Creative Approaches to the Transformation of Conflict

Throughout history and in cultures around the world, the arts have been crafted to build more just and less violent communities. In recent decades a global field of peacebuilding and the arts has coalesced, bolstered by cultural exchange and the sharing of knowledge across boundaries of discipline, geography and political affiliation.

Our Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts has been at the forefront of this emerging field, supporting exemplary peacebuilding artists and cultural workers to reflect critically on the ethical dimensions of their practice and to document their work. We have convened gatherings of practitioners and created award-winning educational resources.

Through classes, training workshops and internships, we are cultivating a new generation of artists, cultural workers and peacebuilders who are learning to work toward social change through efforts that combine the strategic power of peacebuilding with the transformative power of the arts.

**Around the world we**
- sustain an active and growing network of artists and peacebuilders helping communities speak truth to power, recover from war and human rights violations, and prevent conflicts from descending into spirals of violence.
- strengthen peacebuilding and the arts networks and advocate for this emerging field through publications and convenings.
- cultivate leadership for the emerging Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation field, in collaboration with partners from Maseno University (Kenya) and Juniata College, through the Mellon-funded initiative IMPACT: Imagining Together Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation.

**At Brandeis we**
- offer leadership for the minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST), teach courses and supervise independent studies with graduate students, and support faculty research.
- engage the Brandeis community with artist/peacebuilders from around the world through art making, design labs and conversation.
- convene groundbreaking interdisciplinary exchanges on topics related to the Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation field.
2018 highlights
- The program in Peacebuilding and the Arts hosts an IMPACT Design Lab on the Brandeis campus, involving leaders in the Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation field from Australia, Pakistan, Cyprus, South Africa, Kenya, Argentina, Colombia and other countries, to generate creative, sustainable ideas for supportive structures and processes for the field.
- Students in the introductory CAST course explore creative responses to gentrification and urban violence in a design lab, where they collaborate with members of area community development corporations, artists, and members of the Brandeis faculty and administration; and, in a second class, create short films documenting the lives of young immigrants living in Waltham and surrounding communities.
- Program Director Cynthia Cohen supports the noted African-American musician, cultural worker, educator and activist Jane Wilburn Sapp to produce *Let’s Make a Better World*: a book of stories and songs, and a related podcast available at janesapp.org.

Selected resources
- *Acting Together* anthology (New Village Press, 2011); toolkit with video and print resources for educators, trainers and practitioners; and documentary film subtitled in six languages (with filmmaker Allison Lund).
- “Memory of Violence and Drama in Peru: The Experience of the Truth Commission and the Yuyachkani Theater Group” by Salomón Lerner Febres (available in English and Spanish).

How to connect
- Sign up for our e-newsletter *Peacebuilding and the Arts Now*, which features current developments and opportunities in the field: go.brandeis.edu/PBAnews.
- Attend events, workshops and classes.
- Host a screening of *Acting Together on the World Stage* in your community.

Contact
Cynthia Cohen, Ph.D., Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts
cecohen@brandeis.edu
+1-781-736-2133
brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts

Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts
International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life
Brandeis University, MS 086
Waltham, MA 02454-9110 USA