

2021. The Human Impacts Institute.

The Human Impacts Institute is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization EIN# 45-2589652

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# ART AND CULTURE TO INSPIRE ACTION FOR A JUST AND THRIVING WORLD

In 2021 we saw:



**10,574**Participants attend



Inspirational events





1,602
Hours of youth

Hours of youth leadership training



# In 2010, the Human Impacts Institute was a seed of an idea that I had while sitting under a tree in a NYC public park.

Since then, we have reached hundreds of thousands of people--from Oakland, California, to Durban, South Africa--with inspiring programs that make the road to a just and livable world personal.

We have amplified the voices of diverse climate leaders, brought youth and BIPOC women to United Nations negotiations, and created spaces where artists, scientists, dignitaries, and activists explore the climate crisis together. I am proud of the work we do. I'm even more proud of the community we are building.

I've worked on and studied climate change for over 20 years; it's still hard. But this also reinforces why we do what we do. We need a cultural shift to rebuild our societies into ones that coexist with our planet and people. Our planet is trying to protect herself—from us—and she's much stronger and smarter than we are. .

And I say cultural shift, because the science and policy and solutions already exist—we need to inspire people to truly see the beauty of the future that we can create and to embrace, with excitement, the urgency of our time.



We need a cultural movement, and I think that's why we are all here. Each of you brings a special perspective, skills, community, and passion to transform our world into one that is just, safe, healthy, and good. This work is hard, and it always will be. It's so easy to see the bad, but there's also so much good—so much potential and innovation and strength. More than ever, our work is desperately needed—to show how we need to think BIG and act BOLDLY to create the beauty we need and crave in our lives and on our planet.

Join us today in action and inspiration.

Warmly, Tara DePorte

Our programs amplify underrepresented voices through creative communications, develop leadership skills through hands-on learning and community service, and explore local solutions with diverse audiences in inspiring settings.

### **OUR IMPACT**

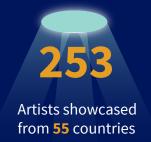
### **Since 2010**



24,510 Hours of educational programming





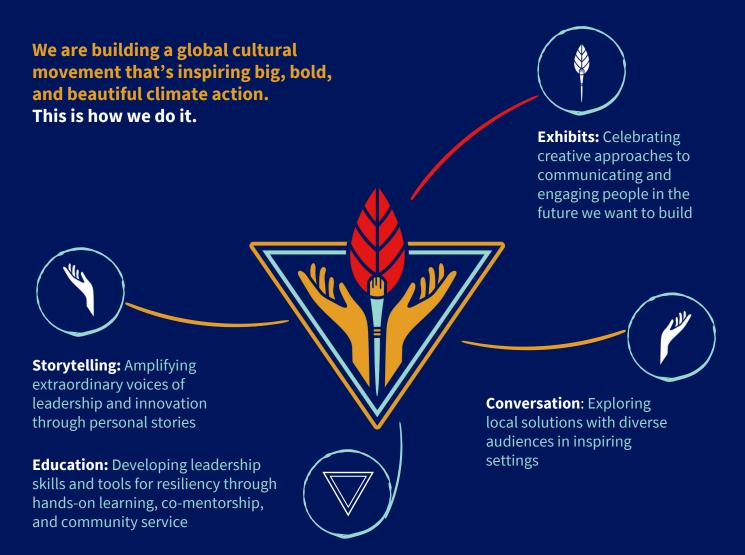




19,300

Hours of environmental leadership training for young people around the world

Annual Report 2021 • Our Impact



### We are connectors.

Our international network includes creatives, educators, activists, and policy experts.

We work in city streets, schools, galleries, and museums, bringing people together to promote equitable solutions in creative ways.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Climate change is complex and often overwhelming. Being concerned about something doesn't necessarily lead to meaningful impact.

# We exist to help you take action.

We make action personal by:

- 1. Highlighting new voices of leadership
- **2.** Connecting you to solutions in engaging ways
- **3.** Welcoming you to a diverse, creative community that is addressing the root causes of the climate crisis.



We envision a world where everyone is an active agent of social and environmental change.



Where culture and nature converge, not compete.



Where our communities have equal access to resources needed for dignity, happiness, and health.





# CELEBRATING CREATIVE APPROACHES TO COMMUNICATING THE FUTURE WE WANT

In 2021 our Creative Climate Awards (CCA) saw:



CCA Artist Applications from around the world



Artists from **11** countries exhibited



NYC-based fellows, including **9** commissioned, original works



Festival of climateinspired works



First CCA overseas with a film premier in Marseille, France



The Creative Climate Awards (CCA) initiative celebrates artists and culture creators who engage, educate, and incite environmental action.

The Creative Climate Awards (CCA) are an annual series of events showcasing artists creating climate-inspired public works and actions. Over the last decade, CCA has supported global, climate-inspired artwork, including 253 artists from 35 countries, and reached several hundred thousand audience members.

We held a month-long festival showcasing the eight projects of our UEHL fellows collaboration, as well as films from around the world that speak to the connections between health and climate.

This 2021 Creative Climate Awards was available for virtual viewing for a week and we had in-person screenings at Pioneer Works in Red Hook, Brooklyn, projection of all films on the Manhattan Bridge in DUMBO in partnership with Two Trees and the DUMBO BID, as well an international screening with the University of Aix-Marseille in France.

We also conducted three virtual conversations with our fellows and international artists during the month-long exhibit and held audience voting for cash prizes for the first, second, and third place winners.



Art and culture makers are the experts in moving us and making the hair stand up on our arms, connecting beyond the rational," she told The Village Sun. "We need the creatives to not only inspire us to envision what's possible. We are not just focusing on the problem, but focusing on how we can make our future big, bold and beautiful."

Ranging from a portrait of a blind Iranian fisherman, to a tragic wildfire in a Polish nature preserve, to the absurdity of a group of activists keen on licking Icelandic icebergs, the films take the viewer on an emotional rollercoaster.

"We've tried to create an order that really shows people how many emotions you feel going through these issues, but also how there are so many ways to communicate it," DePorte said.

These films are meant to spark conversation, some of them with particular actions attached —help pass the Green New Deal, reduce your plastic consumption — while others are simply a meditation on the relationship between humans and the world."



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As our communities reeled from the social, economic, and physical impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our 2021 Creative Climate Awards showcased creatives who inspire us to see connections between our health and the climate crisis. We hosted 20 NYC-based fellows, representing the diversity of creative and health expertise in our city. And for the first time in CCA history, we were able to commission these artists, resulting in original works from nine fellowship pairings.

Our international call for films yielded over 500 submissions with 11 selected films from 10 countries. Together, these creatives are sharing stories from communities far and wide on how closely our health and well-being are connected to the health and well-being of our planet.

For the first time, our CCAs reached beyond NYC to bring film screenings across the ocean to Marseille, France at the IMéRA Institute for Advanced Studies at Aix-Marseille University. Our 2021 Creative Climate Awards films also screened virtually and in Brooklyn at Pioneer Works and as a large-scale projection on the Manhattan Bridge.

Our 2021 Creative Climate Awards mentors were:

### **Amy Andrieux**

Executive Director at MoCADA, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art

### John Cloud Kaiser

Education Director/Gallery Director, Materials for the Arts

### Nellie A. V. Chaban

Director, School Programs, Children's Museum of New York

### Joe Harrell

Executive Producer, All Arts / WNET

### **Shawna Salmon**

Arts Production & Gallery Manager, Snug Harbor

### Eric Schoenborn

Artist / Designer / Creative Technologist

### Lemon Guo

Interdisciplinary Artist

They provided our CCA artists with one-on-one career mentoring to further develop their practice and impact.

### Sponsors and partners















### 2021 CCA Winners



In 2021 we invited you, our audience, to select the winners of the Creative Climate Awards.

First Place: It's Our Future by Lukas Huffman

IT'S OUR FUTURE tells the story of New York City middle and high school students by participating in a climate resilience education program called RiSC. The students take a boat trip to learn about NYC's coastal geography and vulnerability to sea level rise.

**Second Place:** Message in a Bottle by Eric Corriel and Lisa Bloodgood

Message in a Bottle follows the paths and possibilities of a post-consumer plastic water bottle as it dies several deaths in search of rebirth.

Third Place: ISIMO by Sethembile Msezane

ISIMO takes place against the backdrop of Hoerikwaggo, commonly known as Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa. In the film, an ancestral matriarchal figure feels and holds the pain of the living in her womb. She diagnoses the world as we know it as being ill, disconnected from nature and in need of healing.

### **ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**

Cristina Tamarez and Jordie Vasquez (HII NYC Fellows)

With the power of storytelling and photo documentation, Cristina and Jordie highlight what new parents gothrough due to toxic hazards, systemic health racism, climate displacement, food insecurity, and economic impacts. The goal was to encourage institutions to be accountable for their complicity in environmental racism. The artists wanted to hear about their experiences giving birth and navigating a medical system not designed to center on their health and well-being.

To those who have chosen not to have children, they wanted to explore their reasoning. The experience was more a conversation piece than a formal question-and-answer session, and the individuals direct the discussion.





Cristina Tamarez is a visual storyteller, documentary photographer, and occasionally, oil painter. She was born and raised in Ridgewood-Bushwick. She primarily photographs portraits of people and strives to represent individuals and their many forms. She tells stories of her community and her identity. Her photography projects start from a personal experience and branch out into their own forms as she includes her community's voice.

Jordana Vasquez is a sustainability consultant with experience in energy efficiency and sustainability design for the built environment in NYC. As Senior Associate at the Building Energy Exchange, she works with produces educational resources, exhibits, targeted research, and critical tools to advance buildings' energy efficiency, directly supporting the city and the state's ambitious climate action plans. She co-founded Women of Color/Collective in Sustainability, a community supporting WOC's professional success and well-being.

Environmental Racism, Stories of My Community (photo and interview series).



Using recycled materials, even trash, this artist created this story and short film "Mother."
Feelings of frustration and powerlessness to make a change as a regular citizen are central themes, along with patriarchy, inequality, sexism, dictatorship, environmental disaster and the lack of balance in nature –which includes Mother nature versus Fatherland.

The film's style and allegories were inspired by the Dada movement, and the political agency in the cut-outs taken from one context to another. The collages repurpose unwanted paper, postcards, candy wrappers, and books; the original context of the fragments is lost, as they are inserted into a piece layered with higher sphere symbolic meanings.

Nadya Tjuška approaches each challenge as an opportunity to grow, or find creative initiatives to make our world more diverse and accepting. Positivity and humor motivate her to make the most of each day and value teamwork above all else, to create a safe space and kind community to work hard collectively towards a common goal. Tjuška's main areas of focus are script writing, directing and experimentation with different media.

Mother (short film)

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### **ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**

# Sethembile Msezane (South Africa)

ISIMO takes place against the backdrop of Hoerikwaggo, known as Table Mountain, in Cape Town, South Africa. An ancestral matriarchal figure feels and holds the pain of the living in her womb. She diagnoses our world as being ill, disconnected from nature, and in need of healing.

Using interdisciplinary practice encompassing performance, photography, film, sculpture and drawing, Msezane creates commanding works with deep spiritual and political symbolism. The artist explores spirituality, commemoration, and African knowledge systems. She uses her dreams as a medium through a lens of the plurality of existence across space and time, asking questions about ancestry. Part of her work has examined the processes of mythmaking used to construct history, calling attention to the absence of the black female body in the narratives and physical spaces of historical commemoration.

ISIMO (short film)



# Nikki Dodd and Luz Guel (HII NYC Fellows)

East Harlem, struggling to get access to healthy food due to the pandemic, formed community-based solutions. In efforts to address food scarcity by rescuing food waste from local restaurants and bringing it to the free fridge, the Barrio Fridge was born. Community fridges (also known as free fridges or friendly fridges) are refrigerators sitting on sidewalks, providing free food to anyone in need. In a city where one in every four New Yorkers is food insecure, community fridges are a fundamental example of mutual aid and neighbors helping neighbors.

This documentary focuses on celebrating organizers leading the community fridge movement. Co-directors Nikki Dodd and Luz Guel collaborated with the Barrio Fridgeto create this documentary.

The Barrio Fridge (short film)







# EXPLORING LOCAL SOLUTIONS WITH DIVERSE AUDIENCES

In 2021 our Salons had:



3,041+
Participants



Hours of inspiring conversation ranging from youth activism to ensuring equity in our communities



Online multimedia events



Engaged community leaders from Pittsburgh to Cape Town



### Our Salons are unparalleled events bringing together unlikely allies to communicate tough topics in creative and engaging ways.

Working with local partners, we connect creative visionaries with community leaders, environmental experts, and activists to highlight pressing environmental and social issues. They invite you to investigate a local view on global issues, while participating in conversation, live performance, action, and multimedia entertainment.

Since 2010, HII has brought our innovative and multidisciplinary community conversations to major cities across the world. From Houston to Miami and from Berlin to Marseille, our salons connect local issues to climate change and collective action.

In 2021, we directly responded to the ongoing global pandemic by transforming our Salons into virtual events welcoming audiences from around the world

They took the form of virtual **Arts and Action Chats** where our Creative Climate Awards artists. and Urban Environmental Health Lab fellows discussed their art, activism, and how creativity is central to inspiring action and social change.

We also hosted special conversations with our Urban Environmental Health Fellows around connections between our health and climate justices, as well as a three-part series on the concept of a "Just Transition" with diverse leaders from Pittsburgh, PA and like-minded counterparts across Germany.

Continuing to host our Salons on virtual platforms allowed us to expand the voices included in these important conversations, while also engaging global audiences and increasing our overall audience

### Sponsors and partners



Pitt Sustainability





Pittsburgh, PA is a hub for technology, manufacturing, healthcare, and education, and is at the intersection of conservative and progressive America. "Stories of a Just Transition Pittsburgh," shares on-the-ground examples of how community members are addressing the needs for an equitable shift to safe and healthy jobs, community preparedness, and sustainable infrastructure.

"By focusing on the idea of Just Transition, we are highlighting the need for a major shift from practices and industries that harm our communities and our environment, while also acknowledging that too many are being left behind by these changes--including those who have cultural, economic, and personal ties to polluting industries," said Tara DePorte, executive director and founder, Human Impacts Institute. "We're showcasing leadership that is more reflective of these communities, and we hope to create more space for a diverse climate movement on a local level, with avenues for greater buy-in to muchneeded climate solutions."



### **Press Excerpt:**

Social Impact Heroes: Why & How Tara DePorte of 'Human Impacts Institute' Is Helping To Change Our Planet

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### **ARTS & ACTION CHAT HIGHLIGHT**

### HII at COP26 in Glasgow, **United Kingdom**

In 2021, HII sponsored a delegation of eight young people from Turkey, Germany, and the U.S. to the United Nations climate negotiations in Glasgow, Scotland.

These youth were all members of the HII Crew, including Youth Advisors and Interns, who worked with staff to bring voices of indigenous youth and women leadership to international delegates through our Climate Crossroads exhibit and also led many high-level and community dialogues throughout the UN conference, including:





# The Voices of Four Young Activists – Listening to Grief and Courage

Young people will have the burden of the climate crisis. Their future is questionable. Will it be filled with famine and chaos, death, and destruction? Or will humanity rise to the occasion, become less materialistic and more collaborative, less self-centered and more altruistic? In partnership with Facing Future TV, we brought three youth voices to this important UN press conference to share perspectives on loss, leadership, and accountability.

"The apocalypse I have been mentally nerving myself for is here, but I'm not ready to live it. None of us are.... I get shaken to my core: record heat waves, historic flooding, massive wildfires, deaths, war, hatred, suffering....it's like a never-ending nightmare. I'm in constant emotional exhaustion.

I don't know how to stay hopeful when the world is collapsing before my eyes at this accelerating pace....the wiser voice in me nudges: Come on Ecem, you know despair won't help. Creating the world you want to live in — it's going to be a long fight, but we can do hard things."

- Ecem Albayrek, Intern, Human Impacts Institute

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### Listening to the call of Mother Earth: Voices of governments, indigenous peoples, women and youth

We partnered with the Bolivian government to host an official UNFCCC COP26 event focused on the voices of governments, indigenous peoples, women, and youth. Our Environmental Community Coordinator presented a personal **statemen**t as we brought four indigenous young people to the conversation with highlevel delegates.

"There is no debate on human lives and history. There is no debate on the hurt, the grief and the immense loss that my people have suffered. There is no debate on what's right and wrong because colonialist and capitalist morals are rooted in greed and corruption. There is no debate. There can only be: What do we do now?"

- GiGi Buddie, Tongva Indian and Mescalero Apache artist and Environmental Community Coordinator, Human Impacts Institute





# ARTS & ACTION CHAT HIGHLIGHT

# <u>Inequality of Air</u>: Poetry & Activism

Our Impact Fellows Thomas Fucaloro and Kimberly Tyre curated and hosted a virtual salon, where NYC poets-from Staten Island to the Bronx- used their poetry to bridge the gaps between health, justice, and community.

"The mural remembers the decades of rampant coughing children through the streets of Los Sures. Who wondered if the air they were breathing was even air. Who wondered where all the stench of smoke would come from next....The mural remembers the decades of midnight ambulances hurtling towards the monolith of Woodhull Hospital....The mural remembers and screams a solution: A community engaged in more than spirit. our cultura together in a politics that rages for our value as people in need of clean air, of health care, of justice."

- Isa Guzman, 'Living with Asthma, 1999'

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## **Securing Equity in Our Communities**

How do we rebuild from the global pandemic in an equitable way? Pittsburgh, PA is a city known as one of the centers of U.S. manufacturing and one that is at the intersection of conservative and progressive America. "Stories of a Just Transition Pittsburgh", shares on-the-ground examples of how community members are addressing the needs for an equitable shift to safe and healthy jobs, community preparedness, and sustainable infrastructure

"Equity is being able to have options. Equity is being able to say 'no, I don't have to just sit at this table.' I can go to the Black Environmental Collective and they're making their own table and black and brown folks are creating their own agendas. And they have the choice and the opportunity to do that.

Equity is about choices and the opportunity to choose a system other than the one that doesn't really work for us anyway."

- Alyssa Lyon, the Director of the Black Environmental Collective at UrbanKind



The Human Impacts Institute's Stories of a Just Transition project focuses on how we rebuild from the global pandemic, particularly in addressing the needs for a just transition to healthy and safe jobs, increased community resilience and security, and sustainable infrastructure in urban centers that have a history in polluting industries.

This conversation was moderated by HII's Executive Director, **Tara DePorte**, and included community leaders:

Danielle Obisie-Orlu, Commissioned Poet
Shawn Dalton, Community Volunteer
Lois Bower Bjornson, Southwestern
Pennsylvania field organizer, Clean Air Council
David Heayn-Menendez, Executive Director,
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light

**Alyssa Lyon**, Director, Black Environmental Collective, UrbanKind

**Timon Wehnert**, Head Berlin Office and Co-Head of Research Unit International Energy Transitions, Division Future Energy and Industry Systems, Wuppertal Institut (Germany)

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# AMPLIFYING EXTRAORDINARY VOICES OF LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

### In 2021 our Human Impact Stories saw:



Exhibitions in New York, PIttsburgh and Glasgow streets and galleries



**Audience members** 



Large-scale storytelling exhibits, including by Global South indigenous youth and women climate leaders



Hours of creative climate leadership stories





This program takes on the seeming enormity of global climate change by putting the people who are taking steps towards a solution at the center of the conversation. Focusing on a problem can make people feel powerless, but centering on solutions creates empowerment. This program highlights individuals who are solution-oriented and forward thinking as examples of how people can meet the challenges of climate change. These stories inspire audiences to explore the consequences of their actions, think critically about pressing issues, and make the environment personal.

Since 2010, HII has brought our innovative and multidisciplinary community conversations to major cities across the world. From Houston to Miami and from Berlin to Marseille, our Salons connect local issues to climate change and collective action. Our speakers have ranged from youth activists to global leaders, coming together to share knowledge and inspire us to do more.

Art makes climate change on the climate crisis personal. It's not just this big green unattainable topic or an environmental topic or all about science; it's also about the people. So bringing a personal story of someone affected by the climate crisis and other individual inequalities and injustice that come with the crisis can inspire activism and bring awareness to this issue. I think [art is] powerful because to some, it's easier to relate to than the big science theme at COP26."

-Leonie Hüppe, Global Leadership Intern, Human Impacts Institute

"[Climate crisis] urgency is conveyed in the words of the indigenous folks that we interviewed. It's what they wanted to bring to COP and have other people see. Plus, art and activism must go hand in hand; the art that we are bringing is highlighting the vision/activism of people in various communities so much so that even if they can't be here, other people can see their goals, ideas, and actions to know more about their lives and conditions."

-Delaney Accomando, Program Coordinator, Human Impacts Institute



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### The Climate Crossroads >

The Climate Crossroads series of Human Impact Stories sheds light on the lives and work of 10 inspiring Indigenous climate leaders from the Global South who are championing local solutions in the face of the climate crisis. These incredible individuals have shared stories from their communities, knowledge from their ancestors, and a glimpse into their lives as climate activists, women's rights advocates, and Indigenous caretakers of the land. Our large-scale exhibit included 10 commissioned original portraits, by Indigenous artists from around the world, as well as interviews, powerful quotes, and a film showcasing the stories and demands of our 10 climate leaders. Our climate leaders were nominated by First Nations peoples and selected by a panel of Indigenous community members.

### Sponsors and partners









During the first week of the UNFCCC COP26 climate negotiations, our multimedia exhibit premiered at the Glasgow Center for Contemporary Arts and then traveled to the streets of Glasgow in a space outside the main entrance to COP26.

For those not in Glasgow, we developed a virtual exhibit for the COP26 virtual platform, accessed by a diverse audience.



#### The Just Transition

The Just Transition series of Human Impact Stories sheds light on the lives and work of 11 inspiring climate leaders in the Pittsburgh, PA area, who are defining and building a "Just Transition." Leaders included youth activists, multifaith leaders, community organizers, technologists, policymakers, and others leading the shift away from polluting practices and industries. The series also shines a light on the fact that some members of our communities are being left behind by these changes--including those with cultural, economic, and personal ties to business as usual. By showcasing leadership t more reflective of these communities, we aim to create more space for a diverse, local climate movement and avenues for greater buy-in to much-needed climate solutions.

Our large-scale exhibit shared local actions, demands, and longform interviews of local climate leaders for the surrounding community. All commissioned portraits were done by local artist Abby Winkler.



The exhibit was exhibited for three months in the empty storefronts of The Terminal, a high-traffic, former industrial zone of the Strip District of Pittsburgh.

#### Sponsors and partners

Pitt Sustainability



THE TERMINAL



Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany



### **New York Lawyers for Public Interest**

We partnered with New York Lawyers for Public Interest to develop a visual Impact Stories series around their work addressing NYC-based justice issues, including immigration and disability rights, environmental health, and over-policing.

The commissioned exhibit used storytelling to share the work of the high-impact, local organization and their impact with New Yorkers.

All illustrations were done by Bolanle Adeboye, a visual artist and musician from Lagos, Nigeria, who lives in Charlottesville, VA, with content curated by the HII Crew.





## FEATURED STORY LEANDRA MIRA

#### Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

"For my generation, what moves us to act are those primal feelings of anger, fear, frustration, and anxiety because a large portion of our lives we've been watching the news and seeing this crisis happening and nothing being done for it. We have the ability right here to build something really beautiful and powerful and no one can stop us from doing that."

- Leandra Mira, youth activist

Leandra Mira has mobilized hundreds of people for climate strikes in the City of Pittsburgh, and currently works to uplift the stories of the people in her region through her Web-Series "Heating Up" and her work with building community gardens around the city.

#### **LEANDRA'S ASK**

Find out what environmental, social, and economic issues are affecting your community and brainstorm how to fix them. If you're passionate about it, then go for it and organize or mobilize.

### **FEATURED STORY** ▶ WATATAKALU **YAWALAPITI**

#### Yawalapiti Peoples, Xingu **Indigenous Territory, Brazil**

"When I kept seeing people speaking for us and telling us how we are, it was really the moment I thought about what women must become. We had to break the silence and raise our voices. because the future is ours. Women are everything."

- Watatakalu Yawalapiti, Founder, Xingu Women's Movement

Watatakalu Yawalapiti is an Indigenous climate activist from the Yawalapiti community of Brazil. As founder of the Xingu Women's Movement, she seeks to unite Indigenous women fighting for emancipation and participation in political decisions, both inside and outside their villages.



#### **WATATAKALU'S ASK**

I wish people would stop looking at Indigenous peoples as backwards. These people think that only indigenous have to defend our forests and rivers, but all of us need to be doing this work because there is no other home for us; There's only this one and if we don't take care of her, she will be gone.



### **FEATURED STORY** ▶ **GINA WINSTEAD**

#### Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, **USA**

"Equity initiatives that are intended to help the most underrepresented, most desperate, most under-resourced of us, will also contribute to the continued advancement for the majority of us. This is a continuous initiative to bring everybody up together."

- Gina Winstead, Vice President of WITPGH

Gina Winstead is the Vice President of Women in Tech PGH (WITPGH). She advocates for diversity, equity and inclusion in the business and tech sector, while also creating many local leadership and community development opportunities as the Assistant Vice President of Vibrant Pittsburgh.

#### **GINA'S ASK**

Challenge yourself to think outside of your circles. Connect to people that don't look like you and don't think like you. Get out there and make new friends. Because there's something we can all learn from one another.

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### **FEATURED STORY** ▶ **KYNAN TEGAR**

#### Dayak Iban Tribe, Sungai Utik, Indonesia

"We're not demanding our rights, we are taking back what was rightfully ours. I want my films to make people understand the importance of this. The importance of Indigenous people not only for fighting climate change, but for our very rights as human beings."

-Kynan Tegar, 16-year old community activist

Kynan Tegar is a 16-year-old community activist who, through films, tells the story of his Indigenous community to the world. Since finishing formal primary school, he has since pursued his passion for photography, videography, nature, and learning as he explores the in-depth culture of the Iban people. He aims to share their ancestral knowledge, and share the stories of his community who fiercely defend their land from illegal logging.



#### **KYNAN'S ASK**

We've always thought really far ahead whenever we make decisions and more people should really take that into account. We need to think more about future generations and how Indigenous peoples' rights need to be recognized to ensure a much more sustainable future.







# DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS & TOOLS FOR RESILIENCE

#### In 2021 our Workshops saw:



60

Diverse in-person and virtual workshops covering topics from social justice to youth engagement and from green jobs to international policy



2,500

People of all ages engaged



Hours of educational programming



#### Our workshops develop leadership skills while learning to give back to the planet and community.

We offer virtual and in-person year-round leadership trainings that combine mentorship, knowledge-sharing, and hands-on learning. These experiences teach people of all ages about local social and environmental justice issues, activism strategies, creative climate communications, and community engagement tools.

Our 2021 workshops were diverse and far reaching, including open-to-the-public, virtual workshops that shared insights on the United Nations Climate Negotiations (COP26) and examples of leadership in local communities. We also had targeted workshops for select audiences, including our six-month long, weekly workshops through our Urban Environmental Health Lab

Program (UEHL), which focused on increasing collaboration between NYC-based health specialists and local artists.

Additionally, our Executive Director was a special guest at IMéRA, an Institute for Advanced Studies in Marseille, France, where she developed and led multiple in-person amongst community leaders, graduate students and international researchers around the topics of climate communications and community engagement.

We were also honored to receive funding and partner with the largest PBS station in the United States, WNET, to develop and participate in a three-part series of PBS American Portrait. Our Executive Director participated in a nationally-broadcasted conversation on community resiliency and the role of the arts and two of our Impact Artist Fellows were selected to share their stories of community engagement and activism.

#### **Sponsors and Partners**



**Department of** Environmental

















As a part of WNET's special series produced in conjunction with the PBS' American Portrait project, our Founder, Tara DePorte, shared thoughts on resiliency in our communities, the role artists have to play in social change, and how we need to address underlying systematic inequities in order to address the climate crisis.

"We need to think creatively about how we are going to recover. We need to think deeply and creatively on the inequitably risks that our communities are facing... we absolutely need to think of new systems and new ways to innovate in our communities. And what better people to bring us together for those conversations than our artists, then our creatives, then our minds that think outside of the box...We pair them with the experts so we have a combination of this depth of knowledge, with the people that can help us say "Imagine If"....."



#### **Press Excerpt:**

Tara DePorte, Founder and Executive Director, HII from Resiliency in Our Communities, PBS American Portrait



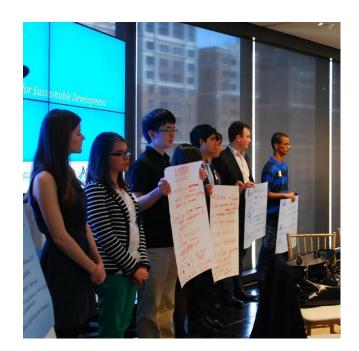
#### **SPOTLIGHT**

## CROSS-CULTURAL COLLABORATION - A YOUTH CONVERSATION

## New College Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Scotland

Our youth delegation to the COP26 climate negotiation consisted of young adults from San Francisco to Istanbul. While in Glasgow, Scotland, for the negotiations, we collaborated with students from New College Lanarkshire, a college that predominantly serves first-generation college goers. HII engaged in this partnership to address how local communities feel disconnected from locally-hosted, international conferences.

While speaking with these students, Buddie was struck by how, halfway across the world, youth seemed to be having similar conversations as those students hold in Claremont [California]. Youth globally are faced with the same future in the climate crisis, Buddie added, especially those from marginalized backgrounds.



I have a lot of hope for youth and the work that they're doing, and how loud they're yelling. And it's not gonna stop, I don't think it's ever gonna stop. They're fighting for their survival... they're fighting for their kids not yet born. They're fighting for their voices."

GiGi Buddie, Global Leadership Intern, Human Impacts Institute in and interview with The Student Life

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## **SPOTLIGHT** STORYTELLING FOR **IMPACT**

#### A partnership with The Moth, NYC, USA

We conducted workshops for our Urban Environmental Health Lab fellows (a combination of artists and health experts from NYC). In partnership with *The Moth*, this included 12 hours of intensive storytelling training and a community showcase event. During these workshops, our fellows learned from top writers, radio hosts, and editors, how to refine, define, and build effective stories. During the invitationonly community showcase, our fellows shared stories of love, loss, and inspiration in deeply engaging ways.





#### **SPOTLIGHT**

## HII Around the World, A series of workshops with IMéRA

#### Marseille, France

As a special guest of IMéRA, the Institute for Advanced Studies at Aix-Marseille University, our Executive Director, Tara DePorte, was repeatedly invited as a guest lecturer by residents, staff, partner organizations, and institutions. Her presentations and workshops ran the gamut of topics, including:

- Disrupting Institutions A meeting of experts in collaboration with IMéRA, MUCEM, Amsterdam Museum, Cornell University, and the University of Maastricht
- Understanding Cop26 A guest lecture for master's degree students in international relations at the University of Sevilla
- Exploring Climate Communications A oneday intensive workshop for PhD students in the sciences with Aix-Marseille University and CLIMAST Erasmus

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# SUPPORTING INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTION THROUGH CO-CREATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

#### In 2021 our Fellowships saw:



Fellows hosted in Pittsburgh and NYC

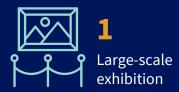
100+

Hours of training and co-created workshops



10 Community projects

Community projects





Our fellowships support artists, researchers, and community leaders in connecting more people to meaningful climate actions. Through intensive, interdisciplinary co-creation, our fellows share their expertise with other community members near and far, while developing new tools for increased engagement and impact.

In 2021, we hosted 22 fellows in both Pittsburgh and NYC. From professional dancers to energy consultants to community activists, our fellows participated in hundreds of hours of training and co-created workshops, resulting in 10 community projects and one large-scale exhibit. Additionally, our Executive Director was invited for a second time as a guest researcher and artist to the IMéRA Institute for Advanced Studies in Marseille, France, where she continued to expand our work and impact internationally.

We were proud to secure sufficient funding to pay our fellows for their time and their community-based projects.

Since 2017, we have hosted 65 fellows from around the world to deepen their impact by building their interdisciplinary knowledge and reach. Our fellows have participated in thousands of hours of workshops, leadership development, and public-engagement programs. They range from performance artists to technologists to health experts; they have produced films, murals, public exhibits, virtual reality experiences, and more.



Welcome Home" was produced by an unlikely pairing. Kelly Todd is a performance artist and filmmaker, and Zyaijah Bailey is an energy-efficiency coordinator for New York City's Accelerator Program, which provides guidance to New Yorkers hoping to reduce their carbon footprint. Todd and Bailey met through Human Impacts Institute's Environmental Health Fellowship, which pairs environmental specialists and essential workers with artists.

At the crossroads of public health, environmentalism, and social justice, the film is largely inspired by Bailey's work. "I've witnessed first-hand how the natural and built environment can negatively impact people's lives," she told The Village Sun. In her previous job as an environmental consultant, Bailey witnessed the disparity between how landlords treat their tenants who pay higher and lower rents."



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In 2021, we hosted three types of paid fellowships, including two as a part of our Urban Environmental Health Lab (UEHL), a NYC-based community hub for health experts and local artists to collaborate on public-engagement projects. We also hosted two community fellows in Pittsburgh, PA, who served as community liaisons for our Just Transitions Impact Stories program. Our fellowships included:

#### Community Impact Fellows (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Our two Community Impact Fellows represented local leadership from grassroots coalition building and private sector expertise. Bringing very diverse experiences of the local communities that are Pittsburgh, our two fellows worked with us for six months to support our Stories of a Just Transition project and build community around climate action.

#### Impact Artist Fellows (NYC, USA)

We worked for three months with 10 NYC-based artists paired with our NYC Health Fellows to develop public works around environmental health and climate justice in NYC.

These NYC health and art fellows were brought together to build resilience to environmental health threats and creatively connect communities to equitable pollution prevention tools. The artistic outputs of the pairings included short films about inequality in our everyday lives and community fridges, a photo exhibit of maternal health concerns in women of color in NYC, and a renegade pop-up of stickers around Brooklyn about compost education.

#### **NYC Health Fellows (NYC, USA)**

We worked for six months with our 10 NYC environmental health fellows, meeting for over 40 hours of training, collaboration, and sharing.

#### **Sponsors and Partners**



**Department of** Environmental Conservation



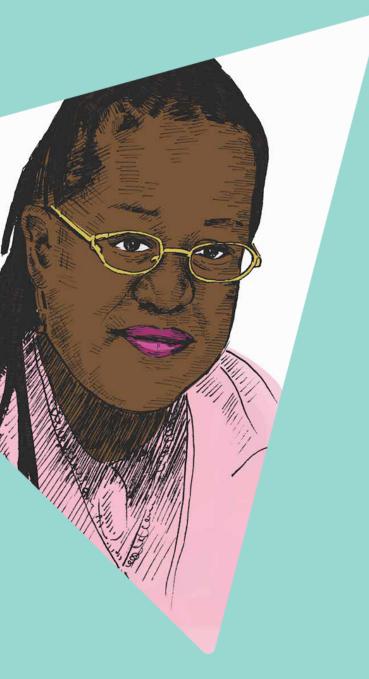




**URBAN SYSTEMS LAB** 







## FEATURED FELLOW > SHAWN DALTON

#### **Community Impact Fellow**

There's nothing better than receiving recognition that what you're doing is helping someone else and that you're being respected for it.

Everybody is going to have to step up. We're all going to have to get uncomfortable because we have to make a decision: Are we going to do what it takes to win this battle? Not doing it—that's not really an option."

Shawn Dalton is a retired accountant who volunteers her time for many projects to support her community in issues of social and environmental justice and equity, using her own powers to improve the lives of others.

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## FEATURED FELLOW **KATHERINE PATIÑO MIRANDA**

#### **Impact Artist Fellow**

For her fellowship, Katherine worked with two other HII Fellows, Candace Thompson and Cody Herrmann, to develop No Plan Is an Island, a multi-location sound piece designed to be listened to in one of three sites across NYC with which the artist/creators have an ongoing practice: Manhattan's Stuyvesant Cove Park, Oueen's Flushing Creek, and the Swale Food Forest and Urban Soils Institute on Governors Island. Playing with non-human perspectives on over-developed land, rising tidewaters, and traditional multi-species agroecology, the piece challenges green gentrification schemes and offers alternative perspectives for a species on the brink of extinction.



Katherine Patiño Miranda is a Brooklyn-based artist from Cali, Colombia working at the intersection of performance, installation, painting, pedagogy, and video. Her works, which she calls practices, are time meditations in the process of transformation dealing with cycles of life and decay and the interdependent relationships between the human and nonhuman. She was the recipient of Creative Climate Awards by the Human Impacts Institute in 2020 and the merit art award at the III Biennale, DESDE AQUÍ, in Bucaramanga, Colombia, in 2015.



## FEATURED FELLOW > JALISA GILMORE

#### **NYC Health Fellow**

Jalisa Gilmore, Manager of Equity and Resilience Programs at Groundwork USA, supports the implementation of equity-centered strategies for addressing legacies of injustice and creates green, healthy neighborhood environments in communities across the nation.

Before joining Groundwork USA, Jalisa worked for the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance, a non-profit city-wide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. Her work primarily focused on understanding the impacts of climate change in frontline communities and uplifting community-led solutions, as well as leading and supporting community-based participatory research in NYC's environmental justice communities.

Jalisa holds a BS in environmental sciences from SUNY Albany and an MPH in environmental health sciences from Columbia University, specializing in the human health impacts of climate change.

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### **SPOTLIGHT** IMÉRA – EARTH

**Creating science-based,** cultural 'tipping points' to address the climate crisis (Marseille, France)

As an Art, Science, and Society Fellow at IMéRA from September-January of 2021, my goals were to take the time to explore the efficacy of culture-based communications in creating tipping points for climate action in urban communities. I had originally planned to bring the Creative Climate Awards (CCA) - an annual festival of climate arts-science installations and talks - to Marseille. During my five months as a fellow, in addition to bringing the CCA to the city, I was able to build profound connections with local activists, scientists, researchers, and artists and to both create and research larger projects.

The five months allowed me to launch a regional, interdisciplinary working group of climate experts and creatives collaborating to experiment with public engagement in the city and beyond; bring together IMéRA residents to showcase how storytelling and arts can impact public engagement across disciplines; develop a pilot Creative Climate Communications Lab that will serve to activate the IMéRA campus for years to come, as a place where the arts and sciences intersect; finalize an international exhibit on indigenous climate leadership for the COP26 climate negotiations; as well as take part in numerous workshops, talks, and lectures with

Tara DePorte, Founder and Executive Director, Human Impacts Institute, reflecting on her fellowship at IMéRA

partner organizations and researchers."



## THE PEOPLE **OF HII**

We are creatives, educators, activists, and diverse experts committed to promoting action-oriented, innovative approaches to social and environmental change.













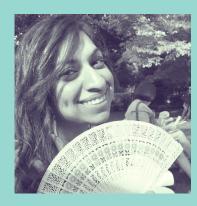


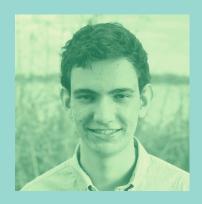






















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#### **Board Members**

#### **Chigusa Hara**

Board Member - Morgan Stanley, Managing Director

#### **Julien Saur**

Board Member - Boston Consulting Group, Partner

#### Lisa Jaycox

Board Secretary - Trinity Wall Street - Director of Content Strategy

#### Chiara Jovanovic

Board Member - New Playbook - Founder and CEO

#### Sarangi Iyengar

Board President - Deutsche Bank - Vice President

#### **Doug Semmes**

Board Vice President - Drum Roll Composter - Founder

#### Tara DePorte

Board Member - Human Impacts Institute - Founder and ED

#### **William Moretti**

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#### **Alison Ng**

Board Member - Hello Elephant - Director of Delivery

#### **George Wukoson**

Board Member - Everyday Health Group - General Counsel

#### Lauren Beebe

Board Member - Like a Local Tours - Founder and CEO

#### **Kathy Battacharia**

Board Member - 1-800-Flowers - Vice President, Enterprise **Growth Operations** 

#### Melissa Villain

Board Member - Huntington National Bank - Managing Director

#### **Lindsay Sword**

Board Member - Tommy Hilfiger - Vice President, Merchandising



I have been motivated by environmental causes throughout my life. I have taken actions such as maintaining a vermicompost bin, optimizing energy efficiency, or sourcing and using biodiesel for transportation. I have provided hundreds of thousands of people with an option to take their own personal contribution to help the environment through their household decisions, which I hope leads to many other actions. I am inspired by HII's programs and potential to spread a positive sense of environmental consciousness, in particular through internships, the Ecopreneurs initiative, and other small-business campaigns."

## **SPOTLIGHT** DOUG SEMMES

## Board Member - Drum Roll Composter, Founder

Doug's career started with a decade in sports marketing in Europe. When world events led him to focus on energy topics, he relocated to Texas and dedicated himself to sustainable development and renewable energy. He joined Green Mountain Energy and built diverse sales channels throughout the state until being asked to establish a foothold in the Northeast. In 2010, he opened the company's New York office and launched a grassroots campaign with more than 100 staff driving awareness of renewable energy and consumer choice.

His efforts expanded to encompass new markets in Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania while activating relationships with major retailers and five NFL teams. In addition to generating demand for renewable energy, customers acquired by Doug and his teams have helped fund solar donations to a variety of noteworthy nonprofits, with more installations planned. He is a LEED-accredited professional and member of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Doug lives in New York City with his wife and twin son and daughter.

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#### **Advisory Council**

#### **Geovaira Hernandez**

PUSH Buffalo + NY Renews, Climate Justice Community Organizer

#### Paula Alvarado

The Tenure Facility, Chief Strategic Communications and Outreach Officer

#### **Chris Kennedy**

Urban Systems Lab, New School, Assistant Director

#### **Lemon Guo**

Musician and Interdisciplinary Artist

#### Eric Cade Schoenborn

Virginia Tech - Artist, Organizer

#### **Melanie Griffin**

Open Space Institute - Grants Coordinator

#### Hervé Levite

UN Food and Agriculture Organization - Climate Change Officer

#### Peter Oesterle

Duke University - MBA Candidate

#### Nam Le

Pollinate Art - Founder & CFO

#### Susan Lee

C9P - Founder

#### **David Rubin**

Fox Hill Editorial & University of Virginia - Principal, **Professor Emeritus** 

#### **Renae Slaughter**

Valmont Industries - Manager, Leadership Development

#### **Brian Tate**

Tate Strategy - Founder and President

#### **Betsy Ukeritis**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Inter-regional Environmental Educator



## **SPOTLIGHT**

#### Nam Le

## Pollinate Art, Founder and CEO

Nam is the Founder & CEO at Pollinate, a community-driven media and tech platform building tools to bring people closer to local artists and art experiences. He has been in the tech and startup ecosystem for six years and was previously at Human Ventures, a venture studio that builds and invests in model businesses with ambitious founders who are innovating around human needs.

In his free time, Nam enjoys going to live music shows, playing guitar, and exploring the cultural offerings of NYC through art and food.

I'm passionate about building communities with purpose and taking a collective approach to solving the world's biggest issues. I strongly believe in the power of art and creativity to inspire action for social good."

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#### **Youth Advisory Council**

#### **Ajani Stella**

Kids Fight Climate Change

#### **Mia Reyes**

Haverford College

#### **Lilly Faith-Goldfine**

Leman Manhattan Prep

#### Ian Babler-Madrid

Winter Park High School

#### **Meera Dasgupta**

Stuyvesant HS, U.S. Youth Poet Laureate, UN Global Goals Ambassador

#### Tyra M. Gravesande

Spelman College

#### **August Tshegofatso Modiga**

**Drexel University** 

#### Hannah Ebba

Brookwood High School

#### Lina Olazabal

Lawrenceville School

#### Kiran Kadiyala

Pine View School for the Gifted

#### Interns

#### Olivia Zukowski

NGO Management Intern, University of Miami

#### **Jamie Epstein**

Creative Design Intern, New York University

#### **Sophie Harris**

Environmental Education Intern, Columbia University

#### **Katina Pennington**

Creative Design Intern, New York University

#### **Leonie Hüppe**

Environmental Education Intern, Bennington College

#### GiGi Buddie

Global Leadership Intern, Pomona College

#### **Delaney Accomando**

Environmental Education Intern, University of Maryland

#### **Ecem Albayrak**

Creative Design Intern, Turkish-German University



## SPOTLIGHT AUGUST TSHEGOFATSO MODIGA

#### **Drexel University**

I am both enraged and passionate about climate change because I believe that science deserves a prominent place in political spaces, and I want to be the driver of that message. I joined HII because I want to be a part of a diverse community working collaboratively and innovatively to tackle the most important environmental concerns of our lifetime."

Originally from South Africa, August is an undergraduate honors student with an interdisciplinary major in economics, political science, philosophy and pre-law at Drexel University. She is an emerging global leader and presidential aspirant for the Republic of South Africa.

August is currently the Executive Producer and Host of Global Affairs TV & Podcast, a weekly TV and podcast show that dissects controversial issues around social justice, current affairs, and leadership. She organizes speakers to debate on political, philosophical, and social justice related issues around current affairs.

She has been a youth representative to the United Nations and speaker at the 57th Commission of Social Development.

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### **SPOTLIGHT LEONIE HÜPPE**

#### **Environmental Education** Intern, Bennington College

Leonie is a student at Bennington College, studying anthropology and environmental studies with a focus on public action. She volunteered with Red Cross Germany in refugee camps, interned in a cultural center in Hamburg, and worked on several farms in Germany and the United States.

Her interest lies in the intersection of the natural environment and human societies. She is exploring alternative food systems, environmental justice, and regenerative cultures. She hopes to explore these topics and their implementation into communities through working with HII.

Leonie enjoys reading, hiking, cooking, and gardening. She is currently WWOOFing in Long Island, volunteering with Island Harvest Farm & Food Bank.



#### Human **Impacts Institute** Crew

#### Tara DePorte

Founder and Executive Director

#### **Virgina Jans**

Chief of Staff

#### Marisa Valdez

Program Manager



Throughout my life I was taught to respect nature, help your neighbor, and care for your family. We as individuals can make a difference, no matter how big or small."

## CREW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ► VIRGINIA JANS

#### **Chief of Staff**

Virginia is an independent contractor and passionate organizer focused on achieving operational cohesiveness.

With over 20 years' experience, she brings a wide variety of knowledge in operations, administration, and management to her role. Her education began in college with administration, economics and accounting, and she continues to improve her tech skills.

Currently living as an expatriate, she is experiencing a unique way of life and learning about cultural differences. She loves traveling, cooking, reading, and music.

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## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS







**URBAN SYSTEMS LAB** 



THE TERMINAL





















Pitt Sustainability







#### >25K

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Melissa Villain • Sarangi Iyengar • Deutsche Bank • William Moretti • Doug Semmes • Chiara Jovanovic
Chigusa Hara • Alison Ng • George Wukoson • Julien Saur • Kathy Battacharia
Lauren Beebe • Lindsay Sword

#### <1k

Susan Lee • David Rubin • Patagonia • Yumiko USA • Veronique Pittman • Amazon Smile
Alessandro Valleta • Victoria Street • Paypal Giving • Daniel Spoeck • Eliza Evans • Ian Hardemon
Nico Luna Paz • Saradiane Mosko





## IMPACT THROUGH ADVERSITY

## 2021 continued to be a challenge with the ongoing Covid pandemic.

HII embraced this new online reality with the crew, board/advisory council and volunteers pulling together, forming a cohesive team and continuing to find new and improved program delivery and solid operations.

Even with the unprecedented challenges, it was business as usual, as we secured new grants while fulfilling obligations to in-progress grants. It was also a very successful year for our annual Creative Climate Awards. By adapting to using film, more suited for online presentation, we increased submissions and audience participation.



## 2021 INCOME EXPENDITURE



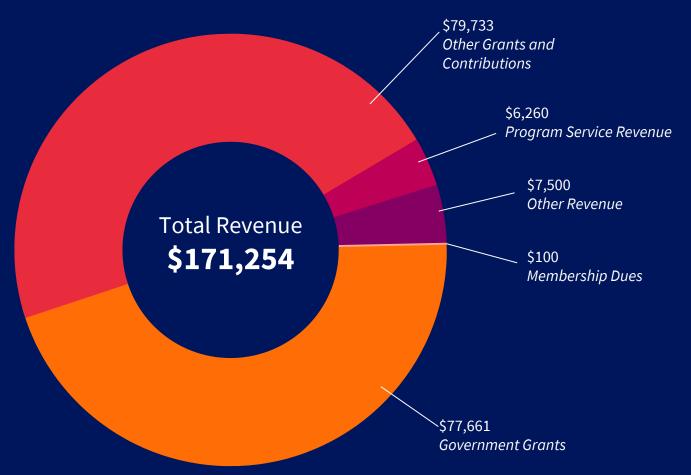


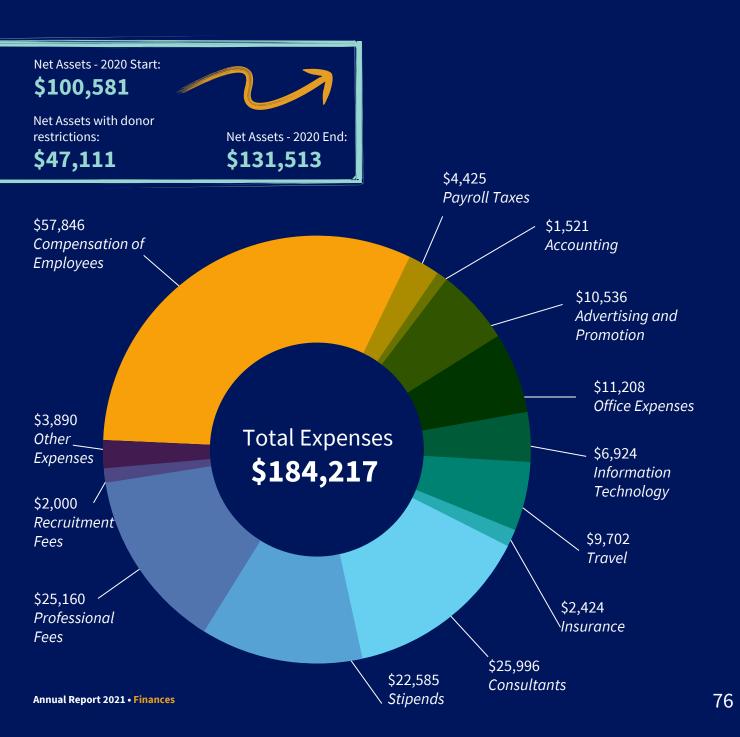


Net Income:

\$-12,963







The climate crisis is one of the biggest challenges we have ever faced as humanity. And it is our generation that will decide the fate of many to come. We can only rise to this challenge by addressing the root causes of the climate crisis and by doing it together through big and bold action. This is why we need to get creative on how we build our movement and create space for more people to join in meaningful and impactful ways."

- Tara DePorte, Founder and Executive Director Human Impacts Institute

