



KUPFERBERG  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
at Queens College

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



*“Kupferberg Center for the Arts is an **essential part of the fabric of life in Queens and beyond.** We salute their resilience and accomplishments – especially during the past few challenging years, and we are excited to continue our partnership in support of their programs.”*

*– Robert Wann, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer,  
New York Community Bank*



Photo: Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band performed in November 2021 and it was the first in-person concert since the pandemic at Colden Auditorium.



# A message from **THE CHAIR OF KUPFERBERG CENTER'S ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

It is a pleasure to share the Kupferberg Center for the Arts' 2021-2022 annual report and add this year to the organization's long history as a leader in arts and cultural programming in Queens. I am very pleased about what KCA is doing today. Whether virtual or in-person performances; educational initiatives, like the Mosaic Project; city and borough-wide projects such as the CUNY Dance Initiative and Queens Rising; or new programs that aim to elevate work produced by artists of color, like the Kupferberg Arts Incubator, we are offering something for everyone. And, in everything we do, we want to highlight the strength that diversity brings to our borough.

We envision continuous growth for KCA in the next five years, as outlined in our 2021-2026 Strategic Plan. We are more driven than ever, after the pandemic challenges we faced, to produce robust programming for all ages, to increase our educational offerings for Queens schools, to continue to raise funds to support arts and cultural programs on our campus and throughout the borough, and to align with QC's commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Social Justice.

I hope you will enjoy reading this report and join us for a performance, artist talk, or arts exhibition in the very near future. Your support allows us to serve our audiences and celebrate the arts and culture that make Queens unique. Thank you.

Saul Kupferberg





# About KUPFERBERG CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## MISSION

The mission of Kupferberg Center is to provide high quality accessible and affordable cultural attractions to the Queens College community and the borough's 2.4 million residents. The largest multi-disciplinary arts entity in the borough, KCA features world-class artists and performances at its main stage campus venues and showcases the talents of emerging and regional artists in off-site, neighborhood settings. A leader in the cultural landscape of Queens, KCA connects residents of the most ethnically diverse region of the nation to their unique cultural heritages, showcasing these arts to a broader audience and highlighting the contributions each makes to the distinct nature of our campus and community.

## HISTORY

The Center was officially named in 2006 to honor alumnus Max Kupferberg for his \$10 million gift to the College in support of the arts. KCA is charged with marketing cultural events, developing cross-disciplinary collaborations among the arts units and between the arts units and off-campus partners, raising funds, and working with an Arts Advisory Board comprised of academic and community stakeholders. Since 1961, Kupferberg Center (formerly Colden Auditorium) has presented public programs for all ages on the campus of Queens College (including concerts, dance performances, lectures, and family activities); in Queens parks, libraries, and community centers; and has offered school residencies in music, dance, literature, and performing arts.



# Kupferberg Center for the Arts

## PROGRAMS

### MAIN STAGE

Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College (KCA), the largest multi-disciplinary arts complex in Queens, has a strong track-record of presenting diverse public programs for the communities of Queens and beyond since 1961. The KCA Annual Performance Season included six summer concerts at Gantry Plaza State Park, every Tuesday of July and August 2021 with Supermambo, the George Gee Band, Music from the Sole, Gentlemen of Soul, Yasser Tejada, and On the Sun. Together with the Queens Borough President's Office, we presented three parks concerts, Reggae on the Boardwalk, 123 Andres, and a Tribute to Biz Markie). We hosted virtual events, including Amir ElSaffar, Ali Bello, Victor Murillo, the MLK Celebration Feat. Trey McLaughlin and the Sounds of Zamar. In Colden Auditorium we presented Black Violin, Queens Symphony Orchestra, A Tribute to Aretha Franklin, and B-Underwater Bubble Show. In LeFrak Concert Hall, we presented Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band, Anat Cohen Quartet, Ladies Sing the Blues, and the Jimmy Heath Scholarship Fund Concert. As part of our American Mosaic Virtual Jazz Series, we presented, Etienne Charles, Lenora Zensalai Helm, and Linda May Han Oh.

**Total attendance of the main stage shows: 11,816**

**Total attendance of Live at the Gantries: 1,500**



Black Violin



Anat Cohen



B-Underwater Bubble Show



# Kupferberg Center at **QUEENS COLLEGE**

## QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOOL OF ARTS

Queens College offers 22 graduate and undergraduate degrees in theater, dance, studio art, photography, design, creative writing, music, art history, and art and music education. Over 1500 students are enrolled in these programs, which engage nearly 120 full-time faculty and staff and are spread over half a dozen schools and academic departments. The primary goal of the School of Arts is to focus the tools of the College's success on students in the arts. Its mission is to foster excellence in art making and performance, diversification of arts leadership, and the economic success of our graduates. Kupferberg Center will partner with QCArts to produce events on and off our campus, establish collaborations with arts and non-arts organizations in the borough, and create professional opportunities for students, including performances, internships, and networking events. Julia del Palacio, Kupferberg Center's Director of Strategic Partnerships, is now also QCArts' Director of Strategy and Associate to the Dean. She will be working with the Dean of Arts and Humanities on establishing collaborations among arts entities on and off the Queens College campus; on identifying professional opportunities for arts students; and on supporting fundraising efforts in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Advancement.

## AARON COPLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC (ACSM)

The collaborative work with ACSM continues to evolve and grow as we both strive to raise the profile of Queens College and attract new audiences and potential students to campus. This season we supported numerous virtual programs produced by ACSM, including the Chamber Music Live series, faculty performances, and the spring opera concert of "The Merry Widow," as well as the Jimmy Heath Scholarship Fund Concert, which took place in May of 2022.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA THEATRE AND DANCE (DTD)

KCA continued to provide professional marketing, front of house, and box office support for all virtual productions and performances this past academic year presented by DTD, which included two runs of virtual theatrical performances, and two choreographer showcases.



## GODWIN TERNBACH MUSEUM

Godwin-Ternbach Museum (GTM) presented four exhibitions in FY22: "Remember This: A 9/11 Twenty-Year Anniversary Memorial," featured oversized photographs created a meditative space for education and contemplation. The Museum also presented "Migrations: A Study of Arts & Identity," a multifaceted exhibition representing the collaboration of four departments of Queens College: Drama, Theatre & Dance; Art; Economics; and Sociology, along with the Queens Public Library. In the spring of 2022, GTM presented "Getting There," an exhibition of works by Carnegie Mellon University professors Andrew Ellis Johnson and Susanne Slavick and the exhibition "Tiny Pricks Project" in the lobby of the Museum. All exhibitions were free and open to the public, and Maria Pio, the Museum's co-director, designed programming to be offered in conjunction, including a virtual talk with GTM's co-director and curator Louise Weinberg, an artist talk with artist Steven P. Harris, a panel conversation with photographers, a panel conversation with textile artists, an artist talk with Orestes Gonzalez, a family day arts workshop, and a series of virtual and gallery talks with curators and artists in the spring.



The pandemic challenged KCA to create new and expanded programmatic partnerships, and nowhere was this more evident than the collaboration with the Godwin-Ternbach Museum to support their virtual exhibitions and gallery talks. Over the course of the year, as part of the exhibition "Getting There: Works by Andrew Ellis Johnson and Susanne Slavick," which addresses themes of global migration, human rights abuses, and social justice we helped produce or support virtual artist talks. We also hosted a virtual artist talk featuring contemporary artist Jordan Casteel. Casteel has rooted her practice in community engagement, painting from her own photographs of people she encounters. Posing her subjects within their natural environments, her nearly life-size portraits and cropped compositions chronicle personal observations of the human experience.

## GETTING THERE:

WORKS BY ANDREW ELLIS JOHNSON  
& SUSANNE SLAVICK

Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Queens College (CUNY)



FEBRUARY 9  
through  
MAY 13, 2022



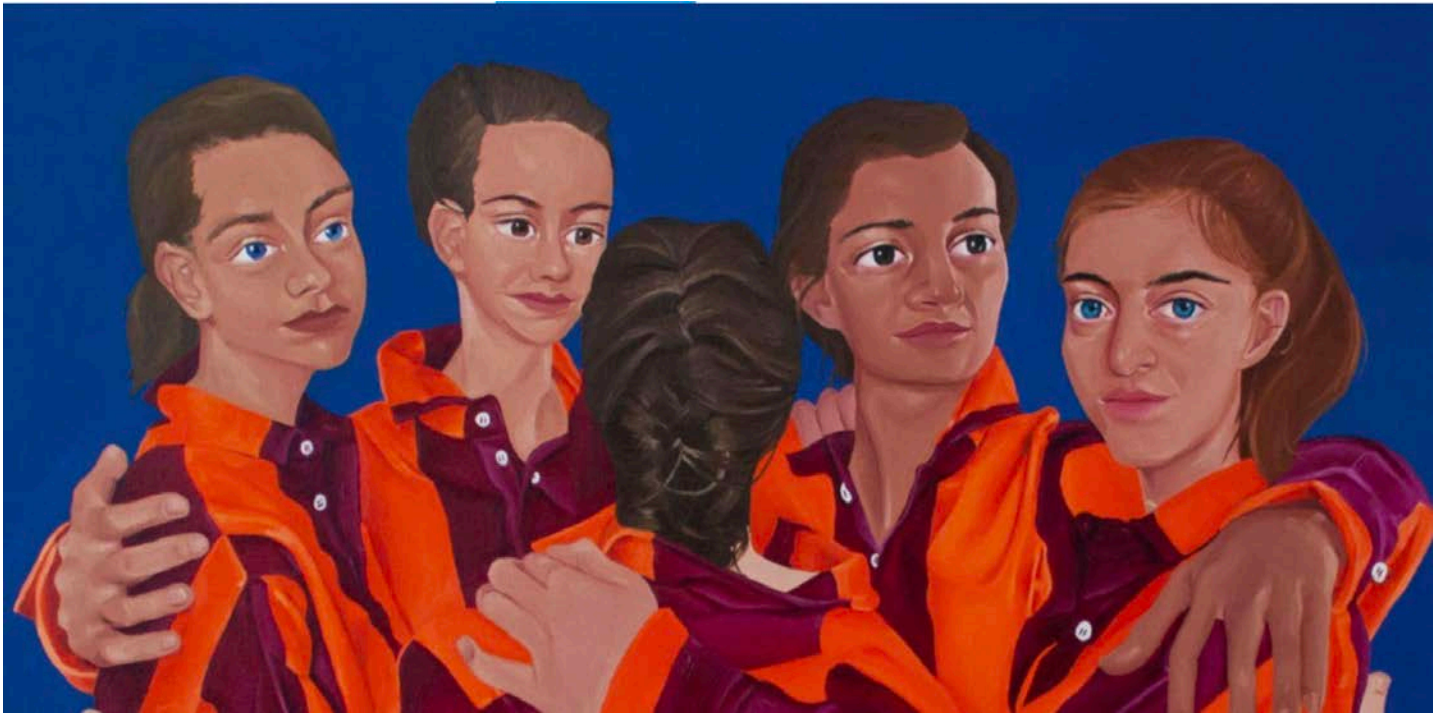
[www.gtmuseum.org](http://www.gtmuseum.org)





## QUEENS COLLEGE ART CENTER

The Queens College Art Center, located on the 6th floor of Rosenthal Library, presents works by contemporary artists who touch on issues around cultural diversity, community building, social justice, and collaboration. In 2021-2022, the Art Center presented two exhibitions: in the fall of 2021, it was "Good Game," a solo exhibition of works by artist Fay Sanders, whose focus is on women in sports, reappropriating Christian religious imagery, motifs from the Soviet avant garde, and footage from the Olympics. In the spring of 2022, we presented "Heritage: A Celebration of Cultural Diversity in Queens," which reflected the creative work of artists working in the borough.



**LIC-A**  
long island city artists

Long Island City Artists Inc. presents

# HERITAGE

**Reception:**  
**Thursday May 12th, 5-8pm**  
**On view: April 7 - May 12, 2022**  
Queens College Art Center Gallery  
Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, 6th Fl.

A collage of various artworks, including a painting of a woman in a kimono, a landscape painting, and a painting of a person in a red shirt.



## JIMMY HEATH SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONCERT AND STREET NAMING

In honor of the late renowned jazz saxophonist and composer Jimmy Heath, Kupferberg Center and the Aaron Copland School of Music hosted the Jimmy Heath Scholarship Fund Concert on Saturday, May 21. The event took place at LeFrak Concert Hall and was presented in person and livestreamed for audiences and its proceeds benefitted the Jimmy Heath Scholarship Endowment Fund. A video montage of Heath's life and career was displayed on a screen behind the stage performances, led by Grammy Award saxophone player and Queens College professor Antonio Hart. This concert was the conclusion of a series of activities to honor the founder of ACSM's jazz program, which also included the unveiling of Jimmy Edward Heath Way, a street corner in Corona, Queens, the birthplace of this jazz icon. The ceremony featured performances by Antonio Hart and students from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, Patience Higgins Trio, Jazzmobile and the Louis Armstrong Elementary School P.S. 143 Glee Club. It was hosted by Councilman Francisco Moya.



Jimmy Heath



James Edward Heath Way Street Naming Ceremony

## OFF THE PAGE: CONVERSATIONS WITH WRITERS

KCA successfully rebooted the Evening Reading Series under its new title, Off the Page, in an all-virtual format in collaboration with the QC Department of English, the Provost's Office, and the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. The literary series was again curated by QC professor and author Vanessa Pérez-Rosario and featured four events in 2021-2022. The next season will transition back to in-person events and will include conversations with authors Crystal Hana Kim, Daphne Palasi Andreades, and Manuel Muñoz.

**Total attendance (virtual): 1,200**



Maria Hinojosa



# Kupferberg Center

## EDUCATION INITIATIVES

### THE MOSAIC PROJECT

KCA is the recipient of yearly Cultural After School Adventures (CASA) grants, funded by the NY City Council and distributed by the Department of Cultural Affairs. For the second year, KCA's Manager of Education, Jake Goldbas, has offered a uniquely original CASA arts curriculum called "The Mosaic Project," which celebrates the rich cultural diversity of Queens in hands-on arts education classes and workshops. Through this initiative, over 250 students from 11 public schools in the borough worked with world-class teaching artists from around the globe in visual art, music, and dance over a 12-week period. Each lesson was designed with curriculum connections in both history and the arts. This unique opportunity supported students' learning while easing their return to the classroom after 18 months of distance learning.



### THE JAZZ & JUSTICE CURRICULUM

Kupferberg Center for the Arts is proud to present Jazz & Justice, its newest education initiative, which is grounded on the concept that jazz is the soundtrack and framework for American History. Through in-school interactive concert assemblies, workshops led by world-class teaching artists, and a culminating event celebrating the new works created by students across disciplines, children discover how art can be used as a vehicle for social change through a contemporary lens. Tracing the footsteps of jazz through writing, dance, visual art, and music students gain a deeper understanding of the social studies curriculum with perspective and empathy, exploring jazz as a living time capsule of American History in the 20th Century and beyond. During the 2021-2022 school year, this program reached 120 8th grade students at MS 210Q Elizabeth Blackwell school. We are in the process of fundraising to be able to offer this program to more schools in the future.





## CITY-WIDE: THE CUNY DANCE INITIATIVE

The CUNY Dance Initiative (CDI) is a program for dance companies and choreographers on CUNY campuses across the five boroughs. Kupferberg Center leads, manages, and fundraises for CDI on behalf of 13 CUNY campuses and has ensured the program's success for the past eight years. We were able to adapt to campus closures during the pandemic and maintained the program's support of dozens of dancers and choreographers in virtual residencies for rehearsals and public programs. During the 2022 application period, we received 201 submissions and will grant residencies to 23-25 dance companies and choreographers on 13 CUNY campuses and partner organizations—including Snug Harbor for the Performing Arts, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, and Brooklyn Arts Exchange.



## THE CUNY DANCE INITIATIVE REPORT NUMBERS

FY22  
Residencies

**22\***

Residency  
Hours

**1,186**

Performance  
Attendance

**2,259**

Workshop  
Attendance

**252**

In June

\*choreographers/dance companies at 12 colleges

### HISTORICAL IMPACT OF CDI:

**SINCE 2014, CDI HAS BECOME A CRUCIAL PLAYER IN THE CITY'S DANCE AND PERFORMING ARTS ECOSYSTEM BY:**

- Establishing partnerships with **13** CUNY campuses in all five boroughs
- Subsidizing **200+** residencies for emerging and established NYC choreographers.
- Granting **10,300+** hours of studio and stage time to artists.
- Sponsoring workshops and master classes for **4,600+** CUNY students/faculty.
- Attracting **17,500+** New Yorkers to performances and informal showings.

## CUNY DANCE INITIATIVE

***“Absolutely loving teaching** the students and offering workshops. They are open, investigative, curious and passionate. It’s been amazing! **These connections wouldn’t have been watered without CUNY.** I’m honing in on a teaching voice.”*

*- Anna Gichan, Arts & Social Justice resident artist at Brooklyn College & Brooklyn Arts Exchange*





## BOROUGH-WIDE: QUEENS RISING

KCA is proud to have spearheaded efforts, together with key members of the Arts Advisory Board, for the first year of “Queens Rising,” a multi-disciplinary arts celebration to highlight our borough’s cultural and creative diversity through unique performances, exhibitions, and partnerships during June 2022. This ambitious initiative, which emerged from an Arts Advisory Board meeting, now has 14 planning partners among Queens arts organizations, close to 100 presenting partners, and more than 75 individual artists and cultural workers volunteering for our working groups. We were grateful to the Max and Selma Kupferberg Family Foundation for the contribution to fund our Project Coordinator salary, which also helped us leverage over \$125,000 in additional funding from Northwell Health LIJ Forest Hills Hospital, the Queens Economic Development Corporation, Resorts World NYC, the NYC & Co. Foundation, the Queens Borough President’s office, and individual donors. We also secured a \$40,000 grant from the Howard Gilman Foundation for Queens Rising 2023.



Queens Rising Official Launch at Queens Museum

## QUEENS RISING REPORT NUMBERS

**WELCOMED**

**80+**

Programming  
Partners

**LISTED AND  
PROMOTED**

**240+**

Distinct events  
in June

## Social Media

**548,000**

People reached  
through Facebook

**317,000**

People reached  
through Instagram

## Media Sponsorships

**THE KOREA TIMES**

\$8,100 value from \$2,700 spent

**EL DIARIO**

\$13,000 value from \$1,250 spent

**SCHNEPS MEDIA**

\$18,500 value from \$3,000  
spent

**PIX11**

Two AM Segments plus multiple  
30 second ad slots FREE



# Fundraising

## QUEENS RISING

### Additional major funding from:

- Max and Selma Kupferberg Family Foundation
- Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College

### Additional funding:

- The Queens Night Market

### Additional gifts:

- \$15k from anonymous donors and Queens Rising Supporters

**\$45K**

**FROM QUEENS ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

It's In Queens

**\$75K**

**FROM NORTHWELL HEALTH**

Long Island Jewish Hills for Title Sponsorship

**\$25K**

**FROM RESORTS WORLD  
NYC**





## QUEENS RISING

*“We were at the epicenter of COVID and came through it with the help of **our community more resilient than ever.** That’s why we’re so thrilled to be part of Queens Rising NYC to celebrate the rich tapestry of arts, culinary and creative communities that make **our borough so unique.**”*

- Lorraine Chambers Lewis, PA  
Executive Director, Long Island Jewish Forest Hills | Northwell Health.



## SUPPORTING ARTISTS: THE KUPFERBERG ARTS INCUBATOR

With generous seed funding from the Max and Selma Kupferberg Family Foundation, we were able to secure the first two lead Incubator artists to launch this exciting and important initiative—choreographer Edisa Weeks and multi-media artist Chloë Bass. The Incubator is conceived as a two-year residency led by a Queens College faculty member who is an active contributor to the cultural ecosystem of New York City and who has a track record of excellence in the production and presentation of high-quality artistic work. These lead QC artists invite external collaborators to develop new projects or expand on existing ones. The overarching goal of the initiative is to amplify the voices of artists who reflect, problematize, and unpack complex racial and social issues that affect American society today. Edisa Weeks's piece—"Action Songs/Protest Dances"—is set to premiere in early November 2022 at LeFrak Concert Hall. Chloë Bass has begun working on her project, set to be unveiled in 2024.

**SATURDAY  
NOV 12  
8 PM**

**SUNDAY  
NOV 13  
3 PM**

**TICKETS  
\$20**

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**ACTION SONGS/PROTEST DANCES**

**FEATURING  
ORIGINAL SONGS  
COMPOSED &  
PERFORMED BY  
MARTHA REDBONE,  
SPIRIT MCINTYRE  
& TAINA ASILI**

**INSPIRED BY  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
ACTIVIST  
JAMES FORMAN**

**NEW WORKS  
CHOREOGRAPHED BY  
EDISA WEEKS/  
DELIRIOUS  
DANCES**

**TAINA ASILI**

**MARTHA REDBONE**

**SPIRIT MCINTYRE**

**LEFRAK  
CONCERT HALL  
153-49 REEVES AVE.  
FLUSHING, NY 11367**

**KUPFERBERG  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

**KUPFERBERG ARTS INCUBATOR:**

***“Kupferberg Arts Incubator** provided the opportunity to create Action Songs/Protest Dances which celebrates the life and words of James Forman, and through music and dance **advocates for America to be a truly great nation!**”*

*- Edisa Weeks, Choreographer, Educator, Founder, DELIRIOUS Dances*





## QUEENS COLLEGE ANNUAL REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

KCA was the lead producer, along with QC's Marketing & Communications Department, of this annual event, which took place virtually in January 2022. The free streaming event honored and paid tribute to Dr. King in a virtual celebration of his powerful legacy and connection to today's student activism and engagement. The event evoked celebrated this legacy with special video presentations, words from invited speakers, and a short performance by Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar, a choir from Augusta, Georgia, who have transcended cultural boundaries with their fresh adaptations of contemporary gospel, pop, and musical theater hits.



Trey McLaughlin and The Sounds of Zamar

### QUEENS COLLEGE'S ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

*We Are Not Satisfied:  
There is a Long, Long Way to Go  
In the Footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022 AT 3 PM





# Looking Ahead TO 2022-2023

KCA is committed to continue to focus our efforts on mission-based programming and a sustainable business model. We will continue to serve our communities in more streamlined, dedicated, and effective ways, while producing content that will further demonstrate why Kupferberg Center for the Arts is unique, relevant, and indispensable. We are confident in our capacity to become stronger as a result of the current challenges and emerge better than we were.







**KUPFERBERG**  
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at Queens College

**65-30 Kissena Blvd. Flushing, NY 11367**  
**(718) 570-0920 | [KupferbergCenter.org](http://KupferbergCenter.org)**

