

Annual Report



2023



INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN
RIGHTS ART
MOVEMENT



VISION

Artist activism is an engine for social change, and is honored as a human right.



MISSION

Supporting the most vulnerable creators in the most difficult social and political situations around the world.



WHO WE ARE

2023 saw a huge change in our brand, as we evolved from a “Festival” into a “Movement”:

The International Human Rights Art Movement.

This change in name honored the fact we have crossed all geographic, ethnic, religious and political borders, uniting a growing collective of creators at art, heart and the spirit.

We have presented over **2000** artists from **105** countries and **40** US states in live performances, on literary and book publishing platforms, through hosting International and youth fellowships, and by creating the IHRAF African Secretariat, with offices in Ibadan, Nigeria; Gweru, Zimbabwe; and Nairobi, Kenya.

The next three years will be even more ambitious.

IHRAM will expand our book publishing platform, increase the frequency of our literary magazine publishing and continue to pay the writers (moving us into the **top 8%** of literary magazines which do so), and broaden our reach through global partnerships, fellowships, ambassadorships, direct-action grants to artists-at-risk, awards, and creative support to help artists when help is needed most. We will expand our interactions with politicians, government agencies and non-art activists, so creative activists’ voices ring louder in the halls of power. And we will continue our work producing live events, classes, workshops, and partnerships to expand audiences, engagement, and outlets for creators around the world.

OUR INITIATIVES

IHRAM PUBLISHES

- Book Publishing
- Literary Magazine
- Translations

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2 International Fellowships and 2 Youth Fellowships
- 12 Creative Awards

LIVE EVENTS

- IHRAF Annual Festival

INTERIM EVENTS ACROSS THE WORLD

- both in person and online

NEW PARTNERSIPS WITH LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NPO'S



OUR IMPACT IN 2023 *2023 Recap*

I want to thank everyone for another challenging but successful year! We couldn't have done it without our artists from Algeria to New Zealand, Uganda to Macao and everywhere in between. Our team aided in our rebranding from a Festival to a Movement, and we secured our first, important multi-year grants. Our end-of-the-year Festival was our strongest ever, and our book publishing arm and literary magazine continued to operate at the intersection of creativity, and the world's most challenging geo-political events. And we especially want to thank you, for being a part of our outreach, growth and international impact. We hope to see you in the new year,

Founding Executive Director
International Human Rights Art Movement

IN 2023 WE . . .

- [IHRAM Publishes: Books](#)— Published four books from *Iranian Women Speak* to *Queer Voices of the World* to two books from our African Secretariat— including writers from 30+ countries.
- [IHRAM Publishes: Literary Magazine](#) — Published 60 literary pieces (poetry, short story and essay) from around the world.
- [IHRAM Publishes: Translations](#)— Continued IHRAM's translation program to further highlight works from around the world — with pieces in Chinese, Vietnamese, Hebrew, Ukrainian, Filipino, Ayuujk (Mixe- Indigenous Mexican), Bengali, German, Farsi, Spanish and more.
- [IHRAM African Secretariat](#)— Our African Secretariat published 52 interviews with creators from around Africa, initiated writing prizes, literary collections, award-winning videos, teen and youth workshops and worked with creators from Somalia to Ghana to Uganda to Ethiopia.
- [IHRAM Youth Fellows](#) — Supported youth fellows who provided writing on issues of concern, created an anthology of youth writers opining on the most pressing social issues, and produced a video about retaining culture for immigrants. IHRAM also published pieces from youth writers around the world.
- [IHRAM International Fellows](#) — Supported fellows from Cameroon and India who presented online programming, written works, literary submissions and initiated and edited writing works from within their networks.
- [IHRAM Art of Unity Award Creative Award](#) — received 352 entries from 68 countries and 22 US States, including 84 from creators 18 and under.
- [IHRAM Creators of Justice Award](#)— received 557 submissions, from 80 countries and 25 US States, of which 141 were from creators 18 and under.
- [IHRAM Rhonda Gail Williford Award](#) — inaugurated this sponsored award in honor of a deceased DC poet, receiving 174 submissions from 39 countries.

And we're excited about

continuing and expanding our programming, working with fellows from Kazakhstan, Philippines, Japan and Ghana; books planned about the Cameroon, indigenous voices in Canada, Maltese activists, *Voices of Palestine* and more; a new quarterly, thematic literary magazine format; an expanded IHRAF Festival; further international partnerships and much more!

In 2023, we greatly expanded our support, with grants from the New York State Council of the Arts, Alliance of Resident Theatres - NY, Google, Microsoft, initiated a Board of Directors “Give/Raise” and expanded our individual donors from around the country and world.

SUPPORT US NOW AS WE EXPAND OUR WORK AS THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ART MOVEMENT

We’ve reached over 1500+ artists so far, help us make their message have an impact. To meet our ambitious goals for 2024, we will need your help!

Our growth campaign fundraising goal is \$50,000.

Can you contribute to help us reach our goal?

Donate now at <https://humanrightsartmovement.org/donate>

YOU CAN CHECK OUT OUR LATEST BOOKS HERE



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT US...

"To be published by the IHRAF is to be recognised as a global voice for freedom"

Dr. Uche Akunebu, Professor at the International Institute of Journalism, Abuja, Nigeria

"I thank you and your team from the bottom of my heart for helping such small but significant voices reach the global stage. I will continue writing and exploring and giving my part to make this world a better place"

Prabuddha Basu, India, Creators of Justice Literary Awards

"The arts have a long history of being at the forefront of social justice movements, and Africa is no exception. From the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa to the African American Civil Rights Movement, the arts have been a powerful tool in the fight for human rights. And in my view, IHRAF is one of the most powerful movements of the 21st century, and it is here to stay. IHRAF has revolutionized human rights in Africa through the use of arts"

Wole Adedoyin, Director, IHRAF African Secretariat, Nigeria, 2020-present

"You're a wonder change maker and a game changer. It is an honour for me to be selected as IHRAF International Fellow for 2023. I do accept and appreciate this opportunity that you have given me so that I can tell the stories of my suffering people through interviews and documentation. If there is a platform where these stories about the traumatic experiences my people have suffered due to the ongoing Anglophone crisis, then that place is IHRAM"

Geraldine Sinyuy, Cameroon, 2023 International Fellow



"Thank you sincerely for your message and the generous financial assistance extended to me. Your kindness is truly commendable, and I am deeply grateful for it. Your act demonstrates your belief in the importance of the work I am engaged in, and it fills me with honor and joy. It is a testament to your recognition of the value of Iranian women's voices and stories, and I am privileged to be a part of this project"

Fatemeh Mahdavi, Iranian Women Speak author



"I read/viewed both very moving books cover-to-cover on my way back upstate. What important work you and your team do, casting light into dark corners and raising powerful voices igniting change. Here's to unexpected miracles"

Rachael Sage, Indie Recording Star, IHRAF Performer 2017, 2021, 2023

"I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible opportunity you gave us to present 'The Sea' at the International Human Rights Art Festival. Your belief in my work means more to me than words can express. Your guidance and support throughout the entire process have been invaluable. The resources you made available to us and the unwavering support of your team were crucial in ensuring a seamless and successful production. Your passion for the arts and commitment to nurturing emerging talent have made a tremendous impact on me personally and on the entire artistic community"

Taiwo Aloba, IHRAF Festival, The Tank, 12-2023



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



CONTACT INFO



hello@humanrightsartmovement.org



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[Instagram](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

2023

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.

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

B Check if applicable: [] Address change [] Name change [] Initial return [] Final return/terminated [] Amended return [] Application pending
C Name of organization: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ART FESTIVAL INC
D Employer identification number: 82-3479341
E Telephone number: 240-305-6742
F Group Exemption Number

G Accounting Method: [] Cash [x] Accrual Other (specify):
H Check [x] if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990).

I Website: www.ihraf.org

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

K Form of organization: [x] 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 \$ 66,165

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 [x]

Table with 3 main sections: Revenue (lines 1-9), Expenses (lines 10-17), and Net Assets (lines 18-21). Each row includes a description, a sub-row identifier, and a numerical value.

Part II Balance Sheets (see the instructions for Part II)

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

	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	12,809	22 19,896
23 Land and buildings	0	23 0
24 Other assets (describe in Schedule O)	0	24 0
25 Total assets	12,809	25 19,896
26 Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O) <u>See Schedule O, Statement 2</u>	7,709	26 1,493
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	5,100	27 18,403

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)

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

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? To promote social change in the defense of human rights

Expenses
(Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations; optional for others.)

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

28 <u>IHRAF Publishes. This includes our Literary Magazine, publishing online every 6 days (61 total pieces) and our book publishing arm, which published 4 books this past year.</u>		
(Grants \$ <u>0</u>) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	28a	14,500
29 <u>IHRAF Events. We returned to in-person events with two main Festivals in January and December 2023, at the Tank Theater, 312W 36th Street, NY, NY. We featured more than 300 artists in more than 70 events over 10 days of programming between the two events.</u>		
(Grants \$ <u>25,000</u>) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	29a	13,000
30 <u>IHRAF Creative Awards: We have three awards, the Creators of Justice Literary Award, Rhonda Williford Poetry Prize and the Art of Unity Creative Award, receiving more than 1000 entries from 90+ countries</u>		
(Grants \$ <u>0</u>) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	30a	1,392
31 Other program services (describe in Schedule O)		
(Grants \$ <u>0</u>) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	31a	0
32 Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)	32	28,892

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (list each one even if not compensated—see the instructions for Part IV)

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

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC) (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
<u>Prashant Mupparapu</u> Board President	8.00	0	0	0
<u>Jian Gong</u> Treasurer	6.00	0	0	0
<u>Rechelle Duncan</u> Secretary	4.00	0	0	0
<u>Sarah Feingold</u> Board Member	3.00	0	0	0
<u>Michael Ruffner</u> Board Member	3.00	0	0	0
<u>Kevin Bertelsen</u> Board member	3.00	0	0	0
<u>Alexandra Cohen</u> Board Member	3.00	0	0	0
<u>Sumana Chandra</u> Board Member	4.00	0	0	0
<u>Laura Kandle</u> Board Member	4.00	0	0	0

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

		Yes	No
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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		
c	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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions	37a	0
b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	37b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	38a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II, and enter the total amount involved	38b	
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39a	
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under:		
	section 4911: 0; section 4912: 0; section 4955: 0		
b	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	40b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c	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		0
d	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization		0
e	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	40e	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed: NY		
42a	The organization's books are in care of: Tom Block Telephone no. 240-305-6742 Located at: 4142 73rd Street 5M, Woodside, NY 11377 ZIP + 4 11377		
b	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).	42b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c	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:	42c	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	43	<input type="checkbox"/>
44a	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	44c	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d	If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	44d	
45a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	45a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	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	45b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	48	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	49a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?	49b	<input type="checkbox"/>

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
None				

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

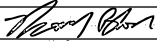
51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None		

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		3/11/24
	Signature of officer	Date
	Thomas Block, Executive Director	
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		Phone no.	
	Firm's address				

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