This document was submitted to the 2021 Annual Survey of Higher Education in Prison for inclusion in the National Directory of Higher Education in Prison Programs (https://www.higheredinprison.org/national-directory). The document was created by and remains under the sole ownership of the individual higher education in prison program. Further, the document was not edited, modified or otherwise altered by the Research Collaborative on Higher Education in Prison at the University of Utah, the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley and/or the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison.

To learn more about the Higher Education in Prison Landscape Project, visit: https://www.higheredinprison.org/higher-education-in-prison-landscape-project

The Alliance for Higher Education subscribes to the Creative Commons Attribution: NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA). All materials shared in the National Directory of Higher Education in Prison Programs will follow this license. This copyright licensing allows others to remix, adapt, and build upon work for non-commercial purposes, as long as they credit and license their new creations under the identical terms.
Prison Communities International Inc. (PCI) is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to criminal justice issues. Established in 1999, PCI is the parent company under which Rehabilitation Through The Arts operates.
Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share the first Annual Report for Rehabilitation Through The Arts (RTA), providing an opportunity to reflect on what was truly a breakthrough year for RTA.

A number of new and expansive initiatives marked 2019:

- RTA thrived in the five prisons in which we have been operating, and we launched a sixth program at Taconic Correctional Facility, a medium-security women’s prison in Bedford Hills, NY.

- RTA as an organization has grown by leaps and bounds. We are happy to call Purchase College our home in the Center for Engagement building, the nonprofit hub on campus. We have remained committed to our engagement with the school by hosting student interns, participating in a SUNY-wide writing conference and guest lecturing in Art Management classes.

Production highlights abounded in this last year:

- *Macbeth* was performed at Fishkill Correctional Facility, along with that prison’s first art show.

- The musical *1776* at Sing Sing Correctional Facility was a joyful and timely event, the result of six months of preparation including learning to sing a difficult musical score.

- Determined to bring in material more culturally attuned to the prison population, we produced *Father Comes Home from the Wars*, a play about slavery and written by an African American woman and performed at Green Haven. (Jan 2020)

- *Dutch Crown*, an original piece written by an RTA alumnus was performed at Woodbourne Correctional Facility accompanied by an art exhibit, also a first. (Jan 2020)

- Families were permitted to attend productions at Green Haven and Woodbourne Correctional Facilities for the first time. The sheer joy and pride felt both by participants and families was palpable.

- Hosted by Carnegie Hall, RTA held its annual homecoming event with the entire RTA community of alumni, their families, staff, board, and teaching artists welcoming home 26 members released in 2019.

- We held our first gala, a tremendous success in increasing revenue from individual donors and bringing new people into the world of criminal justice.

- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provided RTA with a significant three-year grant for capacity building and to launch the Reentry Toolkit Project, a film and workshop package to help currently incarcerated people better prepare for release.

Although this report is about the highlights of 2019, I cannot help but address the COVID-19 pandemic, which is unlike anything any of us has experienced in our lifetimes. While New York State correctional facilities are closed to programs, visitors and non-essential staff, RTA is working together with the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and we are committed to helping our members continue engaging with the arts in meaningful ways.

Thank you to all who share our mission and commitment. Your support provides stability, guidance, and community engagement—it recognizes our common humanity and our members know that they are not forgotten.

Yours warmly,

Katherine Vockins

Executive Director

Rehabilitation Through The Arts
RTA MISSION STATEMENT
RTA uses the transformative power of the arts to help people in prison develop skills to unlock their potential and succeed in the larger community.

PCI/RTA VISION STATEMENT
PCI/RTA envisions a justice system driven by a respect for human dignity and a belief in everyone’s capacity for growth.

PCI/RTA CORE VALUES
Dignity  We recognize the universal humanity of all people and treat everyone and ourselves with respect and compassion.

Creativity  We are creative problem solvers and turn imaginative ideas into reality. We believe that the arts are an essential part of our humanity and make life better.

Commitment  We take responsibility for our actions and understand the effect our actions have on the whole. We uphold our obligations to each other and to our work.

Collaboration  We listen, share, and depend upon each other. We believe that change and growth happen when we work in partnership.

Rehabilitation Through The Arts is the lead program of Prison Communities International, Inc.
Received a major three-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to expand capacity, add two new facilities and support the Reentry Toolkit project.

Welcomed home 26 members at our annual homecoming event.

Presented two full-scale productions.

Hosted our first ever gala.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Expanded to Taconic Correctional Facility

RTA Impact

6 New York State Correctional Facilities
BEDFORD HILLS / FISHKILL /
GREEN HAVEN / SING SING /
TAÇONIC / WOODBOURNE

800+

MEMBERS SERVED SINCE PROGRAM’S INCEPTION

Founded at Sing Sing in 1996, RTA offers a wide-ranging creative arts program in 6 men’s and women’s NYS prisons. Over 30 professional teaching artists work year-round to bring innovative workshops and productions in theatre, dance, music, creative writing and visual arts, helping RTA members build skills critical to functioning in all aspects of life.

NATIONAL RECIDIVISM RATE
60%

RTA MEMBER RECIDIVISM RATE
<7%

It costs $69,335* per year to incarcerate one person in New York State.
* Vera Institute of Justice

RTA’s low return to prison rate SAVES taxpayers millions of dollars each year.
Faces of RTA

RTA MEMBERS
“Where the prison culture preaches every man for himself, RTA stresses that each member is needed for the group to be whole.”

ALUMNA
Dunasha
Participating in RTA’s creative arts workshops and theatre productions shaped Dunasha’s time at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and helped her grow into the person she wanted to be. “I made a mistake, and it’s a chance for me to do better. RTA was life-changing for me. It helped me create a new mindset, change my perspective and let me express myself.”

TEACHING ARTIST
Kate
“RTA enriches my spirit and my life. As a teaching artist, I feel fortunate to be able to learn and grow here, as well as having a place to nurture skills and do some serious self-examination; I can’t ask the participants to do it if I don’t myself! It’s wonderful to be a part of this community and to find like-minded folks to collaborate with.”

FAMILY MEMBER
Hector,
Son of RTA member
After attending RTA’s gala event, Hector wrote, “It gives me chills to think about how impactful RTA truly is. It really resonates with me due to my father’s situation and I’m grateful to be a part of it. I appreciate the program for not only providing my father with a new set of skills, but also for exposing me to different environments and inspiring me to want to be a part of something larger than myself.”

DONOR
Anne
“I visit someone in prison and I’ve seen firsthand what RTA’s program meant to her. Through choreography and dance, she was able to express herself and work towards a goal. She gained confidence by developing her talent and being recognized for it. I’m honored to be part of this great organization that helps individuals make positive changes in their lives. It’s a joy to work with RTA’s creative, dedicated team of program participants, staff, alumni and board members.”

PHOTO CREDITS: PEGGY MCDONNELL AND LESLYE SMITH
Thank You To All Supporters!

RTA is made possible through the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, ArtsWestchester, The Tow Foundation, the Sills Family Foundation, Tikkun Olam, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Hyde and Watson Foundation and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

RTA is also indebted to the many generous individual donors whose support is so inspiring to our community.

Board of Directors
Allison Chernow, Co-Chair
Karin Young Shiel, Co-Chair
Sheryl Baker
Lawrence Bartley
Jill Becker MD
Gabriel Cruz
Kenneth Fields
E. Annette Nash Govan
Hans Hallundbaek D-Min
Sean Dino Johnson
Suzanne Kessler PhD
David Schmerler
Mikki Shaw EdD
Katherine Vockins D.H.L.
Caroline Walcott

Advisory Council
Joe Berlinger
Jabbar Collins
Brian Fischer
Elizabeth Gaynes
Ann Gregg
Clay Hiles
Julio Medina
Judith O. Rubin
Our Donors

RTA would not be the vital organization it is today without the generous support of our donors. We regret there is not enough space to list every name but we are grateful to all of our donors for their contributions in 2019.

**Patron**
$50,000 to $99,999
Judith O. & Robert E. Rubin

**Benefactor**
$10,000 to $24,999
Clay Hiles
Impact100 Westchester
Cass and Nick Ludington
Seattle Foundation
Sing Sing Prison Museum

**Provider**
$5,000 to $9,999
Anonymous
Gabriel Cruz
Alisa and Dan Doctoroff
Nancy and David Gernert
David Hochberg
Titia Hulst and Paul Francis
Stephanie Lynn
Ildiko Sragli and Barry Appelman

**Supporter**
$1,000 to $4,999
Leslie Allen
Edward Ames
Sheryl Baker
Joe Berlinger
Allison Chernow
Claire Cochrane
Carol Creel
Constance Curran
Anne Delaney
Judy and Tom Exton
Kenneth Fields
Rhoda and Brian Fischer
The Marshall Frankel Foundation
Suzanne and John Gallagher
Nisa Geller and Jeff Tannenbaum
Jamie and Jim Hasl
Lisina Hoch
Mary Celeste and Stephan Howard
Janet Inskeep-Benton
Suzanne Kessler PhD
Katie Kitchen and Paul Kovach
Kunhardt Films
Kate and Michael Lombardi
Ray Madoff
Jeanne Markel and Chris Wedge
Robin Melén
Fulvia and Robert McCrie
Ken Miller
Leslie Neal
Network for Good
Lida Orzech
Yvonne Pollack
Susan and James Polos
Sharon Quayle MD and
W. Roger Buck PhD
Mikki Shaw EdD
Karin Young Shiel
Meredith Starkman
Brian Steele
Marc Suzall
Anne Sweazey
Tamara Waite-Santibanez
Caroline Walcott
Elisabeth and Peter Wells
The Zickler Family Foundation

**Friend**
$500 to $999
Cassie York Ackerman
Eric Appleton
Shami Arslanian and Steve Weisbart
Virginia Becker
Marta and Michael Benedetti
Judy and Paul Berkman
Ralph Brown
Jacob Burns Foundation Inc
Paula Chu
Jeffrey Deskovic
Christine Gowan and
Horace Barker
Thomas Hoffman
Hudson Link for Higher Education
Lindsey and Freddy Jones
Ashwin Kalsekar
Laura and Joel Kaplan
Katonah Presbyterian Church
Joan Kessler and Vincent Kruskal
Cynthia Krupat
Elsa Limbach
Nancy and Bob Phillips
Sheila and Ru Rauch
Lee Jared Ruth
Karen and Bruce Sabath
Scarborough Manor
Owners Corporation
Leslie Sternlieb
Jean L. Stone
Nancy Head Thode
Thursday Club

**Sustaining**
Making a monthly gift provides a steady stream of support for our work. These are the donors who have chosen to give every month.
Jack Cino
Devin Day
Jane Dixon
Connie Grappo
Jennifer Kelly
Karen Murphy
Jennifer Ringstad and
Paul Meissner
Georgia and Jay Roelof
Gary Sloan

Please contact us if there are omissions or corrections.
### Statements of Financial Position

#### ASSETS

**Current Assets**
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $1,177,861
- Short-term investments: $76,119

**Total Current Assets**: $1,253,980

**Fixed Assets**
- Fixed assets: $7,037

**Other Assets**
- Security Deposits: $1,400

**Total Net Assets**: $1,262,417

#### LIABILITIES

- Accounts Payable: $2,351
- Deferred restricted grant revenue: $863,000

**Total Liabilities**: $865,351

#### NET ASSETS

- Unrestricted: $397,066
- Temporarily restricted: $0

**Total net assets**: $397,066

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**: $1,262,417

#### REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

- Donations: $533,847
- Grants: $70,000
- Interest and dividend: $3,254
- Other: $99,951

**Total Revenue**: $707,052

#### EXPENSES

**Increase in unrestricted net assets**: $9,286

**NET ASSETS**

- Beginning of Year: $406,352
- End of year: $397,066