## HUMAN IMPACTS INSTITUTE

# SIMPACT SREPORT

2020. The Human Impacts Institute.

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

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Artwork used on front cover by Francesca Sigilli

Designed by Divya Venkatesh

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

In 2020 we saw:

231,637

Participants attended



Inspirational events



Educational hours

**14,115+** Website sessions





## Looking back on 2020, despite the unprecedented challenges for everyone on the planet, it has also been a time of revelations, reflection, and renewal.

Here at the Human Impacts Institute, we discovered new ways to continue to reach community members through diverse, virtual gatherings and by bringing our programs to the streets and to empty storefronts. We challenged ourselves to reflect more deeply upon our own organizational biases and our part in global systemic inequities through curated conversations led by BIPOC community leaders and advocates. And we continued to share leadership stories of underrepresented communities in the climate movement, bringing the voices of global frontline leaders to a yearlong, public exhibit in the streets of NYC.

We also worked with our staff, advisors, and board to strengthen our commitment to amplifying diverse leadership by expanding our youth-led Youth Advisory Council with an international call to action. And we renewed our commitment to centering social justice in our climate work by expanding our global network as members of the Rise to Resilience, Strike With Us, and Global Goals Week coalitions.



This year of reflection and renewal has strengthened our resolve to inspire climate action for a just and thriving world. Through the chaos and difficulties, we have built community and expanded our reach. We look forward to sharing this journey with you and inspiring you to reflect upon your Human Impacts with us!

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**





Hours of educational programming





Large-scale climate exhibitions held from Wall Street to the streets of Berlin



Artists showcased from 44 countries



## 17,000

Hours of environmental leadership training for young people around the world We are building a global cultural movement that's inspiring big, bold, and beautiful climate action. This is how we do it.



**Exhibits:** Celebrating creative approaches to communicating and engaging people in the future we want to build

**Storytelling:** Amplifying extraordinary voices of leadership and innovation through personal stories

**Education:** Developing leadership skills and tools for resiliency through hands-on learning, co-mentorship, and community service **Conversation**: Exploring local solutions with diverse audiences in inspiring settings

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.



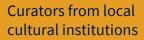
## CELEBRATING CREATIVE APPROACHES TO COMMUNICATING THE FUTURE WE WANT

## In 2020 our Creative Climate Awards saw:



NYC-based artists showcased





+ 30

Days of virtual and interactive experiences

**30,000+** Audience members participated



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 234 artists from 44 countries, and reached several hundred thousand audience members.

> TJoyce Hwang and Prathap Ramamurthy with City as Living Laboratory (CALL/WALK)

**9** Annual Report 2020 • Exhibition

It's not news to anyone that NYC was one of the epicenters of the virus, but one of the chief consequences of the lockdown was its impact on the arts. New York is a cultural capital of the world, a city that brings together an unparalleled, stunning array of performance, visual arts, museum curation and gallery spaces. Yet the city relies on public goodwill and private donors for its cultural programs. The arts are sorely underfunded by our federal government, which sets us apart from many other countries. When the doors of Lincoln Center closed, and when the Chelsea galleries were boarded up with plywood, it felt like the end. This fall, the city was reactivated. Tara and her team worked tirelessly to not only bring art installations to the streets of New York -- all five boroughs -- but streamed amazing amounts of virtual and digital content, from lectures and panels to interviews and conversations between artists, scientists and policymakers. "Critical engagement with the science, the data itself, was crucial for my artistic pursuit this year," Tara says. In this way, the work is not only beautiful, but truly impactful. "The work starts when we bring people together to face solutions head-on."



### **Press Excerpt:**

Changing the face of public art: Tara DePorte and the Creative Climate Awards •pollinate• The art scene in New York City was devastated by COVID-19, and in 2020, HII's 10th annual Creative Climate Awards program filled a huge gap and reinvigorated art and climate activism.

The interactive, month-long festival included in-person exhibits for pedestrians in four boroughs of NYC, virtual salons, social media takeovers, and artist talks led by our curators and artists.

#### **Melissa West**



*Vice President of Curation, Visual & Performing Arts, Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden* 

#### **Betty Yu**

Co-Founder, Chinatown Art Brigade

John Cloud Kaiser Education Director/Gallery Director, Materials for the Arts

**Arianna Reyes** *Guest Curator, Bronx Council on the Arts* 

**Amy Andrieux** Executive Director at MoCADA, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art

## **Sponsors and partners**









We collaborated with five select cultural organizations across the boroughs: Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art (MoCADA), Bronx Council on the Arts, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Materials for the Arts Chinatown, and Art Brigade.

# E PRICE OF CONVENIENCE

## CREATIVE CLIMATE AWARDS

Ten years of art inspiring climate action through art. SINCE 2011: 194 ARTISTS. 31 COUNTRIES.

The Human Impacts Institute's Creative Climate Awards are a month-long festival of art and ideas that connect us to climate action for a just and livable world. This year, we are showcasing 15 NYC artists who are inspiring you to take part.

Join us for an interactive experience.



HUMANIMPACTSINSTITUTE.ORG/CCA2020

Strates

Our 2020 CCAs featured window installations in previously empty storefronts across four NYC boroughs—from the 3rd Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) in the Bronx to Astoria, Queens and all the way to Midtown Manhattan and Downtown Brooklyn. Predominately featuring artists of color and many first-generation Americans, the festival showcased new, intersectional artwork with an audio tour and interactive map to encourage visitors to venture out to each borough to stimulate local businesses and jumpstart awareness of diversity, inequality, and community-based climate solutions.

## **ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**

## Siara Mencia

"Parchment paper was once considered a throwaway material, discerned as trash. Through material evolution, it has become an extravagant material with many uses. Singleuse plastic bags have become an everyday material with an indisputable contaminative effect on our environment. Accordingly, society's dependence on plastics must change."

Alluding to shifting social norms, Siara transforms parchment paper into single-use plastic bags, creating an ironic association between these materials.

Siara Mencia is a 32-year-old woman of color and a native of East Harlem, NYC. She is motivated by the belief that art can activate new relationships between its viewers, form communities, and challenge social conventions.

> The Price of Convenience Installation in empty storefront of former Barney's Department Store, Brooklyn, NYC 2020, Recycled Parchment Paper, Pigment, Resin, 120x144 x 96 inches

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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

## Run P.

"This instalment of the series entitled Running Out of Time (R.O.O.T.) is a collage of voices and visuals that shed light on our closing window of opportunity to come to terms with societal shortcomings concerning climate justice as well as its link to the plight of Black and Indigenous Americans. While discussions continue, members of our community are no longer waiting for conveyor belt solutions. We are taking matters into our own hands to heal the past and ensure our futures."

Run P. is a multi-hyphenated audiophile and DJ. Through his project "Righteous Jones." Run P. delivers a multi-sensory social justice concept mix series weaving radical music with thoughtprovoking audio from some of our most prolific voices. This series serves as a platform for the voiceless, while providing insight on societal shortcomings, especially injustices and inequality faced by people of color.

*Running Out of Time* (*R.O.O.T*). 2020, Video loop installation in empty storefront near City Hall, Brooklyn, NYC, 24:55min

## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

## **Tijay Mohammed**

"Integrating the concept of reuse, history, personal and community stories, this piece reimagines the idea of material recycling as a group portrait which collectively speaks to social and environmental justice.

See Something, Say Something was borrowed from a popular MTA announcement, "If you see something, say something" The question here is, does the world listen when we say what we see?"

Tijay Mohammed is a Ghanaian-born artist living in the Bronx, NYC. His works assemble discarded, day-to-day objects into group portraits that communicate the hopefulness in the remains of our lives that are often overlooked or no longer valuable. Inspired by Sankofa, an Adinkra symbol of West Africa, meaning "learning from the past for a prosperous future," Tijay's works address issues of migration, history, and gender equality.

> See Something, Say Something 2. 2020, Mixed media installation in empty storefront in the Bronx, NYC



© Nate and Hila

## EXPLORING LOCAL SOLUTIONS WITH DIVERSE AUDIENCES

## In 2020 our Salons saw:

A Bartio

**3,710+** Participants engaged with



**35** Hours of inspiring conversation



**11** Online multimedia events



Global audiences of all ages participated



## 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 2020, we directly responded to the ongoing global pandemic by transforming our Salons into virtual events, which welcomed audiences from around the world.

## **Sponsors and partners**







Our 2020 Salons took the form of virtual **Artivist with Me Talks**, weekly Sunday brunches, where our Creative Climate Artists discussed their art, activism, and how art can be used to inspire action and social change. Three artists pushing artistic boundaries spoke about their processes and their communities, as well as how they are combating the climate crisis. We also organized **Arts and Action Chats** to explore the intersection of the climate crisis with issues such as racial justice, gentrification, waste, and consumerism with leading NYC cultural institutions, policy-makers, artists, and activists. Further, we hosted two special conversations around social justice and environmentalism, including our **Decolonizing Food in America**, where we explored how food access is at the core of inequity, as well as our youth-led conversation about health, justice, and creative communities. Health and Justice for All invited NYC visionaries in policy, health, and education to explore how we can keep our families safe and healthy, while leading the way for an equitable and fair "new normal." Bringing our Salons to a virtual platform allowed us to expand the voices we included in these important conversations, but also to engage global audiences and increase our overall audience.

I believe we are all experts in our own experience and own life. Once we acknowledge that, we can listen for the expertise of others and see the leadership in people in a multitude of different ways and through different lived experiences. It might be the educator in me, but I see potential in every student and now every person. Not everyone is an expert in everything, everyone knows something true and unique. The best way to be a good leader is through being able to open your eyes to build up and draw out the leadership in others."



#### **Press Excerpt:**

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

AUTHORITY MAGAZINE





## ARTS & ACTION CHAT HIGHLIGHT

## The Other Side of the Sun: An Afrofuturist Approach to Climate Change

"It's really important for people to remember that environmental justice comes from a social movement in this country that had a foundation in lack liberation and the civil rights movement; it was justice for the protection of our water, our housing, our transportation, our energy, our food. These are communities at the frontline of injustice who have been leading the way in sustainability for generations."

- Dominique Drakeford on environmental racism

Our guest curator from The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art, Amy Andrieux, moderated this conversation that explored the sociopolitical impact of urban displacement, racism, consumerism, and climate change on Black and indigenous communities, and the conditions necessary to help achieve environmental equity. This talk featured mixed media artists Kimberly Becoat, Siara Mencia, and Run P., in community with Whitney McGuire and Dominique Drakeford of Sustainable Brooklyn.

## ARTS & ACTION CHAT HIGHLIGHT

## **Decolonizing Food in America**

"GATHER follows Native Americans on the frontlines of the growing movement to reconnect with spiritual and cultural identifies devastated by genocide. The film identifies the initial drive to establish the United States of America as a fight for land and resources - that Natives were only valuable in so much as they served the capitalist goals of the new democracy. Native Americans were eventually seen as an impediment to Manifest Destiny and the growth of the American economy. With the awareness Black Lives Matter has been raising, the timing of this new film could not be more critical."

- Sanjay Rawal, Director of GATHER

We hosted a conversation on food, history, and indigenous knowledge. In celebration of the Thanksgiving tradition in the U.S., we brought together a stellar panel of experts in native food systems, colonization, and in connecting to our culture(s) through the land and had a weeklong, free virtual screening of the film GATHER The Fight to Revitalize Native Food Ways.



The conversation was moderated by HII's Executive Director, Tara DePorte, and included special guests Sanjay Rawal, Director of GATHER, Beth Roach, Co-founder of Alliance of Native Seedkeepers and councilperson of the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia, and Mikaila Way, Indigenous peoples' liaison consultant for North America, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



"When you're coming up with innovative solutions, they should always come from the community... We really need to think about when we want to develop solutions to an issue, to think about how this is serving the community and why they would be interested. It should not be our agenda we are trying to promote and the solutions should not be framed as 'this is our solution' – it's really the community's solution."

- Lubna Ahmed, Director of Environmental Health, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

## Health and Justice for All

We partnered with the Old Stone House to host this conversation about health, justice, and creative communities facilitated by Ajani Stella, a founding member of our HII Youth Advisory Council and a 13-year-old climate activist. We explored with NYC visionaries in policy, health, and education how we can keep our families safe and healthy, while leading the way for an equitable and fair "new normal." Our special guests included: Lubna Ahmed, Director of Environmental Health at WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Kizzy Charles-Guzmán, Deputy Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Resiliency; and Diane Exavier, a writer, theatermaker, and educator.

El desperdicio de alimentos es responsable por casi el ocho por ciento de las emisiones globales. sechar casi un tercio de todos alimentos producidos también desperdicia semilas, agua, energía, tierra, fertilizantes, horas de trabajo y capital financiero.

ted

Food waste is responsible for nearly eight percent of global emissions. Discarding nearly one-third of all food produced also wastes seeds, water, energy, land, fertilizer, hours of labor, and financial capital.

upporting municipal composting and recycling, buying and remembering to refuse and reuse first.

ciaje municipal, comprando productos reciciados post-consumo, y recordando primero rechazar y reutilizar.

your personal tales of innovation and impacts that matter. How are you positive impacts on your community and environment? Act. Inspire. our #HumanImpactStories with us! HumanImpactStories.org



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Sources:drawdown.org

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## AMPLIFYING EXTRAORDINARY VOICES OF LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

## In 2020 our Human Impact Stories saw:



Exhibitions in New York locations 000
170,000+

Art appreciators



Hours of creative climate leadership stories





The Human Impact Stories series shares tales of innovation and impacts designed to make the environment personal and inspire action.

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.

Our 2020 impact stories were exhibited across NYC in four exhibits, including two year-long installations in Manhattan's Financial District. We reached over 170,000 audience members by bringing our programming to the streets and shared 12,000+ hours of creative climate stories of leadership with diverse audiences.



# NYC Climate Heroes

In 2020, the NYC Department of Public Transportation (NYC DOT) sponsored our NYC Climate Heroes series of community-nominated climate leaders and collectives from across the five boroughs of NYC who are leading on local solutions to the climate crisis. The NYC Climate Heroes exhibit is a series of NYC street signs celebrating the diversity, innovation, and creativity of New Yorkers leading on climate action. These climate heroes are making our city more healthy, resilient, and just. We were proud to share the stories of these activists, policymakers, innovators, and educators.

Originally designed to be a street sign exhibit from 14th Street to 42nd Street in Manhattan, the signs were redeveloped as a virtual exhibit due to the onset of the pandemic and the halting of all nonessential production in the city.

In addition to the 2020 Impact Stories commission, the NYC DOT sponsored a reprint of our Global Climate SHeroes (2019) and NYC Climate Heroes (2015) series, which were then displayed on streets throughout the year in largescale in the center of Manhattan's Financial District.



ging science and policy to ure just climate solutions our coastal communities.

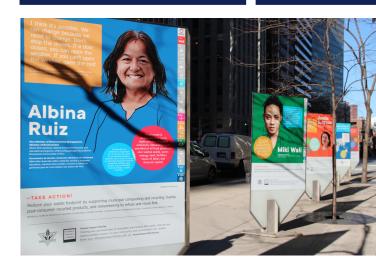
tsinstitute.org/NYChe



Peggy Shepard WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Building a clea that advances climate and en justice for all c

Read more: humanimpactsinstitute.org/NYCheroes



energy economy conomic, racial, ironmental mmunities.



Kimberly Ong Natural Resources Defense Council



Read more: humanimpactsinstitute.org/NYCheroes





HumanimpactStories.org

Inspire a young person you know to explore science by creating a community "nature walk" together.



How are you making positive impacts on your community and environment? Act. Inspire. Share your #HumanImpactStories with us!

luman ImpactStories.org

#### **Global Climate Heroes**

The Global Climate Heroes series provides a glimpse into the lives and work of 12 amazing women from the global South leading the way in their communities to combat climate change. These women give us hope and inspire more women to join them.

#### **New York City Climate Heroes**

This NYC Climate Heroes series highlights the lives and work of amazing NYC-based women who are leading the way to combat global climate change in one of the world's most influential and populous cities.

Our NYC Climate Heroes series was also exhibited in partnership with the Old Stone House and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation for two months along the fences for passerbys to explore and experience while social distancing.

We have worked with everyone from pre-schoolers here in Brooklyn, to federal governments and delegates to the United Nations. We work with a diverse group of creatives, a diverse group of people who are experts in the solutions we have in our communities to address environmental issues. That's what we keep working on, how to inspire you to take more action."



**Press Excerpt:** Combine Together & Create Action Foundation Inspiring Activism

COMBINE TOGETHER & CREATE ACTION FOUNDATION

# FEATURED SHERO

## **Executive Director, Dar Si Hmad**

Bringing unexpected water source to people in Morocco's dry, mountainous Maghreb region.

"I'm always animated by a sense of justice and equity. And that is the common thread between all my projects. I believe I am called upon to have all this planet's resources shared equally between all human beings and all sentient beings."

She and her team brought potable water harvested from fog to thousands of Berber people. She has a PhD in anthropology and is a writer and teacher.

## FEATURED SHERO > XIYE BASTIDA

## **Fridays for Future NYC**

## Lifting youth voices and demands through direct actions and school strikes.

Xiye Bastida is a Mexican climate activist and member of the indigenous Otomi-Toltec nation. She is an organizer for New York City Fridays for Future (FFFNYC) and a leading voice for indigenous and immigrant visibility in climate activism.

FFFNYC organizes school strikes. Some members strike every Friday, while others work on making major strikes more successful. We use our platform on social media to educate and inspire NYC youth to take action on the climate crisis while supporting those calling for climate justice.

### FEATURED SHERO CONSTANCE OKOLLET

#### Osukuru Women's Network and Climate Wise Women

#### Constance Okollet lives in eastern Uganda and is a peasant farmer and mother of seven.

As the chairholder to Osukuru Women's network, she works to improve access to educational and nutrition resources. She also helped found Climate Wise Women after discovering climate change caused storms and droughts that harmed her farming community and environment.

She works with women in her region's network of 1,200 small women's groups to explain climate change and the need for adaptation, particularly in agricultural practices, to ensure community resilience.

"If we trained more people to talk about climate change, everybody would know about it, how it affects us, and how to prevent it."

# FEATURED SHERO

Student at Long Island City High School and Youth Leader for Global Kids

### Annie engages youth in political action and awareness.

"My house was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in Far Rockaway. I didn't want to be known as the girl that didn't have a home. I wanted to be known as, 'Yeah, she lost her house, but she's doing positive things with her story. She's trying to change the world'." DEVELOPINE YOUTH LEADERS FOR THE OBAL

#### **Sponsors and partners**

Our 2020 programs and reprints of past series are possible with the support of:

#### **2020 NYC Climate Heroes**

NYC Department of Transportation Art and Event Programming • Illustrations: Bolanle Adeboye • Design: MiniSuper Studio • Editing: Amy Braunschweiger • Art Direction: Tara DePorte

#### **Global Climate Heroes**

COP25 Chile Madrid 2019 • SDG Action Zone • Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York • Momentum for Change • Global Goals Week • NYC Department of Transportation Art and Event Programming

#### **NYC Climate Heroes**

German Consulate in NYC • Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN • French Consulate in NYC • Permanent Mission of France to the UN • EU Commission • New York State Pollution • Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) • StoryCorps • Winter's Past (Isaac Kestenbaum and Josie Holtzman) • Andrew Shea • Amy Braunschweiger

# DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS & TOOLS FOR RESILIENCE

In 2020, we paused our workshops, fellowships, and internships due to the COVID pandemic, having lost half of our staff due to family constraints, losing access to our office space at the Brooklyn Public Library (closed temporarily for health safety), as well as having our core staff working from home with young children. However, we developed many behind-the-scenes resources to evolve our leadership training programs to include virtual participation and more diverse partners.

#### Artwork © Francesca Sigilli





2020 was our inaugural year of our Urban Environmental Health Lab (UEHL), a community hub for health experts and local artists. These health and art fellows are brought together to build resilience to environmental health threats and creatively connect communities to equitable pollution-prevention tools. UEHL programs include virtual and in-person workshops and trainings, access to free soil and water quality testing, and interactive exhibits that further understanding of local environmental health risks. UEHL seeks to connect people with the tools and actions vital to increase public health equity, environmental justice, and safety. Throughout the year, we focused on program planning, growing diverse partners, including the NY Soil and Water Conservation District, New School, Urban Soils Lab, and Cornell Cooperative Extension, as well as on developing our community-based curriculum. We also further developed our Artist and Health Expert Fellowship model with our partners at the Moth, to be launched in 2022 with an open call for NYC-based community leaders.

#### **Sponsors**

NEW YORK STATE

Department of Environmental Conservation

# THE PEOPLE OF HII



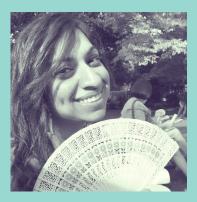






















#### **Board Members**

**David Flores-Wilson** Board Member - Planning to Wealth - Wealth Advisor

**Mehrdad Moghaddam** Board Member - Ernst & Young - Strategy Consultant Manager

**Hara Wang** Board Member - Braemar Energy Ventures - Senior Associate

**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 Board Treasurer - RiskSpan - Senior Managing Director

**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



### SPOTLIGHT LISA JAYCOX

**Board Secretary - Trinity** Wall Street

Originally from California, I grew up immersed in an outdoor and earth-friendly culture. HII struck me as an organization that is advancing goals that are important to me with leadership I trust. I believe HII will allow me to have a real impact where my knowledge and skills can be put to good use."

Lisa is a digital strategist who has worked in the media and nonprofit sectors, advising organizations on leveraging insights for success across platforms, with a particular interest in social media. Currently as the director of content strategy for Trinity Wall Street, Lisa is building capacity for engaging audiences in new ways to make a measurable impact on social justice issues such as homelessness, art as advocacy, and prison reform. In past roles at Fast Company magazine, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Architectural Record, and Aviation Week, she built new revenue streams via social advertising products, led communication for coalitions securing millions in funding for arts organizations, and built strategies for collaborative growth.

Lisa's passion for the environment and desire to give back led her to the Human Impacts Institute, where she applies her interests in event planning and the arts.

#### **Advisory Council**

**Christine Arroyo** *Creative Director and Brand Manager* 

**Peter Derby** Nefarious Gallantry - Writer and Producer

**Kristin Hatcher** *Apogee Group - Partner* 

**Jinny Kim** Building Code Consultant

**Esra Elshafey** *Pitney Bowes - Associate Manager, Global Corporate Citizenship & Philanthropy* 

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 & CEO **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 MELANIE GRIFFIN

Open Space Institute, Grants Coordinator

I would love to see HII evolve and expand its creative climate work, particularly in this current political climate. I believe that the creative climate awards, the Salons, the awareness and creative community events focused on the environment are what make HII unique and achieve the greatest impact I would like to help HII continue to serve local communities and make them healthier while increasing its reach nationally and internationally."

Melanie is the Grants Coordinator at the Open Space Institute and was previously the Assistant Director of Development at the Wildlife Alliance. Prior to her work in fundraising and development, Melanie was the Outreach Coordinator for the Human Impacts Institute, where she helped build partnerships and communications efforts. In 2013, Melanie was selected by the U.S. State Department to be an Economic Empowerment Professional Fellow, where she travelled to Panama to learn about social entrepreneurship, economic empowerment for underserved communities, community development, and sustainable development.

Melanie grew up in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which greatly influenced her interests in conservation and community engagement.

Melanie has a double major in Modern Dance and Environmental Conservation - Human Environment Interactions from Indiana University.

#### **Youth Advisory Council**

**Celia Frank** Binghamtom University

**Emma Laning** *Middle School* 

**Rohan Gelber-Higgins** Institute for Collaborative Education

Mia Reyes Haverford College

Lilly Faith-Goldfine Leman Manhattan Prep

Ian Babler-Madrid Winter Park High School

**Meera Dasgupta** University of Chicago, Stuyvesant High School

**Damian Archer** *The Pennsylvania State University* 

**Ajani Stella** Hunter College High School

**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* 

#### Human Impacts Institute Crew

**Tara DePorte** Founder and Executive Director

Virgina Jans Chief of Staff

**Celia Frank** Program Manager

**Erinn Roos-Brown** Development Manager



# SPOTLIGHT AJANI STELLA

Youth Advisory Council Member, Hunter College High School

My favorite part of HII is that it connects with local communities, enabling them to spread the climate message across a wider range of audiences, as well as focus on aspects of the environment that directly impact people. I love to learn from HII members and continue to grow my climate expertise through hands-on learning."

Ajani Stella is a youth climate activist and leader living in New York City. He is the founder and CEO of a youth-led non-profit organization dedicated to teaching youth about climate change, Kids Fight Climate Change (www.kidsfightclimatechange.org). Previously, he has spoken to the Teacher's Pension Fund Board of Directors with 350.org, urging them to divest their funds from fossil fuels; has encouraged youth to be activists; has been interviewed at the Ethical Culture Society; Iand was a featured youth activist on the French and German television program ARTE. With HII, Ajani was part of the film Think Like A Kid, where he interviewed climate leaders. Now, he is part of the HHI Youth Advisory Committee. In his free time, he likes Middle-earth, Star Wars, Marvel, Harry Potter, and other similar geeky worlds. He attends Hunter College High School in NYC.

### CREW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT > TARA DEPORTE

#### **Founder & Executive Director**

Tara founded the Human Impacts Institute in 2010, seeing a need for creative approaches to building the global climate movement. Tara has over 20 years of experience in community engagement and environmental communications. She is the recipient of numerous international honors for her climate and arts work: 1) two research fellowships at IMéRA Institute for Advanced Studies (France); 2) two fellowships on climate, energy, and policy with the Federal Republic of Germany; 3) U.S. Department of State Professional Fellow for Social Entrepreneurship; and 4) United Nations Expert Delegate with the Republic of China (Taiwan). With a Master of Arts degree in Climate and Society from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Impacts on Ecosystems from the University of Virginia, Tara's education focused on issues of sustainable development, society, and the environment.



Professionally, her international experience includes work throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, working with colleagues on creative community development, environmental education, social justice, policy, and networking.

Tara is an adjunct professor at Webster University in the Netherlands and has developed and led courses at the New School, Syracuse University, and Columbia University.

As a visual artist, Tara has exhibited and performed her work in galleries and museums in six countries. Her personal website is **TaraDePorte.com**.

## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation • Ford Foundation

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# IMPACT THROUGH ADVERSITY

## With the onset of Covid, 2020 was a challenging year.

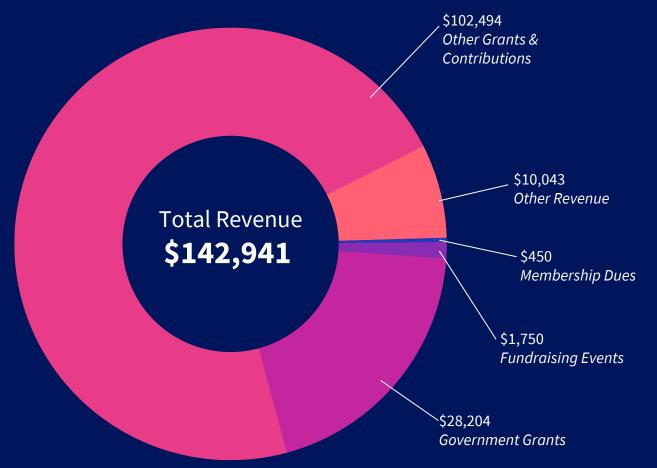
The Human Impacts Institute had to adjust its operations and find new ways to reach audiences.

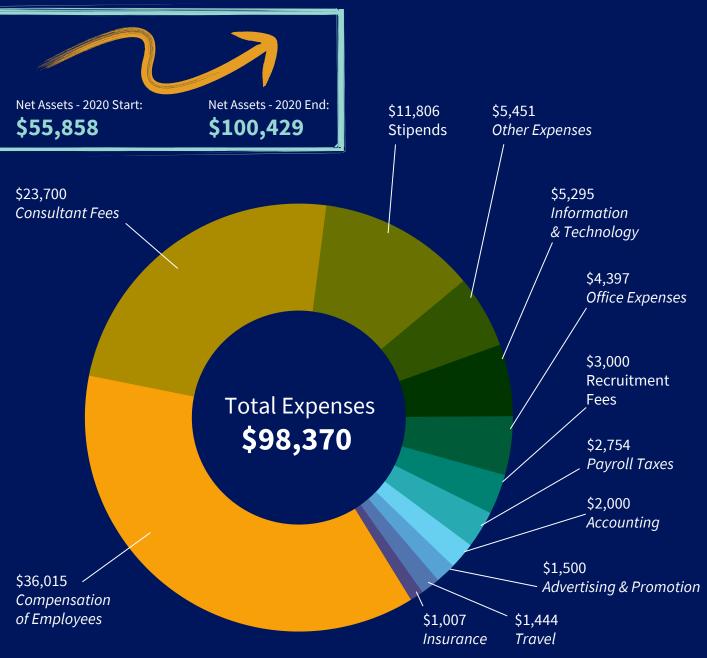
We were creative, and quickly adapted and changed our programming suitable for online formats. Even though some adjustments were necessary to existing grant contracts, all obligations were met in full to funders.



# 2020 INCOME EXPENDITURE







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

