

art21

Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2025

Table of Contents

5	MISSION & VISION
6	LETTERS
10	REACH & ENGAGEMENT
14	Filming Locations
15	Licensing
16	CURATORIAL
18	<i>Artists & the Unknown</i>
20	Art21 READ
22	PRODUCTION
24	Art21 Archive
25	Festival Highlights
26	Filmmaker Feature
27	“Things Don’t Have to Be Like This”
28	<i>Art in The Twenty-First Century</i>
30	<i>Extended Play</i>
32	<i>New York Close Up</i>
34	EDUCATION
34	Art21 Educators
35	Educator Highlights
37	Art21 Ambassadors
38	Education Resources
40	Public Programs
41	Screening Society
42	COMMUNITY
44	Staff
45	Board of Trustees
46	Filmmakers
48	Committees
50	Patron Groups
52	Patron Program Highlights
54	Supporters
58	Financial Statements





Mission & Vision

The mission of Art21 is to educate and expand access to contemporary art through the production of documentary films, resources, and public programs.

The vision of Art21 is to inspire a more creative and inclusive world through the works and words of contemporary artists.

Production still from the *Extended Play* film "Amy Sherald: Singular Moments."
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FROM THE BOARD

Tina Kukielski

Susan Sollins Executive Director and Chief Curator

Dear Friends and Supporters,

At the core of Art21's work is a simple but essential practice: listening to artists. Our process begins in the studio, where artists speak candidly about how and why they make their work and what sustains them through moments of doubt. These conversations not only shape our films but also extend into other initiatives, including our new publication *Artists & the Unknown*, which reflects on the generative role of uncertainty in artistic practice.

Again and again, the artists we speak with remind us that the unknown is not something to fear, but something to explore. It is a space of possibility, experimentation, and transformation.

In FY25, more than 5.3 million viewers engaged with Art21 films and videos across our platforms, a 20% increase from the previous year. Each of these encounters represents a moment of connection: an opportunity for someone, somewhere, to see themselves reflected in the work of a living artist or to be inspired to think, question, or create. We continue to expand how and where these moments occur. Our films reached audiences through classrooms, exhibitions, film festivals, and everywhere people access videos online, from the subway to neighborhood cafes. Through ongoing collaborations with broadcast and media partners, our work brings artists' voices to millions across the globe.

This year, that spirit of exploration shaped our work in meaningful ways. For the first time, Art21 teamed up with the



Ford Foundation's JustFilms initiative on the production of a new film, "Things Don't Have to Be Like This." In this intimate portrait, artists and friends Morehshin Allahyari, American Artist, and Mimi Ҡnұҫha discuss the complex relationships between technology, knowledge, power, and identity. We'll continue to expand the scope of whose stories are told, and how.

We also offered a record number of educator workshops supporting teachers in bringing contemporary art into their classrooms and communities. And we presented public programs across the United States and traveled internationally to the Islamic Arts Biennale.

Looking ahead, we are investing in the long-term care of our past. Through our participation in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program, we have begun building the foundation for the Art21 Archive, an effort to preserve and activate more than 4,500 hours of footage documenting the artists of our time.

Whether our work is encountered in a classroom, in the studio, or in a moment of quiet discovery, we remain committed to connecting audiences with the artists shaping our world today.

This work would not be possible without our growing community of supporters. Your contributions ensure that our films and resources remain free and accessible to audiences around the world.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina K." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tina Kukielski

Susan Sollins Executive Director and Chief Curator

FROM THE BOARD

Dawn Fleischner

Art21 Trustee

Dear friends of Art21,

As a member of Art21’s Board of Trustees since 2020, I have had the privilege of witnessing steady and intentional organizational growth that has thoughtfully expanded operations to bring more artists to more viewers worldwide. Approaching the final stretch of the Art21 for Everyone capacity-building campaign, I am proud to reflect on what this community has helped achieve and where we are headed next.



Over the past year, the impact of this campaign has come fully into view. With increased capacity, Art21 has meaningfully expanded its educational reach, serving more educators, classrooms, and communities than ever before. In FY25 alone, Art21 supported 3,000 educators, served 375,000 students, and reached over 5 million viewers across digital platforms.

As a longtime supporter, I have seen how two forces have made this progress possible. The first is Art21’s dedicated team, led with clarity and conviction by Tina Kukielski. The second is the extraordinary commitment of donors who understood that investing in capacity was essential to expanding impact. Together, this alignment of leadership, staff excellence, and philanthropic partnership has allowed Art21 to deepen its impact and serve artists, teachers, and learners at a national and global scale.

What continues to inspire me most is Art21’s role in education. By placing contemporary artists at the center of learning, Art21



invites curiosity, critical thinking, and creative confidence. Whether through films used in classrooms, professional development for educators, or freely accessible digital resources, Art21 ensures that students and teachers everywhere can engage directly with the ideas shaping our cultural moment.

As we near the completion of this campaign, I am filled with gratitude for what we have built together and optimism for what lies ahead. Thank you for believing in Art21’s mission and for making this remarkable period of growth possible.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Fleischner".

Dawn Fleischner

Production still from the *Extended Play* film “Howardena Pindell: Inner Circle.”
© Art21, Inc. 2024.

Reach & Engagement

As a producer of films, Art21 works tirelessly to ensure that they reach as many audience members as possible. In FY25, we garnered more than 5.3 million views across our online platforms, representing a 20% increase on the previous year. More importantly, that signifies more than five million opportunities for someone—regardless of age, expertise, location, or experience—to see themselves reflected in the work of living artists, or to be inspired by new ideas to create something of their own.

We are constantly editing, remixing, and revising our films for new platforms and audiences, producing an average of four video clips per social media campaign. Our films continue to engage and reach new audiences across these various social platforms, amplifying artists' voices into spaces for new viewer discovery. This was apparent in our 20.5% year-over-year growth in followers, which underscores that our efforts across distribution platforms are succeeding.

Sometimes our viewers are in museums, seated in theaters, or watching at home, but our work also reaches students at school, attendees at film festivals, people walking the streets of New York City, or readers in bookstores and libraries. No matter the moment of encounter, we invite everyone to learn directly from the artists of our time.



5.3+ Million Viewers

(Art21.org / Vimeo / YouTube / PBS)



943K Unique Visits to Art21.org

1.7 million sessions



1.7 Million Followers Across Social Media

Over **23M** impressions

Over **22M** social media video views



13 New Films Released

Plus **52** social media campaign clips published



55 Artists Interviewed



80+ Hours of Film

In the Library



68 Languages Available

“ART21 IS THE BEST PROGRAM ON CONTEMPORARY ART. I AM AN EDUCATOR AND USE THEIR PROGRAMS OFTEN IN MY CLASSES. THEIR EPISODES ARE REALLY INSPIRING ALSO TO ME AS A PRACTICING ARTIST.”

MARISA TORRES DE BENITO ON FACEBOOK

“THE ARTS ARE NOT A LUXURY! THE ARTS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR US HUMANS TO REMAIN GROUNDED, CONNECTED TO PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE BEST-CASE-SCENARIO-SELVES. THE ARTS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH. WE STAND WITH YOU ART21.”

@ANNAJANEMCINTYRE ON INSTAGRAM

“TRULY INSPIRING. REDEFINING MONUMENTS, NOT THE STATIC, DEAD MONUMENTS OF THE PAST BUT LIVING, VIBRANT, SOCIAL, HUMANE COLLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT. JUST WONDERFUL.”

@DZL999 ON YOUTUBE

KEEP THE
CONVERSATION GOING

FOLLOW US @ART21



Production still from the *New York Close Up* film
“I Wanna Be With You Everywhere.” © Art21, 2025.



Pittsburgh



Paris



Berlin



Hong Kong

Filming Locations

Arles, France

Athens, NY

Berlin, Germany

Boston, MA

Catskill, NY

Hong Kong

Hudson, NY

Jersey City, NJ

London,
United Kingdom

Minneapolis, MN

New York, NY

Omaha, NE

Paris, France

Pittsburgh, PA

Reykjavik, Iceland

San Francisco, CA

Springfield, MA

Stockholm, Sweden

Vancouver, Canada

Licensing

In FY25, Art21 films were shown in the halls of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, SFMOMA, the Walker Art Center, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among other museums, providing crucial context for exhibitions and works on view to millions of visitors around the globe.



Interested in licensing our films? **Scan the QR code to learn more.**

Curatorial

Our work always begins with a studio visit, whether in person or virtual, during which artists share what they're doing, how they're doing it, and why they persist through the difficult moments. It's a privilege to hear them explain how they experiment with new techniques and technologies and find new ways to express what they learn. We also often hear how they navigate uncertainty, whether their own or in the broader world, which led to the publication of our second book, *Artists & the Unknown: Art21 Interviews with Artists*.

Just like we meet our audiences wherever they are, we travel far and wide to meet artists in their studios. In FY25, we met with 55 artists in 15 countries, from the US and Canada to Denmark, Peru, Qatar, and the Philippines. At Tishan Hsu's studio in Brooklyn, we learned about his pioneering work that foregrounds the fusion of the organic and the technological. Wael Shawky jumped on the phone from the airport in Cairo to discuss how history is restaged and reframed through his work in film, painting, sculpture, and installation. From the headquarters of his experimental corporation in Paris, Neïl Beloufa took a Zoom call to speak about his creative exploration of the political and economic systems that organize contemporary life.

“A LOT OF CONTEMPORARY ART AVOIDS THE QUESTION OF PURPOSE AND REVELS IN AMBIGUITY. FOR US, THAT HAS BECOME LESS MEANINGFUL. MORE MEANINGFUL IS DEALING WITH CONCRETE QUESTIONS AND COLLECTIVE GOALS, AND ALLOWING THESE QUESTIONS AND GOALS TO GUIDE ARTISTIC DECISION-MAKING.”

- ENZO CAMACHO & AMI LIEN



In total, we committed to working with 27 of these artists, whose films and interviews will be released in the next two years. Some of them appear in the new social-first series *IRL/url*, created in partnership with CHANEL Culture Fund, whose generous support allowed Art21 to experiment with new curatorial and filmmaking approaches, expanding the impact and reach of our work.

As Pio Abad put it during a Zoom call from London, “Beauty is always this insistent element in my work, because as much as I believe that art has transformative potential, it will not realize that potential if people don’t want to look at it. And so the power of seduction, for me, really is the power of art.” While we find many of the thought-provoking artworks we’ve encountered to be beautiful, what’s most seductive to us, as curators, are the new exchanges, new insights, and new ways of thinking about the world the artists themselves so graciously share. Leave it to artist Miranda July to convey our approach: “I work so hard to keep asking every day, ‘What really is interesting?’”

Production still from the *New York Close Up* film “Sincerely Yours, Hadi Falapishi.”
© Art21, Inc. 2025.

Artists & The Unknown: Art21 Interviews with Artists

The unknown is definitionally indefinable. It is something we encounter in ways big and small every day of our lives. It appears when we wake up and wonder what the day holds, as we watch the world around us change, develop, and decay, as we take risks or pursue our dreams and curiosities. The unknown can appear unexpectedly, at any time, and with myriad forms and faces. What do we do with that information? At Art21, we look to artists.

Art21's second compendium of artist interviews explores how we use the randomness, complexity, and unknowability of life to push the boundaries of art and culture. Drawn from the Art21 Archive, *Artists & the Unknown: Art21 Interviews with Artists* captures engaging, inspiring, and stimulating conversations that explore encounters with the unknown from 18 leading artists of the twenty-first century.

Edited with an Introduction by Jurrell Lewis. Foreword by Tina Kukielski. Conversations with Tauba Auerbach, Linda Goode Bryant, Jes Fan, Josephine Halvorson, Pierre Huyghe, Miranda July, Anish Kapoor, Christine Sun Kim, Richard Mosse, Diane Severin Nguyen, Michael Rakowitz, Matthew Ritchie, Jacolby Satterwhite, Amy Sillman, Rose B. Simpson, Song Dong, Sarah Sze, and Anicka Yi.

Photo: Timothy O'Connell



“TO HAVE A RECORD OF MY OWN THOUGHT ... THROUGH ART21 IS REALLY SPECIAL AND IT HAS DEEPLY IMPACTED THE WAY THAT I SPEAK ABOUT MY WORK, THE WAY THAT I MAKE ART, AND THE WAY I SHARE MY IDEAS AND COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER PEOPLE.”

- JOSEPHINE HALVORSON

Art21 READ

In FY25, Art21 released 10 new artist interviews and, for the first time, published Spanish-language translations for interviews featuring Carolina Fusilier, Fernando Palma Rodríguez, and Bárbara Sánchez-Kane.

These interviews take readers inside artists' studios and minds, highlighting their innovative approaches, personal histories, and artistic inspirations. Whether diving deep into materiality and process in the studio or taking a bird's-eye view of the concepts and questions that motivate their work, Art21 provides invaluable insight into what it means to be an artist.

“I’M TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE POLICIES, GOVERNMENTS, STRUCTURES THAT REWRITE HISTORY BASED ON IMPOSED IDEOLOGY.”

- JOSHUA SERAFIN



Pio Abad



Enzo Camacho and Ami Lien



Carolina Fusilier



Fernando Palma Rodriguez



Eric-Paul Riege



Joshua Serafin



Caroline Garcia



New Red Order



Maria Taniguchi



Alanis Obomsawin

Production

Art21's production team turns rich and rewarding conversations with artists into the award-winning films our audiences enjoy. In addition to crafting the stories told in each new season of *Art in the Twenty-First Century*, the team also produces the *Extended Play* series, highlighting leading artists across generations and around the world, and *New York Close Up*, focusing on emerging artists in our hometown. In FY25, we released seven *Extended Play* films, six *New York Close Up* films, and a special documentary short about creativity in the digital age made in collaboration with the Ford Foundation.

We sifted through artist Salah Elmur's archive of photographs in his Cairo studio and watched him paint dreamlike compositions that evoke Khartoum, Sudan, the home he longs to return to. We traveled alongside artist Lucy Raven as she visited Oregon and California to document the removal of a dam on the Klamath River. And we filmed with artist Guadalupe Maravilla in a school bus he converted into a mobile site for remembrance and healing, situated along the US-Mexico border.

"When I was a student in New York City," Maravilla says in the film, "there weren't that many role models that I could look up to." We remain committed to keeping our films free and accessible online, giving people in far-flung places inspiring models of creativity.

**"I'VE DONE MY WORK EXACTLY AS I WANTED TO DO.
FOR SOME REASON, I GRANTED MYSELF PERMISSION
TO DO THAT FROM THE GET-GO."**

- MIRANDA JULY

Behind-the-scenes filming with Anne Imhof.



Art21 Archive

Over the last 25 years Art21 has captured 4,500 hours of raw documentary film footage, but our accessible film library offers just over 80 hours of that material. There is clearly more content to be shared.

A significant move in that direction has been the regular gathering of a committee of Art21 staff, board members, filmmakers, educators, and artists to cull insights from peer organizations and determine how to best organize, steward, and share what we've come to define as the Art21 Archive.

Even more crucially, in late 2024, Art21 was selected to participate in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Program, an initiative that helps cultural organizations strengthen their digital skills and systems. That grant is now underwriting the development and implementation of what we are calling our Film Archive Management System (FAMS), a database which will enable Art21 staff to frictionlessly access not just footage but also interview transcriptions and other essential assets.

Our participation in this program is a critical first step toward formalizing this invaluable archive and nurturing a fully functional information infrastructure that will grow alongside Art21's peerless collection of documentary media.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Art21 has been honored for its film excellence for more than two decades. In FY25 our films were shown at 28 festivals, with 9 of them presenting Art21 films for the first time.



DOC NYC

"Salah Elmur: Fixing Time"



AmDocs

"Hannah Levy's Adaptive Structures"



BronzeLens Film Festival

"Howardena Pindell: Inner Circle"



Provincetown International Film Festival

"Drake Carr's Favorite Thing"



Indy Shorts International Film Festival

"Guadalupe Maravilla's Mariposa Relámpago"

FILMMAKER FEATURE

J.M. Harper

Director, “Things Don’t Have to Be Like This”

Jason is the Brooklyn, New York-based director of “Things Don’t Have to Be Like This.” His directorial debut, *As We Speak*, premiered at Sundance 2024 and is a documentary about the growing use of rap lyrics as evidence in the US criminal justice system. Additionally, he executive produced the Peabody-nominated *Daughters* and has edited four features, including the Emmy-nominated *jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy*; *A Kid from Coney Island*, about the life of Stephon Marbury; and *Down a Dark Stairwell*, about the NYPD murder of Akai Gurley.



“EACH TIME WE MET WITH [THE CROSS DISABILITY ARTIST COLLECTIVE] IWBWYE ... I WAS EXPOSED TO A VERY NEW WAY OF CONSIDERING WHAT THE WORD ‘ACCESSIBILITY’ MEANS, UNPACKING HOW IT’S COMMONLY USED, VERSUS THE POTENTIAL OF WHAT IT COULD MEAN.”

ADAM GOLFER

Director, “I Wanna Be With You Everywhere”

“Things Don’t Have to Be Like This”

In an age when all aspects of our lives are mediated through technology, contemporary artists are crucial to defining how we engage with new tools. Over coffee at a Brooklyn cafe, the Art21 Production team filmed artists and friends Morehshin Allahyari, American Artist, and Mimi Qnqha as they explored the complex relationships between technology, knowledge, power, and identity. “It’s clear that a lot of the world orders that we have inherited won’t work,” says Qnqha. “But that’s the space where artists are most needed.” Produced with support from the Ford Foundation, this short documentary film builds on the learnings of the JustFilms New Media Leadership cohort.

Production stills featuring artists (left to right) American Artist, Morehshin Allahyari, and Mimi Qnqha from the Art21 film “Things Don’t Have to Be Like This.” © Art21, Inc. 2025.

Art in the Twenty-First Century

Launched in 2001, *Art in the Twenty-First Century* is the longest-running documentary series focused on contemporary visual art and artists.



Art in the Twenty-First Century is a Peabody Award-winning biennial program that allows viewers to observe artists at work, watch as they transform inspiration into art, and hear how they struggle with and overcome the challenges of achieving their visions. The featured artists are some of the most compelling creative thinkers of our time, and they grant Art21 filmmakers intimate access to their lives. Art21 presents artists in their homes and studios, going behind-the-scenes to reveal how artworks and exhibitions are created.

Premiering in FY26, Season 12 of the series features twelve artists from across the globe. Each hour-long episode groups its subject artists under an evocative but open-ended theme, allowing audiences to compare and contrast their work and processes.

Behind-the-scenes filming with Lubaina Himid.



“Between Worlds”

Sophie Calle, Lubaina Himid, Tuan Andrew Nguyen, and Dyani White Hawk

Directed and Produced by Bryan Chang and Meerkat Media



“Realms of the Real”

Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Ragnar Kjartansson, Candice Lin, and Tomás Saraceno

Directed by Stephanie Wang-Breal
Produced by Nan Sandle



“Human Nature”

Lenka Clayton, Josh Kline, Delcy Morelos, and Sin Wai Kin

Directed by Ian Forster
Produced by Andrea Yu-Chieh Chung

**“I DON’T WANT TO TAKE THE CAMERA,
I WANT TO LIVE THE STORY.
I WANT TO BE INSIDE.”**

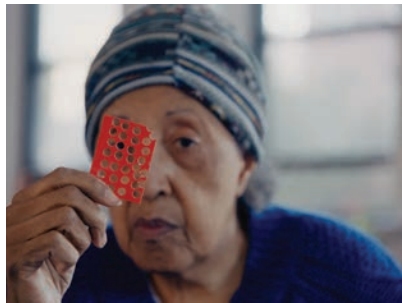
- SOPHIE CALLE

From top to bottom: Behind-the-scenes filming with Dyani White Hawk, Candice Lin, and Delcy Morelos.

Extended Play

Our first digital original series, *Extended Play*, offers documentary deep dives into today's leading artists, often producing multiple films on the same artists over time.

Through process-revealing footage and intimate interviews, the series' curatorially-driven films chronicle a diverse scale of international projects, ranging from major commissions to exploratory sketches. Produced in close collaboration with artists, *Extended Play* uncovers the provocative ideas, timely cultural influences, and personal experiences that inspire them. Since launching in 2008, *Extended Play* films have been accepted by and honored with nearly 50 official selections at festivals, including DOC NYC and Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival, as well as Vimeo Staff Picks and a Webby Award.



**“Howardena Pindell:
Inner Circle”**

Directed by César Martínez Barba



**“Salah Elmur:
Fixing Time”**

Directed by Matteo Lonardi



**“Miranda July:
What Else Might You Do?”**

Directed by Ian Forster &
Chiemi Karasawa



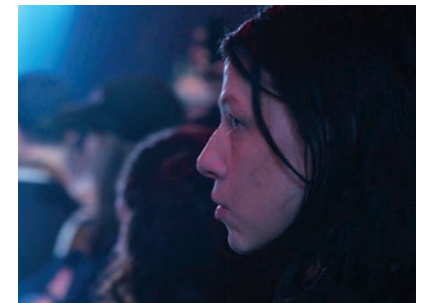
**“Amy Serradell: Singular
Moments”**

Directed by Ian Forster



**“Arthur Jafa:
Sequencing the Notes”**

Directed by Jurrell Lewis



**“Anne Imhof:
DOOM”**

Directed by Ian Forster



**“Lucy Raven:
Pressure & Release”**

Directed by Ian Forster

New York Close Up

New York Close Up is devoted to capturing early-career artists living and working in New York City.



Providing a unique window into the next wave of art-making in the city, Art21 collaborates with artists to tell stories about their creative processes, diverse backgrounds, and daily realities. With an emphasis on visual invention that mirrors the artists' own, the series is also a platform for emerging filmmakers to explore documentary style and deepen their nonfiction storytelling talents. Since the series' inception in 2011, *New York Close Up* films have received recognition at prestigious film festivals like BlackStar, Blue Sky Documentary, DOC NYC, Full Frame, and Palm Springs ShortsFest, and multiple Vimeo Staff Pick selections.

Production still from the *New York Close Up* film "Hyeree Ro's Precise Ambiguity."
© Art21, 2025.



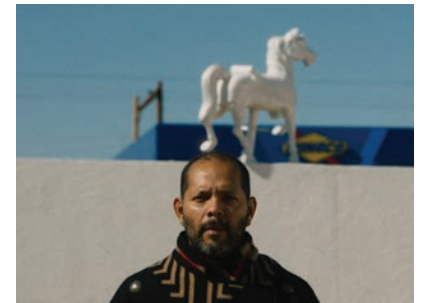
"Puppies Puppies (Jade Guanaro Kuriki-Olivo): Radical Transparency"

Directed by Drew de Pinto



"Sincerely Yours, Hadi Falapishi"

Directed by Lydia Cornett



"Guadalupe Maravilla's Mariposa Relámpago"

Directed by César Martínez Barba



"Hyeree Ro's Precise Ambiguity"

Directed by Andrea Yu-Chieh Chung



"I Wanna Be With You Everywhere"

Directed by Andrea Yu-Chieh Chung
& Adam Golfer

Education

Art21's education initiatives engage audiences in a dialogue about contemporary art and the artists featured in Art21 films.

Inspired by our films, Art21 encourages educators and their students to think and work like artists, using thematic, inquiry-driven processes and strategies that reflect how artists develop ideas and create today. This year, we expanded our education offerings in service of amplifying access to contemporary art. We offered more free resources, programs, and opportunities for audiences to connect with the artists of our time than ever before.

Art21 Educators

Art21 Educators, our intensive, yearlong professional-development initiative and learning community, supports K-12 educators interested in bringing contemporary art, artists, and themes into their classrooms.

In July 2025, we hosted a cohort of over 30 educators in New York City for an in-person Summer Institute. Program alumni and Art21 staff offered a variety of workshops, such as Art21-featured artist Shaun Leonardo's lively talk involving movement exercises and introspective questioning. Artist Ilana Harris-Babou provided insights into her inspirations, collaboration with her mother, teaching experience, and the artworks she was then in the process of making. Educators also got an after-hours tour of the Museum of Modern Art exhibition *Jack Whitten: The Messenger*.

Educator Highlight



Amy Jackson has been teaching art for 25 years in public and independent middle and upper schools. Jackson has been an alum of Art21 Educators since 2021 and has since contributed to Art21 READ, mentored new educators, and led an Art21 Ambassadors program on *Claiming Curating as Artistic Practice*. Jackson currently teaches at North Cross School, an independent college preparatory school in Roanoke, Virginia, but the art studio is her happy place. She is passionate about exploring, noticing, connecting, and reflecting as core components of making (and life!). As a perpetual learner who still wonders what she will be when she grows up, she credits Art21, and especially Art21 Educators, with fostering her ongoing search.



Art21 Educators at the 2025 Summer Institute. Photo: Timothy O'Connell

Educator Highlight



Cristina Ann Correa currently serves on the Art21 Teacher Council and was the 2025 Texas Art Teacher of the Year. Correa is pleased to be spending her 20th year in art education by leading the award-winning, nationally-recognized visual arts department at Plano Senior High School in Plano, Texas. Among her leadership roles, she is the Arts Chair for the College Board National Academic

Assembly Council, an AP Art & Design Consultant and Mentor, and At-Large Commissioner for the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission. Correa is featured in multiple AP Daily videos and has presented for multiple K-12 and collegiate art education programs, at the College Board Prepárate Conference, the TAEA and NAEA conventions, and SCAD Workshops for AP Educators.



Art21 Educators at the 2025 Summer Institute. Photos: Timothy O'Connell



Art21 Ambassadors

The Art21 Ambassadors program makes our educational resources and teaching strategies accessible to a larger network of educators. We engage them through both virtual and in-person professional-development seminars and workshops.

One highlight of this year was a presentation at the New York City Department of Education's annual event for visual arts teachers. With over 300 art educators gathered at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Art21 demonstrated how to teach contemporary art using the newly released *Extended Play* film "Howardina Pindell: Inner Circle." The event continued with presentations from members of our Art21 Educators program.

Throughout the year, Art21 Ambassadors met educators in their communities, with a particular emphasis on the American South. We presented Art21 resources at the Texas Art Education Association and at a virtual conference for South Carolina's educators.

Education Resources

Art21 offers free tools to help educators use our films in the classroom. This year, those efforts included thirteen Educator Guides focused on individual artists, as well as one for the film “Things Don’t Have to Be Like This.” For those seeking insights on a specific theme, we continue to aggregate films into thematic playlists. We ensure some of these are appropriate for all ages, so they can be used in schools with the launch of the *All Ages* series of playlists. This year, we published four playlists on *Craft and Contemporary Art*, and, from the *All Ages* series, *Classroom Instructional Pacing*, *Engaging Elementary Students*, and *Middle School Students*.

Educator Guides released in FY25 featured artists:

Kevin Beasley
 Louise Despont
 Salah Elmur
 Ilana Harris-Babou
 Loie Hollowell
 Tommy Kha
 Barbara Kruger
 Tau Lewis
 Xin Liu
 Richard Mosse
 Naudline Pierre
 Howardena Pindell

“Things Don’t Have to Be Like This”
 Morehshin Allahyari, American Artist,
 and Mimi Onuoha

Teaching with Contemporary Art Articles:

Artist as Archivist
Begin Again
Channeling Rage into Artistic Action
Connections Across Space & Time: Rethinking AP Art History
Creating Communities of Care in the Early Childhood Art University Classroom
Illuminating Projects for Deeper Understanding
The Alchemy of Extending Classroom Art Projects
Thinking and Talking About Curiosity
Unveiling the Power of Persona
Young Pedagogical Thinkers: A Year of Self-Discovery

and synthesize into the film(s)?
 y want the en hearing the itation?
 's reaction to his family's farm n for multiple
 mix objects present? What he imply?
 ory—it could be dited? Is there the artwork? Or ut the sound?
 research on the here does it come went material or
 screen?



Kevin Beasley

Born 1985 (Lynchburg, VA)

Education
 College for Creative Studies, Detroit, BFA
 Yale University, MFA

Lives and Works
 New York City

About the Artist
 Kevin Beasley has created sculptures and installations made from found materials, including clothing, sports equipment, personal artifacts, and cultural ephemera. Using polyurethane foam and resin to give these objects their own acidity and form, Beasley molds them into wall assemblages and standalone sculptures. T-shirt, colorful house dresses, and burrito take their own haunting shape, referencing the bodies that may have once inhabited them. These forms weave together Beasley's own memories and experiences, along with historical and cultural references. In order to examine the role of power and race in American society, Beasley also incorporates microphones, audio processors, and mirrors into his works, activating the sculptures through live performances.

Media and Materials
 clothing
 installation
 sculpture
 sound

Key Words and Ideas
 abstraction
 cotton
 family
 history
 home

Related Artists
 Lawrence Abu'lhabib
 Mirena Cuevas
 Leonardo Drew
 Ilana Harris-Babou
 Christine Sun Kim
 Christian Marclay

Quote: "Sound has always been important to me, and it has increasingly become a way for me to process the world."
 —Kevin Beasley

Art21 | Educator Guide | Kevin Beasley



Xin Liu

Born 1991 (Kunjiang, China)

Education
 Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, B.A. and M.F.A.
 Rhode Island School of Design, M.F.A.
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, M.S.

Lives and Works
 New York, NY and London, UK

About the Artist
 An artist and engineer, Liu works in a variety of media and contexts, fusing art and science in sculptures, installations, videos, virtual reality experiences, and publications, amongst other media. Through her work, the artist considers the personal implications of our technological advancements, constructing narratives that provide space to imagine ourselves in a world of rapidly expanding possibilities.

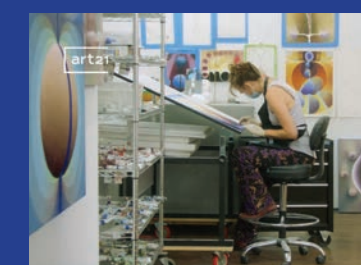
Media and Materials
 installation
 performance
 sculpture
 video

Key Words and Ideas
 environment
 exploration
 futurism
 performance
 loneliness
 pleasure

Related Artists
 James Aubrey
 Tasha Auerbach
 Phyllida Barlow
 Mirena Cuevas
 Joel Fan
 Lynn Hershman
 Leeson Locke
 Luke Hollowell

Quote: "In this calibrated and measured world, art allows beauty and emotions to be part of the process."
 —Xin Liu

Art21 | Educator Guide | Xin Liu



NOTE: Please view all films before sharing them with your students.

After Viewing

Follow-up on key ideas and synthesize information learned from the film(s):

- Why is pleasure important in art making?
- In the film, Liu makes oil of sentiment, or transforms it into a "being being." If the objects important to you came to life, what would they say? How would they move? What would they do?
- What is the relationship between invention and exploration?



Loie Hollowell

Born 1983 (Woodland, CA)

Education
 University of California, Santa Barbara (BFA)
 Virginia Commonwealth University (MFA)

Lives and Works
 New York, NY

About the Artist
 Existing between abstraction and representation, Loie Hollowell's vibrant and evocative paintings refer to human bodies as sites of sensuality and sexuality, desire and disgust, pleasure and pain. Hollowell's work depicts geometric and symmetrical forms inspired by her experiences as a woman and a mother. These forms are shaped by strong colors and dynamic compositions and suggest human genitalia, sacred geometry, and primordial origins. Hollowell further explores physicality by adding process elements, created from high-density foam, directly onto the surfaces of her canvases. Seamlessly protruding from the canvases, these shapes transform the paintings into three-dimensional wall-thing works, allowing the artist to play with both real

Quote: "Here's always that hunting, that chasing, for a light-filled experience, if it's a dark subject matter."
 —Loie Hollowell

Art21 | Educator Guide | Loie Hollowell

Public Programs

We not only share our efforts with educators, but we also present an ambitious series of public programs, both in-person and online, for general audiences. This year, we continued our programming efforts with events in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York, and expanded internationally with a program in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Twelve Art21-featured artists participated in these events.

Among the highlights was an event series focused on our new book *Artists & the Unknown*, including a launch with artists Josephine Halvorson and Diane Severin Nguyen, a screening of films at the SVA Theater in New York City, and an artist talk with Miranda July at Hauser & Wirth in Los Angeles.

We also partnered with the organizations Protocinema and e-flux to host an event in Brooklyn featuring Trevor Paglen, which included his Art21 segment, a talk by the artist, and a conversation with Joshua Citarella, a fellow artist and host of the *Doomscroll* podcast.



Diane Severin Nguyen, Josephine Halvorson, and Jurrell Lewis at the *Artists & the Unknown* book launch, November 2024. Photo: Timothy O'Connell



Screening Society

In celebration of Art21's newest book, *Artists & the Unknown: Art21 Interviews with Artists*, the most recent season of Screening Society provided a selection of films featuring artists who explore how we use randomness, mystery, and unknowability to try to answer some of life's biggest questions.

Art21 provides everything needed to host a public screening at no cost. By providing free access to documentary films about contemporary artists, Screening Society promotes conversation, inspires creative thinking, and broadens engagement with contemporary art.



Interested in hosting a screening?
Scan the QR code to learn more.

Photo: Ford Foundation and Carey Wagner Photography

Community

Growing Sustained Support in FY25

FY25 marked a significant step forward in strengthening our base of sustained support. With a campaign centering on the enduring value of contemporary artists and the urgency of keeping art accessible amid challenges to arts funding, we focused on inviting supporters to deepen their commitment through monthly giving.

As a result, monthly donors increased by over 400%, expanding a growing community of supporters who provide reliable, year-round funding for Art21's programs, films, and educational resources. Recurring contributions provide stability, enabling the organization to plan with confidence and continue sharing the stories of artists with millions worldwide.

“WITH VISION, INTELLIGENCE, CREATIVITY, AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACUITY, ART21 CREATES FILMS THAT ARE CONDUITS FOR ARTISTS’ VOICES AND TRUTHS THAT CONNECT TO AND INSPIRE MILLIONS OF VIEWERS THROUGH THEIR MAGICAL AND COLLABORATIVE ALCHEMY.”

- SUSAN HARRIS, WRITER AND CURATOR

Photo: Timothy O'Connell



Staff

Art21's projects are realized through the efforts of a creative group of individuals who contribute their unique talents to further the organization's mission.

Tina Kukielski

Susan Sollins Executive Director
and Chief Curator

Makda Amdetsyon

Education Coordinator

Andrea Yu-Chieh Chung

Associate Producer

Hannah DeGarmo

Associate Director of
Communications

Lolita Fierro

Director of Development

Ian Forster

Senior Producer

Grace LeCates

Development Assistant

Jurrell Lewis

Associate Curator

Madeleine Mendell

Archivist

Emma Nordin

Director of Education

Nick Ravich

Director of Production

Jessica Svenson

Senior Development Manager

Noor Tamari

Executive and Curatorial Assistant

Emilia Copeland Titus

Communications Assistant

Nora Wimmer

Digital Manager

A special thank you to **Lauren Barnett**

Art21 interns:

Alex Gamez, Zion Harris, Amaya
Heyliger, Natalia Medero López, Julius
Miller, Maxine Soriano-Trujillo.

**“ART21 MAKES CONTEMPORARY ART FEEL
IMMEDIATE AND HUMAN, DEEPENING HOW WE SEE
ART BY BRINGING ARTISTS’ VOICES DIRECTLY INTO
OUR LIVES. SUPPORTING ART21 FEEDS OUR CURIOSITY,
PULLS BACK THE CURTAIN ON THE ARTIST’S
STUDIO, AND IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE CULTURAL
CONVERSATIONS THAT SHAPE OUR FUTURE.”**

- EVAN MIRAPPAUL, FOUNDER, TROY HILL ART HOUSES

Board of Trustees

Art21's Board of Trustees is composed of an inspiring group of individuals, many of whom have been with the organization since its founding and each of whom contributes a wealth of knowledge from their experience in film, technology, and philanthropy. With their creative direction and oversight, Art21 is able to foster a dynamic conversation on contemporary art and artists through film, education initiatives, and digital engagement.

James Cohan

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Mark Dorfman

Co-Treasurer

Yaroslav Faybishenko

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Erica Samuels

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David Howe

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President Emerita

Robert Crothers

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Susan Dowling

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Art21 Founder

Susan Sollins (In Memoriam)

Art in the Twenty-First Century

Co-Creators

Susan Dowling

Susan Sollins (In Memoriam)

*Board and staff lists reflect current
members as of May 2026

Filmmakers



Art21 relies on a trusted network of directors, producers, editors, and other film professionals.

Danya Abt	Jude Chehab	Leah Ford
Serena Ajbani	Winnie Cheung	Devan Francis
Zeshawn Ali	Tim Ciavara	Mike Frank
Jarred Alterman	Logan Cuddemi	Agnar Friðbertsson
Lorena Alvarado	Milan Daemgen	Gisela Fullà-Silvestre
Hyo Jin An	Danielle Davis	Leah Galant
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Véronique Bernard	Ora DeKornfield	David Gauff
Max Blecker	Sebastián Díaz	Tomasz Geza
Collin Blendell	Mary Grace Duffy	Hervé Glabeck
Jay Villas Boas	Benjamin Eckersley	Adam Golfer
Owen Brafford	Matthew Ericson	Stewart Griffin
Stephanie Cen	Leroy Farrell	Stella Guggenheim
Bryan Chang	Ana Fernández	Jaime Guijarro-Bustamante

Behind-the-scenes filming with Hyeree Ro.

Soobin Ha	Shanna Maurizi	Teresa-Esmeralda Sanchez
Michelle Hanks	Jonna McKone	Nan Sandle
Sean Hanley	Tyler McPherron	Gleydi Santana
J. M. Harper	Annie Medlin	Eric Schleicher
Sasha Hecht	Michael T. Miller	Zara Serabian-Arthur
Chris Heitzman	Hoi Chun Mok	Ross Sloan
Michael Hennings	Isabella Morelli Avilán	Dean Snodgrass
Troy Herion	Colin Morris III	Jan Inge Solberg
Andri Freyr Hlynsson	Noel Morrow	Regina Spurlock
Mike Houston	Caleb Mose	Jeffrey Sterrenberg
Guðjón Hrafn	Christian Mroccka	Adam Stout
Inna Ivanovskaya	Andrew Nadkarni	Fredrik Streiffert
Crystal Kayiza	Cedric von Niederhausern	Hákon Sverrisson
Andrew Keefe	Diffan Norman	Mary Ann Toman
Andre Kelman	Colin Nusbaum	Trey Toy
Isaiah King	Andrew Orkin	Nina Vallado
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Sana A. Malik	Fivel Rothberg	Hunter Zimny
Pasquin Mariani	Monica Salazar	
Michelle Marrison	Rafael Salazar Moreno	
César Martínez Barba		



Committees

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

The Archive Committee members contribute their expertise to guide the long-term preservation of Art21’s unparalleled collection of originally produced media.

Deborah Beckmann	Oliver Herring
James Cohan	David Howe
Nicole Deller	Hiroko Onoda
Abigail DeVille	Lori Perlow
Teri Eaton	Christine Turner
Susan Harris	Migs Wright

Production still from the *Extended Play* film “Amy Sherald: Singular Moments.”
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee members play an integral role as champions of Art21’s educational endeavors, offering invaluable guidance on the selection of materials and facilitating connections with educational and institutional partners.

Deborah Beckmann	Oliver Herring
James Cohan	Lori Perlow
Yaroslav Faybishenko	Paul Pfeiffer
Hedy Fischer	Barbara von Portatius
Josephine Halvorson	

FILMMAKER COMMITTEE

The Filmmaker Committee reinforces Art21’s commitment to documentary film excellence, providing advice on how to best support the community of filmmakers who create and sustain Art21 productions.

Bryan Chang	Christine Turner
Tucker Gates	Malika Zouhali-Worrall
César Martínez Barba	

GALA COMMITTEE

The Art21 Gala Committee provides support and guidance to the Art21 staff on the planning and successful execution of Art21’s bi-annual fundraiser.

Louise Eliasof	Erica Samuels
Ryan Gates	Christine Zehner

*Committees reflect current members as of May 2026

Patron Groups

Joining an Art21 patron group is one of the most meaningful and engaging ways to support Art21's mission. Patrons receive access to special receptions, private studio visits, curatorial presentations, and more.

ART21 INSIDERS

Art21 Insiders is a dynamic community of emerging collectors and creatives who engage with contemporary art through special events, exhibition tours, and film premieres.

STUDIO CIRCLE

The Studio Circle brings together art and film enthusiasts who share a passion for contemporary art and documentary storytelling. Through exclusive experiences, including intimate studio visits and exhibition walkthroughs, Studio Circle members gain deeper insights into the creative process.

CONTEMPORARY COUNCIL

The Art21 Contemporary Council is an invitation-only group of collectors and philanthropists who deepen their engagement with contemporary art through exclusive studio and collection visits, behind-the-scenes experiences, and special events. Members gather annually for a curatorial presentation and select the films the Council will underwrite for the *Extended Play* series in the year ahead.

Please email patrons@art21.org to join or to learn more.



Patron Program Highlights from FY25



Private Dinner with Sophie Calle

In celebration of the premiere of Sophie Calle's segment in "Between Worlds," Episode 1 of Season 12 of *Art in the Twenty-First Century*



Monarch Foundation Collection Visit

Private tour of the Monarch Foundation collection with artists Diana Al-Hadid, Leilah Babirye, and Ruby Sky Stiler



Day Trip to the Hudson Valley

A summer day of art-seeing at the Sky High Biennial and The Campus openings



Private Collection Visit and Cocktail Reception

A special evening in Los Angeles celebrating Art21's *Extended Play* film "Howardena Pindell: Inner Circle"



Dinner with Salah Elmur in Mexico City

Private dinner on the occasion of Zona Maco and in celebration of Art21's *Extended Play* film "Salah Elmur: Fixing Time"



Anne Imhof *DOOM: House of Hope* Performance

Contemporary Council outing to see Anne Imhof's performance at the Park Avenue Armory



Exhibition Walkthrough with Christine Sun Kim

Artist-led tour of Christine Sun Kim's survey exhibition, *All Day All Night*, at the Whitney Museum of American Art

Fiscal Year 2025 Supporters

We are grateful for the individuals, foundations, and institutions whose contributions make Art21's programs a reality.

Major support for Art21 is generously provided by:

\$100,000 & Above

Anna-Maria and
Stephen Kellen
Foundation

Bloomberg
Philanthropies

CHANEL Culture Fund

Lambent Foundation

Fund of the Tides
Foundation

Sasha Spare

\$50,000 - \$99,999

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Cohan

The David S. Howe
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Deborah Beckmann
and Jacob Kotzubei

Melony and
Adam Lewis

New York City
Department of
Cultural Affairs

Brenda Potter
Teiger Foundation

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The Horace
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Shirley Foundation

New York State
Council on the Arts

Yaroslav Faybishenko
and Jennie Rubinshteyn

Erica and Joseph
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and Randy Shull

Louise Eliasof
and James Sollins

Migs and Bing Wright

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Henry Nias Foundation

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Rebecca Hodges

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Lori Perlow

Barbara Toll

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Anonymous (2)

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Education Fund™

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Benenson

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Sandra Wijnberg and
Hugh Freund

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Family Foundation

Production still from the *Extended Play* film "Anne Imhof: *DOOM*."

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James Cohan Gallery	Daniel and Samantha Becker	\$1 - \$249
Leslie Cecil and Creighton Michael	Tiffany Bell and Richard Gluckman	Rachelle Agundes
Morgan Stanley Blue Rider Group	Sarah Booth	Anne-Laure Alléhaut
Kyunghwa Nam	John and Molly Chiles	Anonymous (4)
Alison and Paul Oehler	Liz Christensen	Christopher Archer
Kathleen and Jim Patrinos	Michael Cummings	Caroline Babson
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler	Suzanne Delehanty	Gray Baker
Paula Cooper Gallery	Dennis Jerome Deloria Charitable Fund	Paula Baldoni
Jim Barry and Mary Quinton-Barry	Simone DiLaura	Bruce Banner
Debbie and Mitchell Rechler	Danielle Dimston	Laura Barnett
Jane Richards	Carla Fernández	Reem Bassous
Risk Strategies	Dylan Goldberg	A. Kimberlin Blackburn
Lena Rudnick	Elaine Goldman	Rebecca Bourgault
Frank Williams and Keris Salmon	Esther Knuth	Elizabeth Burkhauser
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	Sarah Stengel	Sue Down
	Joel Sternfeld	Louise Dubreuil
	Christina Young	Anna Dodd and Scott Eakin
	Liliana Zavaleta and Steve Wiland Zavaleta	Danya Ensing
	Christine Zehner	Pamela Fabry
		Josh Fairbanks
		Casey Farina
		Jeffrey Franklin
		Samara Furlong

Dolly and Jack Geary	Mie Hørlyck Mogensen	Olga Sho
Tom Gilbertson	Carolyn Morey	Debra Shushan
David Gorsline	Chris Mules	Pegg Sjogren
Mark Graham	Edie Nadelhaft	Ingrid Slamer
Wendy Hacker	Zach Nader	Dana Slijboom
Willow Hagge	Suzanne Newhouse	Harold Smith Jr.
Jeff Hall	Yuk Tsang Ng	Ana Sokoloff
Sarah Hammond	Federica Olivares	Silvia and John Souza
Nicholas Hampton	Toluwalope Onafowokan	Meredith Steele
Isla Hansen	Woody and Nancy Ostrow	Katherine Stephens
Judith Dolan and Raymond Hardie	Geoffrey Pan	Daniel Stern
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Cathy Karp	Jackie Reeves	Barbara Vitanza
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Meridyth McIntosh	Susan and Kent Seelig	
Sally McKay-LePage	Kirstin Seterdahl	
Jeanne Meyers		
Daniel Michael		

We have made every effort to accurately list the donations made in FY2025 (October 1, 2024–September 30, 2025). If you believe that your name has been mistakenly left off this list, please contact us.

Financial Statements

Art21 Statement of Activities
September 30, 2025

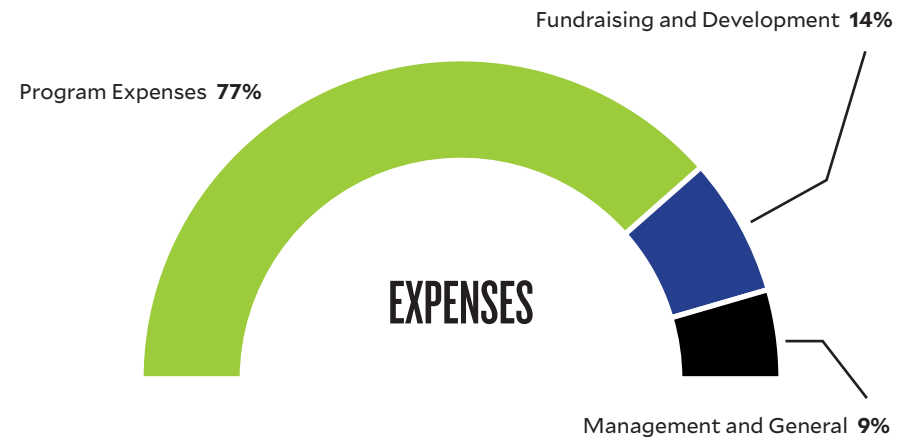
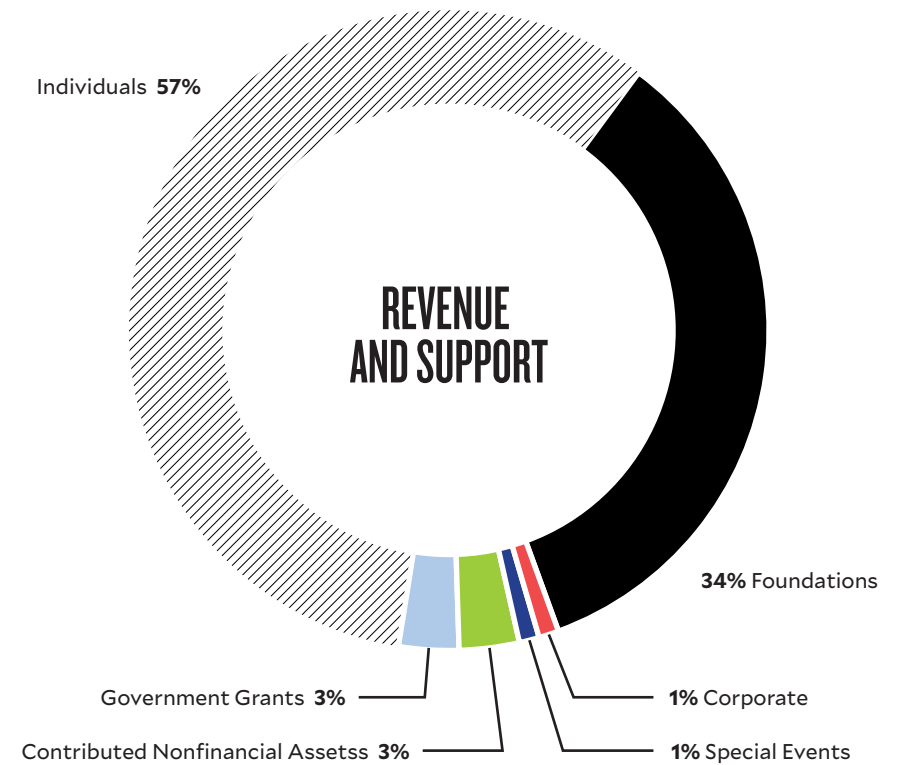
REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants and contributions	\$2,402,725
Special events revenue	(\$8,457)
Other income	\$608,351
Program service revenue	\$965,414
Total revenue and support	\$3,968,033

EXPENSES

Program	\$3,013,447
Supporting – Management and general	\$349,957
Fundraising	\$534,598
Total expenses	\$3,898,002

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$70,031
Net assets at beginning of year	\$9,050,482
Net assets at end of year	\$9,120,513





Art21, Inc.
231 West 29th Street, Suite 706
New York, NY 10001

Art21 documents the art of our time through the words and works of the most impactful artists working today. Your support makes this possible.

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Production still from the *New York Close Up* film
"Guadalupe Maravilla's *Mariposa Relámpago*." © Art21, Inc. 2025.