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.

**Creative Approaches to the Transformation of Conflict**

**At Brandeis we**

- teach courses and supervise independent study projects with undergraduate and graduate students, including in the new minor in Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation (CAST), and support faculty research.
- engage the Brandeis community with artist/peacebuilders from around the world through art making and conversation.
- convene groundbreaking interdisciplinary exchanges on topics related to the creative transformation of conflict.

**Around the world we**

- sustain an active and growing network of theater 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 an e-newsletter and by convening gatherings.
- cultivate leadership for the field from the Global South through the Arts and Peace Commission of the International Peace Research Association.
The Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts has been supported in part by the United States Institute of Peace, the Nathan Cummings Foundation and a gift from Elaine Reuben ’63. The minor in Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation gratefully acknowledges generous funding from the Max and Sunny Howard Memorial Foundation and expresses gratitude to Naomi Sinnreich P’13 for her vision and support.

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life develops effective responses to conflict and injustice by offering innovative approaches to coexistence, strengthening the work of international courts, and encouraging ethical practice in civic and professional life.

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2014 highlights

■ The new interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation (CAST) launches at Brandeis, incorporating courses from the Schools of Creative Arts, Social Sciences and the Humanities.
■ Program Director Cynthia Cohen delivers a keynote address at the Culture and Conflict Summit, hosted by the British Council in partnership with the United States Institute of Peace.
■ Michelle LeBaron of the University of British Columbia and Cohen are awarded a grant from the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies to co-direct a colloquium in South Africa focused on African perspectives on social transformation through the arts.
■ We co-convene the Arts and Peace Commission at the International Peace Research Association annual conference in Istanbul, Turkey.
■ We collaborate with the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis and renowned contemporary visual artist Mark Bradford to advise “Art+Practice” – an arts-based program for young people transitioning out of the foster care system in Los Angeles.

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).
■ Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts, an online anthology of the work of peacebuilding artists in the Australia/Pacific region, Burundi, Cambodia, South Africa and Sri Lanka.
■ Working with Integrity: A Guidebook for Peacebuilders Asking Ethical Questions.

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

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“As we see in the performances highlighted in Acting Together on the World Stage, art is not just contemplation and transcendence, but also a form of justice that cleanses and vindicates our species in a universal way.”

— Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres, former President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru

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