

# BU Arts Initiative FY21 Annual Report

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# FY21 BU Arts Initiative

The BU Arts Initiative Sponsored or Co-Sponsored 45 events over the course of the academic year and we funded 14 programming grants, collectively partnering with or funding programs with 40 different schools, programs, or departments. Grant funded programs included a light Labyrinth hosted by the Law School Student Affairs office; Race, Prison, Story, Justice: Working toward Understanding Through the Arts with CFA faculty.

## MORE GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS.

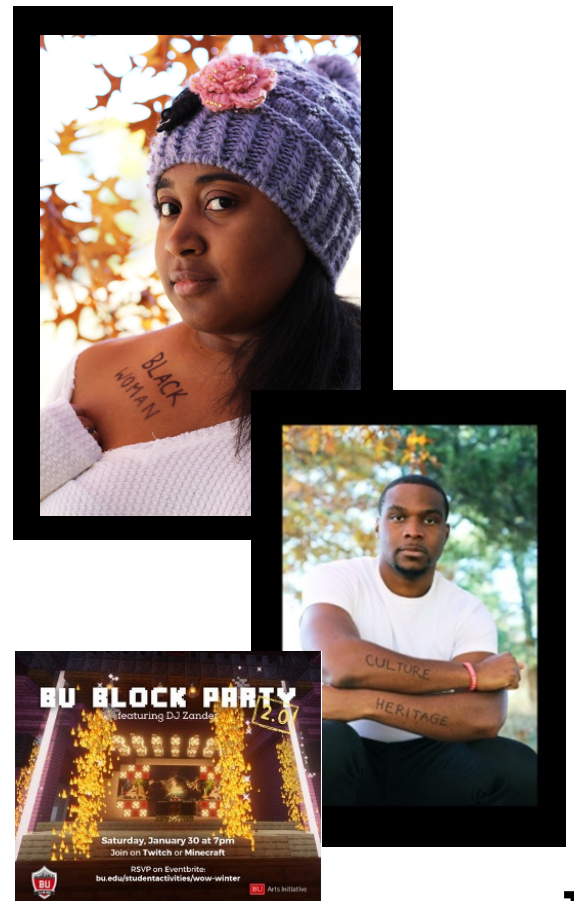
Our events generally fall into two categories student-led or faculty-led. Student-led programs are organized with our student advisory council or other student organizations. Faculty-led programs are collaborations with one or more faculty or academic based unit. In addition, we maintained our role of promoting any BU arts event through the weekly email and social media, hosted some faculty engagement programs, and a mini symposium on arts in public health in collaboration with the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities and the University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine.

In the Spring we collaborated with the Wellbeing Project, to distribute more than 300 individual craft care packages to BU undergraduate and graduate students on both campuses.

## Student-Led Programming

First Fridays and Arts Insiders, while normally distinct programs, looked similar this year and were held on zoom or other virtual platforms. Though online, they were still focused on community building and wellbeing through arts. Programs included Bollywood dance, embroidery, Brazilian drumming, puppet making, calligraphy, alcohol ink painting, two Minecraft DJ parties, and more. Most featured local artists we paid to run the workshop or activity.

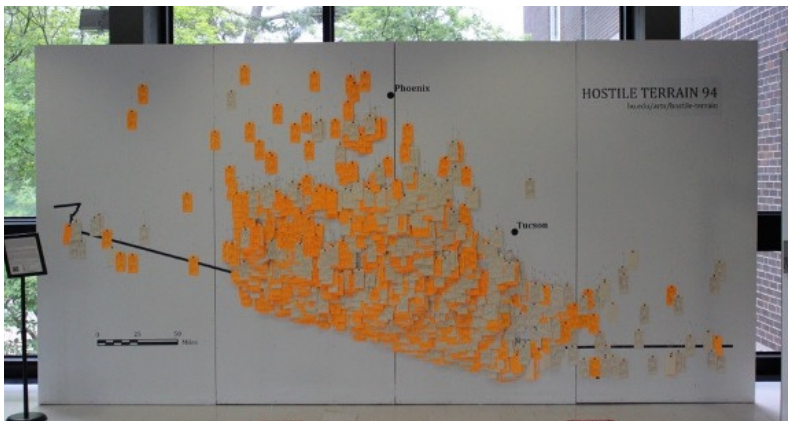
We continued to exhibit student art in our office suite this year by displaying the work in our front windows. We exhibited the work of five students, two from the School of Public Health, one from the College of Arts and Sciences, one from the College of Fine arts, and one from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. We also hosted two non-student exhibits, *Recovery at BU* – Collegiate Recover Program and BU Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center's *The Clothesline Project*.



# Faculty-Led Programming

Our faculty collaborative programs continued with zoom based programming and two live installations. Three of those programs are highlighted below:

Muslim-American hip hop dancer and choreographer Amirah Sackett did a full week virtual residency in October, in partnership with BU Dance and Micki Taylor-Pinney. The residency featured guest instruction in BU dance classes, a workshop with community partner The Dance Complex, a public lecture/demonstration, a virtual Boston Public School visit with Madison Park High School, a sociology class visit, and a virtual panel discussion (see right image) on dance and spirituality moderated by Carrie Preston and featuring Amirah, Ty Defoe (Ojibwe & Oneida Nations), and Shreelina Ghosh (Classical Indian Dance). In total, more than 200 unique individuals participated in residency events, with 136 of those being BU students.



***Hostile Terrain 94 (HT94)*** is a participatory art exhibition organized by the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP), and brought to Boston University in partnership with Assistant Provost for General Education and Archeology faculty member David Carballo with support from the College of Arts & Sciences, Latin American Studies, the College of General Studies, BU History Department, and the BU Hub. The exhibition illuminates the humanitarian crisis occurring at the United States' border, a crisis that has claimed over 3,200 lives since the 1990s and continues to do so each and every day. A temporary exhibit wall was constructed on the second floor landing of the George Sherman Union, outside of the BU Arts Initiative Suite. More than 50 BU students, faculty and staff assisting in tag filling and pinning. Programming also included a BU Hub Cocurricular taught by David Carballo and Eric Jarvis, three virtual panel discussions and a film screening and discussion. Collectively more than 200 people were engaged in constructing and discussing this installation and related issues. 130 of those were BU students.

# FY21 BU Arts Initiative EVENTS & PARTICIPATION

## The Numbers:

**59** events with  
**40** unique schools,  
departments, or programs  
**\$95k** total spent



## Attendees:

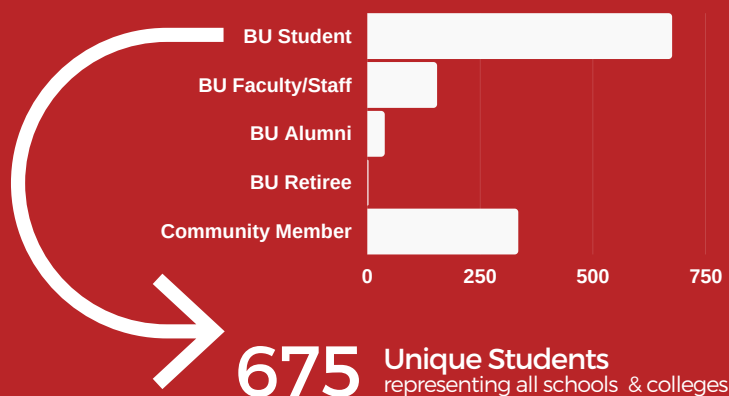


**2,975**  
Total attendees

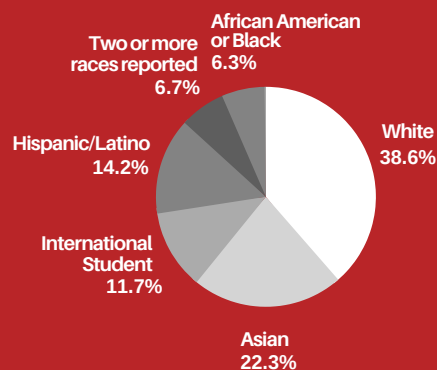
**1,655**  
Student attendees

**Data:** \*collected from 50% of total attendees

### Attendee affiliation



### Student demographics



\*Total events include grant funded programs. Co-sponsored events occurred with 40 unique schools, departments, or programs representing nine schools and colleges (Pardee, College of General Studies, College of Arts & Sciences, Kilachand Honors College, MED, CFA School of Visual Arts, CFA School of Music, CFA School of Theatre, School of Theology) and 35 departments & programs. Data for unique student count, affiliations, and demographics were based on the 50% of attendees we were able to track. Student demographics were collected through Institutional Research data. Numbers do not include BSO and Museum attendees.



# Additional Virtual Programming

Additional virtual programming included:

- Boston's Chinatown: Community, Power, and Placemaking with the Initiative on Cities and BU Diversity & Inclusion
- Monumental Change: Addressing the Legacies of Systemic Racism in Public Art in collaboration with WBUR City Space
- The Reality of Artists and Mental Health with BU School of Music faculty member Tanya Gabrielian
- Untold History of Civil Rights in Boston with BU Initiative on Cities and BU Diversity & Inclusion
- Conversations that Matter: The Visual

Thinking Strategies Approach with Suzy Sarfatay in the Enrichment Office in the Office of Medical Education, BU School of Medicine.

• An artist talk with Sheila Pree Bright about her Mugar Library installation **Re-Birth** (see image) and a panel discussion on public art and social activism with Sheila and staff of Beyond Walls in Lynn, Massachusetts. The installation and programming were co-sponsored by BU Libraries and University Librarian K. Matthew Dames

We continued to offer our student research grants this year, funding three undergraduate students from the College of Fine Arts and two graduate students from Graduate Arts and Sciences and one from the College of Fine Arts.

The BU Arts Council spent most of FY21 updating our mission, values statements, and strategies for full-semester residencies, temporary public art installations, and faculty engagement. We ran two programs intended to build faculty awareness and engagement with the BU Arts Initiative. The first, Seeding the Muse, was a casual dialogue with three of our faculty partners and the second, a collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning, entitled Arts Integration Across the Curriculum: Perspectives and Practice explored more in-depth work of three senior faculty who integrate the arts into their teaching and research. Together, the two programs engaged more than 60 faculty members from 12 different schools, colleges, or programming units, representing more than 40 different departments.



# The BU Arts Initiative Strategic Structure and Priorities (April 2021)

## What and Who (mission)

The Boston University Arts Initiative ensures that the arts are fundamental to the student experience by developing and supporting university-wide programs to advance the role of the arts at BU through building community; supporting interdisciplinary arts teaching, learning, and research; and highlighting diverse artists and modes of artistry.

## Full description of strategic priorities:

- **Build Community:** We curate opportunities for all BU students, faculty/staff, alumni, and greater Boston area residents to engage in the arts without barriers and build personal and professional connections.
- **Support Interdisciplinary Arts Teaching/Research/Learning:** Faculty, staff, and students can receive financial support and professional development opportunities\* to foster arts-based research or the creative process, integrate the arts into the curriculum, build creative skills, and develop and support arts-based pedagogy. *Projects with a D&I emphasis are especially encouraged.*
- **Highlight Diverse Artists and Modes of Artistry:** Programming will consistently amplify and celebrate the artistry of BIPOC, API, and Queer artists, and artists with disabilities both locally and globally, and facilitate thoughtful engagement on social issues

## How (operational)

Faculty driven (academic based programs)

Student driven (co-curricular based programs)

## Why is this important?

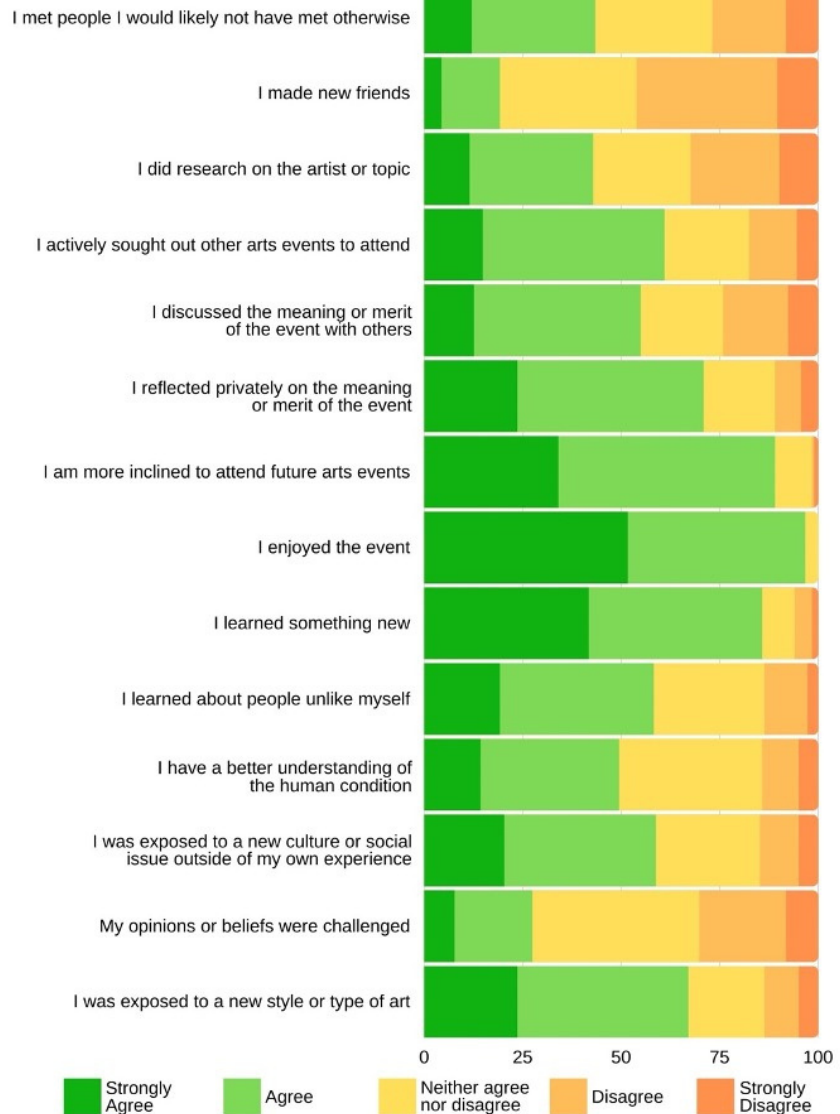
Arts help us to access different ways of knowing & learning, allow us to open up to our emotional, intuitive, and sensory selves, to build empathy, and to express and incite joy

Arts amplify human connectedness, foster open dialogue, engage in global perspectives, and help us to share meanings

Arts can and should challenge policy, structural design, and the allocation of resources toward more just, inclusive, and antiracist institutions and society

We did our annual survey and from the 335 students who responded here:

## **FY21 Learning Outcomes**



\*Professional Development - to facilitate dialogue between disparate disciplines in order to 1) identify similarities and differences to spark innovation and collaboration. 2) to synthesize different processes of knowledge production. 3) to think in a different or broader way about the scope and breadth of their work. 4) to explore, negotiate and create common language and communication to facilitate collaboration between disciplines.

# Future/Challenges

- Hybrid events to continue broad national and international reach



- Launch Cocurricular HUB CC133 - The Individual, Community, and the Arts



- Our first themed Series - Indigenous Voices in the Americas



INDIGENOUS VOICES IN THE AMERICAS