

2019 2020



BUSHWICK NORTHWEST
ANNUAL REPORT



01

BUSHWICK NORTHWEST PROGRAMS



STYLE: Songwriting Through Youth Literature Education is dedicated to arts integration. STYLE's diverse Teaching Artists help ignite a passion for reading in students that will last a lifetime, impacting students' ways of thinking and working while giving them new tools and skills in everyday life.

STYLE Teaching Artists visit schools and spend a week-long residency with language arts classes, discussing and analyzing a book already in the school's curriculum and then collaborating to write and record an original song—in a studio, with a professional audio engineer—inspired by the book.



THE
**BUSHWICK
BOOK CLUB**
SEATTLE

The Bushwick Book Club Seattle brings the premise of original music inspired by literature to the concert stage. Since 2010, over 400 individual local performers have shared their combined passions for words and music with audiences reading along with them, sparking conversation and collaboration that linger long after the concert runs its course. In ten seasons Bushwick has featured works classic and contemporary, global and local, established and emerging.

“New and innovative work that surprises and delights,” is how one local author describes the Bushwick experience, while another librarian calls it “a brilliant way to expand anyone’s appreciation of words.” The Bushwick Book Club Seattle promotes appreciation for original songcraft and adventuresome reading, reminding Seattleites that both can be celebrated parts of daily life.

02

BUSHWICK NORTHWEST STATEMENT

To our wonderful community of Bushwick supporters: Thank you for your continued involvement, especially now. I hope that you are all healthy and safe, perhaps finding the time to discover new books and music in this unprecedented time.



The 2019–20 season was a very exciting time for Bushwick Northwest. For 10 years Bushwick has been creating a platform for musicians on stages and delivering music education for students inside the classroom. We've been able to consistently deliver inspirational programming because of the work of our dedicated leadership team, stage performers, teaching artists, production team, and so many wonderful volunteers and members. I am consistently floored by the dedicated work from the whole team and am proud to include myself among their ranks.

This 10th year started on track to be one of our most impactful yet, both onstage and in the classroom. Due to the pandemic, huge shifts have occurred in the arts performance and education industries as well as the financial priorities for all people. However, this did not deter Bushwick Northwest from our mission. Our team expertly shifted all programs to an online format since we've lost the ability to deliver live events for our many fans and work in the classrooms of nearly 2,000 students. We embrace the challenges and seek to make an even larger impact throughout the world. We will continue to educate ourselves in how best to reach our audiences, to make the most positive influence on our music students, and bring equitable practices to our programs.

GEOFF LARSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

03

BUSHWICK NORTHWEST THE YEAR IN STYLE



"The Bushwick teaching artists did an amazing job of inspiring the group to play with fiction in a new and non-threatening way... even students who I thought might resist the whole exercise, bought in."

MARGARET FLATNESS, TEACHER

STATS

12 SCHOOLS

31 LIBRARIES

116 SONGS

3870 STUDENTS

"It was so much fun to see how engaged my students were for the whole hour!"

REBECCA ROWE, LIBRARIAN

"Students were interested in writing in a way that I did not see in the regular classroom. It also pushed them outside their comfort zone."

CARRIE DRAKE, TEACHER



THE YEAR AHEAD >

With innovations like STYLE Remote Learning and collaborations with new partners, STYLE is prepared to face the present challenges with creativity, careful planning, and passion.

- **Expand STYLE Remote Learning**
- **Reach kids at home and in the classroom**
- **Provide no-cost programs**

This year has been filled with many changes and some exciting turns for STYLE. Some moments stood out as exceptional even before the global pandemic. Here are some of the most memorable highlights:

- Last summer we partnered with the Yakama Nation Library to provide programming for their teen students. After a week of conversations and recording we came up with not just two original songs inspired by Native tribal stories but two fully produced music videos that showcase the students' talent and passion. Very inspiring.



- I am most proud of the work we did to grow our teaching artist roster to allow us to take on more teaching opportunities and to better represent the students we are serving. We didn't stop at focusing on voices of color; we also found young voices and folks from areas outside Seattle proper.

- At Magnolia Elementary we worked with every student to create an amazing set of assembly performances that made an impact on the school community. One of our new partners, the teaching artist Des Ventura, connected with many of the students, and despite snow days and school cancellations we were able to make a lasting positive influence on the students and staff.

- This was our fifth year creating songs inspired by books with the students at Decatur Elementary. After just three sessions with the students this year, schools were closed due to COVID-19. Decatur was not going to let a little distance get in between them and the programming we provide. We picked up right where we left off and created songs inspired by books remotely! Videos and class sessions online were not the same, but we got lots of positive feedback from both students and staff and I'm very happy with the final products.

- After just one week in quarantine, STYLE pivoted and began the remote learning program wherein we offer weekly classes online in addition to weekly videos with read a-louds and original music inspired by books.

Moving forward, STYLE remains committed to offering diverse, high-quality arts-integrated programming. The world, and our country in particular, is embarking on a journey of change, and STYLE is ready to grow to suit a more equitable future. We seek to make a positive impact on students and the communities they live in.

NATE BOGOPOLSKY, EDUCATION DIRECTOR

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BUSHWICK NORTHWEST THE YEAR IN THE BUSHWICK BOOK CLUB SEATTLE

"Absolutely stunning....
what a show."

NANCY K. ON ORIGINAL
MUSIC INSPIRED BY
SABORAMI

"It was a night of
beautiful music!"

GABRIELLA D. ON ORIGINAL
MUSIC INSPIRED BY THE
WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE



STATS

8 SHOWS

70 PERFORMERS

399 AUDIENCE
MEMBERS

4,300 STREAMING
VIEWS

Partnerships: Seattle Arts & Lectures (5 Poetry Series events, plus additional recording sessions); in-store collaborations with Third Place Books; Seattle Rep, who sent actors to perform monologues at original music inspired by the works of Shakespeare.

Curator: guest curator Claudia Castro Luna, Washington State Poet Laureate, for original music inspired by Cecilia Vicuña's *Saborami*.

THE YEAR AHEAD >

On October 10, 2020, Bushwick Book Club Seattle will celebrate its tenth anniversary—ten years of growth, innovation, community spirit in the service of music and literature.

- A new slate of great books, with a focus on local authors
- Flexibility to perform live if possible, online if needed

When The Bushwick Book Club Seattle launched its 10th mainstage season in the fall of 2019, we directed our focus on producing the strongest-possible live events for our audience. The interactive nature of the Bushwick premise is a special piece of our gatherings, something that sets these shows apart from any of the other events one might attend on a Saturday night. None of us anticipated finishing the year offering remote live-streams under stay-home orders, yet here we are—missing our in-person connections but gratified nonetheless for the chance to continue showcasing original work from local artists, all while modeling how creative community can look under compromising circumstances.

In eight 2019–20 events (five in-person, three live-streams), the Bushwick Book Club Seattle brought 70 individual performers to the stage—25 of them Bushwick first-timers!—taking the overall number of Bushwick performers since 2010 to a figure approaching 500 (and a library of songs well into four figures). We traveled classic and contemporary literary roads from fantasy to memoir, whimsical to urgent, growing the community conversation at each turn. In partnership, Bushwick provided a songwriter for author events with Seattle Arts & Lectures and Third Place Books (many of the SAL songs were documented in studio recordings), and we were delighted when the Seattle Repertory Theatre arranged for professional actors to join the Shakespeare show.



In the fall, The Bushwick Book Club Seattle will launch its 10th-anniversary season, and we're beyond moved by the traction this premise has gained in the community. Uncertainty continues to hover around just when we'll be able to gather in person again, but whether we see you in the flesh or in bits and bytes come fall, we are committed to speaking to the times with vibrant and diverse programming and excited to announce a few of the titles we plan to feature in our 10th-anniversary season of 2020–21: *How to Do Nothing* (Jenny Odell), *Exhalation* by Ted Chiang, *Like a Mother* (Angela Garbes), and *All the Light We Cannot See* (Anthony Doerr). And be sure to mark your calendar for the special anniversary show on Saturday, October 10—10 years to the day from the first Bushwick Book Club Seattle show at the Can Can cabaret beneath Pike Place Market.

WES WEDDELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

05

BUSHWICK NORTHWEST

FINANCES

INCOME

	2018-2019 SEASON	2019-2020 SEASON
Contributions, gifts, grants	\$29,463	\$45,229
Program income & contracts	\$83,964	\$55,948
Concert income	\$7,296	\$6,471
	\$912 avg. over 10 shows	\$1,294 avg. over 7 shows

EXPENSES

	2018-2019 SEASON	2019-2020 SEASON
Program (<i>costs associated with shows and style programs</i>)	\$71,759	\$44,350
Operating Costs	\$52,040	\$56,489

SPONSORS

Bushwick Northwest thanks City of Seattle, 4Culture, Seattle Foundation, Seattle Arts and Lectures, Town Hall Seattle, Seattle Repertory Theater, Seattle Foundation, KBCS 91.3 for their support.



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Montalto • Janelle Neil • Sarah Nelson • Nabrashaa Nelson • Garet Nenninger • Michael Nesteroff • Ailisa Newhall • Chris Newhall • Olivia Nordeng • Kerry O'Connell • Patrice O'Neill • Jen Oittinen • Lena Olsen • Aislinn Palmer • Ellen Pepin-Cato • Stephanie Perry • Emily Persha • Michael Peskura • Greg Piper • Barry Pollack • Barbara Quijada • Dawn Reardon • Del Rey • Bo Roth • Jain Rutherford • Marta Schee • Neil Scott • Barry Scovel • Michael Scoville • Craig Seasholes • Jennie Shortridge • Stephanie Shushan • Richard Siegel • Marissa Sim • Joseph Skocilich • Sheila Smith • Maggie Snyder • Jay Spencer • Sally Stefanich • Yolanda Stein • Garth Stein • Sarah Szabo • Jacob Thomas • Ashley Toia • Nick Toia • Amanda Troxel • Tricia Tubbs • Marla Vandewater • Caroline VanHarmelen • Wim Verhoef • Alisa Wagner • Kim Wahlberg • Phil Ward • Ivonne Ward • Emily Weaver • Rick Weber • Bertie Weddell • Angelena Weddell • Debra Westwood • Sophia Wheelwright • Vanessa Woo • Nelson Wright • Amy Zarlengo • Terry Zimmerman



Despite setbacks and universal challenges, Bushwick Northwest enjoyed significant growth during the 2019–20 season. The average per-concert income last season was \$912, while the average per-concert (in person) income this season was \$1,294—a 42 percent increase. We had a 54 percent increase in overall donations this season, with only a 9 percent increase in operating costs. We raised around \$11,000 at our fundraiser last year, and with the Choose Your Own Adventure fundraiser ongoing, in late summer we met our \$20,000 goal.

Some highlights of our financial five-year plan are to work toward being able to offer full grants for our STYLE programs, increase artist pay, and build individual, sustained sponsorship to cover our annual operating costs so we can continue to offer in-person, virtual, and creative versions of all our programs. We are excited to roll out a new membership plan, collaborate with more arts organizations, and broaden our audience.

AILISA NEWHALL, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



GEOFF LARSON
Executive Director



MICHAEL WALLENFELS
Communications Director



AILISA NEWHALL
Development Director



MELISSA MONTALTO
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