

G!RL BE HEARD

IMPACT REPORT

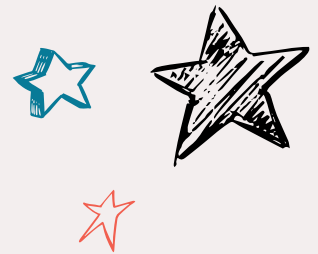
A LOOK BACK AT OUR FIRST 10 YEARS

2022





TABLE OF CONTENTS



1
From the
Executive
Director

2
History

3
Our Rising
Stars

4
Our
Journey

5
Our
Champions

6
By the
Numbers

7
Programs

8
Special
Projects

9
Evolution of
Programs

10-11
In the
World

12
In their
Words

13
In our
Words

14
Vision for
the Future

15
With Gratitude





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At Girl Be Heard, we know that as the world rapidly changes, the challenges faced by girls, young women, and gender non-conforming youth intensify, particularly for those from marginalized and underrepresented communities. For those who are part of our arts and education programs, the skills they learn, from storytelling to self-empowerment, help anchor them through the uncertain days and years they may face.

In the last couple of years alone, our company members joined housing activists to urge the city to provide shelter for the unhoused. Some also joined other activists to march for Black Lives across Brooklyn. And so much more. While activism is often associated with a sad, harsh existence, Girl Be Heard instills joy so our members can thrive in a world where the tension between beauty and despair is ever-engulfing.

None of our work is possible without your steadfast support—our members, donors, teaching assistants, and staff.

We're pleased to share with you this report—a look back at our magnificent ten years and a glimpse into the future that shows we're here to stay and grow. You'll get to meet some of our members and hear from them in their own words, and you'll see that our mission extends across borders and institutions.

We remain committed to supporting and empowering our members and participants to lead and create change, tell their stories, and live joyfully. We're so glad you're on this journey with us.

With appreciation,

Chiwoniso Kaitano (Chi)





HISTORY

MORE LIKE
HER-STORY



On the beginnings of Girl Be Heard's mission to help girls and young women feel empowered to make arts and activism (artivism) come alive!

Since Girl Be Heard was founded in 2008, our mission has been to provide opportunities to youth, namely girls, young women, and gender non-conforming youth from marginalized and underrepresented communities, to help them discover and embrace their unique voices, identities and leadership skills through theater, performing arts, community, and activism.

Over the years, we have grown into a dynamic, multi-faceted organization that reaches over 700 youth annually across multiple Title-1 schools and community-based sites citywide and engages 30,000+ in audiences via MainStage, our annual show, and community-based performances. Our company members have been invited to perform at The White House, United Nations, US State Department, TED Talks, the Women's March, CBS This Morning national broadcast, and Girls, Inc, among others.

Our presence has also expanded internationally, with global tours taking place in Denmark, London, Switzerland, Sarajevo, and Trinidad and Tobago. In 2017, Girl Be Heard's Trinidad and Tobago program launched with support from the United States State Department/US Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago. Today, it is a thriving program serving the local and migrant communities.

We started with only 12 participants and \$300 in our bank account a decade ago. Today, we are a thriving Brooklyn-based nonprofit, all thanks to our generous funders, incredible community partners, and dedicated staff members.





OUR RISING STARS

Performed by invitation in 12 countries and across US states and cities.



Over 90% of seniors who joined our programs graduated high school and matriculated into college, with recent alumni attending University of Chicago, Harvard, Yale University, Smith College, Stony Brook, and NYU.

AMAZING! ↗

75% are civically engaged and active in their communities and schools, from advocating for the unhoused to championing funding for arts education.



Participants have been named the 2019, 2021, and 2022 NYC Youth Poet Laureates; as well as the 2020 National Youth Poet Laureate. Two participants are published poets.

WOW! ↗

Alumni have reaped numerous acting awards including the British Academy Film Awards, the Black Reels Award, the African American Film Critics Award, and a BAFTA nomination.



Cast in stage shows, movies and photoshoots including *Judas and the Black Messiah* (Dominique Fishback, 2021) and *Rustin*, *The Best Man* (Jamilah Rosemond, 2022).





**We began at
the Estrogenius
Theater Festival**



2008

**Formally
became a
non-profit**



2011

**Global
Tour**



2015

**Launched school
partnership programs**



2016

**Trinidad and Tobago
program launched**



2017

**Expanded into new
program areas and
added 4 programs**



2020

**Girl Be Heard
celebrated 10 years**



2021





OUR CHAMPIONS

We're so grateful for the activists and artists who hold our torch. Over the years, we have been fortunate to have so many of you make time to inspire, encourage, and support our participants and company members. We can't possibly list all of you here, but here are a few highlights from the last decade:

Inspiring mentorship session with actress and 2022 GBH Gala Honoree, Gina Rodriguez

Amplification by activist champions like Malala Yousafzai and her father Ziauddin Yousafzai

Behind the scenes advocacy by our board members

Lunch and learns with Diane Von Furstenberg, Luis Miranda and Lin Manuel Miranda, and more

Amplification by NY local and state leadership who held space for young folks to amplify their voices, including United States Representative Richie Torres, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, and other NYC council members

Art advocacy by Gloria Steinem, Viola Davis, Alicia Keys, Nigel Barker, Danai Gurira, Sayu Bhojwani, and more





BY THE NUMBERS

600+

young people
enrolled per
year

\$1.65M

in 2022 budget
from \$300 in
2008

7

program areas
across 13
sites and two
countries

15K+

in audiences
reached

2 staff in 2008 to

40

staff in two
global locations

70

institutional
funders





PROGRAMS



Our free programs are intentionally designed and led by diverse Teaching Artists and staff members who harness their lived experiences and create meaningful spaces for participants to shape transformative change within themselves and in their communities actively.

Girl Be Heard values learning and leadership grounded in the power and healing of the collective. Through building a culture and embodiment of the ensemble, participants see their leadership as interconnected with that of their peers, adult allies, and communities.

Our goal to empower girls, young women and gender non-conforming youth is rooted in the belief that building their self-confidence, awareness, empathy, and discipline, and helping them enhance both their verbal and non-verbal skills while learning cooperation, collaboration, and friendship, can help move the needle toward a more equitable future.

MAINSTAGE & COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

Company Members develop and perform 50+ shows annually reaching an audience of over 30K

AFTER-SCHOOL & WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Based in 9 Title 1 schools and 4 community centers in Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, & Queens

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Programs such as Girls Make Movies, BE workshops, and arts immersion camps arm young women with 21st Century art-activist tools

GLOBAL PROJECTS

We bring workshops to communities across the globe with a growing program in Trinidad and Tobago and performances across 12 countries from Denmark to South Africa



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Girls Make Movies

Launched January 2021

A program teaching young documentarians how to develop their understanding of documentary filmmaking principles and standards of style. Experienced filmmakers guide the members in completing at least one or two documentary shorts. Social issues and themes covered in past GMM programs included:

- Mental health and the conquest of breaking free from yourself
- Stigmatization of mental health across (Indian) culture and generation
- Colorism and its impact on representation in film, rape culture
- Schools as safe spaces for students of color

GMM documentarians have had their documentaries screened at the EstroGenius Film Festival.

What's Good? Podcast

Launched May 2022

A program that serves as a platform for participants interested in learning how to develop podcasts as a form of activism. Participants learn how to craft compelling stories with audio, how to choose perfect topic for their target audience, identify the right guests and/or co-host, and understand and operate podcast technology

At the last program's culmination, the podcast series produced four episodic tutorials, which you can access on GBH's YouTube page.

Be! Workshops

Launched in 2020

A series of virtual intensives intended to guide young girls, women, and gender non-conforming youth on a path to becoming all they desire to be while amplifying their voices as change-makers, artists, and activists.

Each workshop focuses on a specific art discipline, draws in a national and international audience, and engages arts educators with unique art disciplines.

Summer Camp

Launched in 2020

A 2-week summer experience that provides young activists a historical dive into New York City's cultural institutions and the contributions people of color and immigrants have made to those spaces by, helping participants expand their sense of belonging in a city where they may sometimes feel alienated. Our attendees gain a deeper understanding of the diverse and often reveal untold stories of this great city.

Visits include multidisciplinary art institutions and cultural institutions:

- The Slavery and the Underground Railroad Walking Tour
- Seneca Village Walking Tour
- The Greenwich Village Gay Rights Walking Tour
- Private Civil Rights and Social Justice of Harlem Virtual Tour





EVOLUTION OF PROGRAMS

Introduction of Annual Program Theme

Since 2021, we have announced a theme for every school year as a central, unifying idea for all programs to help empower our participants to focus on being constructive and action-oriented as they bring awareness to a wide range of social issues that impact themselves and their communities.



Before 2021, our annual Mainstage shows were also themed, such as '9mm America' (2013), 'Blurred Lines' (2017), 'Indivisible' (2018), and 'The Future is Ours' (2019), 'Citizen Be Heard' (2020), and 'The People vs. Justice' (2021).

Curriculum Redesign aimed to:

- Refresh the curriculum with social justice topics resonating with the participant community and lesson plan resources to support TA's in their facilitation of these topics, while maintaining the fundamental elements of identity, leadership, and activism irrespective of the artistic discipline used to amplify social justice issues.
- Enhance staff's capacity, understanding, cultural responsiveness, and empathy around racial justice and LGBTQIA issues for the artists we serve and for themselves.

Program Expansion

- After-School Workshops in 8 Title-1 schools and Weekend Workshops in 4 community centers across the city.
- Weekend Workshop expanded to Queens and Brooklyn during the 2021-2022 program year.

- Introduced four new Weekend Workshop disciplines during the 2022-2023 program year: visual arts, dance, vocal performance, and spoken word/theatre.

- Weekend Workshop Partnerships - To be more intentional about community-based outreach, we partnered with Cornerstone & Beacon programs, trusted community spaces that serve and convene youth in communities of great need. To date, we have been established as a co-locator at the Phipps Neighborhood Sonia Sotomayor Cornerstone (BX) and NIA Community Services Network PS179 Beacon (BK), Sixth Street Community Center (BX), Queens Community Houses (QNs), and Wyckoff Community Center (BK).





GBH was invited to perform at various United Nations events, including:

- Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (2018)
This conference focused on the challenges faced by children/youth & showcase programs by the UN & others to protect them.
- UN Committee on Mental Health (April 2019)
This event highlighted the importance of immigrants' and refugees' mental health.
- UN Commission on the Status of Women (May 2019).
The performance centered on the value of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

SDG5 Dream Team Launch



Global Goals World Cup

Congo at UN Women



U.S. Embassy London

Across Borders



Sensational Football, Denmark



London Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones



United Nations Office at Geneva



IN THE WORLD

↖ Girl Be Heard Trinidad and Tobago



Asia Society (He Named Me Malala) ↗



↖ Across Borders: Taiwan

Across Borders: Bermuda ↗

OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Over 90% of GBH participants identify as BIPOC. Participants represent immigrant communities, identify as LGBTQ+, the disabled community, or are involved in court or foster care systems. They hail from acutely under-resourced neighborhoods citywide deeply impacted by the pandemic and ongoing racial unrest, such as Brownsville, East Flatbush, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Greenpoint, South Bronx, and Harlem. COVID-19 exacerbated deep-seated inequities in health and economic stability across these communities, with heightened rates of hospitalizations, fatalities, and economic hardship.





IN THEIR WORDS...



The biggest way Girl Be Heard was monumental in my life was instilling self confidence [in me] and giving me the tools to develop my sense of self. Girl Be Heard is where I started identifying myself as a writer. The community aspect of GBH really solidifies you as an artist and activist.

- Aastha Jain



I wouldn't be the artist I am today without GBH!

- Caroline Campos



Girl Be Heard has provided me with a new outlook on sisterhood. I've been able to gain a lot of friends. I also believe Girl Be Heard has provided me many opportunities to connect and network with others... I learned patience, professionalism, performance etiquette, and public speaking skills.

- Camryn Bruno



Girl Be Heard was like a family. We not only created art together, but we found joy... We would discuss difficult things while at the same time there was so much laughter, so much creativity. Imagining a future—and acknowledging that in that future there is light—is the first step to walking towards it.

- Meera Dasgupta



When it comes to the education aspect of GBH you learn a lot about the world around you. You learn how to look through a lens outside of yourself. You don't live in a box anymore. We perform, but this is bigger than that. It's bigger than a poem, it's bigger than a song, it's bigger than a performance. Like we are really educating ourselves to teach the people who are going to change how tomorrow looks.

- Alyssa Martinez



Girl Be Heard was my first experience post grad where I really got to explore important themes while generating my own work. It definitely lit a fire for me.

-Maria Fernanda Diez



GBH helped me find my voice and realize what kind of theatre and projects I want to do. They brought to my attention that I don't need to wait for any opportunities to come to me, I can create my own opportunities, collaborate with others, and create my own work. In everything I do, I am always thinking of how I can empower and enlighten others. And while I believe the seed of activism was always implanted in me, GBH definitely gave me the love, nurture, and resources for it to grow within me and my work.

- Jamilah Rosemond

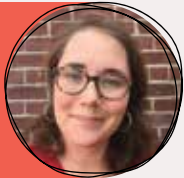


Girl Be Heard has helped me accomplish my goals, even goals that I didn't even set for myself. I've achieved goals I didn't even imagine I could do.

- Jordan Sanchez



IN OUR WORDS



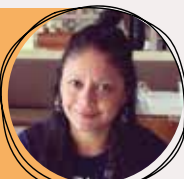
“ Girl Be Heard [provided] the best online training I’ve ever had in any of my jobs. They’re geniuses. Something I’ve learned and really appreciate from GBH is the emphasis on being really compassionate towards our students and also to ourselves.

- Adriana Hillas, Former Teaching Artist

“

It's an honor for me to helm the programming here at GBH. I carry the mission close to my heart and have strived to lean into the voices of the young women and gender-nonconforming youth we center. Society would have us believe that leadership is exclusive, that there is no room for collective women leadership. Girl Be Heard exists to disrupt that ideology of delusion. We wholeheartedly believe in the power and poignancy of young voices. Our programming goal is to uplift and amplify those voices so much that any space that does not hold space for their voices feels foreign to them; so alien that they can recognize it as a system of oppression. And our participants show up with boldness, poise, and confidence

- Nella Mupier, Director of Programs



“

One of the gifts I've received from Girl Be Heard is co-teaching with other brilliant Teaching Artists which have influenced my own teaching style and artistic practice. We have multiple resources and I appreciate the support for us to expand our skill set with multiple opportunities for professional development.

- Natalia Durango, Teaching Artist

“

Girl Be Heard Trinidad and Tobago launched in 2017 and started with 15 girls from Bishop's Centenary College, an all-girls Anglican school in Port of Spain. We have reached over 100 individuals from diverse backgrounds, including migrants from Syria, Venezuela, Pakistan, and Jamaica. We have been privileged to be on the radar of our Ministry of Sports and Culture with goals to spread awareness and have programs across the length and breadth of Trinidad and Tobago. I am fortunate to have two talented women as Teaching Artists. We are a great team, forging ahead to build a community of spoken artists, poets, activists, and socially conscious young persons.

- Akai Webster, Program Manager, Girl Be Heard Trinidad and Tobago



“

Girl Be Heard is creating spaces for young people to engage in dialogue around the ways in which they want to change the world around them. GBH gives these young people an opportunity to imagine what the world could look like if people had access to safe living conditions, free healthcare, free education etc. Also, it is a space where young people can openly discuss the changes they want to see in their own communities and GBH acknowledges that work cannot and should not be done in isolation, but in community.

- Luopu Malakpa, Teaching Artist

“

My journey into my current role here at Girl Be Heard as School Partnerships Program Manager started by first experiencing the power of the work we do hands-on as the Queens Weekend Workshop Teaching Artist in 2020. I have had the joy of being part of a femme-led team who celebrates each other and collaborates to create positive experiences for girls, young women, and gender non-conforming youth. I wish I had GBH sessions and after-school community as a Chicana navigating the challenges of middle school. I'm filled with joy every time I walk into our sessions to see students connecting, growing, building their confidence and social-emotional skills, and then sharing their voices and power with others.

- Marissa Ontiveros, School Partnerships Program Manager



“

[Joining Girl Be Heard as Teaching Artist for special and accessible education] was a life cycle return for me; an opportunity to work with students with disabilities again. I hadn't done it in 30 years and it was my main passionate work for the first 15 years of my work life. It was such a joy and challenge for me to become current in this work, to become current with what support and accessibility looks like, to become current in my own ableism, and to develop a curriculum.

- Marsha Gildin, Teaching Artist

“

The best part of my job is seeing girls, young women, and young people feel encouraged to use their voices to tell their stories and speak up for themselves and the causes they advocate for. Tapping into my lived experiences and empathizing with these girls and young women have taught me how important it is to listen to young people and meet them where they are. Words of positivity and hope can mean so much to a young person figuring out life and who they are. Girl Be Heard is not just a safe space but a brave space to build their confidence, embrace their humanity, and become leaders in their own lives and communities.

- Shahirah Elaiza Wan Hassan, Communications and Marketing Manager





WITH GRATITUDE

Thanks to our staff, donors, and partners who have made our first decade possible:

Partners

Schools

- P.S. 79 Horan School
- Humanities Preparatory Academy
- Susan McKinney Middle School/High School
- MS 88
- Andries Hudde Junior High School
- I.S. 381
- Brooklyn Prep High School
- Girls Prep

Community-Based Organizations

- Phipps Neighborhood Sonia Sotomayor Cornerstone
- NIA Community Services Network
- PS179 Beacon
- Sixth Street Community Center
- Queens Community Houses
- Wyckoff Community Center
- El Puente
- New Settlement Community Center
- Cornerstone Woodside Houses
- Children's Arts and Science Workshops @ Dyckman Community Center

Funders

Government

- Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund
- National Endowment for the Arts
- New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
- New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
- New York State Council on the Arts
- US State Department

District Council Members

- Lincoln Restler—Council District 33
- Erik Bottcher—Council District 3
- Farah Louis—Council District 45
- Alexa Aviles—Council District 38
- Vanessa Gibson—Council District 16
- Crystal Hudson—Council District 35
- Jennifer Guitierrez—Council District 34
- Julie Menin—Council District 5
- Diana Ayala—Council District 8
- Kristin Richardson Jordan—Council District 9

Senators

- Brian Kavanagh—District 26

Funders

Foundations

- ALLINBKLYN
- Annabelle Foundation
- Anna Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation
- Axe-Houghton Foundation
- Bay and Paul Foundations
- Black Seed Fund
- Born This Way Foundation
- Brooklyn Community Foundation
- Charles Hayden Foundation
- Coca Cola Foundation
- Colors Foundation
- The Common Sense Fund
- David Rockefeller Fund
- Disability Opportunity Fund
- Dobkin Family Foundation
- Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation
- Find Your Light Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Four Friends Foundation
- Grantmakers for Girls of Color
- Hellen Ingram Plummer Foundation
- Hyde and Watson Foundation
- Isaac and Carol Auerbach Family Foundation
- Keith Haring Foundation
- Laura B. Vogler Foundation
- List Family Foundation
- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
- MacArthur Foundation
- Mamie and Justin Stewart Family Foundation
- Marguerite Spiegel Revocable Trust
- Miranda Family Foundation
- New York Community Trust
- New York Urban League
- New York Women's Foundation
- Northern Trust Charitable
- NoVo Foundation
- New York State Cares/Fordham University
- Oak Foundation
- Patrina Foundation
- Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation
- Pinkerton Foundation
- Project 1834
- Sagalyn Family Foundation
- Rainbow Sandals Foundation
- Schiff Family Foundation
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- South Wind Foundation
- Starry Night Foundation at the Chicago Community Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- William T. Grant Foundation
- World Learning
- Youth Inc.

Corporations

- Alliance Bernstein
- Andersen Tax
- Con Edison
- Conde Nast SELF
- Credit Suisse
- Eileen Fisher, Inc.
- Estee Lauder
- Fact Set Research Systems
- Fidelity Investments
- JPMorgan Chase
- Michael Jordan and Jordan Brand
- MSCI
- New York City Health and Hospitals
- Pura Vida
- PwC
- Screen Media
- Tech2Empower
- Two Trees Management
- Variety

G!