

2022 UMEZ ARTS ENGAGEMENT GRANTEES

DANCE

Jenny Boissiere/Dance Boissiere	<i>ReSTART</i> : an hour-long, site-specific dance piece in Fort Washington Park. It features 7 performers dancing in vignettes across the park. The piece culminates in a final group performance on a swath of land overlooking the Hudson River.
D.10 Project	<i>Spanish Harlem Creative Movement Fest</i> : a dance festival that examines and celebrates the influence of Latinos in America as a place of migration and mixture cultures. Featuring 6 dance artists with hybrid choreographic practices, who explore a range of narratives of Latino culture and current issues.
Harlem Dance Club / HDC	<i>Harlem Dance Club presents MOTHERSHIP FOUR</i> : an interactive voyage of music and dance. Afro-Dance, hip-hop, vogue, house, praise, live drumming and more collide in this open air celebration of sound, spirit and community.
Barbara A. Jones/The Harlem Swing Dance Society	<i>Harlem Hops: The Exciting Lindy Hop Experience!</i> : this project will have us expand and target more Harlem Youth so they get exposure to Harlem's dance of the Lindy Hop. We will use a variety of venues and events thru collaborations.
Vado Diomande/Kotchenga Dance Company	<i>Kekene XVI - The Gathering 2022</i> : Every year Kekene –The Gathering commemorates Vado's miraculous survival from natural anthrax in 2006 with a dynamic weekend - on Saturday, a performance of West African village dance, drum, song, chant and drama featuring Kotchegna Dance Company and Ivory Coast soloists; on Sunday, an afternoon of workshop classes by master instructors.
MODArts Dance Collective	<i>MADC's Collective Thread Dance Festival</i> : a two day event that provides a voice and a platform for artistic self-impression to those women/womxn identifying choreographers of underrepresented ethnic groups, as well as movement based classes & round table discussions.
Ranardo-Domeico Grays/VISIONS Contemporary Ballet	<i>Redemption</i> : VISIONS Contemporary Ballet presents Redemption, a concert of the company's inspirational works featuring the premiere of Tainted Bla'k, inspired by ideas of being Black in America, how African American culture is influenced, and a celebration of the beauty of being Black, choreographed to music by artists of the African diaspora.
RudduR Dance	<i>Part III - Tomorrow</i> : of the three-part WITNESS. A contemporary ballet at the intersection of art and activism, WITNESS mixes different genres of dance with contemporary circus and film to put America's racial landscape into historical context, combat systematically taught racial biases, and imagine a more just future.
Sisters in Sharqui, Inc.	<i>Harlem Hafla, Belly Dance with SOUL!</i> : Harlem Hafla showcases folkloric and Cabaret dances of the North African and Middle Eastern diaspora through day time Workshops and evening gala performances---in Harlem!

MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND LITERATURE

Ayoinmotion	<i>We Are Not A Single Story</i> : experiential storytelling and artistic expression as a way to delve beyond the typical single-story narrative often used to depict African immigrants in America and New York City especially.
Marta Blair	<i>Latin American Textiles - Floor Tape Mural</i> : Participatory floor tape installation on Traditional Latin American textiles. Led by Marta Blair, to be done with community members of Washington Heights & Inwood reflecting on the artistic qualities of traditional textiles and how they carry family memories.
Bibi Flores	<i>Uplifting, Connecting, Raising, Hybrid collective exhibition</i> : a powerful exhibition, after more than two years of the pandemic. Celebrating mostly women artist, 25-30 artists, also poetry, music, art performance, film screen, and workshops will take place as part of the exhibition. Exhibit will be Hybrid virtual, collaborating at Upper East Side venue, and in a Park.
John-Martin Green/The Gatekeepers Collective, Inc.	<i>Learning to Love Public Art & Theatrical Narratives</i> : towards facilitating same-gender-loving (SGL) people's consolidation of fragmented identities, and greater acceptance of sexual diversity, TGC will mount Learning to Love, a public art and theater development initiative highlighting the work of eight emerging SGL artists sharing narratives of trajectories of self-acceptance through art beginning in Pride Month in 2022.
Korean Art Forum	<i>2022 Shared Dialogue, Shared Space (SDSS)</i> : two half-day art events presenting new work of public engagement by 10 artists free of charge with translations between English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish at Inwood Hill Park in September. Associate programs include a livestreamed discussion before the events and quadrilingual publications after the events.
Lyrical Faith	<i>Uptown Xpressions</i> : a day-long poetry festival that centers artistic development, community engagement, and spoken word through a showcase format. This festival will feature guest speakers, workshops, and a slam competition. This interactive space will raise awareness, and celebrate culture as well as personal stories through performance and meaningful discussion.
Stefanie Nelson Dance Group (SND)	<i>the Moving Memory project (tMMP)</i> : Stefanie Nelson Dancegroup is organizing a two-day festival at City College Center for the Arts to raise Alzheimer's & dementia awareness featuring dance performances, a video premiere, movement workshops, and moderated discussions by experts in the field.

Tami Tyree	<i>Wives, Mothers, and Lovers</i> : based upon letters written by African-American women whose men fought in the Civil War. A collective of actresses led by singer-actress Tami Tyree, present scripted and authentic monologues concerning the U.S. Colored Troops. Each performance will feature a musical guest with relevant repertoire.
Yaffa Cultural Arts, Inc.	<i>Woman Talk!</i> : honoring the life of feminist Jane Galvin-Lewis. What would Jane say?- A Spoken word concert -Shadena Davis, Herstory – Multi-cultural folktales -Dr. Linda H Humes & Nydia Mata, Nancy Drewinsky and the Search for the Missing Letter - Robin Bady and The World According to She-Mama Sandi Gilliard.

MUSIC

Annette A Aguilar & StringBeans	<i>Women In Latin Jazz Festival</i> : Annette A Aguilar & StringBeans is a Latin Brazilian Jazz group. The genre combines Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, Latin Jazz, and Salsa. One of the main focuses for several years is their Women In Latin Jazz Festival which presents Women instrumentalists. Women in Latin Jazz Festival was created in 2014 in NYC.
Bent Duo	<i>The Singing Garden</i> : a participatory community sound installation project created by Bent Duo that turns a beloved public green space in Inwood into a musical environment, building community through sound.
Courtney's Stars of Tomorrow	<i>Opera in the Park</i> : a public outdoor concert of opera arias, songs, and spirituals designed to engage the Sugar Hill, Hamilton Heights, West Harlem, and Morningside Heights communities.
eGALitarian Brass	<i>eGALitarian Brass: Classical Quintet by Day, Brass Band by Night</i> : eGALitarian will present a classical program by diverse composers and a brass band show with drums featuring our arrangements of pop and jazz tunes.
Craig Harris	<i>BREATHE</i> : in October 2016, BREATHE debuted with an ensemble of nearly 50 musicians making a sonic statement in response to the long-term and current injustices inflicted upon African American people. This current iteration of BREATHE features 12 brass and percussion musicians performing in the church where the concert premiered
Dennis Hernandez	<i>Cuban nights</i> : providing audiences with a deeper understanding of traditional Cuban music as seen through the eyes of the artist who was born and musically trained in Cuba. Explore the Cuban rhythms moving through various genres such as Pilon, Son Montuno, Cha cha cha, Bolero, Guarachas, African traditions.
Jazz WaHi, Inc.	<i>Melting Pot Jazz - Celebrating the Immigrants' Influence on Jazz in America</i> : a series of five weekly, family-friendly outdoor concerts celebrating the Immigrant's influence on American Jazz, taking place every Wednesday in June on the lawn of the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Washington Heights. Free and open to all!
The Latin American Workshop aka El Taller Latino Americano	<i>El Barrio Canta su Historia IV</i> : a series of two concerts focused on the diversity of cultures and art and music expressions that share a space in the community that we call "Barrio", or neighborhood where people from different backgrounds and cultures live together and share their "Herencia".
Los Pleneros de la 21 (LP21)	<i>LP21's Cultural Legacy Initiative 2022</i> : the Cultural Legacy Initiative 2022 bridges cultural connections and reinvigorates local communities with two captivating performances of Afro-Puerto Rican bomba and plena music and dance by Los Pleneros de la 21, NYC's preeminent artists in these traditions, welcoming all to enjoy these cherished community events and time-honored traditions.
NAMA HARLEM	<i>MUSIC of the DIASPORA- NAMA MONDAY NITE JAMS- 2022!</i> : NAMA invites the Community & World at Large to experience a plethora of Musical expressions from Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, Afro Cuban Rhythms and more in a variety of performances by musicians & artists to the live onsite audiences as well as virtual platforms.
The Overlook	<i>If the Stars Align</i> : The Overlook Presents: "If the Stars Align", the second season of a free music festival at historic uptown locations curated and performed by The Overlook, a string quartet of renowned performers and uptown residents committed to bringing high-quality chamber music performances to their neighbors spotlighting repertoire by living Black composers.
Prelude Opera	<i>Papageno! A Children's Opera</i> : a delightful rendition of Mozart's Magic Flute opera arranged by Roger Brunyate. It arranges the story to be told from the perspective of Papageno. Using the greatest hits from the opera, it brings incredible music to children through storytelling, humorous theater and fantastic singing.
Quartet121	<i>Contemplation in Isolation</i> : exploring the ways that turning inwards can create change in ourselves and our communities. The program consists of five string quartet pieces that explore this idea by composers George Lewis, Du Yun, Jessie Cox, ZongYun We and the premiere of a new work by James Diaz.
Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra	<i>2022 Season "Legacies Legados"</i> : Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra presents, "Legacies Legados," featuring music inspired to answer to the question: "What legacy have we been given, and what are we leaving behind?" Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra presents three concert weekends, including 9 public events free to our Washington Heights community.

THEATER

24/6: A Jewish Theater Company	<i>TELEPHONE PLAYS</i> : sixteen 10-minute plays performed live over the telephone to senior citizens, the housebound, those without internet, or who cannot safely attend the theater. In this time of social isolation, 24/6: A Jewish Theater Company commissioned a diverse group of playwrights to write plays that foster connection.
AGM Theater Company, Inc.	<i>Theatre Production "GIRL PEACE: The Reclamation of Willie Lynch"</i> : a play written in choreopoem, a style popularized by Dr. Ntozake. Shange, "Girl Peace" seeks to explore issues facing African-American women in the 21st century as they relate to our slave history in the USA.

Corner2Stage Theatre Company	<i>The 3 Pigs Move To Harlem</i> : humans were caught on tape mistreating pigs and did not fire the culprits. So, sow sends her three piglets away. But will one piglet's selfish act put all of them in danger? Two-day audience participation where the theatregoers' flashlights (lights will be distributed) will give off signals throughout the play.
The El Barrio Theatre Group, Inc. (ELBA)	<i>The East Side Story</i> : a theatre production using the Girls & Boys Harbor Black Box Theatre or The Theatre at the Julia de Burgos Cultural Center for 12 performances, over 4 weeks, on Friday and Saturday Evenings, and Sunday Matinees during Hispanic Heritage Month in September of 2022.
Heather Massie	<i>HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr</i> : a solo play celebrating the fascinating story of Hollywood film star Hedy Lamarr as a woman of science. Known as the 'Most Beautiful Woman in the World', Hedy defied expectation by inventing Frequency-Hopping Spread Spectrum Technology for torpedo guidance, which we now use in our cell phones, WiFi, GPS, and Bluetooth!
Matteo Uguzzoni Productions	<i>Lumina - Night of the Fireflies</i> : a family-friendly urban experience. This 60-minutes adaptation of Lumina (Milan, Italy, 2018) will re-connect green areas of the neighborhood with actors, puzzles and light culminating in a secret garden musical ritual.
UP Theater Company, Inc.	" <i>A Barn Play</i> " by Lizzie Donahue: In Spring 2022, UP Theater Company will present "A Barn Play" by Lizzie Donahue. The play follows a group of barnyard animals who, under the direction of an owl, attempt to produce a play. But when the animals' offspring are pulled to fates unknown, their priorities for the play shift.

VISUAL ARTS AND MEDIA

Nadema Agard	<i>GALLERY IN THE GAZEBO Exhibition Season 2022</i> : three outdoor paper shows featuring the work of Inwood and Washington Heights visual artists or photographers and two 3-D installations in the Gazebo of Bruce Reynolds Memorial Garden.
ARM-Art Collective	<i>La Otredad (Otherness) 遠うモノ</i> : a 28-day exhibition featuring new work from three NYC based artists, in Mitchel Square Park, Washington Heights. It will consist of three points of view regarding our current cultural crisis, based upon the realization that we are more alike than different.
Andrea Arroyo	<i>Goddesses and SHeroes: Past, Present Future</i> : a large-scale, site-specific art installation created in response to, and integrated with the unique architectural features of the lobby of the historic Palace Theatre in Upper Manhattan. Presented in conjunction with live painting (in person and Facebook live,) and a Community Oral History program.
William Daniels	<i>Art On Site</i> : a month-long exhibition and series of activities that highlight the role of textile art & quilting as a community building activity, means of recording genealogy, creating objects of empathy and tools used in important social conversations. The program will run September 2022 - National Sewing Month & New York Textile Month.
Rose Deler	<i>History Now</i> : a photo installation consisting of portraits of my neighbors in the Jumel historic district of Manhattan. It includes photographs of the Ettingers who lived on my block in the early 1900s and reflects on the ever-changing population living in the same location 120 years apart.
Faces of Harlem	<i>FACES OF HARLEM</i> : a photo-collective inspiring meaningful conversations through photographic and oral history with a visual love letter. Presenting 100 portraits along Morningside Park, including images by local youth, we aim to showcase the beauty, resilience, and magic of Harlem as it fights to preserve its legacy amidst rapid gentrification.
Felipe Galindo	<i>Sketching New York 1983-2021</i> : an exhibition of sketches of New York City by an immigrant artist and his sketchbooks throughout his several decades residing in the city.
Heights Perspective Collective	<i>Uptown Perspectives</i> : a two-month moving exhibition with two artist talks and two site-specific "sketch challenges," featuring sketches in various media of the physical space of Washington Heights / Inwood, by five Washington Heights based artists.
Mame Lucas	<i>Universe Within</i> : a series of black and white infrared thermal images by Harlem based artist Marne Lucas, printed on aluminum panels that depict the literal light of the human body and landscapes, installed as public art works along the interior decorative iron fencing of the historic Dorrance Brooks Square.
NaomiRAG	<i>TIERRA FRÁGIL</i> : a public art installation depicting endangered bird and insect species with the flowers and plants imperative to its ongoing existence.
Kevin Quiles Bonilla and Zaq Landsberg	<i>Garita" (Under Construction)</i> : a site specific sculpture at Harlem Art Park that recreates a colonial guard tower, or "garita" from San Juan, Puerto Rico with New York construction site fencing materials.
Reuben Sinha	<i>Breathing without fear</i> : a site specific sculpture for Marcus Garvey Park by a Harlem based artist. The ceramic sculpture depicts two life-size figures enjoying each other's company, and enjoying being outside in a community park, post pandemic. The figures are abstract and represent our African Diaspora community.
Omanut: Jewish Uptown Arts	<i>Sukkahwood 2022</i> : Sukkahwood challenges artists from all backgrounds to produce temporary art installations in the form of a Sukkah, a structure used during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. Our goal is simple: to provide a high-impact program that challenges artists with questions like "What is a home?"
James Top	<i>The OFF THE WALL >< ON THE CANVAS >< NYC GRAFFITI FESTIVAL</i> : celebrating the art and culture of graffiti. NYC was the birthplace of graffiti and the festival will bring together the pioneers who started the movement and contemporary, up-and-coming artists. The event will also feature breakdancing and spoken-word performances.
Carla Torres	<i>Originally from...:</i> a mural that revisits the Latino community immigration and integration experience by exploring roots, identity, and cultural encounters.