

“The Field has continued  
to offer us a supportive  
platform to grow and evolve  
as a company.”

Gia Forakis  
Member, Theater Artist/Director

# The Field 2016 Annual Report

**The Field** | [thefield.org](http://thefield.org)

75 Maiden Lane, Suite 906 | New York, NY 10038  
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Left to right: Elizabeth Streb,  
Jennifer Wright Cook, and  
Camille A. Brown celebrate  
The Field's 30th anniversary  
30 Artists / 30 Years.

Photo by Ivan Forde



# AT A GLANCE

## 30 YEARS AND GRAPPLING!

In 2016 The Field turned 30. For some folks turning 30 is fraught with questions. *Am I on the right career path? Do I want kids? Do I have enough money? Am I making the right choices?*

Turning 30 for an organization is similarly fraught. *Are we on the right path? Are we doing the best work we can do? Who needs us most?*

We don't have all the answers yet but we are committed to the grappling – intentional and examined grappling about access, equity, race, privilege and identity in the arts.

And we are starting from the inside out – taking Undoing Racism workshops with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, and participating in Race Forward's Action Lab. This work will push us assertively forward in aligning our intent with our impact, and our values with our programs.

Overall, our grappling is grounded in our 30 year young mission and values of non-curated access for all. And it's grounded in this world that is demanding full-bodied response and action from all of us.

Happy 30th to The Field. May we continue to grapple and push and evolve into our highest selves.

- Jennifer Wright Cook, Executive Director

To celebrate turning 30, we returned to our roots by presenting 30 artists at our classic program, Fieldday! Hosted by Dixon Place on April 10, performances took place on two different stages for 150 attendees.

In October we honored **Catherine Tharin, J. Speed Carroll, and Steve Gross** as three major forces of The Field. More than 80 friends joined us at the home of Board Member Jane Comfort to raise a toast to the Honorees and to their contributions to The Field.

2016 also saw the full launch of **Field Leadership Fund**. This 16-month Fellowship featured a cohort of 12 artists and arts managers. (Learn more about the FLF Fellows and their work in "Thought Leadership.")

It was a big year for The Field's extended family, too! In 2016 our programs helped **1,500 artists** (plus their **7,000+ collaborators**) create **1,150 original works** enjoyed by more than **453,000 arts patrons** around the globe.


# MEMBERSHIP




Left to right: Member Jake Lipman, Amy Fulgham, Jennifer Teska, Lori Funk, Joy Sudduth, and Hannah Sloat in *Women Playing Hamlet*


The Field provides artists with **fundraising support, access to resources, and information** through Membership and Fiscal Sponsorship. Our Members represent a range of career stages and disciplines in performing and media arts.


In 2016, our 250+ Members enjoyed:

 More than **2,500 tax deductible donations** of funds ranging in value from \$5 to \$216,500 per donation.

 **80 in-kind donations** of goods and services like a piano, private Pilates sessions, 8 flatbread pizzas, a week in Antigua, a mouse costume, and (as usual) lots and lots of beer and wine - all tax deductible.



 **135+ free or discount** access passes to creative resources like the Materials for the Arts warehouse and the TDF Costume Collection.

 Over **60 expert reviews** of grant proposals and other fundraising materials.

These benefits relieve our artists of administrative work, enabling them to **focus on their creative practice.**

In 2016 our Members brought together an audience of **451,000+ arts patrons** for a total of **1,700 productions** at venues like the Tribeca Film Festival, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and Bramante's Tempietto in Rome, Italy.

They were awarded grants from the **MAP Fund, the Puffin Foundation, the Indie Theater Fund, and the Lower Manhattan Community Council** - to name just a few.

Additional recognition includes a residency at the **Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, Drama Desk Award** nominations, a commission with the **Royal Ballet**; and press mentions in **Chamber Music America Magazine, Crain's Business 40 Under 40, and DIE WELT: Germany's National Newspaper.**

# CREATIVE PROGRAMS

**Artists need resources like space, time, and peer support in order to thrive.** Fieldwork, The Field's signature creative workshop, provides these things and more!

In our seasonal studio-based program, participants meet for 6 to 8 weeks to present works in progress and to share objective, non-directorial feedback led by our experienced facilitators.

- In 2016 we welcomed almost **50 Fieldwork participants** to our Spring, Summer, Fall, and Open Trial Day sessions.
- Our partner studios Ardea Arts, Battery Dance Company, BAAD!, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Eva Dean Dance, Green Space, Spaceworks, and Theaterlab generously donated **200+ hours of free rehearsal space** to Fieldwork artists.

*“Constructive feedback, a non-judgmental, process-oriented audience, and gifted multi-disciplined artists give me an opportunity to reinvent the ways I approach my work.”*

Marie Ponce, multidisciplinary performer/writer/designer  
Summer 2016 Fieldwork participant

A work-in-progress from  
Summer 2016 Fieldwork,  
hosted by Theaterlab

Photo by Wilfredo  
Hernandez

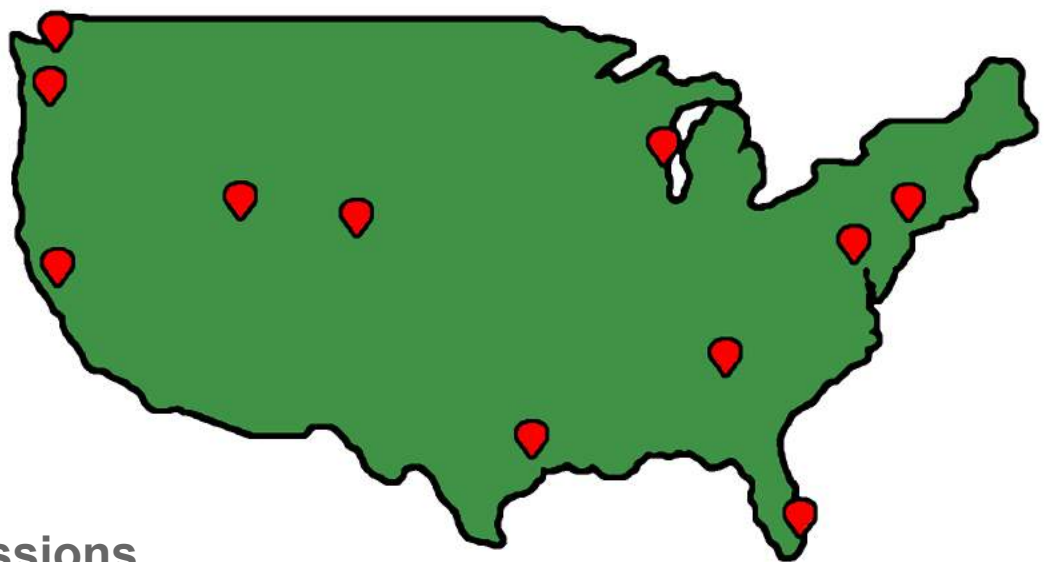


# The Field NETWORK

**The benefits of The Field are not limited to New York City**, thanks to Fieldwork participants and facilitators who help spread our core creative program across the country.

Each Field Network Site is truly unique. Network Site Leaders make Fieldwork their own, customizing our methodology to the artistic practices and cultural traditions of communities they serve.

2016 was full of activity for our **10 Field Network Sites** in Atlanta, Boulder, Houston, Miami, Milwaukee, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC.



In 2016 The Field Network held **125 Fieldwork sessions**, serving **150 artists** *plus* their **50+ collaborators** and **1,000 audience members**.

This year also saw the launch of the **Network Touring Exchange**, made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts. This program allowed three of our Field Network facilitators to travel to other sites in order to build up their own artistic and administrative capacities.

Multi-disciplinary artist **Amy Caron** went from Salt Lake City, UT to Milwaukee, WI; **Ilana Silverstein** brought her feminist punk rock band from Washington, DC to NYC; and dance artist **Chrissy Nelson** traveled from Boulder, CO to Salt Lake City, UT.

# ENTREPRENEURIAL SERVICES

**The world of resources and opportunities for creative professionals can be hard to navigate.** The Field provides guidance for artists at any stage of their development.

- **The Field provided 15 one-on-one expert consultations in 2016.**

Artists came to our highly experienced staff members for individualized advice on the topics of Budgeting, Community Engagement, and Grants.

- **30 artists sharpened their fundraising skills at our Toolbox sessions.**

Free for Members of The Field, these sessions provided expert advice on writing proposals and cultivating relationships with large funders and individual donors.

In 2016, The Field's fiscally sponsored artists raised **\$2.2 million.**

- **We also hit the streets with 7 "On the Town" events, reaching a total of 250 participants.**

Our staff held meet & greets, shared resources available for artists, and answered audience questions on how to develop and sustain a professional creative practice.

Venues included Camille A. Browne's The Gathering, the Jamaica Center for Learning Arts, and NYU Tisch School of the Arts Career Week.

**"The conversation gave me not only useful information but (also) motivation and courage to take actions. I left the office with a positive and clear mind!"**

Mina Nishimura, dance artist and educator  
Consultation Attendee



Left to right: The Field staff members/expert consultants Clay Schudel, Shawn René Graham, and Wilfredo Hernandez

Photo by Nancy Ahn



Left to right: Field Leadership Fund Fellows Azure D. Osborne-Lee, Kyoung Park, Goussy Célestin, Rachel Y. DeGuzman, Aya Lane, Bryan E. Glover, Eric Lockley, Kendra Ross, Jehan O. Young, Sydnie L. Mosley, and Alexis Convento (not pictured: Emily Berry).

Photo by David Flores

# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

**The Field is committed to providing opportunities that promote equity in the arts. 2016 marked our most active year yet!**

- **In the Spring of 2016 our most ambitious project ever - Field Leadership Fund (FLF) - kicked into high gear with 12 enterprising Fellows.**

Six artists were paired with six arts managers in order to move the artists' vision forward while simultaneously building up the arts managers' skills. From booking film festival gigs to launching a jazz and Haitian music and dance ensemble, the pairs worked hard and fast to achieve their goals.

Unlike many arts Fellows, FLFers were paid. Artists received \$5,000 stipends while arts managers earned \$20 an hour at 20 hours a week for 44 weeks in 2016. (Their work continued for 10 weeks in 2017.) This was made possible by the Scherman Foundation's Katharine S. and Axel G. Rosin Fund, with additional support from American Express, The Coach Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Fellows were slated to finish their pairing work in Spring of 2017 as The Field heads into project evaluation and dissemination. We learned a lot of real lessons about equity and access, which we will reveal in a late 2017 publication. Stay tuned!

- **In October we presented I Hate Your Work (IHYW) at the Alliance of Artists Communities Conference in Portland, OR.**

IHYW is a panel discussion on conscious and unconscious biases. Panelists shared their experiences addressing bias in adjudicating, producing, and curating work.

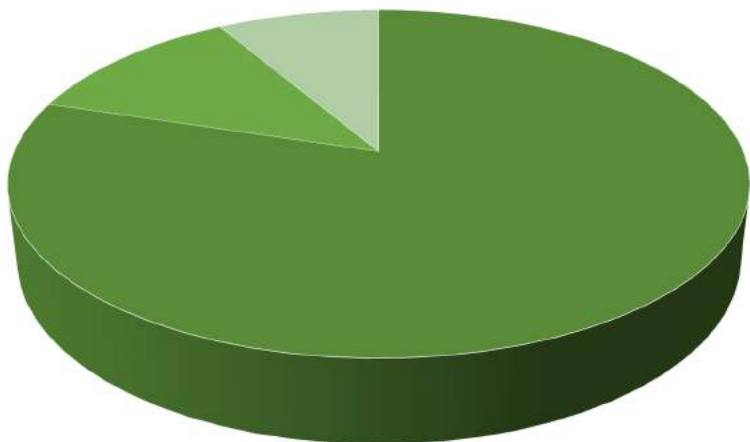
Following this successful pilot, we resolved to continue IHYW in 2017 and beyond.

- **We continued to advocate publicly for a more equitable arts sector.**

Through a grant from the New York Community Trust's Cultural Agenda Fund, The Field joined other cultural institutions in developing a series of forum events to share input on the CreateNYC Cultural Plan.

The first event, New York Breakfast for Arts and Culture, was held in December and featured 50 arts and culture leaders. Our partners included the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Gibney Dance, the Center for Arts Education, and New Yorkers for Culture & Arts.

# 2016 REVENUE



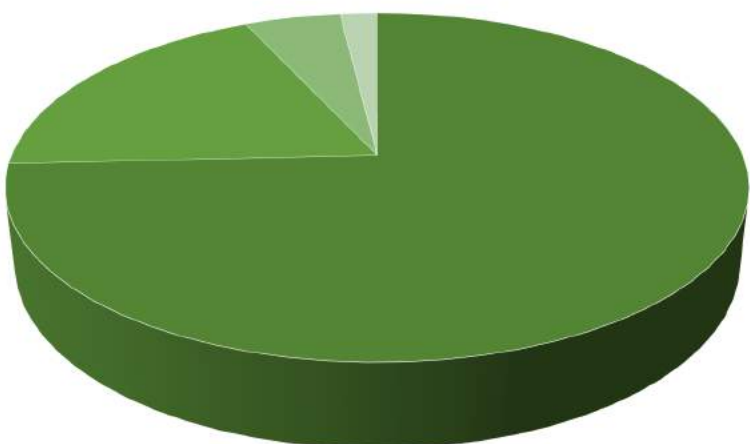
80%	Sponsored Artists	\$2,189,941
12%	Contributed Income	\$352,445
8%	Earned Income	\$202,294

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Total		\$2,744,680
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The funds raised and received by The Field's Sponsored Artists make up the bulk of our annual budget.

# EXPENSES



74%	Sponsored Artists	\$2,236,062
19%	Programming	\$569,642
5%	Management	\$149,853
2%	Fundraising	\$58,071

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Total		\$3,013,628
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**The Field's FY16 audited statements delineate a surplus in Unrestricted Net Assets of \$348,803.** Overall we are financially strong, with this cash reserve representing more than 5 months of operating expenses.



## 2016 FIELD STAFF

Claire Baum, Jennifer Wright Cook, Diana Crum, Sonia Louise Davis, Rajeeyah Finnie-Myers, Shawn René Graham, Liza Wade Green, Wilfredo Hernandez, Liz McAuliffe, and Clay Schudel

## FIELDWORK FACILITATORS

Pele Bauch, Shalewa Mackall, and James Scruggs

## CONSULTANTS

Fran Kirmser, Chikako Yamauchi, and Surala Consulting

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Wellington, President; Alice de Callatay, Treasurer; Barbara Rifkind, Secretary; Jane Comfort; Robert Gaffey; Michaela Ablon; James McLaren. Emeritus: J. Speed Carroll; Steve Gross, Psy. D; Catherine Tharin

## 2016 FUNDERS

The Field receives public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts. Generous support was also received from Amazon Smile, American Express, Jody and John Arnhold, BlackRock, J. Speed Carroll, Coach, Creative Capital's Multi-Arts Production (MAP) Fund, Goldman Sachs, Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Howard Gilman Foundation, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, Kate Spade & Co. Foundation, The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, Adam and Diane Max, The Pfizer Foundation, The Scherman Foundation's Katharine S. and Axel G. Rosin Fund, Winston Foundation, Dentons, our Board of Directors, Individual Contributors and our Engagement Circle major donors.



# Thank you.

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