Arts for Art is Ready

BY EARLY 2020, Arts for Art was actively implementing an updated strategic plan. The goals: to increase the visibility of Arts for Art locally and globally, to expand our infrastructure and funding base, and to grow and diversify our audience.

On March 4, as part of putting those goals in practice we presented a concert at The Town Hall to our largest and most diverse audience.

When NYC went into COVID lockdown just days later, Arts for Art leapt into the moment, pursuing new funding to increase artist pay, and shifting performances to twice-weekly live streaming concerts with talk-backs.

Even now we continue to explore safe programming models while keeping the music and art available to our growing, more diverse community. One that keenly feels the importance of this creativity. And true to our goals we’ve also grown and diversified both our staff and our income.

Looking forward we know Art is more important than ever, in particular Art grounded in ideals of community, improvisation and a commitment to social justice. Art inspires and brings hope. Art keeps us strong. Join us.

STAFF
Todd Nicholson
Patricia Nicholson Parker
Sean Madigan
Eric Robinson
Danilo Powell-Lima

CONSULTANTS
Bill Mazza - Design, Branding
Michael Lucio Sternbach - Film, Video
Zak Sherzad - Streaming
Stephen Schmidt - Audio Engineer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
William Parker - Interim Chair
Jo Wood Brown - Secretary
Patricia Ali - Treasurer
Tom Carhart
Whit Dickey
David Kreuter
Fred Moten
Urania Mylonas

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Nabil Ayers
Gregory Cohen
Herman Milligan Jr.
Sandeep Mehta
Anthony Jermaine Ross-Allam
Brad Smith
Deborah Steinglass
Anita Romero Warren

CORE VISION ARTISTS
Rob Brown
Cooper-Moore
Gerald Cleaver
Hamid Drake
Jason Kao Hwang
James Brandon Lewis
Brandon Lopez
Joe McPhee
Patricia Nicholson Parker
William Parker
Matthew Shipp
Steve Swell
Michael T.A. Thompson
Fay Victor
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.
Online Salons
Ongoing, August 2020 through June 2021

WITH SUPPORT from many donors, both small and large, AFA transitioned to livestream events and thus served our wider creative community with bi-weekly performances followed by in-depth interviews. All performers were fairly paid.
Outdoor Concerts

Artists for a Free World Protest Concerts
September 7, 12, 27, 2020 at The Clemente and St. Marks Churchyard
and June 12 & 13, 2021 at First Street Green

IN SEPTEMBER, 2020 we presented our first in-person concerts outdoors with limited capacity in socially distanced outdoor settings since the beginning of the pandemic. We featured 13 sets of music and poetry that gave creative expression to feelings of isolation as well as cries against ongoing injustice.
Vision Festival Healing Soul
October 8-12, 2020

A SPECIAL, primarily online edition of the Vision Festival: Healing Soul presented world-class FreeJazz artists making a creative statement to uplift, move hearts, and give voice for racial and economic justice.

Around 850 people watched online, with an additional 200 people attending in-person with limited seating.
Special Events

*Bringing on the Hallelujah*
November, 2020
Online screening w/ Zoom conversation

AFA SCREENED a special, early cut of the ongoing documentary film about Kidd Jordan, *Bringing on the Hallelujah*. This film as well as the short film about Amina Claudine Myers that was screened at Vision 25, are part of a series of biopics on Vision Festival LifeTime recipients produced by Arts for Art and created by Michael Lucio Sternbach’s Moon Lasso Productions

*Amina Claudine Myers Birthday Celebration*
March 21, 2021
Live streamed and recorded at Scholes Music Studio, Brooklyn, NY

AMINA CLAUDINE MYERS was featured in an intimate solo piano performance and conversation on her birthday. Funds raised were in support of V25 LifeTime Achievement programming and the creation of a biopic on Myers’ art and career that was screened at Vision 25.
Vision Festival 25 | Breaking Free Coming Home
July 22-31, 2021
Pioneer Works, Red Hook, Brooklyn and The Clemente, LES, NYC

Amina Claudine Myers V25 LifeTime Achievement Honoree

AMINA CLAUDINE MYERS holds in her hands and voice all of the African American music from Gospel to Blues to Jazz and FreeJazz.

THE VISION FESTIVAL celebrated 25 years with a glorious return to in-person performances across seven nights in partnership with Pioneer Works in Red Hook, Brooklyn and The Clemente on the Lower East Side, Manhattan, with all events live-streamed. EACH YEAR the world-renowned Vision Festival celebrates the best of African American, multi-cultural, multi-discipline FreeJazz arts by bringing together practitioners of music, poetry, movement, and visual arts who embrace improvisation as both an aesthetic and a means of collaboration.

Conference: Fighting for the Sustainability of Black Improvised Creative Music, Parts 1 & 2

Each Vision Festival features facilitated conversations with industry leaders on issues key to the AFA community and mission.

DISCUSSION
At V25 the community came together to honor Milford Graves—a seminal artist, a healer, a scientist and a charismatic force leading and teaching and learning at all times.

TRIBUTES

THE VISION FESTIVAL HOLDS SPACE so that artists can bring insight and inspiration in ways more fluid, more open, and a bit kinder, to all peoples and cultures.
**Education**

**Creative Vision Ensemble**

IN MARCH 2021, after holding a series of weekly workshops/meetings over a six month period with a select group of world class musicians and educators, AFA committed to reestablish the youth music education program.

Coming out of these conversations were two key principles:

- The music that Arts for Art supports and presents and teaches is reflective of the African Diaspora and other world cultures that comprise the communities of color that we serve in this program.

- The formula for the success of the program is “Commitment and Consistency” from all participants - the teachers, students and parents.

Beginning in April, we made free individualized coaching sessions available to twelve young musicians aged 10 to 15. Demographic breakdown: 3 African-Americans, 3 Latinx, 2 Asian and 4 white students; 7 male, 3 female and 2 non-binary. These sessions took place online and were targeted to the students’ individual needs. In June and July we held six in person weekly Sunday afternoon workshops. This culminated in a performance at the 25th Vision festival on July 24 at The Clemente.
Budget

DURING THE PAST FISCAL YEAR, we experienced a major increase in earned revenue through an increase in ticketed events, ticket prices and a strong turnout at the Vision Festival. We also experienced a major increase in foundation income, thanks to new grants from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, our association with COSA (the Coalition of Small Arts) and special emergency funding from the Howard Gilman Foundation. Our programming and administrative costs went up due to our focus on presenting a consistent series of live streaming concerts, and newly edited archival content. This modified model required us to purchase new equipment and make new hires. All of this would not have been possible without the generous support of individuals, foundations and government agencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<td>Earned Revenue</td>
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<td>37,030</td>
<td>111,568</td>
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<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>42,915</td>
<td>67,583</td>
<td>72,350</td>
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<td>SBA Loans (forgivable)</td>
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<td>54,037</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>146,857</td>
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<td>Individual Donors</td>
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<td>150,124</td>
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<td>Totals</td>
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<td>455,631</td>
<td>672,149</td>
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<table>
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<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<td>Artist Fees</td>
<td>113,450</td>
<td>62,277</td>
<td>160,548</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>213,238</td>
<td>230,693</td>
<td>312,142</td>
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<td>Marketing</td>
<td>5,641</td>
<td>6,745</td>
<td>6,186</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical/Production</td>
<td>16,428</td>
<td>16,829</td>
<td>76,435</td>
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<tr>
<td>Space/Office Rent</td>
<td>29,465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>378,222</td>
<td>335,192</td>
<td>568,152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Institutional Support
Jerome Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, COSA (Teiger Foundation, Willem de Kooning Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation), Tinker Foundation and The Givens Foundation for African American Literature

Continued Institutional Support
Ruth and Jacob Epstein Foundation, Chamber Music America, SMS Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Jazz Foundation of America, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts and Council Members Margaret Chin 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 26 years, we have created opportunities for artists of color, historically representing over 60% of all of our programs, to perform on an international stage. Last year our programs consisted of 68% POC artists and 24% female artists. In the past year and a half, we have been in the process of diversifying our board, staff and advisory board to better represent the community of artists that we serve and further strengthen our commitment to the ideals of diversity, equity, excellence, self-determination and community.

Appearances by Race + Gender *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2.60%</td>
<td>2.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>4.50%</td>
<td>11.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina/o</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>8.20%</td>
<td>23.90%</td>
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</table>

Unique Performers by Race + Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3.40%</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3.40%</td>
<td>12.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina/o</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
<td>26.60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.
ARTS FOR ART believes diversity cannot be assumed nor should it be a numbers game and therefore it is equally important to hold all artists to the same standard of excellence.

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 in improvisational and compositional art.

Arts for Art recognizes that each of us must make an effort, and work towards Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Vision Angels $5,000+
Tom Carhart • Whit Dickey • Nancy Seiser • John Schiek • Brad Smith

Vision Improvisers $1,000-$5,000
Patricia Ali • Anais Brault • Sean Buffington • Rachel Cook • Jerome Deupree
Rackstraw Downes • Closey Giffen • David Kreuter • La Vida Feliz Foundation
Ariane Lopez Huici • Joseph O’Neill • Anthony Radice • Bruce Raynor
Peter Shwartz • Srinija Srinivasan

Vision Supporters $500-$1,000
Louie Belogenis • Scott Currie • Mark Dresser • Alan Feller • David Gage
George Lewis • Keith Martin • Jason Moran • Uwe Noldt • Mark Pecker
Stanley Sheats • Jane Smith • Donald Walter Snowden

Vision Friends <$500
Timothy Abbott • Joshua Abrams • Lewis Achenbach • Tim Ahles • Pheeran Akkaff
Chris Alford • Clifford Allen • Gordon Allen • Toni Altenstrasser • Ronen Amit • Axel Amschler • Olivier Ancel • Chad Anderson • Marc Andren • James Annett • Maria Arias
Daniel Arnow • Gene Ashton • Michael Attias • Tracy Austin • Camille Azais • David Ballinger • Judy Balos • Matthew Banah • Matthew Banash • David Barrett • Bruce Barth • John Belew • Armando Bellmas • Michael Bellomo • David Belmont • Richard Berger • Roberta Berger • Harry Bernstein • Sarah Bernstein • Richard Besser
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Dana Buonconforti • Jacob Burckhardt • Michael Burke • Taylor Ho Bynum • Anne Byrd
Don Byrd • Duane Capizzi • David Caputo • Juan Pablo Carletti • Hope Carr • Cynthia Carr-Johnson • Martin Carrizo • Vienna Carroll • Jeanette Carter • Natalie Carrier
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Heidi De • Vries Vivian DeConcini • Tiffany DeFoe • Nicholas DeLuca • Akua Dixon
Jeff Douglas • Adam Downey • Anthony Dudley-Evans • Shayna Dulberger • Melanie Dyer • Brian Earley • Lois Eby • David Eckman • Dan Edes • Erik Ellestad • Annette Ensley • Jeffrey Evans • Daniel Fabricatore • Mike Faloon • Avram Fefer • Rachel Fefer • Susan Feiner • Zeyu Feng • Joseph Ferrara • Mary Feyijinmi • Ken Filiano
Michele Flannery • Arthur Fleiss • Floros Floridis • Rebecca Ford • Steven Ford
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Ellen Herscowitz • Matthew Hinds • Maurice Hogue • Kathi-Jane Holmes • Patrick
Holmes  Jane Holzka  Patricia Hooper  Derek Horton  Clif Hubby  Jason Hwang
Vijay Iyer  Michael Jackson  Susan James  David Jenkins  Steven Joerg  Alyssa Johnson
Mountaine Jonas  Joyce Jones  Alystyre Julian  Samantha Junius  Eva Kapanadze
Katrina Kaplan  Marilyn Kaplan  Luke Karamol  Jerry Karp  Terry Kattleman  Dave
Kaufman  Martina Kauter  Jezra Kaye  Leah Kelly  Klaus Kemmerling  Fred Kendrick
Thomas Keoughan  Terry Kerr Collier  Scott Ketchum  Omar Khalid  Michelle Kiefel
Tyler Kim  Kenneth Kimerling  John King  Kyoko Kitamura  Rainer Koermeling
Masahiko Kono  Clifford Korman  Jennifer Christine Kornder  Jackson Krall  James
Kramer  Michael Kuhl  Peter Kuhn  Diane Kupelian  Dan Kurfinst  David Kurfinst
Cathy Lara  Ingrid Laubrock  Edith Lauten  Matt Lavelle  Oliver Lawson  Marek
Lazaruski  Richard Leach  Leya Ledvin  Yasmine Lee  Alex Lemski  Sharon Levy
Matteo Liberatore  Mark Linn  Jiayuan Liu  Steven Loewy  Abby London-Crawford
Adam Lore  Zigi Lowenberg  Ronald Lyles  Benjamin Lyons  Rachel MacDonald  Jim
Macnie  Mogauwane Mahloele  Holly Maine  Stephen Malagodi  Susan Mannheimer
Chris Mannigan  Pascal Marand  Angela Mariani  Jiro Marubayashi  William Marvin
Hiroyuki Masuko  Susanne Mattei  Simon Mayer  Keith McCarthy  Thomas McGaw
Sarah McGovern  Flicka McCurrin  Ryan McLaughlin  Gloria McLean  Richard
McLeese  Michael McNeill  Kevin McNeilly  Joe McPhee  Evelyn McVeigh  Anthony
Medici  Sandeep Mehta  Francisco Mela  Myra Melford  Drew Melville  Pierre
Menard  Bradly Mensah  Will Meyerhofer  Alan Michael Piotr Michalowski  Gregg
Miller  Josh Miller  Robert Miller  Herman Milligan  Nicole Mitchell  Beata Moon
Christopher Moore  Gayle Morgan  Daniel Morris  David Morrissey  Alain Moschulski
Diane Moser  Luisa Muhr  Jozette Mundine  Charlotte Mundy  Joshua Myers  Lloyd
Myers  Sana Nagano  Mark Nelson  Keir Neuringer  Karen Newkirk  Sam Newsome
Julie Nicholson  Reggie Nicholson  John Osborne  James Oscar  Nick Ostrum  Kirk
Page  Katerina Pansera  Hyuna Park  William Parker  John Parran  Mario Pavone
Daniel Pelavin  Nicole Pearyfette  Stephen Pierce  Roberta Piket  Paul Pizzuti
John Platt  Robert Posey  Ann Powers  Craig Premo  Vance Provey  Kyle Quass
Ryan Ramirez  Mary Read  Christine Reardon  Tomeka Reid  John Reilly  Deanna
Relyea  Dave Remps  Michael Resil  Marc Ribot  KAR  Christian Rønn  Robert
Rosen  Mara Rosenbloom  Steven Rosenstein  Anthony Jermaine Ross-Allam
Luciano Rossetti  Ned Rothenberg  Agnes Ruiz  Jennifer Russo  James Ryan  Jim
Ryan  Frank Sabatini  Charles Sabatino  Frank Sakalinius  Manuel Salvador  George
Sampson  Jade Sanchez-Ventura  Leo Sandoval  Richard Sanford  Steven Sanford
Sandra Santa Maria  Alan Saul  Bruce Saunders  Steve Sawyer  George Scala
Andreas Scherrer  Thomas Schicker  Derek Schilling  Stephen Schmidt  Dan
Schneider  Walter Schretzman  Peter Schulz  Ron Scott  Richard Seager  Mary
Ellen Segal  Tina Seligman  Gladys Serrano  David Seweison  Brian Seyler  Steven
F. Shalit  Eric Shorter  Glenn Siegel  Mark Siegel  Leonard Siegfried  Giovanni
Singleton  Adia Smith  Al Smith  Marcia Smith  Mary Catherine Smith  Steve Smith
Wadada Leo Smith  Emery Snyder  Lisa Sokolov  Raina Sokolov Gonzalez  A.H.
Spar  Raissa St. Pierre  Melissa Steineger  Douglas Stevenson  Megan Storm
Joshua Stumpf  Joan Sullivan  Robert Sutherland-Cohen  Susan Swan  Pete
Swanson  Steve Swell  Vincent Sylvain  William Tatz  Kenneth Taylor  Tuesday
Taylor  Oluyemi Thomas  Jeffery Thompson  Michael TA Thompson  Barry Thomson
Henry Throeddigil  Pyeeng Throeddigil  Robert Thurman  Aaron Tifford  Luis Torregrosa
Alex Trajano  Ngoc Hai Yen Tran  Tyler Thien Truong  Danny Tunic  Stephen
Tyson  Pearl Ubungen  Jan Van Assen  Linda Vartoogian  Michele Volino  Jeanette
Vuocolo  James Walker  Amy Ward  Rita Warford  William Warrell  Kenny Warren
Joe Waters  Tim Watson  Jason Weiss  Ken Weiss  Laura Whittaker  Pat Wictor
Marc Wiener  Jerry Wigens  Michael Wilderman  Patricia S Wilkins  Ken Wilson
Michael Wimerby  Jennifer Winkler  Adam Wojtuniak  Andrea Wolper  Rick Wood
Tracy Wood  Rob Woodworth  Bonnie Wright  James Wright  Jim Wright
Michael Yaeger  John Yardling  Hisako Yasuma  Joan Yokler  Kurt Young Binter
Shaio Shu Yu  Samuel Zhou  Ravid Zidion  Tal Zohar
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 community. AFA creates community by creating opportunities throughout the year for diverse artists to meet and share ideas as well as perform.

**Justice, Diversity, Inclusion, Respect:** We make safe space 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 in collaboration with grassroots activist efforts.

**Improvisation:** Improvisation is the sophisticated integration of all aspects of creation in real time. This highly developed form is at the core of our mission. It is also an element of AFA’s organization culture. We plan for our future and operate flexibly to respond to opportunities as they arise.

**Commitment:** AFA respects artists’ commitment to their lives’ work, and reflects that commitment by seeking and supporting new works, audiences and partnerships that help artists’ sustain creative and professional growth.

A Permanent Home

A home for AFA and the art we serve is important to create opportunities for the art to thrive. We at AFA, along with the artists and supporters will make this a reality, Our temporary home is provided by partnerships with Teatro LaTea, The Clemente, Weeksville and others to keep the art streaming, strong and present in all of our lives.

If you want to become a part of moving AFA forward, contact us at info@artsforart.org or 212-254-5420.