



Annual Report 2021

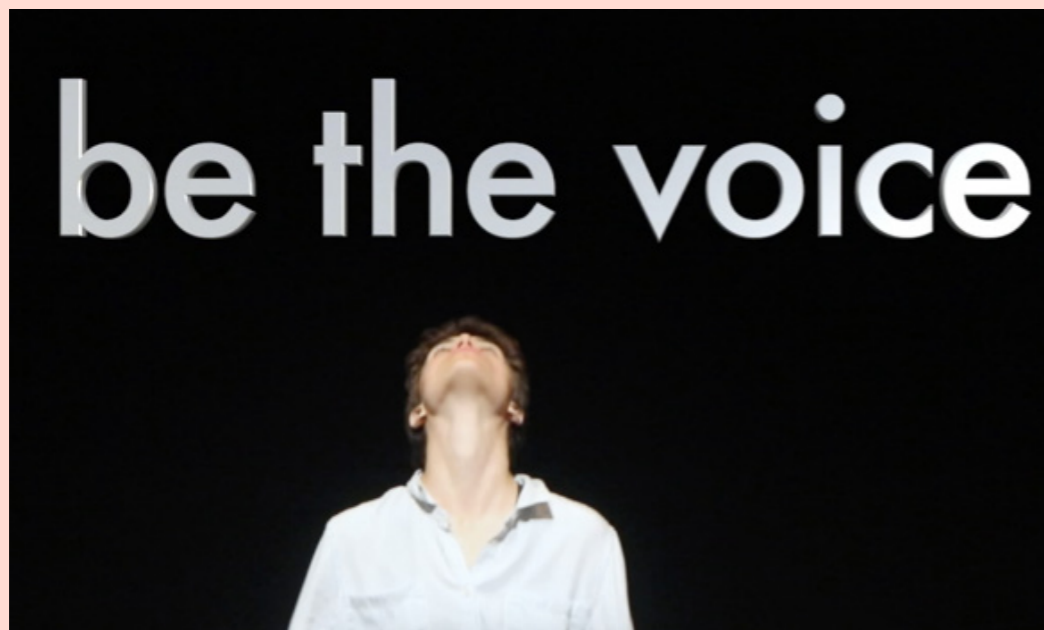
IHRAF
is giving voice to
the voiceless

IHRAF.ORG

Beauty, Courage,
Integrity
and
Celebrating Diversity

The *International Human Rights Art Festival* (IHRAF) gives voice to the voiceless; protects freedom of expression, and uses creativity to highlight human rights and social justice causes around the world. We bring together all members of society through our programming, from artists-in-exile and at risk; to activists on the front lines of the struggle for rights and justice in their own country; to artists working in all media, to national and international politicians, government agencies, social leaders and celebrities. We believe that creative engagement with all members of the society is the surest path toward social justice and positive change.





Executive Director's Statement:

We were thrilled to complete a year of strong programming, growth and audience enhancement, ending the year with a strong week-long performance Festival at the Wild Project Theater in New York City's East Village, where we presented 35 different performance events highlighting 150+ artists over the course of the week, December 6-12, 2021.

In 2021, we also produced the following events:

- [IHRAF Publishes: Books](#) — published our first five books.
- [IHRAF Publishes: Literary Magazine](#) — published 60 literary pieces.
- [IHRAF Publishes: Translations](#)— began our translation program.
- [IHRAF African Secretariat](#) — inaugurated our African Secretariat.
- [Youth Fellows](#) — our youth fellows presented an art exhibit and drama fest.
- [IHRAF Youth Film Festival](#) — held our first youth film festival.
- [IHRAF International Fellows](#) — fellows from India and Italy.
- [IHRAF Full-Week Festival](#) — presented 100+ performers from 24 countries.
- [IHRAF Art of Unity Award Creative Award](#) — received 300 entries from 62 countries and 16 US States, including more than 60 from creators under 21.
- [IHRAF Creators of Justice Award](#) — we received over 250 submissions, from 55 countries and 24 US States, including more than 30 from creators under 21.
- [IHRAF Magos Herrera Female Immigrant Musician Award](#) — created this new award to support an outstanding young female immigrant musician.

We also increased traffic to our Website (753%— due to a \$10k/month Google Ad Grant), Instagram followers (66%) Facebook followers (11%), inaugurated a membership component (26 members) and increased our budget year-over-year by 477%.

Solid now in the world of NYC live performance, as well as growing our international profile, we look forward to continue expanding our partnerships in 2022, increasing our digital outreach and our fundraising in the coming year, as we continue to use our work to open space for new voices to explore society's most pressing issues using the creative weapons of beauty, vulnerability and heartfelt conversation.



The Festival



The week-long *International Human Rights Art Festival* is the cornerstone of our organization. It took place from December 6-12, 2021, at the Wild Project Theater in NYC's East Village. It showcased the uncensored work of over 100 artists from around the world in 35 performances, in theatre, dance, music, circus, clowning, spoken word, visual art, film and performance art.

We believe this live celebration of diverse cultural voices is essential for keeping freedom of expression alive.

Festival Performers 2021





IHRAF Publishes: Literary Magazine

Our literary journal, IHRAF Publishes, showcases the power of storytelling.

We give voice to writers from around the world, many of whom are silenced by the repressive political structures in their home countries. In a number of cases, writers stated that the transparency and international reach we provide for their views safeguards them in their home countries.

Other writers have noted that by highlighting little-known social and political issues (political corruption in Uganda; Rohingyas' lack of Internet and healthcare access; caste and religious issues in India etc.), has raised the importance of these issues within their home communities and around the world.

Curated by our IHRAF Publishes editor, in 2021 we published 60 poems, essays and stories from around the world that express the values of truth, beauty, justice and vulnerability in the face of oppression.



JESSICA MEHTA



GRACE SUGE



BUWASO IBRAHIM RAZACK



MBIZO CHIRASHA



BELINDA NICOLL

IHRAF Publishes: Books, Translations and Awards

IHRAF expanded our literary work with a series of initiatives. We published our first five books, designed by Michele Chu; we began IHRAF Translates, publishing poetry translated from Arabic, Russian and Romanian, spearheaded by our IHRAF Translates Editor Kalpna Singh-Chitnis, and we received 550 submissions for our two literary awards, Art of Unity Creative Award (300 entries from 62 countries and 16 US States, including more than 60 from creators under 21) and the Creators of Justice Literary Award (250 submissions, from 55 countries and 24 US States).

Three of our books:



The Future

Our goal is to sustain and continue to grow our boundary-defying non profit organization dedicated to keeping the uncensored vision, passion and imaginations of artists alive. We will expand in order to continue supporting those whose creativity is unjustly threatened, as well as highlight the ideals that make for a more just, free and healthy society and world.



Honorary Co-Sponsors

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♦
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♦
CONGRESSMAN
JOHN LEWIS
(deceased)

IHRAF Board of Directors

Jessie Lee (President): Founder, Better Future Strategies, NY.
20+ years leadership in financial, government, higher education and nonprofit.

Prashant Mupparapu (Treasurer): Investments in Energy & Infrastructure, Citadel Company, NY.

Kristen Tcherneshoff (Secretary): Programs Director, Wikitongues, NY.

Rabbi Abraham Ingber: Rabbi-in-Residence, Christ Church Cathedral, OH.

Kevin Bertelsen: Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Juvenile Division at Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, OH.

Laura Kandle: Senior Administrator for Digital at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY.

Tom Block: Founding Executive Director, International Human Rights Art Festival, NY.



Our Donors

\$2500+

Yahad-in Unum Mid America

\$500 +

James Baglanis

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\$250 +

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, MD

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\$100 +

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Other

Marc Apter

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Sheila Joon Azim

Candace Blake

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Claudio Vazquez

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Linda Wisniewski



For further information contact
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Tom Block:

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or

1.240.305.6742

Website: ihraf.org
Facebook: [hrartfestival](https://www.facebook.com/hrartfestival)
Instagram: [hrartfestival](https://www.instagram.com/hrartfestival)

Click on the question-mark icons to display help windows.
 The information provided will enable you to file a more complete return and reduce the chances the IRS will need to contact you.

Form **990-EZ**

Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

2021

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

- ▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form, as it may be made public.
- ▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990EZ for instructions and the latest information.

A For the 2021 calendar year, or tax year beginning _____, **2021, and ending** _____, **20**

B Check if applicable:

- Address change
- Name change
- Initial return
- Final return/terminated
- Amended return
- Application pending

C Name of organization _____

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) _____ Room/suite _____

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code _____

D Employer identification number _____

E Telephone number _____

F Group Exemption Number ▶ _____

G Accounting Method: Cash Accrual Other (specify) ▶ _____

H Check if the organization is **not** required to attach Schedule B (Form 990).

I Website: ▶ _____

J Tax-exempt status (check only one) – 501(c)(3) 501(c) () ◀ (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other _____

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B)) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ▶ \$ _____

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2
	3	Membership dues and assessments	3
	4	Investment income	4
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a
	5b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b
	5c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c
	6	Gaming and fundraising events:	
	6a	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a
	6b	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b
6c	Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c	
6d	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d	
Revenue	7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a
	7b	Less: cost of goods sold	7b
	7c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c
	8	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8
	9	Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8 ▶	9
Expenses	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10
	11	Benefits paid to or for members	11
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12
	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15
	16	Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16
	17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16 ▶	17
Net Assets	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (subtract line 17 from line 9)	18
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20 ▶	21

Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V

33 Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O
34 Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O. See instructions
35a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?
35b If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O
35c Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions
37b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee; or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?
38b If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II, and enter the total amount involved
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:
39a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9
39b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities
40a Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911; section 4912; section 4955
40b Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I
40c Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958
40d Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization
40e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed
42a The organization's books are in care of Telephone no. Located at ZIP + 4
42b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).
42c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country
43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 - Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year
44a Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ
44b Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ
44c Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?
44d If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O
45a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?
45b Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ. See instructions

		Yes	No
46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	46		

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) Organizations Only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

		Yes	No
47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	47		
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	48		
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	49a		
b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?	49b		

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶ _____

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 ▶ _____

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **Note:** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A ▶ **Yes** **No**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here		Date
	Type or print name and title	

Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN
	Firm's name ▶	Firm's EIN ▶			
	Firm's address ▶	Phone no.			

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ▶ **Yes** **No**