

There's No Place Like Home

Work from the One Nation One Project Residencies at Carroll Tower and Chad Brown

The Gallery at City Hall

25 Dorrance Street, Providence, Rhode Island

August 15, 2024 – October 14, 2024

Reception August 15, 2024 from 4:30–6 PM

Curatorial Statement

One Nation/One Project is a national arts and health initiative designed to activate the power of the arts to repair the social fabric of our nation and heal our communities. Bringing together Artists, Local Governments, and Community Health Providers to foster equitable recovery and improved health in communities across America, this national movement selected 18 cities – including Providence -- to pilot a year of inclusive arts and health work. On July 27, 2024, each of the 18 cities celebrated Arts and Health Day across the US with culminating events ranging from skate parks to festivals and everything in between.

In Providence, the City Departments of Art, Culture and Tourism and Housing and Human Services teamed up with the Providence Housing Authority to hire Carolina Briones and Vatic Kuumba as artists-in-residence to lead art-making sessions with residents at the public housing sites Carroll Tower and Chad Brown.

For the past eight months, Carolina Briones has met with the seniors at Carroll Tower and Vatic Kuumba with the community at Chad Brown. Focusing on the theme “There’s no place like home,” residents worked with these two skilled community-based artists to explore their individual talents and interests while also building collective work and community. At Carroll Tower, the group created a Tree of Life mosaic in their community room and at Chad Brown they created a body of genre-defying work that spread across the campus including shrines, gardens, a film, song, procession, a live performance, poetry, visual art and fashion, within a public event called Casa Futura.

This show at City Hall is a tiny sliver of what has come from this initiative over the last year. We hope you appreciate the work itself and begin to imagine the personal connections and transformations that each piece and person represent.

Featured Artists

Maria Grace (textiles)
Whitley Johnson (works on paper)
Wanda Rivera (paintings)

ALL CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

Carroll Tower Mapmakers (community leaders)

Peggy Bernal
Sara Bernal
Bartola Caraballo
Larry D'Alfonso
Manuel de la Rosa
Pedro Ruiz de los Santos
Rafael Fernandez
Eugenia Mercedes Garcia
Ana Guzman
Carlos Martinez
Carol Melucci
Isabel Mercado
Eugenia Mercedes Garcia Polanco
Dianin Santana
Gladys Solis
Julio Soto
Carmen Mercedes Villamán Garcia

Chad Brown Mapmakers (community leaders)

Whitley Johnson
Maria Mendez
Nidia Molina
Evelin Nunez de Diaz
Leonides Parra
Sandra Paneto
Odaris Polacios
Wanda Rivera
Maria Rodriguez
Rosemelly Quinonez

Curatorial Support

Carolina Briones (artist-in-residence, Carroll Tower) is an Ecuadorian visual artist and community leader with over twenty-five years of experience working with the Latino community in Providence. Her work utilizes different elements such as text clippings from magazines and books, napkins, various textures, handwriting, painting on ceramics, jewelry, collage, and porcelain. Briones is deeply inspired by nature and the cycle of life and has facilitated workshops with seniors of different abilities, including mandala workshops, bilingual arts and crafts programming, and “Pinceladas,” painting workshops. She has served as the Latino Program Manager at the Providence Community Library for twenty-three years. Additionally, Briones has received multiple recognitions for her contributions and dedication to the community.

Vatic Tayari Kuumba (artist-in-residence, Chad Brown) is a creative activist rooted in words and rhythm whose work is guided by antiracist and environmental justice principles. In recent years, he has moved from slam poetry into theatre, playwrighting, and screenwriting for film. As an artist facilitator, Kuumba worked with One Square World using art to design and implement processes and opportunities for transformational education in city government, non-profits, and community organizations. As a teaching artist he has worked with Children-Youth-Community/Rhode Island Artists and Clinicians facilitating a process to help students develop skills to cope with trauma and with the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee (REJC) as a Project Team Member in the Deep Democracy project engaging city residents and city officials in systems transformation. Kuumba was also the AS220 Youth / Theatre Coordinator from 2016 to 2018 where he facilitated a youth-led devised production that imagined a future world free of oppression. Kuumba is also the recipient of the New Genre Merit Fellowship (2018) and the Playwright Merit Fellowship (2017) awarded by Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Shey Rí Acu Rivera Ríos (they/them; Chad Brown Project Support) I create digital and physical altars that interrupt colonial memory and liberate queer Boricua futurity. My work is transmedia, or narratives interwoven in multiple platforms and formats. I use digital art, performance, and installation to create a mejunje (mix) where magical realism and science fiction become doors to decolonial futures. My work responds to the impact of colonization today, inspired by my lived experience intertwined with the history of the land and people of Borikén (Puerto Rico), where I was born and raised. My creative practice has become my way of questioning and redefining democracy, challenging colonialism, and creating spaces for queer joy, imagination, and self-determination in the face of U.S. imperialism. I engage with creative practice as a form of repair and cultural grounding that can birth decolonial queer and Boricua futurities.

Sussy Santana (One Nation One Project, Project Manager) is a poet, performer, and cultural organizer using writing as a tool for healing. Much of her work explores the bi-cultural and bilingual experience through text and performance. She's currently exploring the intersection of arts and public health, specifically working in community healing through collective performance creating artistic interventions at local health clinics. Santana is a 2015 MacColl Johnson Fellowship recipient, the first Latina writer to win the distinction. In February, 2020 she was selected by The City of Providence and the Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism as one of five artists to participate in the Creative Community Health Worker Fellowship, a training in Artist Facilitation and Community Health Work. <http://www.sussysantana.com/>

Project Partners



Providence Housing Authority was established in 1939 to provide affordable, clean and decent public housing. Today the PHA administers 2,606 public housing units that house over 5,500 residents designated as elderly/disabled, family, and scattered sites developments. Additionally, it oversees the administration of 2,700 Section 8 tenant based and project-based vouchers that allow low-income families to rent in the private market.

The PHA's devotion to provide housing and services to those in need is persistent, enduring, and innovative. The agency's commitment to be a better neighbor, to actively pursue ways to improve the health and safety of our residents, to strategically align visions with our community partners and to help people grow has never waned.



City of Providence Department of Housing & Human Services seeks to improve the lives and living conditions of the City's low- and moderate-income residents. The Department supports community-based strategies that build strong, vibrant, and stable neighborhoods, enhance opportunity and public health, and provide quality affordable housing throughout the City.



City of Providence Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism ensures the continued development of a vibrant and creative city by integrating arts and culture into community life while showcasing Providence as an international cultural destination. ACT commissions public art and produces public programming in all 25 of the City's neighborhoods, facilitates education partnerships in schools and libraries, and produces multiple flagship festivals, an annual arts and humanities lecture, and other dynamic public programs

while stewarding a small portfolio of grants.



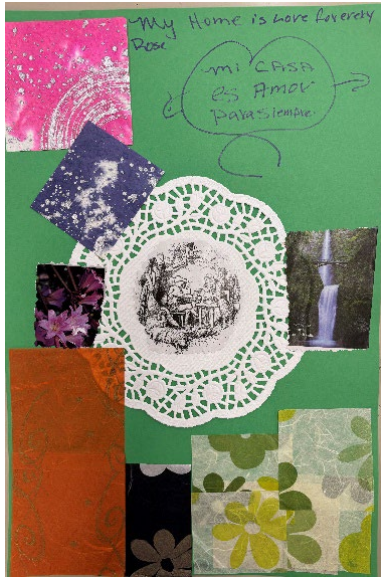
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Our audacious new campaign titled Arts For EveryBody shows how the arts can lead to healthier people and healthier communities.

On July 27, 2024, in big cities and rural counties, hundreds of actors, muralists, poets, folk dancers, circus clowns, farmers, flower artists, skaters, cooks, architects, DJs, puppeteers, nurses, mariachi players, bamboo weavers and more created new works that showed the world where they come from. The result was a celebration of American pluralism—of unity through diversity. It was an outpouring of local joy.

List of Works

Chad Brown Artists



Rosemelly Quinonez



Maria Grace



Sandra Paneto



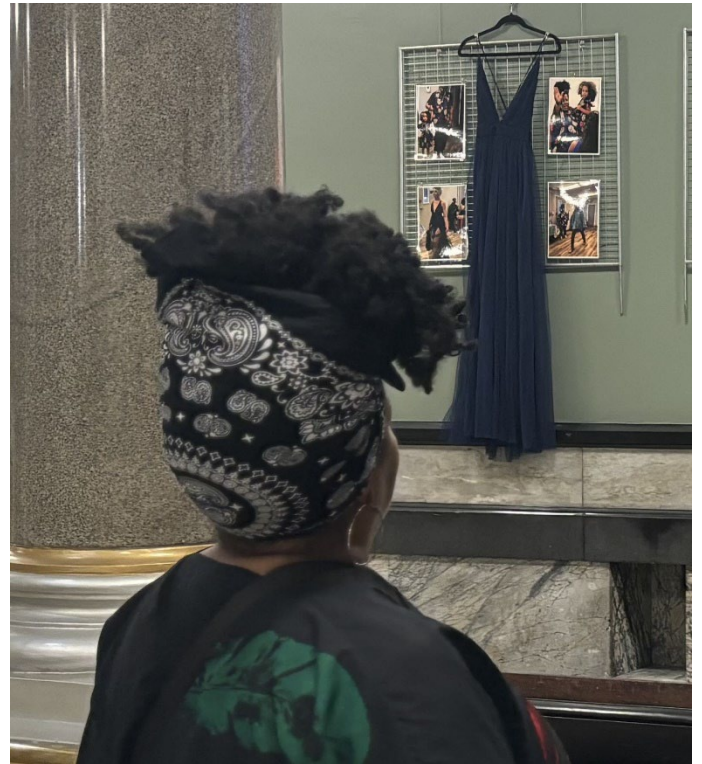
Leonides Parra



Odaris Palacio



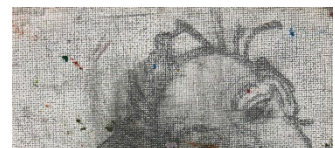
Fashion by Maria Grace

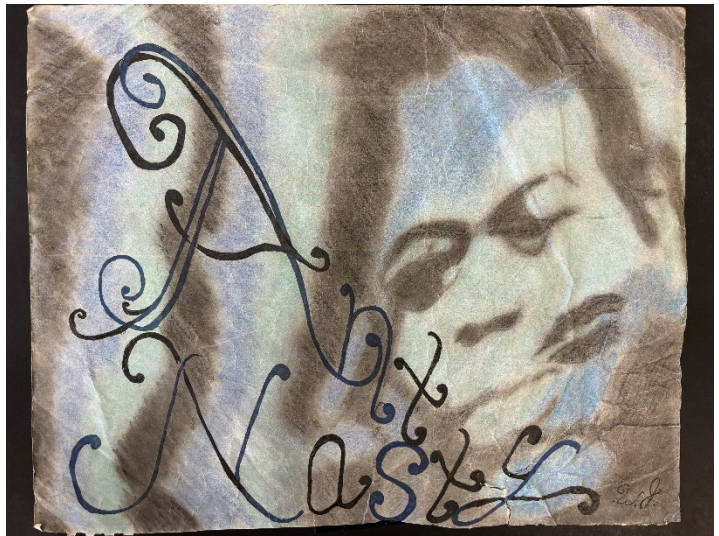


Paintings by Wanda Rivera



Works on Paper by Whitley Johnson





Work from Carroll Tower Artists

