.

Nick Dong: 11 to 88 (June 6–August 25, 2024) - An immersive exhibition by artist Nick Dong created a distinctive world of illuminated objects and mirrored rooms that provoke contemplation.

BELOW طراوت | **TARAVAT**, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2023. Photo by Pamela Gentile.



Public Art: Transforming Spaces, Engaging Communities

VISUAL ARTS

YBCA's public art initiatives during the 2023-2024 period have enriched our campus and the surrounding areas. Here are some notable installations:

Hyakki Yagho, Night Parade of One Hundred Demons – One Million Years of Journey with Ruby Red Fox and Their Company, Masako Miki (2023–Ongoing): Inspired by Japanese folklore, this installation on YBCA's exterior lobby windows invites passersby to engage with the enigmatic world of the Night Parade.

Ceasefire Now!, Jeffrey Cheung (2024–Ongoing): Located on YBCA's exterior Forum wall, this vibrant mural inspires peace, unity, and communal solidarity.

We Fly for a Liberated We, We Rooted in Flight, Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo (2024–Ongoing): This public artwork on YBCA's Third Street exterior emphasizes themes of freedom and community empowerment.

BELOW Jeffrey Cheung, *Ceasefire Now!*, 2024. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2024. Photo by Tommy Lau.



Public Programs

With our visual arts exhibitions in 2023 to 2024, YBCA hosted a wide range of public programs—including over 11 film screenings, dozens of workshops, 3 artist panel discussions, and even a weekly sip-and-sketch in our galleries.

Film Screenings (October 2023—February 2024): As part of *Bay Area Now 9*, we presented nearly a dozen dazzling and dynamic film programs—featuring everything from historic California newsreels, to a survey of Canyon Cinema’s experimental films, to Leah Rosenberg’s playful meditations on color found in everyday life.

Artist Workshops (October 2023—February 2024): *BAN9* artist workshops included *Community Weaving with Charlene Tan*, where participants co-created an immersive woven structure that celebrated the visual language of Filipino textile, and *Papermaking Workshop with Trina Michelle Robinson*, where visitors learned how to create their own personalized sheets of paper from recycled pulp.

BELOW Members of the Creative Corps Initiative gather at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2023. Photo courtesy of YBCA.



Movement Workshops (October 2023—March 2024): In addition to our free weekly yoga classes in the galleries, sessions like *Body Percussion for Every Body* and *Cueca Dance Class* offered visitors high-energy ways to explore rhythm, dance, and culture.

Panel Discussions & Tours (October 2023—May 2024): Hosted panels and talks included artist Heesoo Kwon's exploration of traditional Korean games and Christine Tien Wang's discussion on the financial precarity of life as a contemporary artist. Public gallery tours included an Accessibility Tour of *Bay Area Now 9*, as well as free monthly curator tours.

BELOW Members of the Creative Corps Initiative gather at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2023. Photo courtesy of YBCA.



Performances

Joe Goode Performance Group's *As We Go* (August 2–13, 2023): A powerful blend of dance and theater exploring human connection and resilience, leaving audiences moved and inspired.

Lamplighters Music Theater's *IL DUCATO* / *The New Mikado* (August 12-27, 2023): A clever reimagining of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*, this satirical production used humor and wit to explore themes of politics and society.

Diaspora Arts Connection's *Let Her Sing 2023: A Celebration of Female Voices* (September 23, 2023): A powerful concert featuring female vocalists from across the globe, celebrating the resilience, artistry, and voices of women.

American-Orient Performance Art's *Eva Tam's 40th Anniversary in the Arts of China* (September 29 - October 1, 2023): A tribute to Eva Tam's four decades of dedication to preserving and promoting the arts of China, showcasing traditional Chinese music, dance, and performance.

Parangal's *Paglinang* (October 7, 2023): A vibrant 15th anniversary performance and celebration of Filipino cultural heritage through dance, music, and storytelling.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet's *Fall Season* (October 12-15, 2023): An encore presentation of Alonzo King's mesmerizing choreography, exploring the intersection of tradition and innovation.

ODC/Dance's *The Velveteen Rabbit* (December 2-10, 2023): A beloved holiday tradition, this heartwarming adaptation of *The Velveteen Rabbit* combined dance, music, and storytelling to delight audiences of all ages.

Smuin Contemporary Ballet *The Christmas Ballet* (December 14-24, 2023): A festive and heartwarming holiday tradition, blending classical and contemporary dance.

San Francisco Pride Band's *Dance-Along Nutcracker: The Nutmare Before Christmas* (December 16-17, 2023): A festive and whimsical twist on the holiday classic, this interactive performance invited audiences to join the fun, blending music, dance, and celebration.

Lamplighters Music Theater's *Ruddygore 24* (February 24-25, 2024): A comedic twist on the classic Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, this production featured clever lyrics, engaging storytelling, and unforgettable music, delighting audiences with its humor and charm.

Smuin Contemporary Ballet's *Celebrating Michael Smuin* (February 29-March 3, 2024): In honor of its 30th anniversary season, Smuin Contemporary Ballet presented an homage to its founder, featuring iconic works that highlighted Michael Smuin's innovative contributions to the world of dance.

ODC/Dance *Dance Downtown* (March 27-31, 2024): An electrifying dance experience that brought movement to the heart of the city, showcasing the agility and grace of ODC/Dance.

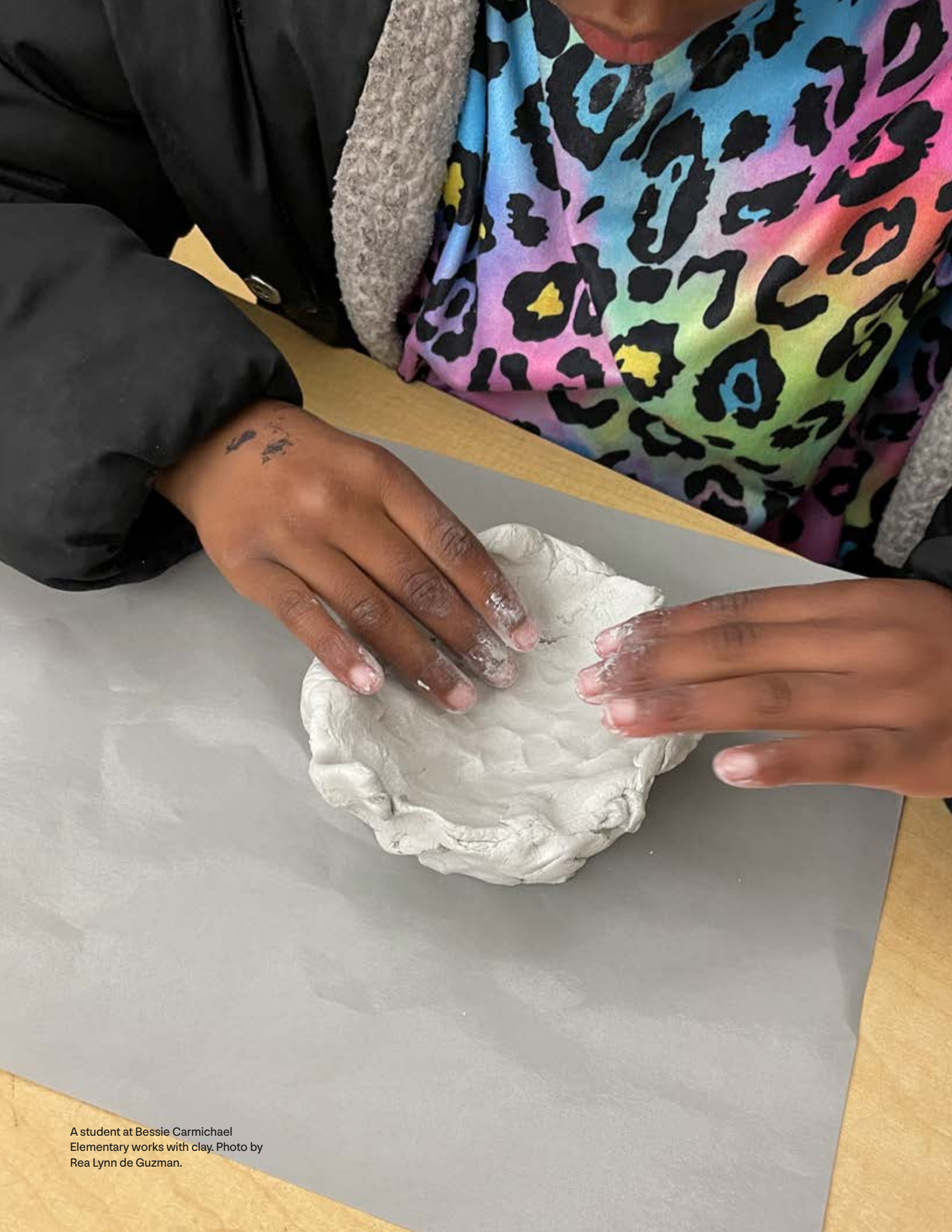
Alonzo King LINES Ballet Spring Season (April 5-14, 2024): A breathtaking exploration of movement and emotion, choreographed by the visionary Alonzo King.

Smuin Contemporary Ballet *Dance Series 2* (May 3-12, 2024): A dynamic showcase of contemporary ballet, pushing the boundaries of traditional dance forms.

San Francisco Ballet School's Spring Festival (May 22-24, 2024): A celebration of emerging talent, featuring the next generation of ballet dancers.

BELOW *As We Go*,
presented by Joe Goode
Performance Group, 2023.
Photo by RJ Muna.





A student at Bessie Carmichael
Elementary works with clay. Photo by
Rea Lynn de Guzman.

Inspiring Creativity, Empowering Communities

At YBCA, education and outreach are at the heart of our mission. In 2023-2024, we expanded our efforts to engage learners of all ages, ensuring that the transformative power of the arts reaches as many people as possible.

Education and Outreach

Creative Exploration for Everyone: Weekly Art Workshops

Our *pARTicipate* workshops offered hands-on in-person experiences that encouraged participants to explore their creative sides. Designed for learners of all skill levels, these workshops created safe and inclusive spaces where individuals could express themselves, build confidence, and discover the joy of making art.

A Partnership That Transforms Lives: Bessie Carmichael School Collaboration

Through our ongoing collaboration with Bessie Carmichael School, YBCA enriched the lives of over **250 students** this year. We delivered **30 in-class and after-school interactive workshops**, led by a team of talented teaching artists who shared their expertise in visual arts, dance, and storytelling. Students worked on projects that reflected their personal stories and cultural heritage, building confidence and connection within their school community.

This collaboration was made possible by the collective effort of YBCA's dedicated six teaching artists and three teaching assistants and partnerships with community organizations, including **Bindlestiff Studio** and **United Playaz**.

BELOW Teaching artist Joyce Nojima works with students at Bessie Carmichael Elementary. Photo by Rea Lynn de Guzman.

ACROSS Teaching artist Kiana Honarmand leads a student tour of the YBCA galleries. Photo by Rea Lynn de Guzman.







Art, Action, Change: YBCA Creative Corps Initiative, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2024. Photo by Charlie Villyard.

Empowering Voices, Driving Change

At YBCA, we value the vital role artists play in sparking creativity, fostering connection, and driving social dialogue. In 2023–2024, we continued our efforts to support artists and community-led initiatives.

ARTIST AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Artist and Community Investment

Creative Corps Initiative: Empowering Art for Social Change

In 2024, YBCA proudly administered the California Arts Council's **Creative Corps Initiative**, awarding grants to **48 visionary artists and cultural practitioners** across the Bay Area. These artists tackled pressing issues like housing insecurity, climate justice, and racial equity, using their creativity to inspire action and connect communities.

From murals that celebrated resilience to workshops that fostered belonging, these projects exemplified how art can address societal challenges and empower individuals to imagine a better future.

BELOW Art, Action, Change: YBCA Creative Corps Initiative, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2024. Photo by Charlie Villyard.



The Ripple Effect of Artistic Investment

The impact of our artist and community investment work this year has been profound. Projects funded and supported by YBCA have brought communities together, inspired meaningful conversations, and revitalized the energy in a still-recovering downtown. Artists have shared that the resources and support provided by YBCA have not only enabled their work but also strengthened their ability to connect with audiences and raise their own profile.

As we look to the future, YBCA remains dedicated to nurturing creative talent and fostering collaborations that uplift and empower. We know that when artists and communities work together, the possibilities for transformation are boundless.

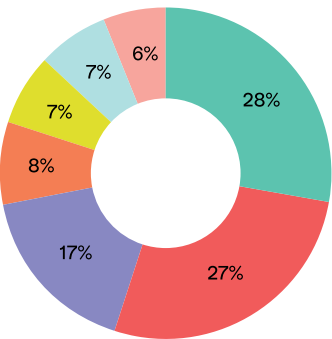
ARTIST AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

BELOW *Art, Action, Change: YBCA Creative Corps Initiative*, installation view, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2024. Photo by Charlie Villyard.



2023-24 Financials

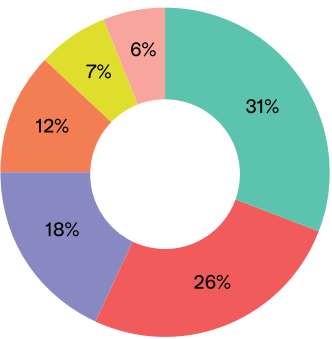
Total Revenue



- Facility rentals (28%)
- Released net assets* (27%)
- Raffle ticket sales (17%)
- Naming revenue (8%)
- Support from City and County of San Francisco (7%)
- Subsidized community programs (7%)
- Contributions, box office, concessions, and other (6%)

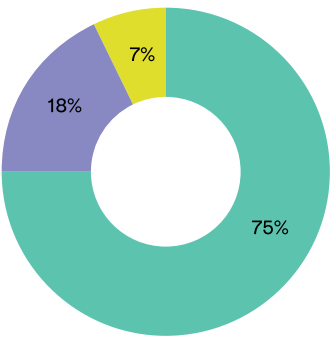
*Revenues released from restriction, such as grants awarded in prior years.

Total Expenses



- Community use and special events (31%)
- Art initiatives (26%)
- Exhibitions and public programs (18%)
- Raffle (12%)
- General administration and operations (7%)
- Fundraising (6%)

Expenses by Category



- Program (75%)
- Fundraising (18%)
- Administration (7%)

ACROSS 701 Mission Plaza,
Yerba Buena Center for the
Arts. Photo by Tommy Lau.



DONORS

Celebrating Our Supporters

Our work is only possible because of the generosity of our donors and supporters. From individuals to corporate sponsors and foundations, your support ensures that art remains a vital force in our community. Thank you for being the driving force behind YBCA's impact.

YBCA gratefully acknowledges gifts made in the past fiscal year from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Special thanks to the City of San Francisco and Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy for their ongoing support.

\$100,000 and Above

Blue Shield of California

California Arts Council

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Institute of Museum and Library Sciences

San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development

\$50,000 – \$99,000

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation

BELOW MLK Day 2023,
Yerba Buena Center for the
Arts. Photo by Tommy Lau.



\$20,000 – \$49,999

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Vicki Shipkowitz
Brandi Brooks and Tim & Brandi Losch Brooks
Catherine Marshal and Mark LeMere
Orit Atzmon, Maia Shoham and Friends
Ronald Garrity

Join Us in Shaping the Future

BELOW Senior Manager of Educational Programs, Rea Lynn de Guzman assists visitors during a free art workshop, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 2023. Photo by Tommy Lau.

Since our founding in 1993, YBCA has served as a dynamic cultural space in San Francisco's Yerba Buena neighborhood, bridging the city's rich artistic heritage with the vibrant voices of its future.

As we reflect on this year, we are reminded that none of this would be possible without the generous support of our community.

Make a contribution today: every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in helping us sustain our work.

Visit ybca.org/donate to make your gift.

Thank you for believing in the power of art. Together, we can continue to build a world where creativity thrives and communities flourish.



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