



Annual Report 2020

***Creating a world where
artistic expression and
human rights are
honored equally for all.***

IHRAF.ORG

**Beauty, Courage,
Integrity
and
Celebrating Diversity**

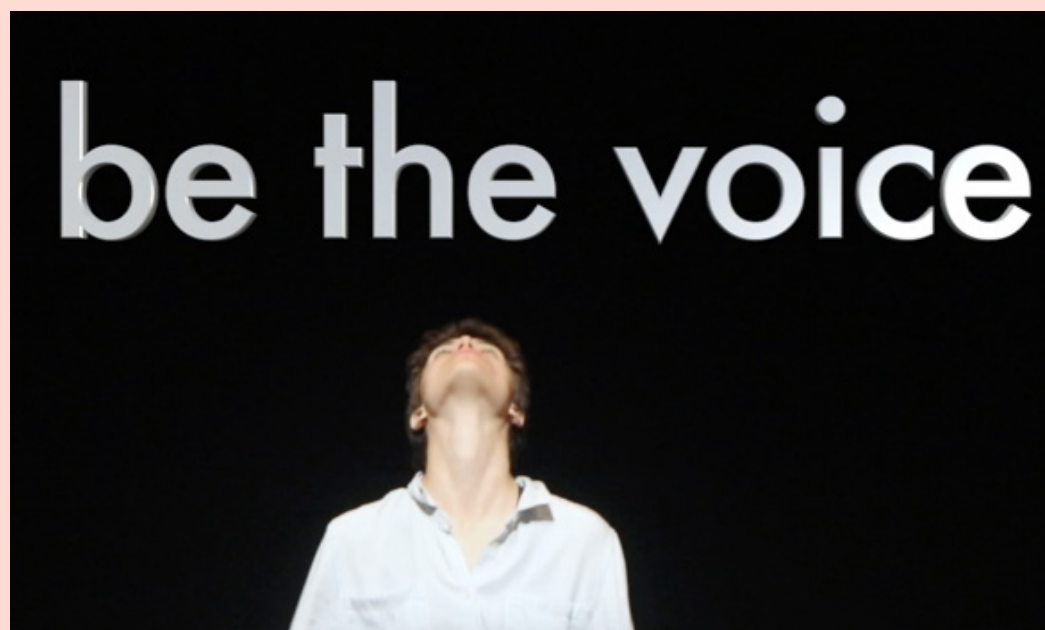
The *International Human Rights*

Art Festival (IHRAF) protects freedom of expression, safeguards artists at risk and uses creativity to highlight and impact human rights and social justice causes around the world.

We do this by:

- Providing direct support to artists at risk
- Providing transparency to expand their message, as well as safeguard them through celebrity
- Mobilizing artists to take an active role in discussions on social and political concerns
- Amplifying lesser-known voices around the world
- Engaging with and influencing decision makers in government and civil society
- Connecting change makers (activists and artists) with decision makers in the worlds of politics, government and society





Executive Director's Statement:

2020, *annus horribilis*, year of Covid-19, lock-downs, American political unrest and a whipsawing financial situation, presented unique challenges to the non-profit sector in general, and to the *International Human Rights Art Festival*, in particular. However, with the strong backing of our Board, the aid of a growing number of volunteers and advisors and a strong strategic plan, we were able to not only weather the challenge, but emerge in a much stronger position.

We not only solidified our financing and began long-range planning, but we were able to initiative a number of new partnerships, awards and international programming. Our Facebook followers ballooned from 3000+ to 23,000+; partnerships from Yahad-in Unum (France), Society of Young Nigerian Writers, Teatro Raizes (Italy), Gem Theater (Bethel, ME) and more; international literary awards drawing 250+ submissions from more than 30 countries around the globe; IHRAF Publishes presenting more than 50 activist-literary pieces and a strong plan of classes, workshops, presentations, performances, fellowships and other activities for 2021 has left us in a strong position.

Additionally, with our new Fundraising Committee, we solidified and expanded our fundraising base, with 46 new donors, including corporate partners such as Microsoft, Yahad-in Unum, Tree Riders and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, MD. We also received a US Government SBA loan, and immediately hired a professional grant writer.

All-in-all, we are looking for a very exciting and generative 2021, as we emerge from this amazing and challenging year, and power into the future, using the fuel of passion and creativity from artists and partners around the world!



The Festival



The week-long *International Human Rights Art Festival* was originally scheduled to take place from December 8-14, 2020, at our host, the Wild Project Theater in NYC's East Village. However, due to the Covid-19 situation this — and all other in-person activities — were cancelled after February 23, 2020.

We have our next full-week Festival planned for December 6-12, 2021, at the Wild Project.

We still strongly believe that this live celebration of diverse cultural voices is essential for keeping freedom of expression alive, and we look forward to revivifying it in the next year!



IHRAF Publishes

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 a team of artists, activists and writers, in 2020 IHRAF publishes literary magazine presented 50+ poems, essays and stories from around the world that express the values of truth, beauty, justice and vulnerability in the face of oppression.

Additionally, we presented the 2020 Anthology of Youth Creativity on Human Rights & Social Justice, and three different literary awards, including the Creators of Justice Literary Award, Art of Unity Creative Award and #EndSars Poetry Award, in partnership with the Society of Young Nigerian Writers.

All told, in 2020, we featured nearly 100 works from 22 countries and 20 US states.

Interim Events

IHRAF produced fewer interim events, due to the Covid-19 situation. However, we were able to present three events, including two which were online.

Going forward, we are looking to produce many more online events in the first half of the year, driven by our Fellows, as well as new partnerships.

Even so, our events reached hundreds of audience members in NYC and around the world.

February 23: ***Diversity is Fun***
Playroom Theater, Times Square, NYC

August 15: ***IHRAF Live!***
Online, international performance and discussion event!

December 12: ***Celebration of Human Rights***
Online, international performance and discussion event!



IHRAF Direct Action

Our Direct Action program continued to provide monetary support, transparency for safety and general awareness of the Direct Action recipients' plight. We highlighted artists and activists whose freedom of expression is threatened. Our commitment to these Direct Action recipients remains as long as they are at risk.



In 2020, we supported the following artists and activists:

Mbizo Chirasha

Zimbabwean poet-in-exile
(currently in hiding in Mozambique)

Buwaso Ibrahim Razack

Ugandan poet-in-exile
(currently in hiding in Kenya)

Reality Leigh Winner

American whistleblower and visual artist
(currently in jail in Fort Worth, TX)

Wei Jingsheng

Chinese democracy activist who spent 18 years in jail after advocating for democratic reforms. He founded a literary movement called the "Democracy Wall Movement."

IHRAF Direct Action Case Study



Mbizo Chirasha
Zimbabwean Poet-in Exile

Mbizo first contacted us in late August 2017. His activist poetry has caused him to be pursued from Zimbabwe to South Africa, then to Zambia and Kenya. By the end of 2019, he found himself in Mozambique. Mbizo is now a strong member of the IHRAF Family, participating in our online events on August 15 and December 12, as well as joining our Advisory Council as African Outreach Coordinator.

Mbizo wrote us:

Thank you greatly Tom. I owe you a life. Thank you very much for the IHRAF DIRECT ACTION. IHRAF has stood with my welfare, communication, talent and artistic career development since 2017. I salute the amount of care, support and development. Thank you to the board, staff, artists and festival organizers for the trust. ALUTA CONTINUA!!!



IHRAF 2020 Budget

International Human Rights Art Festival

Statement of Activity

January - December 2020

	TOTAL
Revenue	
4010 Donations and Grants - Individuals	5,993.66
4020 Donations and Grants - Government	7,058.58
4030 Donations and Grants - Foundations	2,500.00
4040 Donations and Grants - Corporations	500.00
4130 Special Events - Ticket Sales	220.00
4200 Program Revenue	97.50
Total Revenue	\$16,369.74
GROSS PROFIT	\$16,369.74
Expenditures	
5100 Contractors	2,700.00
8100 Awards	1,350.00
8200 Event Expenses	225.00
8210 Venue Rental	400.00
8300 Marketing and Branding	679.71
8540 Office Supplies & Software	150.00
8810 Directors and Operators Insurance	800.00
Total Expenditures	\$6,304.71
NET REVENUE	\$10,065.03



The Future

Our goal is to sustain and 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

MS. BARBRA STREISAND

MR. NORMAN LEAR

SENATOR
BERNIE SANDERS

CONGRESSWOMAN
ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

MS. AMY POEHLER

SENATOR
CHARLES E. SCHUMER

CONGRESSMAN
JOHN LEWIS
(deceased)

IHRAF Staff

TOM BLOCK

Founder & Executive Director

Tom is a playwright, visual artist and author of five books on social philosophy, activism and positive interfaith relationships.

SU YATES

Grant Writer

Su has written grants as part of her public health jobs for almost 25 years, after obtaining a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Hawaii where she studied international health with people from almost every culture in the world.

DANIELA JAYAKUMAR

Accountant/Bookkeeper

Daniela recently acquired her Master's in Accounting from Walsh in Michigan and has a passion for responsible taxation and marine conservation.

WOLE ADEDOYIN

President

IHRAF Nigerian National Secretariat

Adedoyin is currently the President of the Society of Young Nigerian Writers (SYNW) and the National Publicity Secretary (South) of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA).

KRISTEN TCHERNESHOFF

Strategic Advisor and Website Designer

Kristen Tcherneshoff is the Programs Director at Wikitongues, a non-profit creating the world's first public archive of every language in the world.

LAURE KANDLE

Strategic Planning Advisor

Laura is an experienced nonprofit professional with a passion for the arts and social justice. She is currently a Senior Administrator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art .

MBIZO CHIRASHA

Pan-Africa Outreach Coordinator

Mbizo is a Zimbabwean poet-in-exile with an international following and reach.

SUSAN BODIKER

Marketing Consultant & Membership Coordinator

Susan is the founder of Orion Advertising. With 30 years' experience as a copywriter, broadcast producer and account planner, she has developed branding, image and fund-raising campaigns for numerous clients.

JUDY GOLDBERG

Branding and Marketing

Judy is the founder of Wondershift LLC, a firm focused on results-driven transformation, helping leaders to shift their businesses and employees to be more successful, productive, strategic and present.

CHRIS JOHNSON

Legal Advisor

Chris is an accountant and attorney with more than ten years of experience in tax planning and entity structuring.



IHRAF Board of Directors

Jessie Lee (President): Jessie is a nonprofit strategic planning and fundraising strategy consultant helping organizations build capacity, diversify funding sources, develop communications/marketing plans and enhance impact data management.

James Baglanis (Treasurer): James is a finance professional with a passion for finding ways to use his experience to support impactful organizations with an emphasis on education and human rights.

Michelle Koch (Secretary): Founding Executive Director of the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee, NYC.

Tom Block: Is the Founding Executive Director of the International Human Rights Art Festival.

Rabbi Abraham Ingber: Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Community Engagement at Xavier University



Our Donors

\$2500+

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, MD
James Baglanis
Yahad-in Unum Mid America

\$1000 +

Victor Block
Microsoft Corporation
Mariam Naini

\$500 +

Tree Riders NYC

\$250 +

Isaac Shapiro

\$100 +

Tom Block
Melanie Chang
Judy Goldberg
Katharine Hammond
Forbes Huang
Christina Huynh
Don Keller
Reemberto Rodriguez
Cynthia Thorp
Sheila Tucker
Ju Young Yoon



Other

Geena Andrews
Heidi Arete
Andrew Bedell
Doug Canfield
Nathan Dinh
David Do
Curt Harrington
Shyamali Hauth
Fyllis Hockman
Laura Kandle
Linda Kuo
Jessie Lee
Alex Li
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Robert Read
Mark Reedy
Paula Rudnick
Robert Read
Hannah Spielberg
Kristen Tcherneshoff
Hannah Tomlin
Alexander Tracy
Hardarshan Valia
Marisa Wong
Su Yates



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