

PRESS RELEASE for Immediate Release

February 16, 2021, New York City

Contact: Hanna Stubblefield-Tave, culturalsolidarityfund@gmail.com

Cultural Solidarity Coalition Opens Microgrant Applications for NYC Artists and Cultural Workers

Right now, 62% of arts and cultural workers are entirely unemployed, including more than 69% of Black and Indigenous artists and artists of color. Creative workers faced an average individual loss of \$22,000 each in 2020. In response, NYC arts and cultural organizations created the new **Cultural Solidarity Coalition** to take care of their own communities. Now, the **CULTURAL SOLIDARITY FUND** will award \$500 relief microgrants to individual artists and cultural workers to ensure that they make it through this critical time. **Applications will open for one week from February 26, 2021, at 9:00 am, to March 5, 2021, at 5:00 pm. The short application is estimated to take no more than 10 minutes to complete and will be available online in both English and Spanish at culturalsolidarityfund.org/get-a-grant.**

The Cultural Solidarity Fund will initially open applications with \$100,000 raised to support 200 artists and cultural workers. Organizations and individuals are invited to join the Coalition and increase the Fund's capacity by sponsoring one or more artists/cultural workers with a donation: culturalsolidarityfund.org/sponsor. If additional funds are received, a new round of grants and/or lottery will be announced weekly.

Cultural Solidarity Fund grants are open for artists and cultural workers who resided in the five boroughs of New York City as of April 1, 2020: Actors, Administrators, Choreographers, Custodians, Curators, Dancers, Designers, Directors, Drivers, Dramaturgs, Front of House, Guards, Janitors, Installers, Musicians, Playwrights, Production Managers, Receptionists, Technical Crew and Art Handlers, Stage Managers, Teaching Artists, Technicians, Ushers, Visual Artists, and anyone working in any capacity in the arts/cultural non-profit or community-based sector.

The Cultural Solidarity Fund aims to direct funds specifically to artists and cultural workers in most urgent need of assistance with rent, groceries, medical expenses and other essential services. Priority will be given to applicants who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), immigrant, undocumented, and/or disabled/deaf as it is documented that COVID-19 has impacted these communities most severely.

"The Indie Theater Fund is thrilled to partner with the larger cultural community to create and operate the Cultural Solidarity Fund. Artists have been living on the edge since way before this pandemic. The global majority, immigrant and disabled artists have been excluded from support year after year, decade after decade. As a community we must join together to create a more fair and equitable environment for workers to thrive. This show of solidarity from cultural institutions, led by the incomparable LEIMAY, a small, indie arts organization, even under the most difficult circumstances, is a beautiful example of the world I want to live in."

-Randi Berry, Executive Director of the Indie Theater Fund



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“As a small community-based artist-run organization, LEIMAY has spent the past two decades learning about the power of community and witnessing resilience through resource sharing. Spearheading this Cultural Solidarity Fund is both an act of action in solidarity with artists and cultural workers, and an opportunity to inspire coalition-building among art and cultural organizations of different sizes and structures.” -Ximena Garnica, LEIMAY Artistic Co-director

The first round of funding will be announced by March 19, 2021. Details on eligibility, selection, and timeline are available at culturalsolidarityfund.org.

About the Cultural Solidarity Coalition:

In the spirit of coalition and resource sharing, NYC arts and cultural organizations have come together to partner with **The Indie Theater Fund** to build and support the CULTURAL SOLIDARITY FUND. Born from the Culture@3 daily calls, this initiative is organized by **LEIMAY** with a growing group of cultural and arts **organizations of all sizes and structures including Bronx Arts Ensemble, Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, Dancewave, Dance Parade, Elevator Repair Service Theater, El Museo del Barrio, HERE, Hi-ARTS, José Limón Dance Foundation, Mark Morris Dance Group, New Yorkers for Culture & Arts, The Bushwick Starr, Performance Space New York, and Theatre for a New Audience.**

As of February 15, 2021, sponsoring organizations include: 651 ARTS, Art’s House Schools, Asian American Arts Alliance, Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS, Bronx Arts Ensemble, Bronx Council on the Arts, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Cherry Lane Theatre, Children Museum of Arts, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dancewave, El Museo del Barrio, Elevator Repair Service Theater, Frigid NY, Gibney Dance, HERE, Hi-ARTS, Hispanic Society of America, Ice Theatre of New York, International Arts Relations / Intar Theater, Irish Repertory Theater, Kinesis Project Dance Theatre, Kupferberg Center for the Arts, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, League of Independent Theater, LEIMAY, Mabou Mines Development Foundation, Mark Morris Dance Group, MCC Theater, Meredith Monk/The House Foundation for the Arts, Movement Research, National Black Theatre, National Dance Institute, New York Live Arts, New York Theatre Workshop, New Yorkers for Culture & Arts, Performance Space New York, Queens Theatre, Rooftop Films, Roundabout Theatre Company, Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, Stefanie Nelson Dancegroup, STREB, Symphony Space, The 52nd Street Project, The Bushwick Starr, The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, The Dance Enthusiast, The Field, The Indie Theater Fund, The José Limón Dance Foundation, The Kitchen, The New Group, The Playwrights Realm, The Tank, TheaterLab, Theatre for a New Audience, UrbanGlass, Voices of Ascension.

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