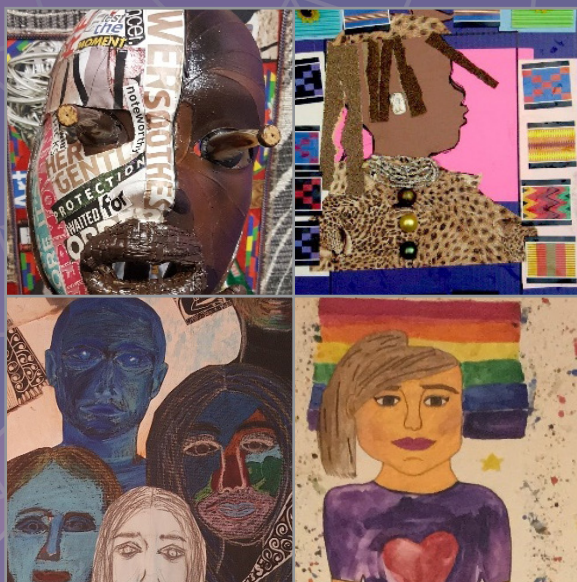


CHANGING WORLDS

20th Anniversary Edition

Honor the Past. Celebrate the Present. Create the Future



FY2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CHANGING WORLDS

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Chicago, IL 60616

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



In 2017, Changing Worlds celebrated 20 years of fostering inclusive communities. We were reminded that one person can make a world of difference as we reflected on the time when our founder, Kay Berkson, started Changing Worlds' journey. With a camera in hand she supported immigrant and refugee families to tell their stories. This blossomed into a multi-disciplinary arts, cultural and literacy program that

in 2017 reached over 10,000 youth and families, 18 Chicago and suburban neighborhoods, with over 1,200 arts and culture sessions, in partnership with 28 classroom teachers in 26 school and community based partnerships. We are proud to share that our program participants are 97% youth of color from neighborhoods like Pilsen, Washington Park, Austin, Albany Park and Evanston. You can see all our programs mapped out on page 16.

As part of Changing Worlds' three-year strategic plan, we took stock of our assets, reflected on our accomplishments and began to plan further growth. We recognized that arts, cultural and literacy programs are needed more than ever – but in a deeper way that responds to the recent increase of attacks on immigrant communities; oppressive language toward women and girls; and the unending violence across the city and country.

Our program staff and teaching artists stepped up to the challenge and are launching the expansion of three programs in 2018. The Indigenous People's Project; Adelitas: Celebrating Heroic Women in the Past and Present; and Peacemakers and Community Connections. You can learn more about these featured programs on page 13. These programs are designed to combat the negative images, messages and actions taken against the communities our children, youth and families live in every day.

These reflections, programs and planned growth could not be possible without the generous support of our Board of Directors, Associate Board, funders, volunteers, partners, and staff. As our city and schools continue to be affected by funding cuts for the arts, we are grateful to everyone who has stood with us and supported us the past 20+ years. Look out for the next 20-year wave as we continue to foster the inclusive communities of youth who will Change the World!

Alicia T. Vega
Executive Director

Jason Osborn
Board President

MISSION AND VALUES

Changing Worlds' mission is to foster inclusive communities through oral history, writing and art programs that improve student learning, affirm identity and enhance cross-cultural understanding.

Our five core values are central to fulfilling the organizational mission:

inclusion.

Building inclusive and empathetic communities where people of all cultures, points of view, beliefs and differences are respected and valued.

innovation.

Advancing creative, reflective and strategic approaches in developing solutions to programmatic and organizational challenges.

equity.

Activating the voices and potential of all people in our practices and programs.

integrity.

Maintaining transparency and ethical practices in all aspects of Changing Worlds.

growth.

Fostering a culture where learning is cultivated, supported, and affirmed.



TWENTY YEARS OF CHANGING WORLDS

starting out at Hibbard school in Albany park.

1996

Changing Worlds begins as an intergenerational oral history and photography project at Hibbard School in the diverse, predominantly immigrant, Albany Park neighborhood. The project produces an exhibit with related activities for families and classrooms.

The Changing Worlds exhibit includes photographs of the families, their stories, maps showing their homelands and journeys and drawings by the children.



New Year's Eve, 1999

Our traveling version of the exhibit is launched at Mayor Daley's New Millennium Gala for guests from "every country in the world"!

2000

Hibbard students perform their traditional dances for the public while the traveling exhibit is on display at the Daley Center.

It's official! Changing Worlds becomes an independent nonprofit organization!

Changing Worlds produces a book of the family stories and an activity guide for grades 1-6

Traveling exhibit hits the road! It is installed in many downtown and Chicago neighborhood venues and in schools and libraries in Oak Park, Skokie, Des Plaines, Park Forest, Matteson, Schaumburg and Highland Park.

*Some people killed my grandpa...
That's why we had to leave. It
was because of our religion.
-Younan*



2001

Inspired by the Changing Worlds exhibit, immigrant and refugee students at the Newcomers Center at Taft High School create a stunning mural about the changes they have experienced in their own lives.

The exhibit has grown to include families from Bosnia, Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia, Vietnam, Eritrea, Poland, Palestine, Puerto Rico, Cambodia, Nicaragua, Mexico and Kosovo. Children, parents and grandparents tell their stories.

2004

Changing Worlds launches its Literacy and Cultural Connections program which expands to schools all over Chicago. The curriculum encourages exploration of identity, culture and family history through writing and art, culminating in a final project that is shared with the school community.

Week-long summer institute for teachers is introduced.



2003

Changing Worlds collaborates with major educational organizations on workshops for Chicago area teachers:

Becoming American: New Immigration, Old Challenges
— A workshop presented by Facing History and Ourselves and Changing Worlds at the Hibbard Exhibit

Battling Bigotry: Getting Along After 9/11
A 15-hour workshop presented by Chicago Children's Museum, Indo American Center and Changing Worlds



2002

Fifth grade summer program alternates field trips to ethnic museums and neighborhoods with art-making and craft projects reflecting what was learned during neighborhood visits.



2005

Professional development programs are hands-on, providing experiences, methods and resources to help teachers integrate the arts, culture and family and community history into their curricula.



2006

1st annual student art exhibit showcases students' artwork and their exploration of identity, culture and family history.



2007

Literacy + Cultural Competency (LCC) expands to 9 schools all over Chicago: in East and West Rogers Park, Austin, South Chicago, Near West Side, Pilsen, Englewood, Albany Park and Uptown.



2008

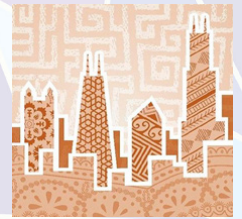
To support our efforts to advance cultural awareness and dispel stereotypes, Changing Worlds institutes the Immigrant and Refugee Contributions Awards series that recognizes outstanding contributions made by immigrants and refugees.

Changing Worlds adds two new art forms, drama and dance to its arts curriculum. This brings exciting new opportunities for creative expression and arts learning.

Changing Worlds and Loyola University embark on a three-year evaluation of the LCC program. Results are extremely positive, with students outperforming control groups not only in the areas evaluated, but also on standardized tests.

2010

Changing Worlds adds after-school programs. Called Arts and Cultural Connections, each program is taught by a teaching artist in dance, drama or visual arts.



2011

The Shanti Foundation for Peace becomes part of Changing Worlds - the Shanti's peace and cultural awareness through the arts methodology supports Changing Worlds' mission, expands our offerings and enriches new program development.

In-school and after-school programs explore culture and community through a wider range of arts offerings including cultural dances, digital media arts, poetry and spoken word, drama, puppetry, mixed media sculpture, ceramics, photography, mural, painting and more.

Reunion! Changing Worlds celebrates its fifteenth anniversary with a reunion at Hibbard School where the Changing Worlds exhibit still hangs.



2013

In-school programs, now called Arts, Cultural and Literacy Connections, (ACL) expand students' sense of self and their understanding of shared identity with classmates. Many classrooms pursue topics of social justice, African American history, the civil rights movement, the Great Migration and immigration along with their examination of family heritage and history.

Changing Worlds forms a partnership with America SCORES Chicago to launch an expanded after-school program in five schools. Along with its focus on the arts and cultural awareness, its new program, Passport to High School Success, builds skills to prepare at-risk youth for high school and beyond.

Ten Thousand Ripples and its ripple effect live on! Through a partnership with the Chicago Park District, circles of the emerging Buddha sculptures are installed in three Chicago parks. Through this partnership, Changing Worlds presents art and poetry workshops, performances and/or discussions in response to/inspired by the sculptures.



2012

Our Stories Connect Us, a two-year partnership between Changing Worlds and Arden Shore Child and Family Services in Waukegan. Changing Worlds provides art-making and story-sharing workshops for youth, families and adults, cohosts a community arts festival and produces an oral history and photography exhibit with families connected to Arden Shore.

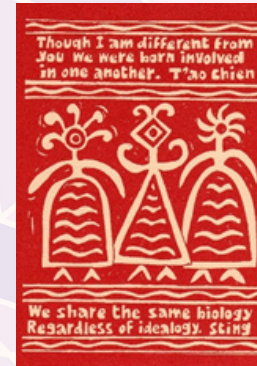
Changing Worlds brings Ten Thousand Ripples, a collaborative public art, civic engagement and peace project, to nine Chicago area neighborhoods. Each community installs ten emerging Buddha sculptures, and plans dialogue programs, art-making workshops and arts events that address issues of peace and other community concerns.

Changing Worlds launches the Beck and Glossberg Student Leadership Award, named after JoAnn Beck and Joseph Glossberg for their leadership and commitment to Changing Worlds. Each year 1 boy and 1 girl is recognized for personal and artistic growth, leadership, creativity and commitment to cultural awareness.



2015

A partnership with Instituto Cervantes supports our annual student exhibition, providing a beautiful venue for the exhibit and an inspiring setting for professional development sessions which are held right inside the exhibit.



2017

2017 is the year of celebrating 20 years of Changing Worlds. A 20-year interactive timeline is exhibited at the annual benefit and people share their vision for the future.



MORE TO COME!

TODAY'S PROGRAMMING AT CHANGING WORLDS

connecting lives and cultures through literacy and the arts.

Changing Worlds' programming integrates writing, oral history, drama, dance and visual art into uniquely designed curriculum to examine culture, family history and community. This dynamic approach helps participants explore their own backgrounds, promote cultural understanding as well as strengthen academic and artistic skills.

activating teaching artists and literacy specialists.

Changing Worlds' Teaching Artists and Literacy Specialists bring a wealth of professional experience to the classroom and after-school setting. They introduce students to unique cultural perspectives through their artistic mediums and approaches to writing.

we offer three program models:

in-school program — arts, cultural + literacy connections (ACL)

We partner schools with Teaching Artists and Literacy Specialists in the classroom. The ACL curriculum pairs art-making and writing to explore "Big Ideas" that enhance students' learning in the arts and other academic content areas. The ACL program is offered to 3rd-8th grade students and is designed to meet the academic, cultural and artistic interests of the school.

after school program — arts + cultural connections (ACC)

We partner community organizations and schools with Teaching Artists to explore culture through dance, drama or visual art during after-school hours. Changing Worlds' integrated approach provides students with rich exposure to one or more cultures while developing valuable artistic skills. Residency options include drawing and painting, digital photography, murals, drama, African Dance, Samba, Bomba, Hip Hop and much more. The ACC program is available for 1st-12th grade students and is customized to meet the cultural and artistic interests of the school.

community outreach initiatives

TRAVELING EXHIBIT Changing Worlds Traveling Exhibit follows the journeys of Chicago immigrant and refugee families through their stories of change, cultural traditions and dreams for the future. These intergenerational stories were told by families from Poland, Cambodia, Iraq, Mexico, Somalia, Pakistan, Nicaragua, Palestine, Bosnia, Kosovo and Puerto Rico.

The exhibit provides viewers with a unique perspective on immigration, identity, family, opportunity and sacrifice.



Changing Worlds also offers a traveling exhibit Immigrant Experience through the Eyes of Teens

FAMILY NIGHTS Family nights enable families to discover unexpected connections through the celebration of family history, culture and heritage. Incorporating writing and story-telling experiences, each family creates projects that are meaningful to them. Past family night activities have included creating a family tree, designing a family crest and engaging in a community dance.

Program Components: Event structure and activities are flexible to meet the needs of the school.

Workshops are led by Changing Worlds teaching artists and staff. Can accommodate groups of 30-150, up to 3 hours in length.

TEN THOUSAND RIPPLES Ten Thousand Ripples (TTR) is a multi-platform public arts project, undertaken as a collaboration between artist Indira Freitas Johnson and Changing Worlds. The goal of TTR is to provide the general community with an intense and meaningful public art experience outside of traditional art venues and in doing so act as a catalyst for community conversations and interactions about peace and nonviolence. The emerging Buddha sculptures can be seen all over Chicago in parks, public plazas, alleys, libraries, building lobbies, and abandoned lots.

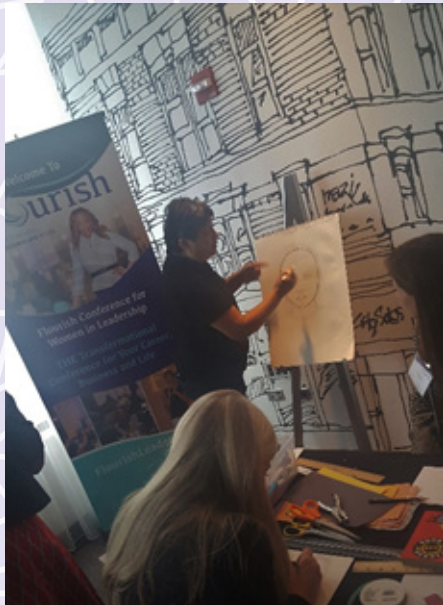


corporate diversity and inclusion engagement program



A primary core value of Changing Worlds is to build inclusive communities where people of all cultures, points of view, beliefs and differences are respected and valued. To this end, we partner with corporations with similar values and provide engaging and impactful programs for their employees through a diversity and inclusion perspective. The purpose of the program is to support companies to meet their diversity and inclusion goals, with an emphasis on engaging their employees and partners in impactful dialogue and relationship-building. Changing Worlds' leadership will work with the corporation

to create events and activities that are meaningful for the company and its employees.



"I created peace by showing my feelings through art and writing. To create tranquility in the community you've got to start by showing the first example." --belinda s.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

what new programming is happening at changing worlds?

indigenous peoples' history.



This indigenous peoples' history project creates space for students to explore the sustaining traditions of indigenous peoples in North America despite the tyranny of colonization. Given today's political climate, this project asks the questions "Who is American?" and "What does it mean to be American?" This project enhances students' understanding of the contributions of indigenous peoples throughout North America, and debunks the cultural myths about indigenous groups.

peacemakers and community connections.



Students work with Changing Worlds artists and writers to understand their community's culture of care and support that curbs violence and increases peace. Community Conversation Days connect students to local activists in their neighborhoods who focus on peaceful intervention strategies to keep their streets safe. Students develop a public art project using these collected stories and interviews that are exhibited at their schools and communities.

adelitas: women of courage.



During the Mexican Revolution in 1910, women, referred to as Adelitas, served dual roles as warriors and peacemakers; they fought for freedom and fought against the violence engulfing their families and communities. Today, Adelitas have become symbols for hope, strength, and peace, and their legacy can be found in modern-day Mexican art and literature. Created by Changing Worlds artist Diana Solís, this project explores contemporary role models for peace, who may cross lines of gender-specific traditions. Through creative portraiture lessons and creative writing exercises, students create original art and writing in honor of their personal Adelita.

FY17 JOANN BECK & JOSEPH B. GLOSSBERG LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

The Leadership Award was created in 2011 in recognition of JoAnn Beck and Joseph B. Glossberg's leadership and commitment to Changing Worlds and their work toward cultivating future creative leaders. Each year, two students are selected in recognition of their demonstrated leadership, personal and artistic growth, creativity and commitment to cultural awareness.

isabel urbina, whittier elementary, 7th grade

Isabel has been enrolled in the Latin Dance program for two years. Through Changing Worlds, Isabel has learned that "everyone has a unique culture" and that, "culture is a way you live your life – your tradition." Her sister has been a major influence in her life, because she is such a determined woman who achieves her goals, faces challenges with courage, and always supports the family. In the future, Isabel wants to become a doctor, because she wants to be a hero for society.



khalil cotton, burke elementary, 7th grade

Khalil was enrolled in the Digital Media program for one year, and was enrolled in the Hip Hop Theatre program last year. His most memorable artistic experience is when he created an anti-bullying rap. His greatest influence is his mother, because she has always been there for him. Khalil reminds everyone around him to keep their heads up. In the future,

Khalil would like to be a filmmaker and director, because he is inspired by the work of Akira Toriyama.

2017 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

jose clemente orozco community academy

Steadfast in their desire to be a beacon for students to articulate their commitment to peacemaking in the Pilsen neighborhood and city at large, the Orozco team has demonstrated true collaboration and a dedication to making powerful connections between the concept of peacemaking and the lives of their students.

FY2017 IMPACT

1,233 arts and culture sessions

33 teaching artists employed

26 school + community partnerships

10,792 youth and families served

28 partnerships with classroom teachers

18 chicago and suburban neighborhoods engaged

1,760 contact hours with youth throughout the year

NEIGHBORHOODS SERVED

ALBANY PARK
Alessandro Volta Elementary School

AUSTIN
John Hay Elementary Community Academy
Spencer Technology Academy

BRIGHTON PARK
Calmecca Academy of Fine Arts and Dual Language

CHICAGO LAWN
Marquette Elementary School

DOUGLAS PARK
Ambrose Plamondon Elementary School

ENGLEWOOD
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy of Social Justice

EVANSTON
Walker Elementary School

LOWER WEST SIDE
Joseph Jungman Elementary School
Orozco Fine Arts & Sciences Elementary School
Pilsen Elementary Community Academy
Irma C. Ruiz Elementary School
John Greenleaf Whittier Dual Language Academy

NORTH LAWNDALE
Charles Evan Hughes Elementary
Lawndale Community Academy
Roswell B. Mason Elementary

NEAR NORTH SIDE
George Manierre Elementary School

NEAR WEST SIDE
William H. Brown Elementary School

SOUTH SHORE
Horace Mann Elementary School

WASHINGTON PARK
Edmond Burke Elementary School

WEST LAWN
Robert J. Richardson Middle School

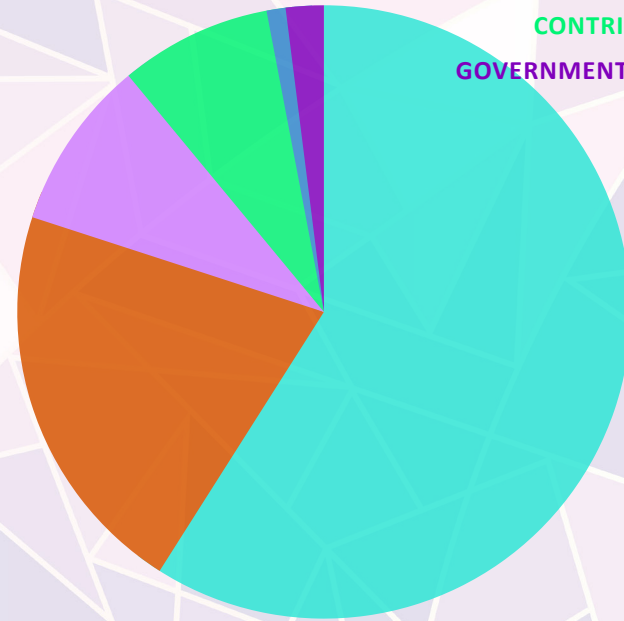
WEST TOWN
Jose de Diego Elementary Community Academy



FY2017 FINANCIALS

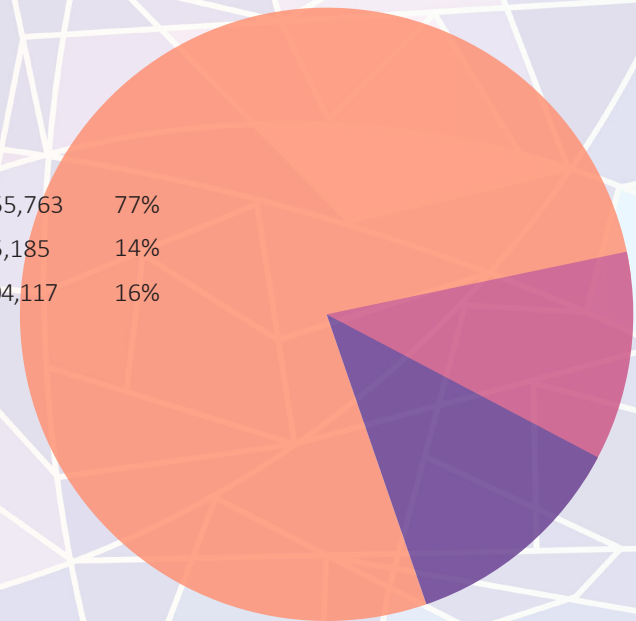
total revenue.
\$981,149

FOUNDATIONS	\$575,864	58%
PROGRAM SERVICE FEES	\$206,189	21%
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$86,730	9%
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$83,096	8%
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$13,010	1%
OTHER	\$16,260	2%



total expenses.
\$855,065

PROGRAM SERVICES	\$655,763	77%
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$95,185	14%
FUNDRAISING	\$104,117	16%



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS+FUNDERS

foundations.

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Anonymous Donor (Donor-advised fund from the Chicago Community Trust)
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CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
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Priscilla Tang
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Rachel Riedl
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Ron Abramowicz
Ron Rohde
Rona + Ralph Brown
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Roxana Bartlett
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www.changingworlds.org.

Checks payable to Changing Worlds can be mailed to:

Changing Worlds
PO Box 167294
Chicago, IL 60616

name changing worlds in your will.

Extend your commitment to Changing Worlds by remembering us in your will. It takes only one simple sentence to do so: "I give to Changing Worlds, a non-profit organization in the State of Illinois, the sum of \$ _____ (or a _____% of my estate) for the benefit of Changing Worlds and its general purposes (or a particular program).

matching gift.

Contact your Human Resources department to determine whether your employer has a matching gift program.

tributes: honor or memorial.

Honor someone, living or deceased, in celebration of a birthday, anniversary or other important occasion. A tribute gift is a thoughtful way to acknowledge family and friends. When you make a tribute or memorial gift, a special card can be sent to the honoree or designated family member recognizing your gift.

pledge a gift.

A pledge of any amount can be paid over time in cash or stocks. Monthly, quarterly and other payment schedules are available.

volunteer opportunities.

Changing Worlds prides itself on offering meaningful volunteer opportunities. Experiences range from leadership roles on our boards to working with teachers and families on arts, cultural awareness and literacy programs. Our volunteers help advance Changing Worlds' mission through one-time, short-term or long-term opportunities.

for more information contact us at info@changingworlds.org or call 312-421-8040

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