

# REBUILDING



FY 22  
ANNUAL REPORT

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## BU Arts Initiative

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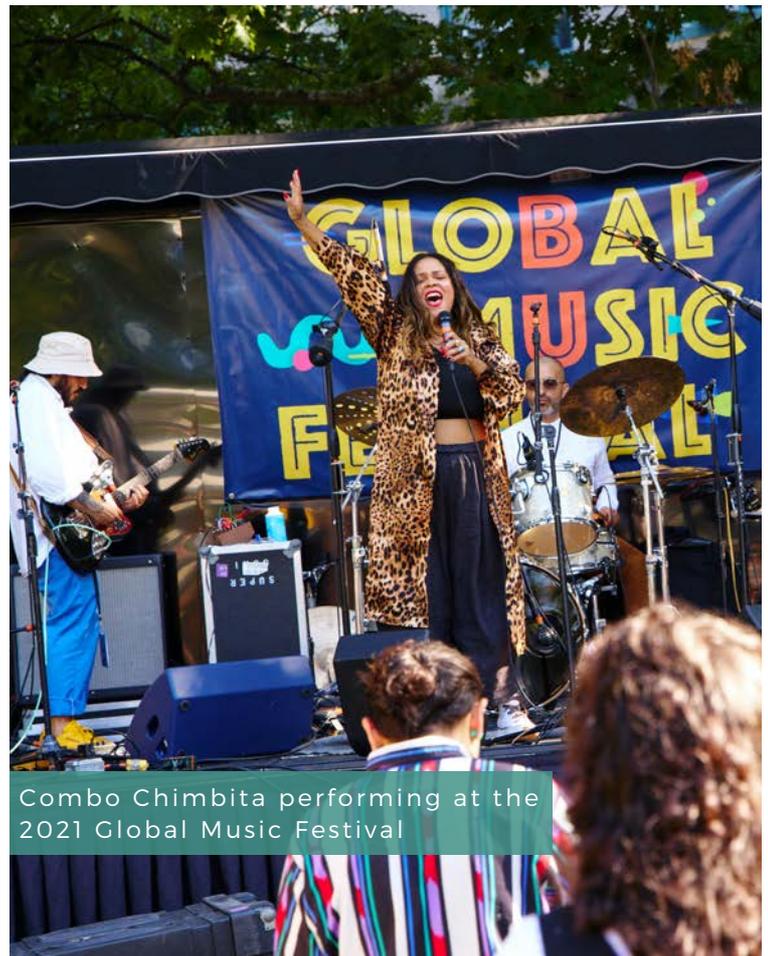
 Arts Initiative

# Year in Review

**Mission:** *The Boston University Arts Initiative ensures that the arts are fundamental to the student experience by developing and supporting university-wide programs that 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.*

**This was a year to rebuild both our team and programming after staff departures in FY21 and as we began to emerge from the pandemic.** Our graduate assistant, Elana Harris, and our program administrator, Ivy Buena began in August. Once the hiring freeze was lifted in January, we promoted Elana to administrative coordinator and hired a new graduate assistant, Merritt Kramer. As the academic year began, we started with the return of some in-person events, including our annual Fall Arts Fair and the 2021 BU Global Music Festival, both held outdoors. For the rest of the year, we adapted programs to strictly follow covid safety protocols including limited attendance, physical distancing, masks, and tracking attendance for contact tracing. Despite the challenges, we are pleased with our programming and student participation this year.

In addition to promoting all BU arts programs via our weekly email and social media accounts, the programs we produce are either faculty-driven (academic-based programs) aligned with 2030 Strategic Plan pillar #1 - Vibrant Academic Experience, or student-driven (co-curricular programs) aligned with pillar #4 - Community Big Yet Small, with the added priority of modeling inclusion and presenting social justice programs aligned with pillar #3 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



Combo Chimbita performing at the 2021 Global Music Festival

# Programming

## FACULTY-DRIVEN PROGRAMS - INDIGENOUS VOICES IN THE AMERICAS

Most of our faculty-driven programming this academic year was part of the **Indigenous Voices in the Americas series**, which was created to highlight and engage Indigenous artists and scholars from North, Central, and South America. This is the first time the BU Arts Initiative has sponsored a theme year for programming and it was a tremendous success. **A total of 18 events were part of the series collectively engaging more than 750 students.**



**"18 EVENTS  
ENGAGING  
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Indigenous Voices in the Americas Programs were presented or co-presented by units across the university including the School of Music (composition and musicology/ethnomusicology), the School of Theatre, the School of Visual Arts, American and New England Studies, BU Sustainability, the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground, Gastronomy, BU Art Galleries, Romance Languages, and Latin American Studies.

The BU Arts Initiative presented, co-sponsored or grant funded 13 of the events in this series, which included multiple residencies that facilitated engagement with other units on the Charles River campus including: the Kilachand Honors Program, BU Dance, Archeology and Anthropology, and the College of Communication.

Highlights of the series include commissioned new work from Medford resident **Erin Genia (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate)** who created a temporary outdoor sculpture in October called *Caution: Cultural Emergency*; **Elizabeth James Perry (Aquinnah Wampanoag)** who created *Bear Map* (a decolonized map of Massachusetts) and *Winter Dreams* (Wampumpeak Belt); and **Ty Defoe (Ojibwe and Oneida Nations)** who led the creation of an original performance using Indigenous storytelling techniques with School of Theatre students called *Patterns of Wind*, presented in early December in the Booth Theatre. In the Spring we hosted a residency in the School of Visual Arts with Diné photographer and weaver Dakota Mace, which included an exhibit of her work titled *Naal Tsoos Saní* (The Old Paper) in the Towne Gallery on the Fenway Campus. We were also fortunate to bring BU Alum **JoAnn Chase (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Indian Nation)** COM '85 to campus in partnership with BU Sustainability for a talk on Indigenous Perspectives on Sustainability and the Arts.

Artist Erin Genia (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate) installing *Caution: Cultural Emergency*



Artist Elizabeth James Perry (Aquinnah Wampanoag) demonstrating quill weaving



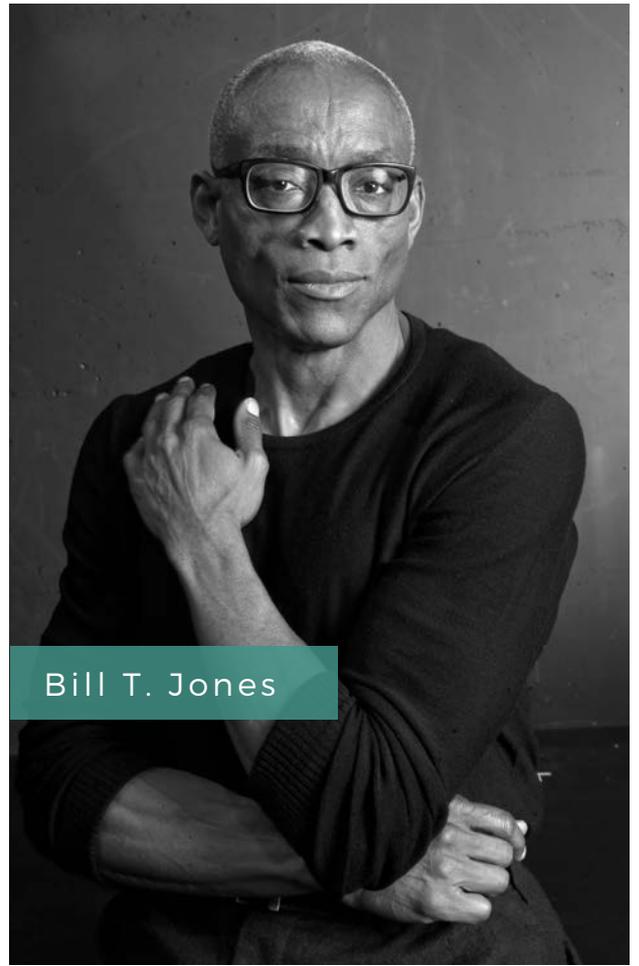
Dakota Mace (Diné) presenting at the opening reception of *Naal Tsoos Saní*



## OTHER PROGRAMMING

We also presented or co-sponsored programs that were not part of the Indigenous Voices series, including:

- A display of a section of the **National Aids Memorial Quilt** in collaboration with the LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty and Staff and the student organization Queer Activist Collective during the week that included World Aids Day
- A public talk with **award winning dancer and choreographer Bill T. Jones** presented as part of the Spring Arts & Ideas Lecture series
- A new piano and dance performance in December with BU School of Music faculty member Tanya Gabrielian and dancers from Hubbard Street Dance, called ***Myself and the Other Fellow***. The performance explored the challenges artists face with mental health and wellbeing



Bill T. Jones



Boston University staff and faculty examining a section of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt



# Events & Participation

These numbers do not include museum and BSO attendees  
\*For museum and BSO attendees please see page 9.

47 Events in partnership with  
20 unique BU departments or programs



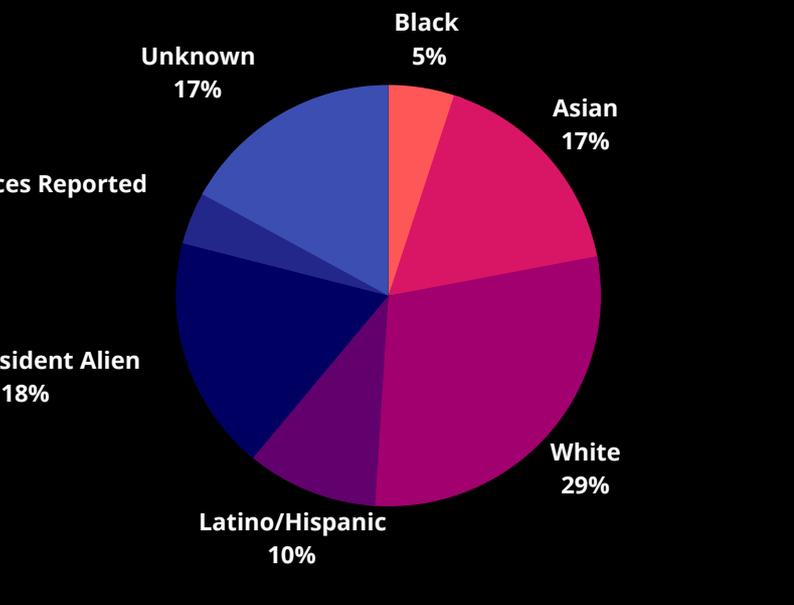
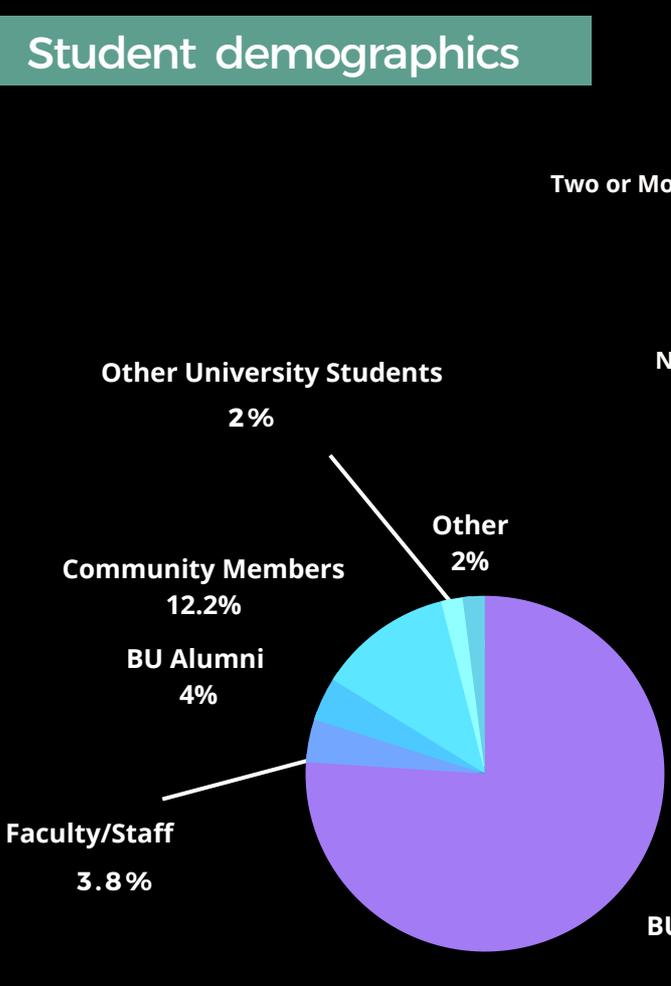
## Attendees:



2322 Total Attendees  
1250 Unique Student Attendees  
(Some students attended more than one event)

Data Collection: \*collected from 54% of total attendees

### Student demographics



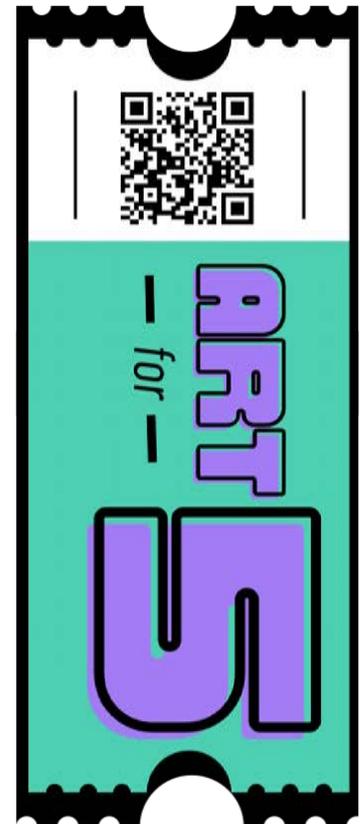
### Attendee affiliation

## STUDENT-DRIVEN PROGRAMS COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING



Boston University students participating in Study Break, First Friday, and an Art for 5 event

There were 16 total programs attended by more than 450 students. These programs are driven primarily by our Student Advisory Council and are designed to build community and support student mental health and wellbeing. They include **Arts Insiders** - groups of 15 to 20 students attending or participating in a unique off-campus arts event hosted by an upper-class student from our advisory council; **First Fridays (Charles River campus)** and **Third Thursdays (Med Campus)** - a craft and snack casual event allowing students to destress at the end of the week (this series is co-sponsored by the Wellbeing Project); our semesterly **study breaks**; our **student gallery** which curates and installs student work in our office suite; and our **Art for 5** programs for which we buy a block of 50 or more tickets to a high profile, unique arts event in the Boston region and sell the tickets to the students for \$5. This year our Art for 5 events were the **Imagine Van Gogh Immersive** experience and the touring production of the musical **Hadestown**.



**"16 TOTAL PROGRAMS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 450 STUDENTS"**

# Memberships

The BU Arts Initiative manages the relationships and member details with the Institute of Contemporary Art, The Museum of Fine Art, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The memberships provide free student access (and in some cases faculty and staff) to these institutions. With changing protocols and availability due to Covid, attendance was far lower than usual. However, more than 20,000 BU community members were able to attend throughout the academic year.

## **MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP & BSO PARTICIPATION**

<b>Museum/BSO</b>	<b>FY22</b>
<b>Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum</b>	3,396
<b>Museum of Fine Art</b>	15,967
<b>Institute of Contemporary Art</b>	546
<b>Harvard Art Museum</b>	362
<b>Boston Symphony Orchestra</b>	1,003
<b>Total</b>	21,274

# HUB CC133-The Individual, Community, and the Arts

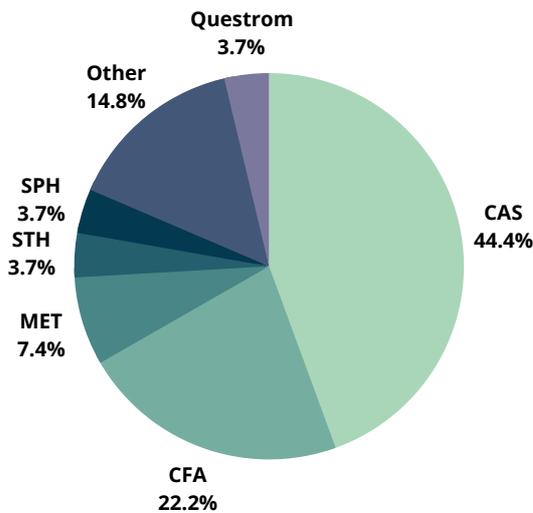
## HUB CC133

This Fall, we launched a HUB Cocurricular course developed and taught by Managing Director, Ty Furman. The course addresses HUB Capacity - Diversity, Civic Engagement, and Global Citizenship, and HUB Area Unit - The Individual in Community. 17 students, all juniors and seniors, representing six different schools and colleges, completed the course.

## GRANTS

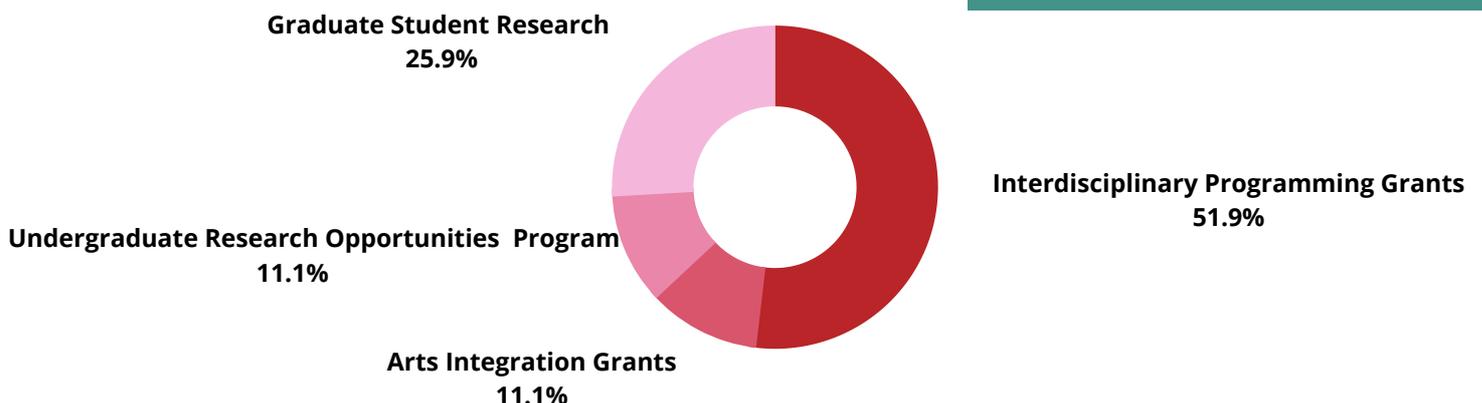
We continue to offer grants to faculty, staff, and students for programming, arts integration into the curriculum, and undergraduate and graduate research. We also provide tickets for two writing courses in the College of Arts and Sciences called *Theatre Now* and *Improv Now* that use the arts as source material for writing assignments.

### GRANTS DISTRIBUTION ACROSS BU SCHOOLS



Arts Grants	FY22
Arts Integration	\$4,100
Interdisciplinary Arts Program	\$15,293
Undergraduate Research Opportunities (UROP)	\$10,400
Graduate Arts Research Grants	\$17,393
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,186</b>

### GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY CATEGORY



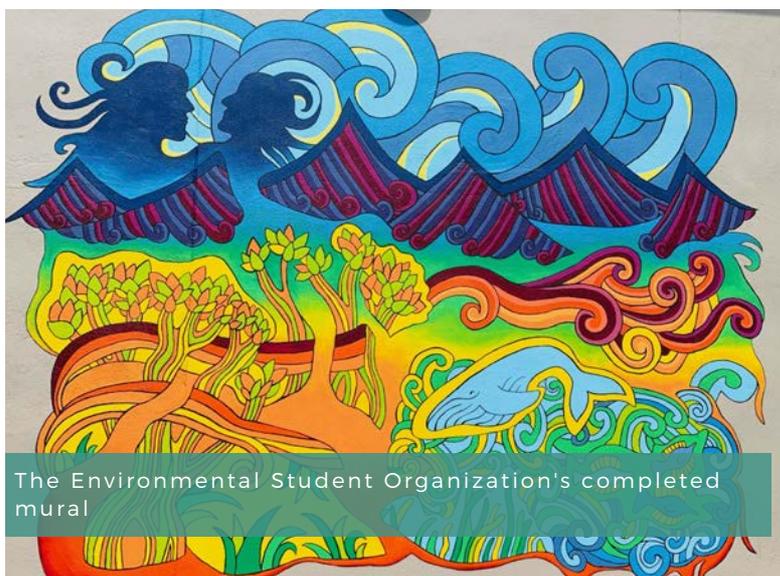
# Student Public Art Installations

This Spring, with support from a variety of BU offices, we were able to install three student art projects on the Charles River campus. These three projects were reviewed and approved by the BU Arts Council public art committee, Steve Burgay, and BU Facilities. **Home: Reconstructed** was a temporary, outdoor installation on the BU Beach from April 4th through April 19th. The artist, **Kabita Das**, is a CFA and Kilachand Honors Program 2020 graduate. The wooden structure was built by BU carpenters and paid for by the BU Arts Initiative and the Kilachand Honors Program.



Students viewing *Home: Reconstructed*

**Hallee Cooper '22** of the **Environmental Student Organization (ESO)** designed and worked with classmate and ESO president, Keeley Bombard '22 to paint a 10'x12' mural on an exterior wall of the Kenmore Classroom Building (565 Commonwealth Ave.) over the course of three weeks in May. Local, professional artist Erin Genia (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate) was hired to consult with and mentor the students through final design and installation. BU Facilities primed and finished the wall, cleared the area landscape for painting, assisted with scaffolding, and provided new, native plants to be replanted. The mural was funded by the BU Arts Initiative, The Environmental Student Organization, and private donors.



The Environmental Student Organization's completed mural

**Grow Your Future** is a turf (recyclable) installation created by Arie Haddad '22 and Mackenzie Bower '22, both in the Architectural Studies Program. The installation is on the west building wall of the Booth Theatre plaza. BU Facilities prepped the wall and after installation provided additional support by double securing the pieces to the wall. The installation was funded by Innovate@BU, The Wellbeing Project, The BU Arts Initiative, and private donors.

# Assessment

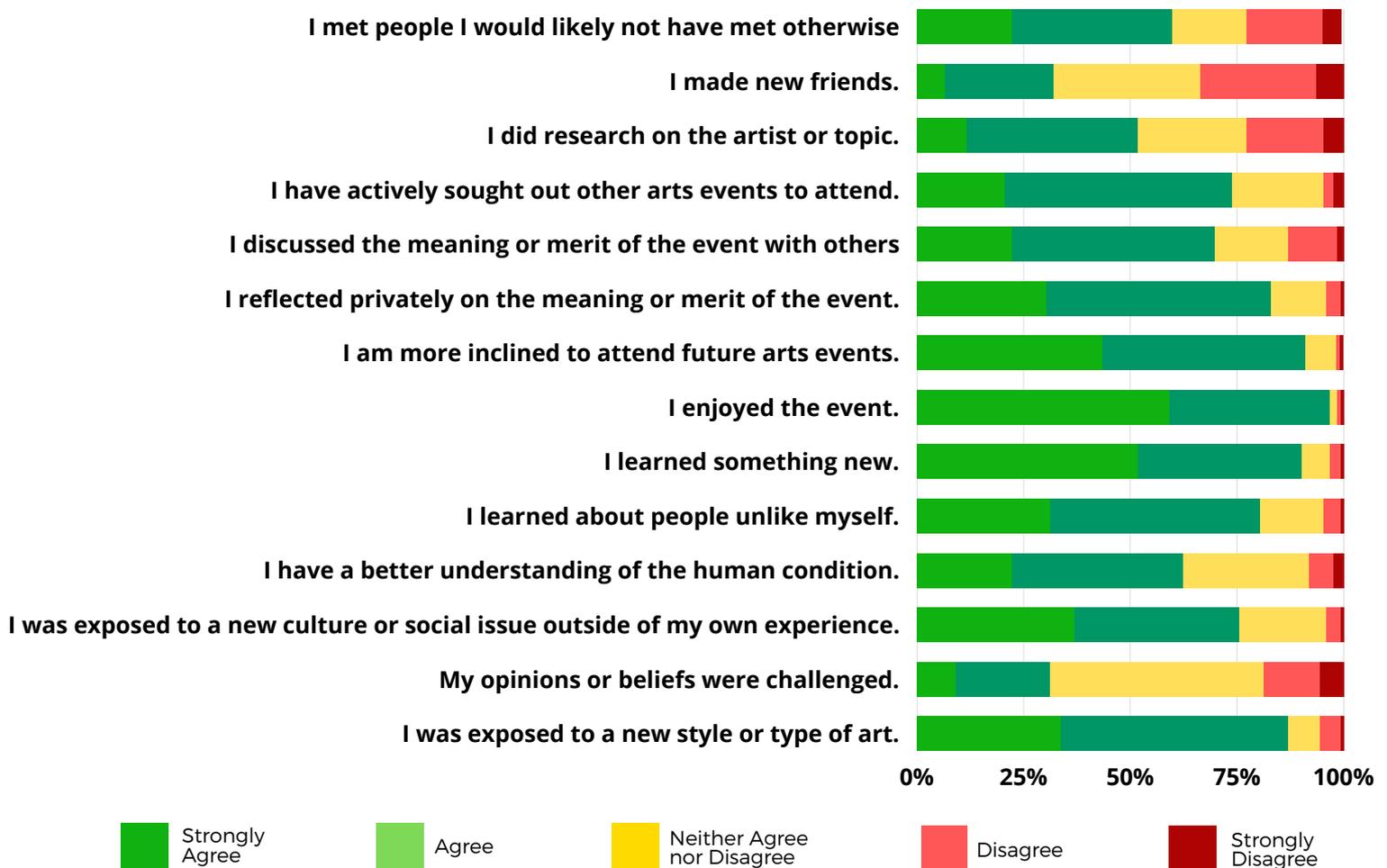
## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By participating in the arts and arts programming supported by the BU Arts Initiative, students at Boston University will:

- Make Friends (create social bonds)
- Experience Cognitive Growth (grow their understanding of humanity and learn about the world)
- Be More Healthy and Happy (experience a balanced lifestyle and stress management)

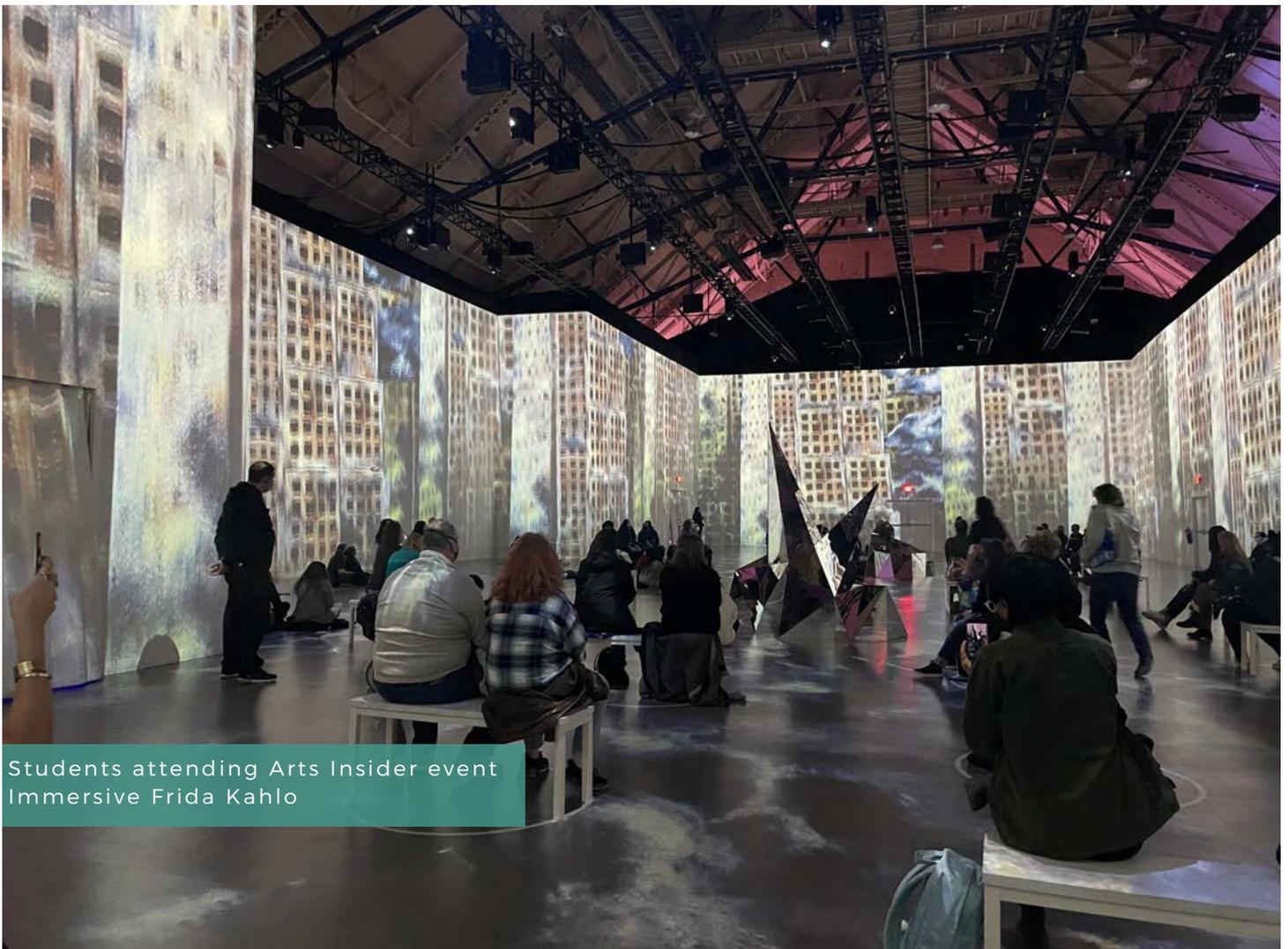
These learning outcomes are based on the Framework for Understanding the Benefits of the Arts from *The Gift of the Muse: Reframing the Debate about the Benefit of the Arts*. McCarthy, K.; Ondaatje, E.; Zakaras, L.; and Brooks, A. Rand Corporation, 2004

We are pleased that based on our end-of-the-year student survey, our learning outcomes continue to be well met.



# Challenges/Future

After participating in an external review of the BU Arts Initiative and our programs in September, the BU Arts Council spent the rest of the year analyzing the report and developing goals and strategies to advance our work. Those goals fall largely into five categories: improved communication, deepen and expand antiracist and inclusive practices and programs, increase student engagement, increase faculty engagement, and deepen and expand community relationships. A three-year plan to address each of these areas is forthcoming.



Students attending Arts Insider event  
Immersive Frida Kahlo

# MEET THE TEAM

## THE BU ARTS INITIATIVE STAFF



TY FURMAN  
MANAGING  
DIRECTOR



IVY BUENA  
PROGRAM  
ADMINISTRATOR



ELANA HARRIS  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
COORDINATOR



MERRITT  
KRAMER  
GRADUATE  
ASSISTANT

**FY21 STUDENT WORKERS: LILA AL-TAMIMI (CAS '23) & TAJI TAHTIAL (COM '23)**

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

**PATTERNS OF WIND (COVER) - CYDNEY SCOTT, BU TODAY**

**GLOBAL MUSIC FESTIVAL (FRONT PAGE, PG. 1) - DAVE GREEN PHOTOGRAPHY**