



GLASSROOTS

Forging lives through fire and glass

Annual Report 2019

Mission: GlassRoots ignites and builds the creative and economic vitality of greater Newark, with a focus on under-served youth and young adults, through the transformative power of the glass art experience.

Dear Friends of GlassRoots,

What a year it has been! We're delighted to share with you this listing of accomplishments; but truthfully, they only scratch the surface of all that has been GlassRoots in the last year! Providing over 5,000 hours of instruction to over 2,000 students is truly impressive – especially when you take into account that we're still in the confines of our Bleeker Street studios. What's more impressive, however, is what's happened during those hours to those students. The magic that our staff makes each day here is why GlassRoots is so extraordinary.

Our Youth Entrepreneurship programs are the hallmark of GlassRoots – we use the glass arts to provide context for the business concepts, while the design and making of products in glass challenge and stretch our students. Our new partnership with Uncommon Schools' North Star Academy Washington Park High School campus, through which 40 students immersed

themselves in business lessons, resulted in deep learning – about glass, entrepreneurship, and all of the personal growth skills borne of glass. North Star's Project Program coordinator Mike Taubmann shared, *"Our students' work with GlassRoots has been by far the most successful of any of our HS 2.0 initiatives. As the current GlassRoots students spread the word, we now have students clamoring to enroll in this group next semester."*

Our post-high school programs continue to produce as well. In addition to our Scientific Glassblowing Training and our Craft Entrepreneurship programs, we wrapped up our three-year partnership with Penland School of Crafts, and will be moving our Fellowship Program to a new partner site. Our students' immersion, in craft, in learning, and in beauty, helps students make the connection between higher education and the ability to create a future happy and successful life for themselves, with limitless possibilities. The Fellowship inspired them





to take the steps necessary to apply and enroll in college and plan their futures.

With your support, GlassRoots is strong financially. We are proud to have closed our latest fiscal year again in the black, and are delighted to have met our capital campaign goals – though gifts toward additional expenses are always welcome! As part of their generous Campaign 2020 gift, the Nicholson Foundation earmarked dollars to retire the debt GlassRoots incurred building out the Hot Shop here at 10 Bleeker Street nearly 12 years ago! We are now debt-free!

Our much anticipated and needed move to our new space has been delayed. We're ready to go, but our building isn't. We now anticipate being in our new home for our summer programs! This past year, we joyfully dedicated the Pat Kettenring Learning and Conference Center in our future home in honor of GlassRoots' founder, and the Lowenbach Gallery in honor of our founding board member. Staff and board members are using this time wisely, planning for the growth of our

programs and the realities of managing a larger space and budget!

Our staff is the heart and soul of GlassRoots. In addition to our long-time teaching artists, the backbone of our staff, Jason Minami and Kate Dowd, we have a very strong team. Five of our staff members have been students at GlassRoots! Upon returning to teach with us, Amira Rogers shared, *"GlassRoots has always been for me a safe place to go after school; where I could not only hang out with my friends and make new ones, but also learn a cool and unique craft. The most rewarding thing for me coming back is creating the same environment here at Glass Roots that I remembered when I first started long ago. Glass Roots is a safe place and I'm happy to be a part of it."*

Providing this rich learning environment is indeed important, but we don't take that role of providing a safe space for granted. Each year we measure our progress, not only in teaching glass art skills, but also supporting social and emotional growth. We've learned about interpreting the data we collect in context of our

respondents' circumstances, i.e., what is going on around them and what is happening in their lives at the moment, including their larger community (not just school). Sadly, this is a difficult time for many of our students.

It is easy to forget the importance of art during difficult times. What we know, and what we see is that art rises above language, class, religion, gender, and other factors that seem to divide the world. In our studios, we see art bringing people together; while eliciting different reactions and emotions, it moves each of us to think, to feel, and to act. Art is there to remind us of the values that we uphold.

Thank you for your support of art, and of GlassRoots!



Roger C. Tucker, III

Roger C. Tucker, III
Board President



Barbara Heisler

Barbara Heisler
Chief Executive Officer

Highlights

Long-Term Programs

YES/FLAME: A year-long college and career readiness program for high school students that teaches hard business skills combined with glass art techniques.

- YES attended the American Handcrafted Industry Trade Show in Philadelphia and enjoyed a hands-on visit to the ReMark Glass studios.
- FLAME student Jonathon created the prototype for a commission. "The client loves it!!"
- At the YES/FLAME programs' business competition, students' work was judged by a buyer for the Summit Medical Group gift shop.

Long Term Art Residencies: Glass art projects onsite at schools and community centers. Projects are tailored to the needs and interests of students and align with New Jersey State Learning Standards.

- We led residencies at four schools in Newark this year: Link Community Charter School and Philip's Academy Charter School, Hawkins Street School and First Avenue School.

Summer Youth Leadership Corps (YLC): Offered in cooperation with the City of Newark, YLC provides work experience, leadership training and opportunities for Newark teens to mentor younger students in our summer programs.

- YLC participants assisted GlassRoots' staff in classes conducted on and off-site, including more than 100 participants from the Newark Museum's Summer Camp; 150 students from Newark's Summer Plus



YLC students at Ricky Boscarino's Luna Parc

expanded learning program, and adults from JESPY House, a nonprofit that provides programs for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- YLC took a field trip to Luna Parc, a unique "living art" project and the home of artist Ricky Boscarino located in western New Jersey. Our YLC created mosaic panels, which Ricky installed on an exterior wall of the house. Meeting Ricky and adding to his project gave students an opportunity to expand their experience of collaboration in art and design.

The Bead Shop: A craft entrepreneurship program that teaches proficiency in flameworking and supports launching a business.

- Bead Shop graduate Tanisha Garner surpassed 50 sales in her Etsy shop!

Scientific-Glassblowing: This program prepares young adults for entry-level jobs in the research and laboratory glassware industry.

- Two students, both GlassRoots alumni, completed the Scientific Glassblowing Apprenticeship.

The GlassRoots Fellowship:

A 13-week art intensive fellowship program, intended for high school graduates created in collaboration with renowned schools of craft. This college credit program includes work and study in our studios in Newark and off-site at sites like Penland and Peters Valley.

- GlassRoots-Penland Fellowship concluded with the Student Art Show supported by prior year Fellows Richard Paz and Alexander Cubano (2016) and Adelin Figueroa (2017), as well as Arturo Brito, Executive Director of the Nicholson Foundation.
- GlassRoots is working with Peters Valley School of Craft to expand our Fellowship at their venue.



Scientific Glassblowing

Programs
by the
numbers

5,663

hours of
glass-art
instruction

2,072

onsite and
offsite visits

776

youth visited
our studios for
STEAM-based
field trips

500+

were amazed
by GlassRoots'
demonstrations at
schools, street fairs
and festivals

315

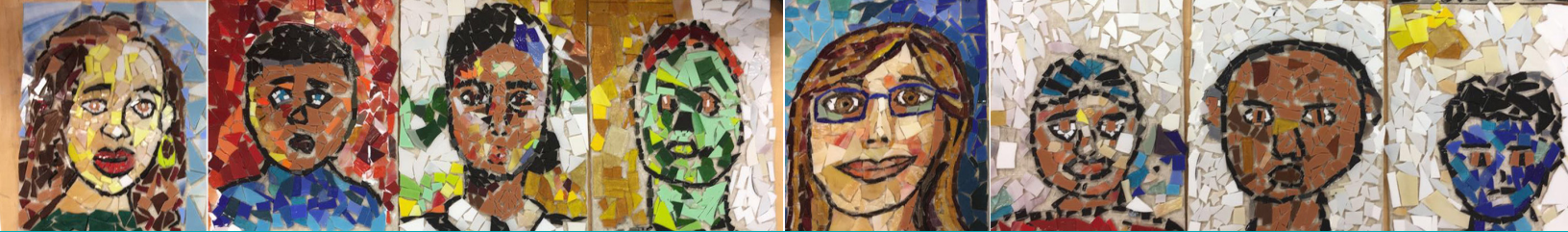
adults experienced
GlassRoots in private
groups, lessons and
studio rentals

272

youth and young
adults experienced
GlassRoots'
instruction in schools
and community
centers

191

participants
ages 10+
took part in
public glass
art classes



Mosaic portraits created as part of the Link Community Charter School Residency

Short Term Programs

One Day Field Trips: This year 776 students participated in hands-on, STEAM-based activities in our studios. Our one-day hands-on Glass Volcano Experience Workshop uses molten glass to teach 6-12th grade students about the science of volcanoes.

- First time visitors Millburn High School 3D arts students tried their hand at beadmaking, mosaics, and enjoyed a glassblowing demonstration.
- Montclair High School brought a class of 11th grade chemistry students for our Volcano Experience Workshop.

Public Art Classes: We offer classes year-round in glassblowing, glass fusing, mosaics and flameworking.

- We brought back twice-a-month Walk-In Workshops. In April, there were 15 participants, including many college students, who commented that they were grateful we offered a program they could afford.

Glass Art Summer Camp: Campers worked in our Flame, Flat and Hot Shops, creating glass-art projects using techniques and tools essential to each shop.

- Our summer camp had twice the number of students and income from the previous summer!

Scouting and Community Groups: Group field trips include hands-on lessons in glass-art making.

- Girl Scouts came for a beadmaking class. One girl commented "I liked that they trusted us with hot things."

Special Needs Programs: GlassRoots is committed to making our studios and programs accessible to all.

- We continued hosting clients of JESPY House, which serves adults with developmental disabilities.
- Teaching-Artists Amira and Kate conducted a workshop at Mountain Lakes High School which included hearing impaired students who used sign language symbols and DIVIA (Deaf Images in Visual Art) colors in the student-designed triptych.
- GlassRoots teaching staff jumped into action to provide an adaptive creative experience in flameworking for a student with a hand disability.

Professional Development for Educators: GlassRoots offers professional development workshops to teachers of any subject area to learn and improve upon teaching skills through the art of glassmaking.

- We hosted our first Educators Forum Breakfast.
- GlassRoots hosted two professional development workshops for Newark Public Schools teachers.

Artist Open Houses:

- Our first Artist Open House welcomed more than 22 artists from all over New Jersey.

Corporate Team-Building: Our team-building activities strengthen relationships.

- Newark Trust for Education staff did a team-building workshop creating a collaborative mosaic.
- Audible's Human Resources Department came for a beadmaking workshop. Participants created pens, wine stoppers, and bracelets.

GlassRoots In The Community

- We participated in the Mayor's Back to School event at Malcolm X Shabazz High School.
- At "Newark Night Out," we helped people create groovy glass bead bracelets and keychains.
- The Montclair Film Festival premiered short films made by local filmmakers Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno, one filmed at GlassRoots.
- We rocked HalseyFest and the Newark Museum's MakerFest, where we did flameworking and glassblowing demos.
- GlassRoots hosted a Bead-A-Thon and group mosaic activity at the Newark Arts Festival.
- Our CEO, Barbara Heisler, went One-On-One with Steve Aduato!
- GlassRoots participated in NJPAC's Kwanzaa festival. Participants could create a glass beaded bracelet as they learned about GlassRoots' programs.
- GlassRoots held an awesome volcano workshop for first-time visitors from Rahway Middle School.
- We were on a panel for the Arts Department of the Civics and Government Institute at Montclair High.
- We participated in the Ladies' Night Out in Maplewood where a Bead Shop graduate sold products.
- GlassRoots is featured in the Prudential building windows on Newark's New St. and Halsey St.
- We worked with the Greater Newark Business and Visitors Bureau to offer our products in their curated gift shop.
- We launched *The Looking Glass* monthly newsletter. Regular features on the topics SUPPORT, TEACH and CREATE are tailored to our specific audiences.
- CEO Barbara Heisler attended the Annual International Glass Art Society (GAS) Conference on behalf of GlassRoots.
- The March issue of United Airlines' *Hemispheres Magazine* highlighted Newark, with a GlassRoots mosaic serving as the cover image. The article describes a workshop with Alix and includes photos of Jason and our Flat Shop.
- GlassRoots was a high quality arts vendor at Maplewoodstock 2019, attended by 20,000 people.
- Instructor Ellen Brown attended the American Scientific Glassblowers Society conference in Corning, NY.

Teaching-Artist Jason conducting a glassblowing demonstration



Staff, Board and Volunteers

Staff News

We welcomed new staff members in the last fiscal year:

Natasha Jawahir, Glassblowing Apprentice; and Lorraine "Rain" Trippodi and GlassRoots alumna Amira Rogers, both as Teaching-Artists in our Flat and Flame Shops.

- In February, our Teaching-Artist Yazzie had a show at the new Akwaaba Gallery in Newark.
- All GlassRoots teaching staff attended a professional development workshop on classroom management. Key takeaways were strategies to keep students engaged, interested and valued.
- As part of strategic planning support provided by Prudential's Pru Bono group, an info-gathering session was held with our board and program staff.

In the Studios

- The upstairs Flat Shop Studio Annex was overhauled to make the space more inviting to students. Yay, coat pegs!
- As part of a generous Campaign 20/20 gift, GlassRoots was able to retire the debt we incurred building out the Hot Shop nearly 12 years ago!
- To help streamline evaluation, GlassRoots started using QR codes. This helps save staff time.
- Our Hot Shop team, led by Jason and aided by Natasha and Alix, did a rebuild of equipment to get us through the end of the year.

Our Future Home

- A festive groundbreaking ceremony was held in October!
- Work continues on our new space at the Newark Arts Commons! One addition to the space is a newly commissioned lifesize cast glass sculpture by artist Dean Allison. Read his blog at glassroots.org/deans-blog
- In October we dedicated the Pat Ketterring Learning and Conference Center in our future home in honor of GlassRoots' founder.

Staff

Nick Albericci, Bookkeeper
Ellen Brown, Workforce Development
Alix Davis, Teaching Artist
Kate Dowd, Teaching Artist
Lisa Duggan, Program Director
Nicole Klas, Accountant
Ya'zmine Graham, Teaching Artist

Barbara Heisler, Chief Executive Officer
Earlea Jimenez, Teaching Artist
Anthony Lovari, Office Administrator
Gayle Mahoney, Communications and Development Director
Jason Minami, Teaching Artist
Tarrin Morgan II, Operations Manager
Richard Paz, Teaching Artist
Amira Rogers, Teaching Artist
Aurora Rosado Lazzaro, Finance Director
Rain Trippodi, Teaching Artist

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Financial Summary

Expense \$891,043



Income \$1,092,716



20/20 Capital Campaign
\$1,304,278 was contributed or pledged in this fiscal year toward our successful \$2.4M Capital Campaign

Our Fabulous Donors

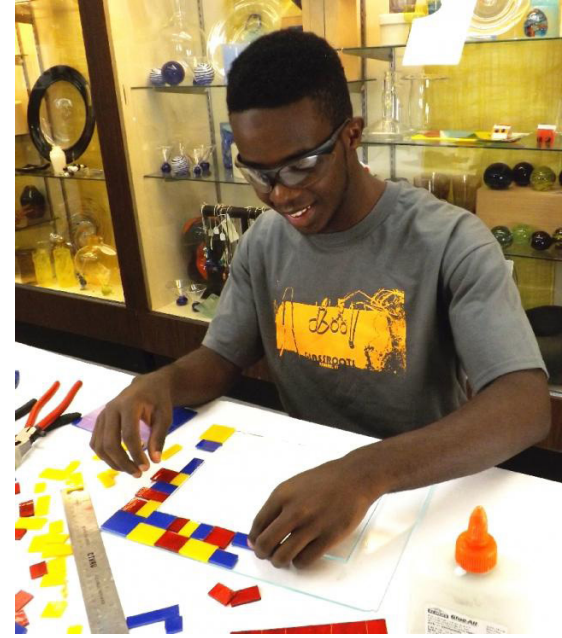
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Judy Wukitsch
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Rita Yohalem
Cecilia Zalkind
Deborah Zlotzky
And 26 anonymous friends!

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