

AFA ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Moving with the Times

Along with the rest of the world, during our past fiscal year, AFA transitioned out of COVID lockdown into live in person events with hybrid livestream ticketing options. We kept streaming all performances to serve all our audiences both local and international, while growing digital audiences across our website and social properties. We kept faith with our artists providing paid opportunities to develop and present their work. We created more opportunities for diverse, younger artists. We grew our Music is Mine youth program. We held a special Conference in collaboration with Rutgers University as part of our annual Vision Festival. To accomplish all of this, we added to and diversified our staff, board and advisory board.

Looking Forward

During our current year, AFA is focused on implementing our updated three year strategic plan. Planning goals include engaging younger diverse artists as performers and as participants in the curatorial process. We will use their energy and ideas to help develop a new younger audience base to support this creativity into the future. We are reaching into different neighborhoods and communities to make this music and art more available.

STAFF

Todd Nicholson
Patricia Nicholson Parker
Tabitha Sukhai
Danilo Powell-Lima
Eriq Robinson

CONSULTANTS

Bill Mazza - Design, Branding
Michael Lucio Sternbach - Videography

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Jason Kao Hwang
James Brandon Lewis
Brandon Lopez
Joe McPhee
Matthew Shipp
Steve Swell
Michael T.A. Thompson
Fay Victor



Photo: Eva Kapanadze

Mission

Arts for Art is dedicated to the exceptional creativity that originated in the African American multi-arts jazz culture that utilizes improvisation to express a larger, more positive dream of inclusion and freedom.

Vision Festival 26 | A Light In Darkness

June 19 to 26, 2022

At Roulette, Brooklyn, and The Clemente, LES, NYC



Oliver Lake & Wadada Leo Smith LifeTime Achievement Honorees

THE VISION FESTIVAL celebrated 26 years with eight days of in person performances, a conference and films, in partnership with Roulette Intermedium, The Clemente and Anthology Film Archives. We presented the best of African-American, multicultural, multi-discipline FreeJazz arts by bringing together practitioners of music, poetry, movement and visual art who embrace improvisation as an aesthetic and means of collaboration.



Conference: Legacies of Black Creative Music - A Path Towards Justice, June 20, 2022

This year's conference was free to attend both at The Clemente in-person and streamed, presenting three panels: *A Legacy of Self-Determination, Black Music | White Business: The influence of institutions in Jazz/FreeJazz and Freedom & Spirituality.*

Featuring a host of artists and scholars, the conference effectively pushed the conversation forward on the role of creative improvised music in unifying communities and activist movements. This event was a collaboration with Rutgers University with support from the University of Pittsburgh.

Photos of Oliver Lake and Wadada Leo Smith : Michael Wilderman

104 artists
32 performances
7 days



Photos of performers :Eva Kapanadze

AFA partnered with The Clemente to present art featuring the works of Wadada Leo Smith and Oliver Lake in the LES Gallery. In La Plaza we presented works by Amir Bey, Patricia Nicholson and William Parker.

ART ROULETTE, June 21 to 25, visual artwork was projected in conjunction with the music performances, including work by Wadada Leo Smith, Lois Eby, Jo Wood-Brown, Katy Martin, Miriam Parker, Lisa Alvarado, William Mazza, Beatriz Sampaio.

In Gardens

September 11 to October 3, 2021

66 artists
32 performances
8 days

IN GARDENS is our annual free performance series that takes place in community gardens of the Lower East Side, Manhattan. From September into October 2021, our community joyfully gathered outdoors to see and hear the music, poetry and dance live in person that they had been missing due to pandemic restrictions.



Photos (In Gardens) William Mazza, Robert Southerland-Cohen, Todd Nicholson

Peace and Justice Celebration

Dates: October 8 to 15, 2021

68 artists
20 performances
7 days

THE PEACE AND JUSTICE CELEBRATION brought attention to the ongoing need for community and justice. It also celebrated the great pianists of FreeJazz who performed on our recently donated Steinway B grand piano, an instrument whose sound and quality is commensurate with the talents of the artists who played it.



Jazz Libre

Dates: November 11 to 13, 2021

35 artists
7 performances
3 days

JAZZ LIBRE focused on the African Diaspora in Latin America. This 3-day event highlighted the diversity of our artists, with the opening night free. It was presented in partnership with The Clemente as part of the Borimix Festival.



On_Line Salons
January 10 to March 24, 2022

 5,882 views
 63 artists
 21 performances

WITH SUPPORT from donors small and large, AFA live-streamed weekly salons during the Omicron spike, making it possible to safely serve artists and our wider creative community.



LifeTime Achievement Salon: Celebrating Wadada Leo Smith and Oliver Lake
May 24, 2022

TO KICK OFF the Vision LifeTime Achievement celebration of these great elder musicians, visual artists, and thinkers, we produced and streamed a special AFA Salon featuring both artists in conversation and solo performance. In addition to individual interviews, the Salon included footage of Oliver Lake at his home presenting his visual art, and an AFA hosted conversation with the two artists together.



Digital Audience & Brand Awareness



A NEW ORGANIC STRATEGY for social media saw major increases in the organic reach of our social media messages on two major platforms, Facebook and Instagram. Leveraging in-platform amplification mechanisms resulted in a 73% YoY increase in the reach of Facebook posts and 760% YoY increase in the reach of Instagram posts, compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year.

The brand awareness and engagement driven by these posts resulted in improved traffic to event pages in this fiscal year with a 39% YoY increase of unique traffic to the Vision Festival landing page, and a 45% increase in unique traffic to the Support AFA page which hosts the online donation module.

Future plans include testing new platforms to activate younger audiences (Tik Tok) and developing a conservative paid social strategy to build upon organic growth in this fiscal year. Additionally, Screening Vision archives on YouTube showed steady organic growth YoY, with more than 10% increased total views and more than 30% new subscribers.

Music Is Mine Education



With new and ongoing activities and partnerships, Arts for Art’s Music is Mine (MiM) education program is serving students in more locations.

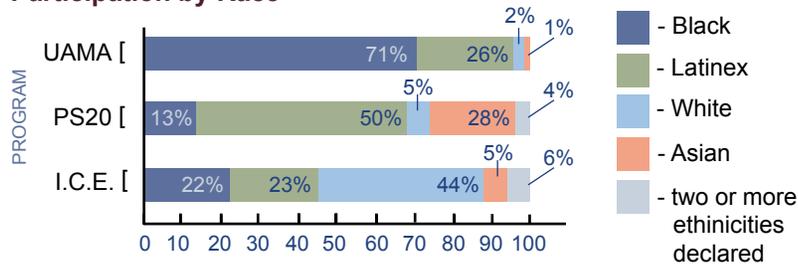
MiM began a new partnership with Urban Assembly School of Music and Art (UAMA), hosting twice monthly music workshops for students. We also presented eight improvising ensembles to bring insight into the lives and methods of professional artists. Each band invited students to participate through performance and conversation.

At PS20, MiM held a double assembly (interactive lecture demonstration), reaching majority Black, Latinx and Asian students. Our tradition of free public workshops continued at Children’s Magical Garden and First Street Green in the Fall. MiM also provided 40 online 1-to-1 lessons, which were essential for reconnecting with students before COVID-19 in-person restrictions lifted.

The Institute for Collaborative Education (I.C.E.) hosted eighteen additional MiM workshops, led by teaching artists William Parker, Brandon Lopez, Drew Wesely, Raina Sokolov Gonzalez, and Daro Behroozi.

The culmination of MiM’s efforts were two public performances in the fall and summer. In October of 2021, six MiM students performed as part of FABnyc’s Open Arts LES program, and in June 2022 at the Vision Festival, we showcased an 18-piece orchestra with students from ICE, UAMA, Brooklyn Conservatory, and our MiM mentorship program.

Participation by Race



Photos: Eva Kapanadze

Budget

DURING THE PAST FISCAL YEAR, we experienced a notable increase in government funding due in part to the New York State Council on the Arts’ Rapid Live Performance Grants, which we received in support of the Vision Festival and our year-round concert programming. The organization continues to grow and this is reflected in our overall administrative costs. We received continuing support from the Epstein Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, and the Jerome Foundation, as well as new funding from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Income	2022	2021	2020
Earned Revenue	94,834	111,568	37,030
Government Support	168,000	72,350	121,620
Foundation Grants	273,650	318,656	146,857
Individual Donors	153,276	169,575	150,124
Totals	689,760	672,149	455,631

Expenses	2022	2021	2020
Artist Fees	147,965	160,548	62,277
Administration	398,834	312,142	230,693
Marketing	11,172	6,186	6,745
Technical/Production	115,722	76,435	16,829
Space/Office Rent	10,816	12,841	18,648
Totals	684,509	568,152	335,192

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

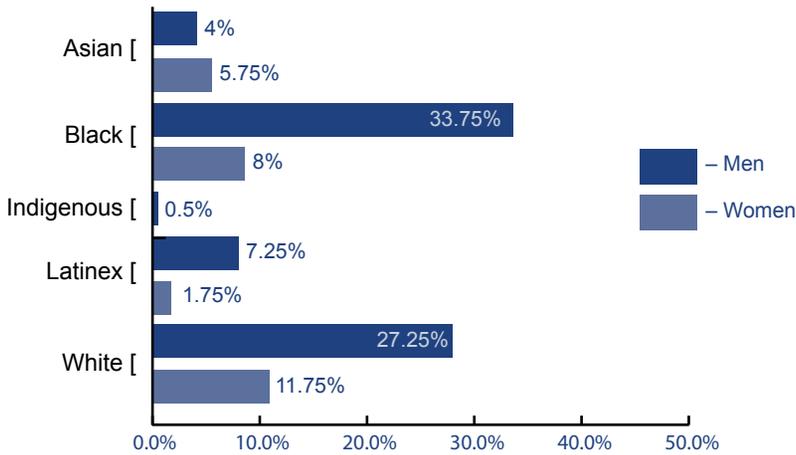
Jerome Foundation, Ruth and Jacob Epstein Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mid Atlantic Arts, Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, Robert D. Bielecki Foundation, Chamber Music America, Henry Luce Foundation, Jazz Foundation of America, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts and Council Members Chris Marte and Carlina Rivera.



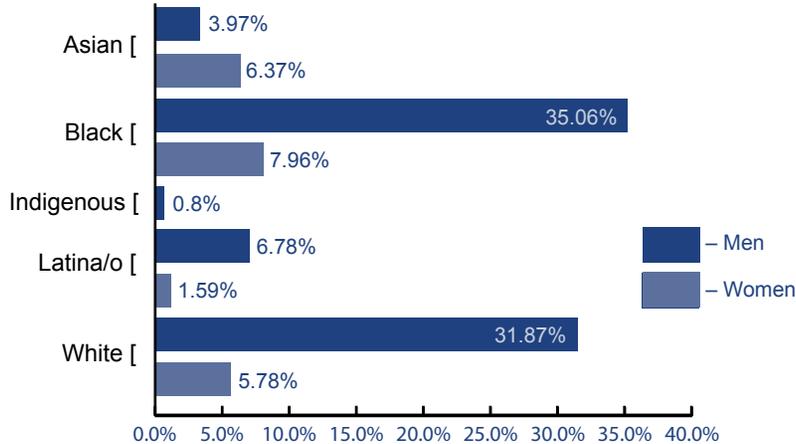
Diversity

ARTS FOR ART was founded by artists to address the lack of support for FreeJazz in general and specifically FreeJazz created and performed by African-Americans. For 27 years, we have created opportunities for artists of color to perform on an international stage, historically with over 60% representation. Last year our programs consisted of 61% POC artists and 26% female artists. We are also working to further diversify our board, staff and advisory board to better represent the community of artists that we serve, further strengthening our commitment to the ideals of diversity, equity, excellence, self-determination and community.

Appearances by Race + Gender *



Unique Performers by Race + Gender



*AFA recognizes that gender is a nonbinary spectrum. However as we do not collect self-identified gender data on either performers or attendees, we find the common use of "woman, man, or gender non-conforming" useful in this context.



Photos: Eva Kapanadze, Todd Nicholson, Robert Southerland-Cohen, William Mazza

ARTS FOR ART promotes diversity by seeking out and shining a light on African-American improvising FreeJazz musicians of all ages. This art was born out of the African-American struggle for equal rights. However the practices of free improvisation and Jazz are increasingly dominated by white men. While resisting this trend AFA encourages the highest standards of improvisational and compositional art.

Vision Angels \$5,000+

Fred & Edith Allen • Tom Carhart • Bruce Raynor • John Schiek • Brad Smith

Vision Improvisers \$1,000-\$5,000

Maria Arias • Rachel Cook • Whit Dickey • Chad Fowler • Closey Giffen
Madeleine Kamber • Jackson Krall • La Vida Feliz Foundation • Keith Martin • Keith
McCarthy • Fred Moten • Yassen Roussev • Peter Shwartz • Tom Silverstein

Vision Supporters \$500-\$1,000

Richard and Roberta Berger • Ray Brock • Scott Currie • Lois Eby • Alan Feller • Judy Gage
Frank Hiehle • Eva Kapanadze • Ariane Lopez Huici • Sandeep Mehta • Patricia Parker
William Parker • Frank Sakalinis • Jane Smith • Emery Snyder • James Wright

Vision Friends <\$500

Timothy Abbott • Wendy Abbott • Joshua Abrams • Tim Ahles • Clifford Allen • Gordon Allen
Toni Altenstrasser • Dorrie Ameen • Ronen Amit • Axel Amschler • Alva Anderson • Carole Aronin
Gene Ashton • Ratik Asokan • Rachel Austin • Gita Baach • Cynthia Bach • Dixuan Bai • Albey
Balgochian • Judy Balos • John Bambury • Matthew Banash • Jacqueline Barnett • Lee Bartell • Paul
Bartlett • Scott Barton • Donna Bassin • Carl Baugher • Ed Bear • Jill Becker • Robert Bellach
Marsha Beller • David Belmont • Louie Belogenis • Aaron Bendich • Carol Berman • Harry Bernstein
Sarah Bernstein • Christoph Bertrand • Richard Besser • Amir Bey • Erik Bieder • Robert D. Bielecki
Hans Young Binter • Rachel Young Binter • Ama Birch • Douglas Bishea • Michael Bisio • Erin
Bittman • Mark Blacher • Michael Blair • Larry Blood • John Blum • Wayne Bogner • Alan Bolle
Karen Borca • Jonathan Boyd • Blake Bradford • jaimie branch • Sally Branch • Paul Bream • Susan
Brink • Arthur Brooks • Michael Brovner • Courtney Brown • Donald Brown • Jo Wood Brown
Rob Brown • Susan Brown • Michael Brownell • Jochen Buck • Tom Buckner • Nadine Budbill
Peter Burk • Linda Burnham • Dave Burrell • James Burton • Matt Butchko • Taylor Ho Bynum
Don Byrd • Teresa Cade • Joseph Callahan • James Capone • Dita Carhart • Juan Pablo Carletti
Hope Carr • Tony Catania • Francisco Mora Catlett • Leo Chang • Sally Charnow • Jeff Chase
Kevin Cheli • Barrie Chercover • Andrew Chiappetta • Ellen Christi • Mark Cisneros • Ty Citerman
Sarah Citrin • Susanna Coffey • Emily Cohen • Ilana Cohen • Emily Collins • Paul Colliton • John
Colton • Stephen Conway • Jean Cook • Lydia Cortes • Wesley Covey • David Cox • Paul Crellin
Peter Crisman • Jill Crouther • Tressa Cunningham • Jordan Curtis • Rick Cutler • Andrew Cyrille
Fred D'Aprile • Daniel da Cruz • Jeni Dahmus Farah • Joseph Daley • Ivy Dane • Lyle Daniel • Toby
Darbyshire • Matt Darriau • Doretha Davidson • On Davis • Jeff Dayton-Johnson • Claire de
Brunner • Daniel de Jager • Wilbert De Joode • Regina Dearden • Vijaya Dharmapuri • Christie Diaz
Jon Diaz • Mick Dick • Robert Dick • Kevin Diehl • Laurence Donohue-Greene • Jeff Douglas • Mark
Dresser • Ryan Due • Shayna Dulberger • Jackson Dunnington • Melanie Dyer • Virginia Dzurinko
Brian Earley • Dan Edes • Aron Edidin • Michael Ehlers • Marian Eines • Wendy Eisenberg • Ann
Eisenstein • Marty Elkins • Erik Ellestad • Kristin Eno • Jasmine Evans • Jeffrey Evans • Sandra Ewen
Jim Ezrine • Lorraine Falchi • Avram Fefer • Nina Feinberg • Susan Feiner • Iryna Ferenets • Deborah
Feholt • Jim Fetty • Diana Filiano • Ken Filiano • David Fine • Jeff Fine • Lynn Fischer • MJ Fischer
Arthur Fleiss • gabby fluke-mogul • Steven Ford • Danielle Frank • Guy Fraser • Henry Fraser
Alexandra Frederick • Mark Frederick • Dan Friel • Patrick Frisco • Greg Fuchs • Yuku Fujiyama
Gary Funston • Jillian Gaeta • Rizzi Galibut • Daniel Galow • Peter Gannushkin • Gannon Gardner
Peter Gerler • Michael Gilbert • Tim Gilbert • Janis Gildin • Frank Gill • Kipp Gilmore-Clough • Zoe
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Gottlieb • David Gould • Virginia Graham • Lou Grassi • Elisa Green • Beth Greenberg • Hilliard
Greene • Wendell Grimm • Amy Grindelund • Milton Grisham • Jason Gross • Dwain Gump
Ulrich Hübner • Lisa Hackel • Chris Hall • Mary Halvorson • Rob Handel • Robin Hardman • Paul
Harless • Katie Hasty • Christoph Havers • Emerson Hawley • Ken Hayashima • Ed Hazell • Ajay
Heble • Nicola Hein • Anne Hemenway • Gerry Hemingway • Jody Henenfeld • William Herbert
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Hirsh • Penina Hirshman • Lance Hodes • Devin Hoff • Ben Hoffman • Carleton Hoffman • Robert
Hoffnung • Dave Hofstra • Joshua Hoglund • Carla Hoke-Miller • Richard Holcomb • Kathi-Jane
Holmes • Patrick Holmes • Teresa Hood • Michael Horn • Jerome Horton • Lyn Horton • Ethan
Howerton • Clif Hubby • Elisa Hui • Cindy Hwang • Jason Hwang • Thomas Hyland • Rachel Hyman
Sukru Icimsoy • James Ilgenfritz • Nino Ivachidze • D.D. Jackson • Richard Jackson • Ingolf Janerus
David Jenkins • Steven Joerg • Aden Johnson • Robb Jolly • Joyce Jones • Terry Kattleman • Dave

Kaufman • James Kelly • Markus Kemmerling • Terry Kerr Collier • Amirtha Kidambi • Wyatt Kildow
Sophia Kim • Tyler Kim • John King • Katie Kirkland • Mark Kirschbaum • Kyoko Kitamura • Pamela
Knowles • Rainer Koermeling • Masahiko Kono • Clifford Korman • Jackson Krall • James Kramer
David Kreuter • Noel Kropf • Chris Kubsch • Peter Kuhn • Dan Kurfurst • Jonathan Kurfurst • Max
Kutner • Eddy Kwon • Paul Lafortezza • Sridhar Lakshmanan • Mark Lamb • Ingrid Laubrock • Matt
Lavelle • Angela Lawrie • Oliver Lawson • Joslyn Layne • Russell Layne • Marek Lazarski • Richard
Leach • Cody Lee • George Leibowitz • Richard Lenz • Sylvain Leroux • James Branson Lewis • Jay
Lewis • Kathryn Lewis • Carol Liebowitz • David Litt • Susan Littenberg • Claudia Loftis • Brandon
Lopez • Rick Lopez • Adam Lore • Wendy Lubin • Jenny Lust • Benjamin Lyons • David Lyons • Lisa
Lyons • Nick Lyons • Richard Lyons • Joly MacFie • Melanie MacLennan • Stephen Malagodi • Anandi
Malik • Mikita Manayenkau • Joshua Manes • Michael Mangan • Don Mankin • Susan Mannheimer
Steven Manning • Darius Mans • Alexis Marcelo • Mike Marcinowski • Angela Mariani • Billy Martin
Katy Martin • Maria del C Martinez • Daniel Marx • Elizabeth Matrianni • Hiroyuki Masuko • Ian
McDermott • Kate McGarry • Richard McLeese • Kevin McNeilly • Joe McPhee • Mick Meagher
Anthony Medici • Francisco Mela • Paul Melnikow • Pierre Menard • Ava Mendoza • Marcia
Mermelstein • Will Meyerhofer • Alan Michael • Piotr Michalowski • Stylianos Michas • Bill Millard
Amanda Miller • Kevin Miller • Max Miller • Robert Miller • Scott Miller • Zoe Miller • Herman
Milligan • Austin Mitchell • Nicole Mitchell • Jacqueline Mondros • Michael Monhart • Alicia Moran
Jack Morer • Gayle Morgan • Audrey Morse • Marc Moses • Michael Moss • Matt Mottel • Rich
Mudge • Brandon Murphy • Amina Claudine Myers • Urania Mylonas • Kaya Nakamura-Pickering
Robert Nakayama • Aron Namenwirth • Zara Nazir • Keir Neuringer • Sam Newsome • Kay
Nishikawa • Uwe Noldt • Edward Norland • Nancy Notaro • Ayo Ohs • Yusuke Okada • Aura
Olavarria • Nick Ostrum • Daniel Owen • Ed Packer • Douglas Palermo • David Pare • Miriam
Parker • Traci Parks • John Parran • Mary Pavone • Mark Pecker • Makvala Peikrishvili Casale • John
Michael Pendley • Agnieszka Perez-Zarzecka • Jeff Perلمان • Yves Perrier • Steven Petermeier • Lane
Phelps • Marie-Claire Picher • John Pietaro • Richard Pigossi • Hajnal Pivnick • John Platt • Ellen
Polivy • Howard Polivy • Scott Pollard • Jane Pomeroy • Roslyn Powell • Ann Powers • Barbara
Proffitt • John Pugh • Changyang Qu • Kyle Quass • Elizabeth Raghu • Ayda Rahmanian • Tom Rainey
Kumar Ram • Kamala Ramamurthy • Aaron Ramos • Christine Reardon • Virginia Reath • Jenise
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Seifert • Tina Seligman • Gladys Serrano • David Sewelson • Steven F. Shalit • Jared Shapiro • Stanley
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Smethurst • Donald Walter Snowden • Jake Sokolov-Gonzalez • Debbie Sonu • Chuck Soo-Hoo
Dick Soule • Noemi Speciale • Cynthia Spencer • Lauren Spiro • Raissa St. Pierre • Ben Stapp
Nathanael Stark • Joshua Steffey • Josh Steinman • Max Stern • Luke Stewart • Roger Stolle • Connie
Strohbehn • Shasta Subramanian • Sam Sukhai • Tabitha Sukhai • Philip Suraci • Robert Sutherland-
Cohen • Thomas Swafford • Susan Swan • Pete Swanson • Steve Swell • Thomas Swinehart
Richard Tabnik • Eddie Tann • Ilene Tannenbaum • Kenneth Taylor • Volkan Terzioglu • Michael TA
Thompson • Barry Thomson • Andy Thurston • Bernice Timmons • Steven Tintweiss • Miguel
Torres • Sophie Torres • Susan Torres • Pierre Tourelle • Lloyd Trufelman • Panayiotis Tsokas
Shining Tu • Bertrand Uberall • James Uhrig • Marta Ulvaeus • Kaushik Vaidyanathan • Sarah Vallee
Jan Van Assen • Jochem Van dijk • Linda Vartoogian • Yuriria Vazquez • Fay Victor • William Vizuette
Randy Vogel • Susan Volchok • Jeanette Vuocolo • James Walker • Richard Wallace • Josh Wallack
Joe Waters • Sarah Weaver • William Weidner • David Weil • Ken Weiss • Eileen Weitzman • Chris
Weller • David Weller • Fumiko Wellington • Michael Wetstone • Lili White • Maria White • Marc
Wiener • Michael Wilderman • Tom Wilkins • Richard Williams • David Willinger • Ken Wilson
Robyn Wilson • Michael Wimberly • Jack Windal • Andrea Wolper • Tay Wong • Jon Woodson
Rob Woodworth • Nancy Workman • Miller Wrenn • Maggie • Wrigley • Stephanie Wuertz
Clara Xu • Michael Yaeger • Jeremy Young • Shiao Shu Yu • Cathy Zadoretzky • Cem Zafir
Victoria Zolotarev • Kim Zombik

Arts for Art Values

AFA keeps growing our community of innovative musicians, dancers, poets and visual artists with a public that cares about culture and justice.

The Art is built on democratic community ideals. Its disciplined intensity speaks of equity, justice, and freedom. So AFA has worked to create an inclusive, diverse and equitable space in which the artists, and the public we serve, can thrive.

Community: Diversity of race, age, and gender define AFA's creative improvising community. AFA creates opportunities for diverse artists to meet, share ideas and perform. AFA creates events that encourage artists and audiences to interact.

Justice, Diversity, Inclusion, Respect: AFA provides safe spaces for artists to experiment, develop and excel creatively. AFA respects artists by ensuring fair compensation, and audiences by ensuring economic access to programs and performances. AFA organizes artists' efforts to respond to contemporary social issues. AFA curates for diversity and inclusion.

Improvisation: Improvisation is the sophisticated integration of all aspects of creation in real time. AFA curates artists who have developed their own unique improvisational vocabulary and voice. This highly developed form is at the core of AFA's mission. It is also an element of AFA's organizational culture wherein AFA relies upon its tenets by operating flexibly in order to respond to opportunities as they arise.

Commitment: AFA respects artists' commitment to their life's work, and reflects that commitment by seeking and supporting new works, audiences and partnerships that help artists sustain creative and professional growth

