



**The Interdisciplinary Minor in
Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation
and the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts**

2021-2022 Annual Report

Compiled by Barbara Strauss and Armine Avetisyan, CAST
administrators

Brandeis University

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The students, faculty, and staff of the Interdisciplinary Minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST) are enormously appreciative of the contributions of three steadfast donors whose support has made possible many of the activities described in this annual report: Amy Merrill '68, Elaine Reuben '63; and the Max and Sunny Howard Memorial Foundation, with the inspiration of Naomi Sinnreich P'13. Many thanks also to the Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice for its ongoing support of Let's Make a Better World: Stories and Songs by Jane Sapp; and video podcasts related to the movement for racial justice and the imperatives to vote; and the development of an archive in the Brandeis Library. We appreciate support from Ammad Bahalim, '04, for his visionary support of CAST 170a: Documenting Immigrant Experiences.

The Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts and its related global IMPACT community express appreciation to Porticus Community Art Lab for its support.

I. CAST Highlights



"We have to flood this injustice with so much justice." -Songwriter and activist Jane Sapp, to the 2021 graduates of the CAST Minor. [Watch Sapp's rousing speech.](#)



Ingrid Schorr posted April Ginns' "[So you're interested in minoring in CAST?](#)" video on her general arts social media pages. "This is such a good idea and I'll see if any of the upcoming UDRs might want to do one for their departments," Schorr said.

Jaime Black | between us

November 9, 2021- February 25, 2022

Kniznick Gallery

Curated by Toni Shapiro-Phim

Artist Jaime Black, of mixed Anishinaabe and Finnish descent, focuses special attention on Indigenous women's potency as nurturers, as trust-builders, as knowledge-holders and knowledge-givers in the face of extensive violence against them, across North America, through photographs, video, and poems.

Jaime Black | The REDress Project at Brandeis November 9 - 30, 2021

Across campus, clusters of red dresses were hung, a re-creation of Black's renowned REDress Project, reminding us of the gendered and racialized violence experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada and the United States. These dresses, along with Black's other work in the exhibition, ask us to consider ways to confront such injustice, while celebrating beauty, and reverencing women as the weavers of, as Black says, "the threads that bind and sustain us."

Photo credit: Thomas King



Culture of Sustainability Walking Tour

A group of students who have taken the CAST 180a: Creative Approaches to Conflict Transformation and Sustainable Development course, taught by Dr. Cynthia Cohen, designed a self-guided [Culture of Sustainability Walking Tour](#). Harsha Bhamidipati, Gabriella Lanzi, Kobi Russel, Naomi Oyler, and Anna Kelma issued an invitation to the participants to slow down and explore the Brandeis campus anew, discover, imagine, and create cultures of sustainability. The Walking Tour was open to the Brandeis community and beyond from May 1-4 within the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Arts.



II. Contributions to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Brandeis

CAST submitted its ten-page [anti-racism plan](#) in alignment with university protocols and values. It is a living document that includes sections on priorities, commitments in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, curricular themes and commitments, and programming carried out through the Mandel Center for the Humanities Working Group on Fighting Anti-Blackness in Our Curricular, Research, and Creative Spaces. CAST minors Meli Jackson '25 and Nicole Garmizo '22 (UDR) led a town hall on November 10 for students to have the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan. CAST-affiliated faculty and staff joined the town hall as active listeners.

III. Courses

Fall 2021:

New course



- CAST 180a: Creative Approaches to Conflict Transformation and Sustainable Development, taught by CAST co-founder and Co-director of Peacebuilding and the Arts Cynthia Cohen. Students were given the opportunity to join a global community of inquiry in an exploration of the alignment between artistic and cultural initiatives with the demands of complex contemporary challenges. In the fall of 2021, the course focused on unresolved legacies of violence and oppression, and on sustainability, especially in relation to the climate crisis. Students explored key concepts, reviewed case studies, and collaboratively designed new initiatives and advocated for them with. The course was taught virtually, facilitating engagement with researchers from across the globe.

Core Course

- CAST 150b: Introduction to Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation. Toni Shapiro-Phim.

Capstone Practicum

- CAST 181b: Ethics of Community Engagement. Toni Shapiro-Phim

Core electives

- CAST 180a: Creative Approaches to Conflict Transformation and Sustainable Development. Cynthia Cohen.
- COML/ENG 191a: Environmental Aesthetics. Caren Irr.
- ENG 161a: Literature and Counterculture. David Sherman.
- LGLS 129a: Global Justice and Societies in Transition. Melissa Stimell.
- NEJS/WGS 110a: Sexual Violence in Film and Culture. Ilana Szobel.
- THA 138b: Creative Pedagogy. Jennifer Cleary.

Spring 2022:

Project Design Practicum

- CAST 189a: Project Design Practicum. Toni Shapiro-Phim

Core electives

- CAST 126b: Dignity in Motion. Toni Shapiro-Phim
- ENG 113b: Performing Climate Justice. Thomas King
- MUS 3b: Global Soundscapes: Performing Musical Tradition Across Time and Place. Bradford Garvey
- SOC 155b: Protest, Politics, and Change: Social Movements. Sarah Halford
- THA 126a: Playing for Change-Community Building and Social Change on Stage. Jennifer Cleary

Additional CAST electives can be found on the [registrar's website](#).

IV. Affiliated Faculty and Staff

CAST engages interdisciplinary arts at Brandeis while retaining its own distinct identity that emphasizes a rigorous study of power relations, conflict and peace, and the dialogue between change agents, peacebuilders, and artists. The work is supported by Brandeis faculty and staff members from diverse fields. Per our plans laid out in last year's review with the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, we divided what was once the "advisory committee" into an [executive committee and a committee of CAST affiliates](#). The executive committee meets twice per semester to review the nuts and bolts of the program, while the affiliates meet once per semester to discuss broader concerns. Throughout the academic year, members of both groups offer programming suggestions, look over drafts of important correspondence (such as the Solidarity Statement with Black Lives Matter), and teach courses that are part of the CAST curriculum.

Executive Committee

- Thomas King, Undergraduate Advising Head; English
- Toni Shapiro-Phim; Chair, CAST; Co-Director, Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts
- Emilie Diouf; English
- Leigh Swigart; Programs in International Justice and Society

Affiliates

- Cameron Anderson; Theater Arts
- Elizabeth Bradfield; English and Creative Writing
- Jennifer Cleary; Theater Arts
- Cynthia Cohen; Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts
- Judith Eissenberg; Music
- Robin Feuer Miller; Humanities
- Caren Irr; English
- Dorothy Kim; English
- Kristin Parker; Associate, Ethics Center; formerly with Rose Art Museum
- Fernando Rosenberg; Hispanic Studies, Comparative Literature
- David Sherman; English
- Faith Smith; African and Afro-American Studies, English
- Ilana Szobel; Hebrew Literature
- Sabine von Mering, German; Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Isaiah Wooden; Theater Arts

V. Faculty and Staff Achievements



Armine Avetisyan, CAST administrator, received a grant from The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for a research project [“What’s Next in Reconciliation Work in Turkey and Armenia after the second Karabakh War?”](#)



Elizabeth Bradfield published a book *Broadsided Press: Fifteen Years of Poetic and Artistic Collaboration, 2005-2020* an anthology that celebrates Broadsided Press’s mission of “putting literature and art on the streets.”



Cynthia Cohen presented the key points and main recommendations of the [Invite|Affirm|Evoke Unleash: How artistic and cultural processes transform complex challenges report](#) to the UN Secretary General and Senior Management in a virtual session in August 2021. See the [presentation and speaking points](#).

She was a panelist at the [virtual launch of “Faces of Kabul,”](#) an exhibit of photographs taken in 2001 in Afghanistan, by the noted photographer Nick Sidle, sponsored by the Scottish organization Heartstone. Cindy also co-convened and presented at a virtual event on environmental violence and justice hosted by the Kroc Center at the University of Notre Dame. “Gathering of the hearts: Braiding our ways of being,” an open conversation and experience about facing the challenges of environmental violence and justice from diverse traditions, knowledge carriers, and forms of engagement. The session included participatory engagement with elements of ceremony, arts, and story which will illustrate and offer insight into cultural humility, indigenous understandings, and artistic practices. [Watch the recording of the panel.](#)



Caren Irr published two collections of essays during 2021-22. The first is called *Life in Plastic: Artistic Responses to Petromodernity*. (University of Minnesota Press, 2021); it examines fiction, film, comics, and art installations that concern themselves with plastic, especially plastic waste. The second is a collection of essays originally presented in a Brandeis symposium; it's titled *Adorno's Minima Moralia in the 21st Century: Fascism, Work, Ecology*. (Bloomsbury Academic, 2021).



Sabine von Mering co-edited (together with Monika Hübscher) a book [Antisemitism on Social Media](#), published March 23, 2022 by Routledge and co-wrote a [short piece about the book for The Conversation](#).



Toni Shapiro-Phim published the following: *"Absence/Presence/Silence/Noise." In *Dancing Transnational Feminisms*, edited by Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Wilcox and Alessandra Williams, University of Washington Press, 2021. * "A Cambodian Dancer in a Displaced Persons' Camp." *Music & Minorities* Vol 1, 2021. * "Khmer Dancers and the Bassac Theatre." In *Genealogy of Bassac*, edited by Brian McGrath and Pen Sereypagna, Terreform Press, 2021. * *Oxford Handbook of Jewishness and Dance*, co-editor with Naomi Jackson and Rebecca Pappas. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

She also presented a paper, "Dinner, Songs, and a Movie," at an ethnomusicology seminar convened by the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan, in April. She was awarded a grant to digitize her video archive of material related to Cambodian arts and culture, and presented the digitized material to hundreds of Cambodian performing artists in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in May. The project and its related events were written up in the [July issue of Peacebuilding and the Arts Now](#).



Leigh Swigart was invited to serve on a selection committee for the NEH-funded Council of American Overseas Research Centers senior researcher fellowship. Additionally, her paper proposal on English-language hegemony at the International Criminal Court was selected among a large pool of applicants to be part of a publication project entitled "International Criminal Justice: a Counter-Hegemonic Project?" It was organized by Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin and the group presented their drafts via Zoom on June 21-22, 2021.

VI. Student News



Undergraduate Departmental Representatives

Nicole Garmizo '22 served as the UDR (Undergraduate Departmental Representative). She minored in CAST and majored in English and Theater. “I have always loved being involved with the creative arts through writing and theater, and I am passionate about creating social change and helping people. The CAST program brings my two passions together and is the main reason I chose to attend Brandeis.”



We hired a CAST event photographer, Vimukthi Mawilmada '24. Vimukthi has a wealth of experience taking pictures for student clubs and magazines in his home in Sri Lanka. See some of the photos he took for CAST on the [CAST Facebook account](#).



We also hired CAST alum and former UDR Anna Cass '21 to design new graphics for the website that put into visual form the goals and objectives of the program.

We hired Sam Larue '23 to serve as Peacebuilding and the Arts Research Assistant, which involved him in initiatives including the preparation of materials for archival deposit; research and editing of materials produced for UNESCO; and research and writing for the Peacebuilding and the Arts Now e-newsletter, among other tasks.



Toni Shapiro-Phim hired two Teaching Assistants (TAs) for CAST 150b: Camila Cano '23 and Erick Amezcua '23.

Toni also welcomed two alumni, Armine Avetisyan (COEX, Heller degree 2019, and Peacebuilding and the Arts/IMPACT coordinator) and R. Quinn Weiner '21 to present in CAST 150b: Introduction to Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation. Armine showed the documentary film she co-directed, *Haven't We Shared Much Salt and Bread?*, and Quinn led a discussion on gender identity.

For CAST 180b, we hired one CAST minor, Sammi Cohen '22 to serve as TA; and two Heller School students, Anna Kelma and Gabriella Lanzi, to provide technical support to the class.

VII. Capstone Projects



Kobi Russell: Tree of Hope - an art installation exploring a culture of sustainability. The Tree of Hope asks anyone who approaches it to consider both the incredible beauty of trees and all of the necessary resources that they provide, as a reminder that every living being is worth protecting. The installation was the first stop on the Culture of Sustainability Walking Tour, which was developed by students who had taken CAST 180a in the fall of 2021. The tour was offered on campus between May 1-4 by students in CAST 180a as a part of the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Arts.

[Watch the making of the Tree of Hope.](#)

*The Tree of Hope Installation by
Harsha Bhamidipati and Kobi
Russell*



Ella Deters: “My Story isn't of Hope ... Yet” - an artistic articulation of the pain and suffering felt by the loved ones of those experiencing schizophrenia and a call for de-stigmatization of mental illness so that care is given before it is too late.

VIII. Visiting Artists and Scholars in the Classroom

Distinguished artists and scholars visited CAST core and elective courses during the year, adding expertise and insight to class discussions.

Fall 2021:

CAST 150b: Introduction to Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation, taught by Toni Shapiro-Phim. The class welcomed Armine Avetisyan '19 on gender, food, and conflict transformation (see Student News), Quinn Weiner '21 on gender; (see Student News), Shavon Norris on trauma; Claudia Fox Tree on anti-racism from an Indigenous perspective (see Events); Claudia Bernardi on migration and murals (see Events); Jaime Black on aesthetic responses to violence against Indigenous women and girls (see Highlights and Events); Catherine Filloux and her new play (see Events); Jasmina Ibrahimovic on the International Community Arts Festival; Camila Cano on Festival Aviv; Emma Slibeck of the Native American Students Association of Wellesley College; MusicUnitesUs Residency artists “BOOMscat!”; and Pynghwa Lee on race and climate justice..

CAST 180A Creative Approaches to Conflict Transformation and Sustainable Development, taught by Cynthia Cohen, hosted Dr. Polly Walker who led sessions on complex adaptive systems, complexity and addressing legacies of violence and oppression, indigenous conflict transformation ritual, and indigenous perspectives on sustainability. Toni Shapiro-Phim discussed symbolic

reparations, memorials, risks of harm and how to minimize it. An international team of researchers who engaged in the Invite|Affirm|Evoke|Unleash report, including Bonface Beti (Kenya), Carole Kane (Northern Ireland), Toni Shapiro-Phim (USA), Armine Avetisyan (Armenia/USA), Angela Perez (Colombia), and Mary Ann Hunter (Australia), responded to student questions on some of the art qualities discussed in the report. Dr. Polly Walker, and musicians Jane Wilburn Sapp and Dr. Deborah Langstaff responded to student presentations.

LGLS 129a: Global Justice and Societies in Transition taught by Melissa Stimell welcomed Leigh Swigart for sessions on Transitional Justice Mechanisms in Sierra Leone and Challenges of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Criminal Prosecutions; Moses Zombo on Local Approaches to Transitional Justice in Sierra Leone; Professor Richard Gaskins on Criminal Prosecutions; Beth S. Lyons on The Role of Defense Counsel and Building a Case for the Defense; Gregory Townsend on The Role of the Prosecutor and Building a Case for the Prosecution; and Claudia Fox Tree, M.Ed, on Indigenous Approaches to Racial Justice

Spring 2022:

CAST 126b Dignity in Motion, taught by Toni Shapiro-Phim, welcomed Dr. Polly Walker, on Indigenous Rituals in the U.S. and Australia; Jaime Black, on racialized and gendered violence: countering violence against Indigenous women and girls through movement, photography, video and more; Dr. Evangelina Macias, on Native American dance, and racialized and gendered violence; Laura Hibbler, on digital literacy; Jenny Romaine, on puppetry, pageants and processions and Jewish tradition; Germaine Ingram, on African-rooted processions and parades; and Ashley Brown, on segregation and the white washing of Boston's Black history.

IX. Events

Fall 2021:

Welcome Back/Explore the Minor

September 13, 2021

UDR-led event.

Indigenous Peoples' Day 2021

October 11-12, 2021

Event cosponsored by CAST and the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts:

The Nettukkusqk Singers - Cultural Performance.

ICC Patio

Under the Skin: a workshop of a new play

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

The minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST), Hispanic Studies, Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies (LACLS), and Theater Arts, convened an online workshop of *Under the Skin*, a new one-person play about the artist and human rights activist Claudia Bernardi's life growing up in Argentina under a military junta, and her subsequent work digging up the past. This presentation was hosted by Professor María J. Durán as part of her course, Latinx Theatre: Politics, Performance, and Social Change and is funded in part by the Dean's Research Fund. After the workshop, Claudia Bernardi and playwright Catherine Filloux joined an online discussion.

CAST Anti-Racism Plan Town Hall

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

A student-centered and student-led opportunity to provide feedback on the [CAST Anti-Racism Plan](#).

between us (see Highlights)

Exhibition in the Kniznick Gallery by artist Jaime Black

November 9, 2021- February 25, 2022

Curated by Toni Shapiro-Phim

Hard truth: Colonial Genocide as a Root Cause of Violence against Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse People in Canada

Presentation by Professor and Lawyer Fannie Lafontaine

October 7, 2021 – open class: Evangelina Macias' Introduction to Indigenous and Native Women, Gender, and Sexualities (WGS 107a)

Sponsored by the Program in International Justice and Society and the Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation minor.

Anti-Racism from an Indigenous Perspective

Presentation by Claudia Fox Tree

October 28, 2021

In conjunction with artist Jaime Black's exhibition, *between us*, Claudia Fox Tree (Arawak/Yurumein), who is affiliated with the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, discussed implicit bias and stereotypes from her perspective as an Indigenous educator. Sponsored by CAST, the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, and the Women's Studies Research Center.

Artist Lecture by Jaime Black

November 9, 2021

Canadian Métis artist Jaime Black (of Anishinaabe and Finnish descent) discussed her exhibition in the Kniznick Gallery, *between us*, which builds on her earlier and much-acclaimed REDress Project, focused on the scourge of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada.

Sponsored by CAST and the Women's Studies Research Center.

Waltham Public Library Book Club Meeting

Facilitated by Dr. Polly O. Walker

January 24, 2022

Members of the Waltham and Brandeis communities joined a Waltham Public Library book club conversation. Dr. Polly O. Walker (of Cherokee descent) facilitated a discussion of renowned novelist Louis Erdrich's *The Round House*.

Sponsored by the Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation minor and the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts.



REDress Project at Brandeis University

Students of the “Introduction to Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation” course, under the guidance of artist Jaime Black, who conceived of The REDress Project and has installed it in venues across North America, placed empty red dresses in discrete areas of campus. The dresses call attention to the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada and the U.S., and ask us to take action in the face of this racialized and gendered violence.

Photo credit: Vimukthi Mawilmada

Spring 2022:

CAST Game Night - UDR-led event

May 3, 2022

CAST Graduation Ceremony 2022

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Ingrid Schorr, Director of Brandeis Arts Engagement spoke to the 2022 CAST Graduates. "While the arts can be a source of intense pleasure, engaging in the arts can also bring us to a state of full awareness that may even become wide-awakeness. When we awaken the creative mind, we are capable of crossing borders, of inciting action, of making discoveries. We can envision the world as it should be. " [Read her welcome remarks.](#)

Additional remarks were offered by
Liz Bradfield, Professor of English and Creative Writing
Jaime Black
Polly Walker

PART 2: The Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts

X. PBA Activities and Events

Waltham Public Library Book Club Meeting (also listed above as a CAST event)

Facilitated by Dr. Polly O. Walker

January 24, 2022

Members of the Waltham and Brandeis communities joined a Waltham Public Library book club conversation. Dr. Polly O. Walker (of Cherokee descent) facilitated a discussion of renowned novelist Louis Erdrich's *The Round House*. This was organized in conjunction with the exhibition by Jaime Black, *between us*, at Brandeis' Kniznick Gallery, focused on Indigenous women of North America. Sponsored by the Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation minor and the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts.

Jane Wilburn Sapp Archival Collection

PBA has been documenting and archiving the work of the noted African-American activist, cultural worker and songwriter Jane Wilburn Sapp. Brandeis University Library will host the archive. PBA hired a student worker to move this initiative forward.



Acting Together Project

The Acting Together Project, a collaboration between the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at Brandeis (PBA) and Theatre Without Borders (TWB), celebrated ten years of performances' contributions to the creative transformation of conflict. On April 7, 2022, the University of Iowa hosted a symposium celebrating the sharing of TWB archives with the university's new Performing Arts and Social Justice certificate. Cynthia Cohen, Polly Walker, Allison Lund and Dijana Milosevic all reflected on the meanings of Acting Together ten years after the anthologies, film and toolkit all were produced.

Building on the work of courageous and skilled peacebuilders and artists in both organizations, the Acting Together Project generated a two-volume anthology, a documentary film, and a toolkit that includes short videos and print resources. The project explored the role of theater and ritual in transforming conflict in the midst of direct violence, in the aftermath of mass violence and in building more just and inclusive communities. For the last decade, these resources have been integrated into educational, networking and training events around the world. The documentary has been translated into Arabic, Hebrew, Sinhala, Tamil, Japanese, Spanish and French.

In 2022, the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts produced a Ukrainian version of the documentary which is available to download without cost through the end of the year. The translation of the film into Russian and Khmer is underway.

Cynthia Cohen and Polly Walker have initiated a revision of the [Documenting and Assessing Performance Initiatives](#) toolkit available in the Acting Together Training Resources section of the Acting Together website, aiming to update it to be useful in other artistic disciplines and throughout the wider arts, culture and conflict transformation field. They are also collaborating on the development of new toolkit elements outlining the alignment between aesthetic engagement and the capacities required for productive engagement with complex systems (including intractable conflicts).

UNESCO Art Lab for Human Rights and Dialogue Publication

Toni Shapiro-Phim and Polly Walker are part of a team developing a publication referencing ethical practices in arts and cultural work more broadly, especially in contexts of precarity (danger, vulnerability, and so on) around the world.

IMPACT: Imagining Together Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation

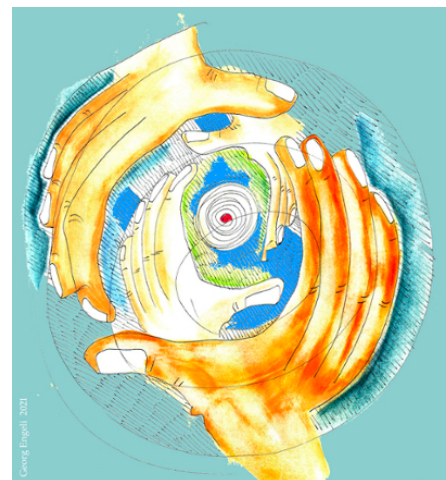
Under the PBA umbrella, and in collaboration with Juniata College in the U.S. and Maseda University in Kenya, we helped develop the IMPACT initiative a few years ago. IMPACT has since

become a worldwide, values-driven collaboration to design and activate strategies to strengthen the arts, culture, and conflict transformation ecosystem. This ecosystem includes individuals and organizations working on the international stage and in local neighborhoods - sometimes at great risk - creating festivals and crafting policies, documenting practices and developing theories, enlivening communities, and building bridges across differences. All involved in this ecosystem imagine and strive to embody and create a more just, more vibrant, less violent world.



In December 2021, **IMPACT became an independent global non-profit organization**, merging with the Massachusetts-based non-profit ReCAST, Inc. [Read more about IMPACT’s journey](#). Now as a non-profit, registered in Massachusetts, working globally and governed by a diverse Board of Directors, IMPACT continues its close partnership with the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts.

On November 2 and 4, 2021, **IMPACT convened a Learning Exchange** in English and Spanish on Platform4Dialogue. The learning exchange explored what it means to live in a time of a paradigm shift, what the challenges of living in the time of transition are, and emerging understandings and visions for the future. The Learning Exchange also opened a space to share practical examples of actions supporting the shift from a “culture of unsustainability” to a “culture of sustainability” as well as to generate new ideas for collective actions. (Cynthia Cohen and Armine Avetisyan were deeply involved in planning and facilitating this convening.)



The co-convenors of the Learning Exchange included: Hans Dieleman, Vikram Iyengar, Mike Van Graan, IMPACT, Community Arts Network, +Peace, and European Youth Parliament for Water. [Read more about the outcomes of the learning exchange](#).

As a follow-up to the Learning Exchange, a group of students who had taken the CAST 180a: Creative Approaches to Conflict Transformation and Sustainable Development course designed a

Culture of Sustainability Walking Tour on the Brandeis campus which debuted during the Spring 2022 Brandeis Festival of the Arts. (See Highlights, above).

IMPACT has a Capacity-Building arm overseen by Toni Shapiro-Phim and Armine Avetisyan of PBA. This past year we continued supporting the creative work of the Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival in Cyprus. We helped the Festival artists broaden their perspectives through collaborations with “Thinking Partners” and brought the Festival a hybrid forum in conjunction with an organization, Festival Academy, to explore the relationship between festivals and the pursuit of social justice. We also began a collaboration with the Banco de la República in Colombia. The Bank oversees 29 cultural centers throughout the country, all functioning under the watchful eye of Angela Maria Perez, a participant in the founding of IMPACT. We supported training in documentation and grant proposal writing for nine small non-profit arts and social justice organizations spread across Colombia. It was so successful that all participants want to continue, to further develop their skills. We have approved their request for continued support.