Dear Friends,

We are a mighty “WE”... fully, intentionally, and with love.
We make art.
We make justice.
We make community.
We make space for each other to thrive as our fullest selves.

- Kemi Ilesanmi, Public Art Potluck 2017, remarks

In 2015–2016, The Laundromat Project (The LP) reached a major milestone as we celebrated a full decade of work with and in community. Our flagship program, Create Change, began in 2006 with three projects: a limited edition artist book of Zen philosophy, shared with neighbors at a Clinton Hill laundromat; a drawing cart inviting neighbors to sit, draw, and make conversation at a Harlem laundromat; and a short documentary film addressing the experiences of Haitians in the Dominican Republic screened at various Central Brooklyn laundromats.

From those initial seeds, we have gone on to cultivate 150 artists--each uniquely addressing through their projects, what it means to live, work, and make art alongside their neighbors. Since 2006, WE have created 62 far-ranging, socially-engaged projects in 28 laundromats and other community spaces. Even more importantly, our alumni are actively helping to shape New York City by joining their community boards, facilitating civic engagement through participatory budgeting, and working with their neighbors to address tough issues such as gentrification, immigrant labor rights, climate change, and so much more. They continuously bring their creativity, vision, and sweat equity to the collective table for positive change.

And our seeds continue to bear fruit.

Our newest initiative, the Kelly Street Collaborative (KSC), was born out of a relationship established by 2014 Create Change Fellows with residents of Kelly Street in the Longwood section of the South Bronx. In response to residents seeking sustained connections with artists in their own community, KSC has become a true embodiment of WE. In partnership with local community organizations, The LP has transformed an empty 2-bedroom apartment on Kelly Street into a creative hub, including artist studios and arts programming that engages local residents. Leveraging the creativity of local artists and residents, KSC has thus become a key building block towards The LP’s long-term vision of deeply embedding in a community to nurture everyday change through art and culture. In just over a year of consistent programming at KSC, we have engaged over 2,700 South Bronx residents on and around Kelly Street.

WE, together with our artists, neighbors, partners, and supporters, have so much to celebrate! In our first decade we have directly invested nearly $700,000 in multi-racial, multi-generational, and multi-disciplinary artists, innovative public art projects, diverse NYC neighborhoods, and 34,000 New Yorkers, equipping, empowering, and emboldening them as creative change agents in their own communities.

Now, with our second decade on the horizon, we look forward to collectively strengthening Create Change, fortifying our relationships with the Kelly Street community, building arts education programs grounded in community stories, and all the new initiatives we will dream of together. We are ever thriving to cultivate, nourish, and seed the NYC landscape with incredible creative community leaders.

You will learn more about how we manifest our values everyday as you explore the pages of this annual report. Thank you for being part of The LP family.

In community,

Stephanie Dinkins    Curtis Young
Board Co-Chair       Board Co-Chair
Kemi Ilesanmi
Executive Director
The LP’s flagship program, *Create Change*, launches with three public projects featuring Rudy Shepherd, Shinique Smith, and Mariam Neptune.

The Kelly Street Collaborative is launched, and becomes a key building block towards The LP’s long-term vision of deeply embedding in a community to nurture everyday change through art and culture.

The Laundromat Project founder Risë Wilson began formulating the mission for the organization, thinking about community gathering spaces as places for presenting public art.

Petrushka Bazin Larsen is hired as the first staff member, and becomes an integral part of The LP’s programming.

This year, The LP decides to focus its work in three anchor neighborhoods—Bedford-Stuyvesant, Harlem, and Hunts Point/Longwood.

The LP also organizes its inaugural Field Day Festival, celebrating arts and culture in its three anchor neighborhoods.

The LP celebrates 10 years of the Create Change program. In just one decade, The LP has equipped and empowered 150 artists as creative change agents in their own communities.
WHAT WE DO

MISSION & VISION
We amplify the creativity that already exists within communities by using arts and culture to build community networks, solve problems, and enhance our sense of ownership in the places where we live, work, and grow.

We envision a world in which artists are understood as valuable assets in every community and everyday people know the power of their own creative capacity to transform their lives, their relationships, and their surroundings.

OUR VALUES
CREATIVE CATALYSTS
COMMUNITY-CENTERED
NEIGHBORLY
PEOPLE-POWERED
ACTIVE LISTENERS AND LEARNERS
COLLABORATIVE AND CROSS-POLLINATING BY DESIGN
PROPELLED BY LOVE

We achieve our mission by bringing socially relevant and socially engaged arts programming to laundromats and other everyday community spaces in order to reach as many of our neighbors as possible. We are particularly committed to long-term and sustained investment in communities of color as well as those living on modest incomes.
"Interning at The LP has taught me a lot, especially about art. I’ve been taking art classes from the 1st through the 8th grade, but one thing I didn’t know was that you can use art to help your community."

—Awa Dembele, The LP Program Intern

“Just a little note to say “Thank You” for existing and doing what you do and being who you are, and welcoming me into the fam. It’s a joy to be part of it. Thanks for offering me opportunities to grow as a human and in my work. It’s so good to keep widening and deepening the circle of good people and creatives in this sometimes overplayed NY scene. Each of you is a huge inspiration to me.”

—Katherine Toukhy, Create Change Alumni
“There’s no question that we could not have accomplished all that we did with the block party this year without your ongoing support, generosity, and creative forces of positive change. It was so lovely watching the children involved in the art projects you all facilitated.”

—Kelly Street Resident

“The impact Create Change has had on my life is priceless. Thanks for all that you do, LP.”

—Jason Maas, 2015 Create Change Fellow

“Brilliant community building and engagement model in which art and creativity are tools for dialogue and raising awareness of people and issues important to that community.”

—Lisa Yancey, Catalyst Circle Member
ARTIST PROGRAMS
CREATE CHANGE:
Artist Development Program

Established in 2006, The LP’s flagship program, Create Change, has evolved into a leading artist development program that builds and nourishes creative community leaders, providing technical support, funding, and training. Annually, 20 multi-racial, multi-generational, and multi-disciplinary individuals are selected to develop collectively and build, alongside their neighbors, eight community-attuned and responsive creative projects. Each cohort member and group makes use of the unique social space of their location (e.g., a public plaza, community garden, and other local spaces) to engage their neighbors while reflecting shared community concerns. The program culminates in The LP’s annual fall Field Day Festival of Neighborhoods.

Yearly through our Residencies and Commissions, The LP supports five artists with an established social engagement practice, as they create innovative and socially-engaged creative endeavors across NYC.

In 2011, The LP established the Create Change Fellowship to support up to 15 participants as they look to develop and deepen their practice making socially relevant, community-engaged art. Commissions are exclusively for Create Change Fellowship alumni.

2015/2016
8 PUBLIC ART PROJECTS
40 ARTISTS
7 NEW YORK CITY NEIGHBORHOODS
7,600 NEW YORKERS ENGAGED

Misra Walker “Coquito & Climate Cart,” 2016. Click to view video of this project.
CREATIVE CATALYSTS

2015 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE
Rasu Jilani
Griots in “The Stuy” (BED-STUY)
Public Art Exhibition

What’s your relationship to Bed-Stuy? What’s your relationship to Tompkins Avenue? For his residency, Rasu Jilani organized “Griots in ‘The Stuy’: A Neighborhood as a Living Archive,” an ephemeral public art exhibition of photographs along Tompkins Avenue, and an online archive of personal stories from Bed-Stuy residents about the neighborhood they call home. Community Partner: Sincerely Tommy

“I was also able to see how the art activity encouraged conversation between community members and witnessing this happen further solidified to me how creative and celebratory activities can help build community.”
—Claro de los Reyes

2015 COMMISSIONS
Claro de los Reyes
My Baryo My Boro (QUEENS)
Video-Based Oral Histories

2015

COMMISSIONS (cont’d)

Elvira Clayton

Dioko (HARLEM)
Public Mobile Installation

For her commissions project, “Dioko” (jo-ko, Wolof for “connections”), Elvira Clayton engaged and celebrated the Senegalese community within West Harlem, all the while exploring its cultural parallels to Harlem’s African-American community. The project culminated in both a public mobile installation and a formal exhibition of stories and photographs. Community Partners: The Laundry Room, Little Senegal Business, Marcus Garvey Park Alliance

“...strategies on entering, building, and exiting communities is something that I have utilized as I’ve moved forward in my community-based art practice.”
— Elvira Clayton

Raul Ayala and Fernanda Espionsa

Whose Streets (BUSHWICK)
Mixed-Media Mural Project

For their commissioned project, Raul Ayala and Fernanda Espionsa created a Bushwick-based mixed-media mural project that addressed the issue of racial justice, and its intersection with exploitation, displacement, and police violence within black and brown communities. Community Partners: Know Waste Lands (Wildlife Garden), Mayday Space.

Alison Kibbe & Sasha Phyars-Burgess

Storyblock: Block Party
(HUNTS POINT/LONGWOOD)
Mixed Media Archive

As a continuation of their 2014 Hunts Point Create Change Fellows Field Day project, Alison Kibbe and Sasha Phyars-Burgess created an oral history and visual community archive celebrating the cultural richness of Kelly Street residents living in the Longwood section of the South Bronx. Community Partners: Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Bronx Community College, Hunts Point Alliance For Children, Kelly Street Garden, Workforce Housing Group.
Artist Spotlight: 2015 Create Change Fellow, Maura Cuffie

“This fellowship has meant many things to me—I want to focus on the word fellowship, I find it to be particularly powerful...fellowship is about breaking bread, building community, learning and sharing through intimacy of ordinary life. Over the last 6 months we’ve done just that...Learning what entering, building and exiting a community should look and feel like when it’s meaningful on both sides of the impact/intent paradigm, how to build in feedback loops throughout the process, engage with policy differently, making partnerships that last beyond an event...It’s been about building and learning with this amazing group of artists as well as building, growing, learning...in Harlem.”

- Public Art Potluck 2017, remarks
In 2015 we hosted the sixth annual Public Art Potluck dinner party to celebrate the 2015 Create Change cohort. The LP’s guest chef for the evening was Chef Kelston Bascom of Bascom Catering. Kelston is a wonderful chef, and a crucial part of The Point CDC in Hunts Point/Longwood, where he runs The Point’s cafe and also teaches culinary education classes as part of the Blank Plate program.
CREATE CHANGE WORKSHOPS

As part of the Create Change artist development program, The LP offers a six-month series of workshops—groundbreaking effective, affordable, intensive training for artists interested in learning how to do community-based, socially-engaged work better and deeper. At the end of the six-month period, artists will have acquired 200 hours of practical experience. Workshops are lead by:

**Paloma McGregor & Chanon Judson, Urban Bush Women**
Workshop: Entering, Building, and Exiting Community

**Ebony Noelle Golden & Betty’s Daughter Arts Collaborative**
Workshop: Collective Visioning: Building a Kinetic & Collaborative Project

**Rachel Falcone, Storyline Media**
Workshop: Community Partnerships

**Gonzalo Casals & Anusha Venkataraman, Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts New York (NOCD-NY)**
Workshop: Engaging the Public Policy Sector

**DeeArah Wright, Gather Brooklyn**
Workshop: Self-Care & Sustaining Your Practice

**Caits Meissner, Independent Artist**
Workshop: Communications Strategies & Web Tools + Engaging the Public Policy Sector

**Nayantara Sen, Independent Writer & Tammy Johnson, Independent Dancer; Racial Justice Educators**
Workshop: Rethinking Race, Power, and Privilege for Socially Engaged Artists

**Facilitator Spotlight: Ebony Noelle Golden**

“The LP is a learning organization. They intentionally seek opportunities and share resources related to fortifying and sustaining work in local communities. They are also committed to the well-being of people of color, living on modest incomes, through a process of providing accessible arts to communities traditionally underserved by mainstream arts institutions.”

*2016 Create Change cohort, workshop with Urban Bush Women.*
CREATIVE CATALYSTS

2016

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Havanna Fisher Newby
Harlem Motion (HARLEM)
Visual Arts & Film

For her project “Harlem Motion” Havanna Fisher Newby facilitated a series of exploratory stop-animation workshops, used as a vehicle for Harlem community members to create and share their stories while connecting with neighbors in the midst of a changing Harlem. Community Partners: Community Voices Heard, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol, and Picture the Homeless.

“...as an artist what drives a lot of my passion and what drives a lot of the work that I do is love. At The LP they let that be the standing base of their foundation in which they support so many different people—not just artists but also communities. They train you how to interact with communities and how to be accountable to communities at the same time, which I think is so important...”

— Havanna Fisher Newby

Misra Walker
Coquito & Climate Cart
(HUNTS POINT/LONGWOOD)
Mixed Media Installation

“Coquito & Climate Cart” featured Misra Walker’s mobile installation, which documented, via audio, video and written exchanges, summertime memories and stories in relation to climate change from Hunts Point/Longwood community members. Community Partner: The Point Community Development Corporation. See page 8 for an image and video of this project.

Salome Asega
& Ayodamola Okunseinde
The Iyapo Repository (BED-STUY)
Interactive Technology

“The Iyapo Repository” by Salome Asega and Ayodamola Okunseinde, included an on-going resource library which houses a collection of digital and physical artifacts created to affirm and project the future of people of African descent. The collection is managed and developed through a series of participatory workshops in which participants become archivists of a future history they envision. Community Partner: Bedford Stuyvesant Museum of African Art.

Click to view video of this project.
2016

COMMISSIONS

Ro Garrido
A Living Room on Roosevelt/Una Sala en La Roosevelt (JACKSON HEIGHTS)
Mixed-Media Installation & Public Engagement
“A Living Room on Roosevelt/Una Sala en La Roosevelt,” by Ro Garrido, brought an interactive living room—a typically private and domestic space—into the commercial corridor of Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights. The site served as an intentional space for community members to have conversations and share knowledge and history related to issues of community safety in Jackson Heights. Community Partner: Queens Neighborhoods United

Katherine Toukhy
Khayamiya Monument (BAY RIDGE)
Public Installation
Katherine Toukhy’s “The Khayamiya (Khayyāmiyah, Arabic) Monument” developed into a co-created public tent sculpture and community archive that included the herstories of Arab women migrants/immigrants in Bay Ridge and U.S. female veterans. Community Partner: Arab American Association of New York

“This program challenged me to rethink where art can live and grow...and in the process taught me a great deal about intention and practice.”
—Ro Garrido
Artist Spotlight: 2016 Create Change Fellow, Walter Cruz

“Joining the LP family and taking part in the fellowship program are two of the best things that came into my life not just last year, but ever. You all are an amazing team that sincerely inspire me to be my best self. Being in community with each of you and taking on the various challenges thrown my way during the fellowship woke up a sleeping giant within me. My commitment to the Bronx and Black/Latinx/POC folks rose exponentially thanks to you. The global wave of systemic oppressions is on a steady rise and hitting our shores relentlessly as the new year begins.”
In 2016 we celebrated our seventh annual Public Art Potluck dinner party, honoring the 10th Create Change artist cohort. Our guest chef for the evening was Gabriela Alvarez of Liberation Cuisine. Chef Alvarez created a menu filled with Afro-Caribbean culinary influences and inspired by the 2016 Create Change cohort—their artistries, and collective creativity.
COMMUNITY ARTS EDUCATION

FIELD DAY: An Annual Festival of Neighborhoods

Field Day is The LP’s annual fall festival of neighborhoods showcasing our public art residencies, fellowships, and arts workshops in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Harlem, and Hunts Point/Longwood. In each of our three anchor neighborhoods, participants can look forward to free arts workshops, creative walking tours, oral histories, and so much more!

**Highlights from Field Day 2015:**

- Interactive activities celebrating the culture, traditions, and resilience of Bed-Stuy, featuring healing spaces, healthy eating cyphers, and self-defense workshops.
- Community resource mapping and a community-curated art show highlighting Bronx artists, assets, and brilliance.
Field Day Projects Organized by 2015 Fellows

**IMAGINE BED-STUY**  
(BED-STUY)

**Fellows:** Adaku Utah, Hossannah Asuncion, Jason Maas, Ola Ronke Akinmowo

Our Bed-Stuy Fellows invited community members and visitors to honor, explore and (re)imagine Bed-Stuy’s past, present and future through interactive activities such as healthy eating cyphers, portrait and storytelling sharing, healing spaces, self-defense and poetry workshops (with Francis Estrada & Nicholas Powers) and more. Community Partners: 462 Halsey Community Garden, Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, Bridge Street Development Corp., Brooklyn Movement Center, The Luminal Theater, Once Upon A Corner

**HARLEM, I AM STILL HERE**  
(HARLEM)

**Fellows:** Ashley Grier, David Xu Borgonjon, Dhanashree Gadiyar, Kristy McCarthy, Maura Cuffie

“Harlem, I am still here” featured a day of art-making and creative reflection, inviting Harlemites to engage in conversation about Harlem as a site of cultural significance. Activities included portrait sessions, a screening series focusing on the challenges of displacement and the notions of “home,” projections of community-generated artwork and poetry amongst other art-making activities. Community Partners: Frank White Memorial Garden, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol
Field Day Projects Organized by 2015 Fellows

BRONX BRILLIANCE: ART, ACTIVISM + ACTION
(HUNTS POINT / LONGWOOD)

Fellows: Dominique Hernandez, Nicole Tammelle, Sarah Lidgus, Stanley Cadet

The Bronx-based fellows engaged with the local community by organizing a series of interactive activities such as painting, photography and community resource mapping. They also invited individuals to contribute to a community-curated art show highlighting Bronx artists, assets and brilliance. Community Partners: Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Everyday Bronx, Hunts Point Alliance For Children, Mothers on the Move, Serrano Galleries, Workforce Housing Group

“Our theme came by way of attending a series of meetings, reading articles and blogs, and visiting community events in Hunts Point. One action led to another action, until we met our partners and listened to what they were doing in the neighborhood and what was needed in the neighborhood.”

— Stanley Cadet, Create Change Fellow
COMMUNITY-CENTERED & NEIGHBORLY

Highlights from Field Day 2016:

• An interactive scavenger hunt through the South Bronx for youth to connect, foster leadership, and spark dialogue in spaces they frequent as well as those to which they have limited access.

• A creative walk through Harlem, led by community organizer and Harlem native Julien A. Terrell, focusing on Harlem’s past as a local and international hub for political strategy and creative action.
Field Day Projects Organized by 2016 Fellows

SAY IT LOUD: EMPOWERING THE SOUTH BRONX
(HUNTS POINT/LONGWOOD)
Fellows: Adalky Franchesca Capellán, Walter Cruz, Dalaeeja Foreman, Iván Gaete, Claudia Zamora Valencia

Based on feedback from young Bronx community members, our Create Change Fellows co-created an immersive hunt to connect ideas and spark dialogue covering a range of topics from: wellness and state/community violence to cross-cultural unity through creative exchanges. Community Partners: Andre Trenier, BLK Projek/The Libertad Urban Farm, Mexican American Student Alliance (MASA), Mothers on the Move, Sister Circle Collective and South Bronx Community Food Coalition

POLITICS OF PROTECTION: BUILDING SAFETY OUTside THE SYSTEM
(BED-STUY)
Fellows: Lindsay Catherine Harris, Sue Jeong Ka, Shamilia McBean, Salvador Muñoz, Cynthia Tobar

Through an artistic and communal celebration of self-determined Safe Space in Bed Stuy, our Create Change Fellows creatively honored and centered the legacy and experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Trans and Gender Non-Conforming People of Color (LGBTSTGNC PoC) facing state violence in our communities while exercising agency to define and build safety and accountability on one’s own terms. Community Partners: Audre Lorde Project’s SOS (Safe OUTside the System) Collective
Field Day Projects Organized by 2016 Fellows

(HARLEM)

Fellows: Rahviance Beme, Vanessa Cuervo, Autumn Robinson, Terence Trouillot

Community Partners: East Harlem Preservation, El Museo del Barrio, Violence Intervention Program, Inc. (VIP Mujeres)

**NOT OUR STATUE: Speak Out in Solidarity For the Reproductive Rights of Women of Color**

A speak out demonstration to bring public attention to the history of controversial figure J. Marion Sims and to broadcast the East Harlem community’s continued effort to speak out against the statue, located on 103rd Street and 5th Ave. The speak-out featured an engaging performance by Francheska Alcantara commemorating the unknown and known women (we only know the names of three women: Anarcha, Betsey and Lucy) that were experimented on by J. Marion Sims.

**NOT WHAT’S BROKEN; WHAT’S HEALED**

“Not What’s Broken; What’s Healed” hosted a quiltmaking workshop with the women of Violence Intervention Program (VIP) at El Museo del Barrio. Part of VIP’s continued collaboration with Monument Quilt Project, the workshop promoted a space for healing and for remembering those affected by sexual and domestic violence. The space also exhibited part of the existing quilt made previously by the women of VIP and other artworks by the “VIP Mujeres” created through past workshops facilitated by Harlem Fellow Vanessa Cuervo. During the project, the space also served as a place to share women’s stories and celebrate the community of East Harlem.
Greening the City Festival 2015/2016

Greening the City is a festival promoting arts and creativity as a means for bringing about environmental awareness, community beautification, and wellness.

Free and open to the general public, Greening the City addresses environmentalism with a down-to-earth approach, providing New Yorkers of all ages with the opportunity to learn everyday ways to make eco-friendly choices that are fun and affordable.

It all happens as part of the Annual Fish Parade and Summer Festival at Barretto Point Park.
YOUTH PROGRAMS

Print Change 2015/2016
In collaboration with the Brooklyn Community Arts & Media High School (BCAM), Print Change was an after-school class where students learned how to silkscreen and print linocuts, among other printmaking techniques. Students visited local museums and artist studios to support what they were learning in the classroom. The course addressed the role printmaking has played in the history of political resistance and protest, and resourced youth with tools to illustrate their perspectives on pressing issues in their lives and neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Print Lab 2016
In 2016, The LP invited high school students to participate in our Neighborhood Print Lab (NPL) summer program. Facilitated by Bronx teaching artist Sharon de la Cruz, students gathered at The LP’s community hub, the Kelly Street Collaborative, and worked in collaboration with the artist to create portraits inspired by community leaders of the historic Kelly Street block in the Hunts Point/Longwood section of the South Bronx. Each portrait was created through immersive artmaking that included research and interviews with community leaders, allowing the youth to see their neighborhood anew through the elder’s eyes.
In 2015 The LP launched a major new program, the Kelly Street Collaborative (KSC). Born out of our long standing relationships with residents of the Kelly Street neighborhood, the Kelly Street Collaborative was developed in response to community members who asked for sustained connections with artists in their own community to bring about change. In partnership with Workforce Housing Group, Kelly Street Garden, and Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, The LP transformed an empty apartment on Kelly Street into a creative community hub. The hub includes artist studios and arts programming that allow The LP to engage the larger Kelly Street block community. Leveraging local artists and residents, KSC has become a key building block towards The LP’s long-term vision and commitment to deep engagement in each of the communities they serve.

**In Just One Year!**

- 47 EVENTS & PROGRAMS
- 25 ARTISTS ENGAGED
- 1,216 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED

**KELLY STREET COLLABORATIVE**
Sajata Epps,
Kelly Street Artist

“The Laundromat Project is an instrumental part of our community because we don’t have many creative outlets for our community members. We also never had a non-profit located in our community whose key focus is to develop local community artist so they can be a more positive influence in their own neighborhoods.

We take a huge loss when art and creativity are not executed in our communities. When people look at art they feel. Sometimes they feel happy or sometimes sad, but they do in fact feel, and that emotion helps them to connect not only to their surroundings but to themselves. This connection is important to the development of happy and healthy communities.”

Dennis RedMoon Darkeem,
The LP’s Kelly Street Artist-in-Residence

“My time as the first Artist-in-Residence at Kelly Street has been amazing. I’m meeting new people and I’m also able to talk about my art-making process on a constant basis which has helped me figure out what avenue to take with my work. During my time at Kelly Street, I’ve collaborated with people in the community to bring projects they want to see. I do meditation workshops with the community and I also do soap workshops using herbs gathered from the community garden. My workshops bring awareness to everyday products we use and examine what exactly is in our food and the things we buy.

The biggest positive about The LP is the support. They are very hands-on, tending to the needs of the community and also creating outlets for many artists who wouldn’t necessarily have representation or support.”

Dennis RedMoon Darkeem is also a 2014 Create Change alumni.

Alicia Grullón,
The LP Artist Catalyst

“A big part of my role with The LP at Kelly Street has to do with being present—that means being present through programming, as a neighbor, as an artist, and as an individual and lifelong Bronx resident. I am now more acutely aware of being present in different ways.

One of my first experiences working at Kelly Street was Alejandra’s Delfin’s print making workshop. I got to meet the residents for the first time. Adults came in to participate with with the youth; it was a real community endeavor.”
Partner Spotlight: The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling

In 2014, The Laundromat Project partnered with The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling to select a single visual artist for a seven-month residency at the museum. David Shrobe was selected as the inaugural artist-in-residence. David began his residency in February 2015, and he led weekly art-making workshops with students on-site at the Sugar Hill Museum Preschool through June. The workshops culminated in a collaborative project—a large collage portrait of Phyllis Wheatley, the first published African American woman and poet, which will become a permanent work on display at the Preschool.
SOAPBOX 2015

SOAPBOX is The Laundromat Project’s spirited and art-filled annual benefit, including delicious beverages and hors d’oeuvres, a live DJ, an exclusive special edition print, silent auction, and fun art experiences. In 2015, SOAPBOX was held at UrbanGlass Gallery, Brooklyn, and artist Glenn Ligon and LP Alumni Artist Shani Peters were honored. Our benefit print artist was Xaveria Simmons.

Featured print
Xaveria Simmons
“Cedar (A)” (2015)
Xaviera Simmons
Digital C-print
16 x 20 inches
Edition of 20

SOAPBOX 2015 Spotlight: Glenn Ligon

“What is fantastic is that The LP is finding ways to serve communities where they are. When I was growing up in the South Bronx people thought culture was something that was located somewhere else, not where we were. The LP shows that communities are always full of creativity and talent and it is just a matter of tapping into those cultural resources.

People should know that the constituencies The LP serves are incredibly diverse and because of this diversity they have the potential to interact in productive and dynamic ways.”

—Glenn Ligon, SOAPBOX honoree
In 2016, SOAPBOX was held at the Center for Architecture. Artist Nari Ward, The Lily Auchincloss Foundation, and LP Alumni Artist Betty Yu were honored. Our benefit print artist was Nina Chanel Abney.

**Featured print**

Nina Chanel Abney  
“Untitled” (2016)  
Archival pigment print on Hahnemuhle German Etching paper; 25 x 19 inches, Edition of 25

**SOAPBOX 2016 Spotlight: Alex Herzan**

“The Lily Auchincloss Foundation supports organizations within the five boroughs of NYC that serve to enrich the lives of New Yorkers. For the past ten years, The Laundromat Project has exemplified the kind of programming that the foundation is so proud to support. The LP’s programs work with artists and community members to bring people together and make New Yorkers more aware of the power of art to catalyze change in our world.”

—Alex Herzan, The Lily Auchincloss Foundation
WE ARE
PEOPLE-POWERED

BOARD
Naomi Beckwith
Tresell Davis
Dr. LeConté Dill (former)
Stephanie Dinkins
Marcus Ellington
Dr. Erika Faust
Ali Goldstein Norup
Sophie Henderson (former)
Rasu Jilani
Christopher Montgomery (former)
Julie Simon (former)
Dexter Wimberly
Curtis D. Young

FOUNDER
Risé Wilson

STAFF
Petrushka Bazin Larsen, 
Director of Programs (former)
Alicia Grullón, Artist Catalyst
Kemi Ilesanmi, Executive Director
Emily Mock, Program Associate
Yvette Ramírez, Program Coordinator
Hatuey Ramos-Fermin, 
Director of Programs & Community Engagement
Melissa Liu, Development & Communications Coordinator
Akiva Steinmetz-Silber, 
Development & Communications Associate (former)
Ayesha Williams, 
Director of Strategic Partnerships

KEY CONSULTANTS
Ashley Browne, Bookkeeper
Ebony Golden, Cultural Organizer
Jessica Svenson, Grant Writer
Chet Kincaid, Social Media Fellow

INTERNS
Wabu Blacknall
Gabija Kertényte
Bella Olivo
Maya Reyes

ARTIST FACULTY
Raul Ayala
Fay Bonas
Aisha Cousins
Sharon de la Cruz
Sonia Louise Davis
Alejandra Delfín
Sajata Epps
Rajeeyah Finnie-Myers
Dhanashree Gadiyar
Joesph DONJAI Gilmore
Frank Hooker
Aeden Keefelew
ML Kinnel
Alice Mizrachi
Syndie Mosley
Jasmine Murrell
Shani Peters
David Shrobe
Rosemary Taylor
**PEOPLE-POWERED**

**PEOPLE POWERED CHALLENGE**
The People-Powered Challenge is an annual grassroots campaign that harnesses the collective power of our friends, family, and social networks to raise funds towards people-powered art in NYC in just ten days!

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**2015 $30K CHALLENGE**

- **$35,491** raised
- **33 incredible people-movers**

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**2016 $40K CHALLENGE**

- **$46,390** raised
- **632 donors**
- **49 incredible people-movers**

We are so blown away by the generosity of our friends, family, and neighbors. To our amazing (and growing) family of LP supporters and friends: we can’t thank you enough!
"The type of community engagement fostered by the project isn’t about painting a mural and walking away, but rather commissioning artists who think long and hard about how to engage the communities where the project operates—Harlem, Bedford Stuyvesant, and Hunts Point / Longwood—three neighborhoods primarily made up of people of color with modest incomes and rich histories."

— Artsy Magazine

"Go to where the people are" is a phrase that should always be step one in community engagement strategies. In order to amplify the creative power of artists, The Laundromat Project in New York has made this their core principle.

— The Guardian

“The LP’s currency was (and is) relationships, self-discovery, and nurturing the agency of our neighbors”

— Americans for the Arts
**FY 15 / FY 16 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### 2016 Revenue
$657,854
- Contributions & Grants 77%
- Program Revenue 5%
- Special Events 15%
- Other 3%

### 2015 Revenue
$494,745
- Contributions & Grants 76%
- Program Revenue 12%
- Special Events 11%
- Other 1%

### 2016 Expenses
$636,972
- Programs 79%
- Fundraising 9%
- Management & General 12%

### 2015 Expenses
$445,264
- Programs 75%
- Fundraising 12%
- Management & General 13%

* Revenues reflect unrestricted funds available for use during that fiscal year only, including restricted fund received in prior years.

** Contributions and grants reflect foundations, government, and individuals support, including 100% board giving.
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Katherine Wilson-Milne

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LEAD COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Laundromat Project is a proud member of Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts New York.
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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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