

CITYarts: Celebrating 45 Years of Public Art and the Marriage of Art and Science



Director's Message

Dear Friends,

We celebrated **CITYarts' 45th Anniversary** as I kicked off my **25th** year of re-founding CITYarts. Each year, since establishing the newly revitalized CITYarts in 1989, I revisit the original intentions and goals for this unique organization. First and foremost, my desire was to engage children and youth in positive, creative art projects that would motivate them to shape their futures and transform their communities for the better. I wanted to ensure that they were inspired and led by professional artists throughout the creative process of painting murals and installing mosaics on the walls of their schools and community spaces. And, through this process, enable them to acquire new skills, develop a singular voice, and cultivate their growth into our leaders of tomorrow.



Now, after producing **200 projects** during my time at CITYarts, I reflect on the achievements that matter most:

- touching the lives of thousands of kids who were engaged in the creative process that changed their lives and transformed their communities.
- The creation of - murals and mosaics - whereby participants imparted a physical mark of care, compassion and in their communities.
- The sheer creative force of each artist who came together with our young people and imparted to them the love and joy of art. They, too, had their lives changed as well.

While space would not permit me to list all the CITYarts projects, I would be remiss not to highlight some key accomplishments that have touched so many lives:

- **The Young Minds Build Bridges** program, created following the tragic events of 9/11 to connect youth around the world to celebrate their differences and visualize peace through art. Eleven years later, the offshoot of this program, the "Pieces for Peace" project, is in 62 countries.
- CITYarts' mural, "**Celebrating the Heroes of Our City**," was originally created in 2002 with the support of The Disney Company. After over a decade of exposure to the elements, the mural needs retouching. The summer of 2013, will see it restored by local youth, again with the generous support of Disney. With this summer's restoration, the mural will continue to make the park a safe, drug-free space for our children.
- Two years ago we worked with Children's Village and local youth to create a mural on the exterior of the **Polo Grounds Community Center**. Today, the mural, like 90% of our outdoor projects, remains graffiti free. It also sparked the dream of a second mural in the Polo Grounds Community Center's "Wellness Room," which will be created this year and include the collaboration of senior citizens from the community center.

Celebrating CITYarts' Anniversary, I feel it is critical to continue our focus on the marriage of Art and Science. The two disciplines combined are essential to the development



"Congratulations on a spectacularly successful and well orchestrated event last night. Do hope you were pleased with the outcome."
- Dianne Mendez



"Congratulations all on (from all reports), a wonderful event. Kudos to you Tsipi. Best wishes,
- Bernadette Longford

of creative and innovative thinking among our young people. We saw this inspiration firsthand recently with Dr. Ed Hoffman, head of the NASA Academy, who came to inspire students at P.S. 199, his own elementary school. The enthusiasm he instilled in these students led to creation of the beautiful center pieces for this year's celebration. Back in 2000, we brought Art and Science together when we created the "Living on Mars" mural in South Bronx, inspired by NASA rocket scientist Lewis Peach, who is now on our Advisory Board. We renewed this relationship with NASA, resulting in this year's "Red Road to Mars" mural at P.S. 328 in East New York, Brooklyn.

On the horizon is **CITYarts' 5th Global Peace Wall, in Berlin**. This is an idea that even I, when it was conceived 3 years ago, said to myself, "This won't be possible." But as every other project I dare to try, it is proving to be truly worthwhile. We begin the creative process on the Mosaic Wall this coming June. This project will be created with multicultural youth groups and students from the European Union. And we are extremely grateful that the project has received the support of Martin Schultz, President of the European Union Parliament, and sponsorship from Allianz; the U.S. Embassy in Berlin; the Israeli Embassy in Berlin; and Hotel Amano.

I would like to take this moment to congratulate our honorees for their dedication to education and the enrichment of society across all disciplines. **Vartan Gregorian; Paula Scher; Leland Melvin**

My very special thanks to **CITYarts' Board of Directors**: Carrie H. Cohen, Chairperson; Bernadette Longford, Treasurer; Vera Sung; Helene Saren Lawrence; Amnon Bar-Tur; Irene Minkoff

And to my young, dedicated staff, who take every day's challenges with care, commitment and extra thought.

Today I believe, stronger than ever, that when kids create, they don't destroy!

It is our responsibility to open new opportunities for them and to engage them in creative, innovative, and positive ways of life.



"Thank you so much for the kind words and all your years of support! Once again, I was humbled and proud to be part of such a wonderful organization. The event simply was terrific and please thank your wonderful staff for all their hard work as well." - Carrie Cohen



This is a call for action: I'm asking each and every one of you to look at art & science education as the most important foundation for learning - not just merely a beautiful thing to do. This is where creative thinking starts! Without it, we're just robots with no souls.

Please stay in touch and help us make our 45th year a turning point for inspiring our children.

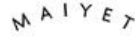
Warm regards,
Tsipi

Tsipi Ben-Haim
Executive & Creative Director



[For more photos from the 45th Anniversary Benefit Click Here to see our Album!](#)





"I was so impressed with the CityArts benefit and was so proud of you. If there is any way that I can be of help to you, please let me know." Love, Elly Flomenhaft

"It was an impressive event last night, and so were you impressive. Someday, when I am back on my

feet, I will help your organization. Thank you for inviting me." - Jere Van Dyk

"You should be very proud of your accomplishments. Last night Gala was outstanding and I think you actually made a good amount of money. Congratulations You have an outstanding Board of Directors to support you and Carrie is the best of the best. Love to all!" - Helene Lawrence

*"We were so pleased to see the large turnout last evening in support of CITYarts. Everything was so very well done...we were really impressed. I did eat some at the cocktail reception and you were right, it was delicious. Thank you so much for inviting us...it looked like a big success.
Hope to see you soon!!" - Judith and Bob Murray*

Photo Credits: Wendy Nadler,



Become part of our YOUNG MINDS BUILD BRIDGES network of youth from around the world.

[Click Here to SIGN UP for CITYartsDAILY.org!](http://CITYartsDAILY.org!)

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CITYarts Mission

CITYarts brings young people and professional artists together to create Public Art.

Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers youth and connects
children locally and around the world to become active
participants in transforming communities

**To Join Us in Our Efforts Visit: www.cityarts.org
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