YOUTH ARTS NEW YORK

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022

Prepared by Robert Croonquist

For the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Youth Arts New York BOARD OF DIRECTORS

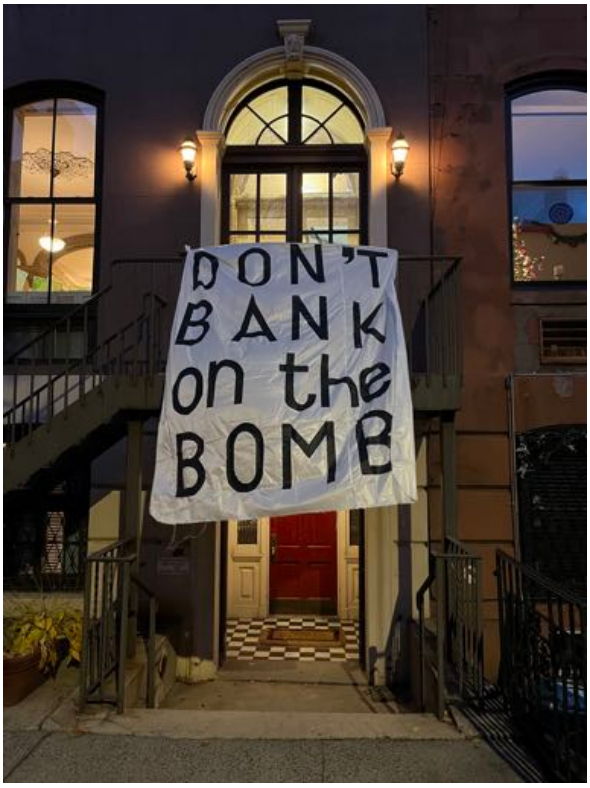
Linda S. Chapman, President; Mitchie Takeuchi, Vice President; Daniel Osman, Secretary;
Kathleen Sullivan, Hibakusha Stories Director and Robert Croonquist, Founder & Treasurer

The mission of Youth Arts New York is to provide experiences in the arts, sciences and civil society that engage youth in building a future of peace, social justice and sustainability.

From our beginnings in 2006 at Jamaica High School, Queens, NY, we have celebrated diversity and inclusion. We have brought members of the LGBTQ community to do after-school workshops celebrating the cultures of Africa, the Americas, the Middle East and Asia. Our workshop instructors have included elders from the Bannock Shoshone tribe of the Great Basin to experts on the Harlem Renaissance and traditional Ukrainian arts.

Well aware of the fragility of democratic institutions we have inaugurated a series of workshops on civic engagement that provide real-life practices.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Joanna Macy who has inspired our work over our 16 years in operation.



Since 2008 our signature initiative has been Hibakusha Stories, bringing over 100 A-bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to approximately 45,000 high school and university students in New York, Oklahoma, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Japan, the United Kingdom, Spain, Austria and Andorra.

The mission of Hibakusha Stories is to pass the legacy of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to a new generation, empowering them to build a world free of nuclear weapons. 'Hibakusha' is the Japanese word for atomic bomb survivors.

Youth Arts New York is an NGO with the UN Department of Global Communications with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

We are a proud member organization of ICAN - the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

UNITED NATIONS

WORKSHOPS IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Youth Arte New York developed three new day-long workshops in civic engagement based on the model we created for SPEAK OUT! Women and Mass Incarceration and PEACE OUT! Action and Civil Resistance. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic we were only able to conduct one - RISE UP! Youth and Direct Action for 25 students in Alissa Amato's Law and Gender course at Cardozo High School, Bayside, Queens. Facilitators Jamie Bauer, Jay Walker, Andrea Lowenkopf, Linda S. Chapman, Deb Brindis and Robert Croonquist led the students through an interactive proccess. Students chose an issue, developed effective messaging and made a poster that they presented to the group. The themes most prevalent with the students were body autonomy, immigration and mental health. We have again scheduled the series for the Fall of 2022 at the People's Forum in Manhattan.

RISE UP! Youth and Direct Action is a day-long interactive workshop for 50 students in grades 9 to 12 that teaches the fundamentals of First Amendment rights to free speech and freedom of assembly; how to petition the government for change; how to develop effective messaging; how to create a safe, non-violent direct action; strategies for dealing with the police and a citizen's rights under New York City law.

SHOW UP! Youth and Voting Rights, in partnership with Students for Justice, is a workshop for 50 students in grades 9 to 12 that teaches students how to build teams to implement Get Out The Vote strategies – social media campaigns, postcards, phone calls, and texts – to contact some of the 16.5 million Americans who have been purged from the voter rolls, helping them re-establish their voter registration.

DISARM THE HATE! Youth and Gun Violence, In partnership with Gays Against Guns, is a day-long interactive workshop for 50 students in grades 9 to 12 that introduces youth to ways to advocate for gun laws that lead to safer communities and introduces them to local resources and strategies that address the epidemic of gun violence through arts-based actions.

THE VOW FROM HIROSHIMA

Youth Arts New York Board Vice President Mitchie Takeuchi and filmmaker Susan Strickler visited several high schools and universities to screen their film *The Vow From Hiroshima*. Emily Welty and Matthew Bolton, two nuclear disarmament activists and professors at Pace University invited Mitchie and Susan to screen *The Vow* on April 28, 2022. Dr. Welty is the Director of Peace and Justice Studies and Professor Bolton, Director of the International Disarmament Institute and professor of political science. On this day, they combined two of their classes to view a shortened 55 minute version followed by a 30 minute Q&A. *The Vow* was mentioned by many of the students as a highlight of their academic year. They were inspired by Setsuko's moving story, Mitchie's journey to find her family's history and the success of ICAN with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. A few of the students even talked about volunteering with ICAN! It was a tremendous success.

Mitchie and Susan also held a virtual screening of *The Vow From Hiroshima* at the University of Pennsylvania on April 19, 2022 sponsored by the Department of East Asian Studies. The following day there was an in-person Q&A at the Perry World House which is a gathering place for faculty and students from all twelve of Penn's schools to engage with eminent international scholars and policymakers on pressing global issues of the 21st century. Mitchie, Susan and Dr. Rachel Bronson, the CEO of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists were on the panel and fielded questions from about 40 people and an unknown number of people who were on Zoom. The response for the film was very positive. Due to Dr.. Bronson's expertise, the questions were more focused on nuclear policy than is usually the case after a screening.

THE VOW
FROM HIROSHIMA

A STUDY GUIDE

for the documentary by
Susan Strickler & Mitchie Takeuchi

by
Andrea Lowenkopf
with Susan Strickler & Mitchie Takeuchi
Layout by Jamie Register

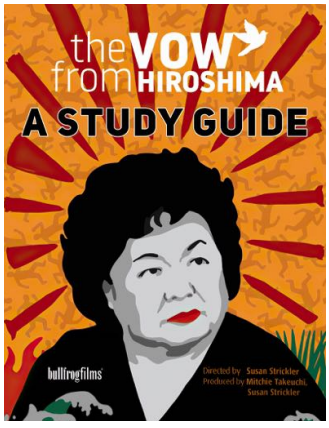


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letters from Susan and Mitchie		1
Introduction		3
Watching the Documentary		6
Understandings, Questions, Skills & Strategies, Assessments		8
Lesson Plans		
Day 1	Structures, Context and First Thoughts	11
Day 2	Introduction to the Documentary and to the Performance Task	19
Day 3	Deepening our Understanding and Knowledge About the Atomic Bomb	24
Day 4	Silence and Censorship, Voice & Advocacy	28
Day 5	Prejudice and Women's Rights	31
Day 6	Performance Task	34
Day 7	Activism	40
Day 8	Revisiting Our Beliefs and Understandings	42
Workshop Suggestions		46
Glossary		54
Appendix 1	Choice Board Links	62
Appendix 2	Graphic Organizers & Assessment Tools	72
Appendix 3	Supplemental Texts	81

THE NYC i-SCHOOL

On March 16, Mitchie Takeuchi and Susan Stricckler visited Nathan Snyder's Nuclear Proliferation module at the NYC i-School. Dr. Snyder has been wroking with Hibakusha Stories for well over a decade. Seven years ago his classes were given seeds that come from an Aogiri tree that survived the bombing of HIroshima. They were a gift from artist and survivor Toshiko Tanaka. The students viewed Susan and Mitchie's film *The Vow from Hiroshima* and the filmmakers came to the class to discuss the film and the intersection between art and activism.

Among the activities that have been incororated into the i-School's curriculum as a result of Youth Arts programming is an annual visit to Columbia University where the Manhattan Project conducted early experiments in nuclear fission. The students, in YANY's Radiation Detective project, measure the radioactivity of several sites on campus.

DRAG MARCH ACCESSIBILITY

On June 24 we were the fiscal sponsor for wheelchairs and pedicabs for the annual Drag March which has happened for over 20 years on the Friday of NYC Pride Weekend. We used the opportunity to engage youth in pushing empty wheelchairs at the rear of the march with signs that read, "AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST". Providing wheelchairs upon request has become a best practice for civil society as an element of disabiity justice and mutual aid. This program taught youth that in the process of creating the world we want, we must practice it. The pedicabs were a way to honor elders of the LGBTQ community.

HIBAKUSHA STORIES

As we continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, 2021 was another year marked by loss. Our Hibakusha Stories Director, Dr. Kathleen Sullivan, took time over the summer to celebrate her father's birthday in July 2021 and memorialize his passing in November 2020, 18 months after her mother Sandra died in March 2019. Both Tom and Sandy Sullivan were long-time supporters of Youth Arts New York. On July 29, the Youth Arts family gathered for Ardeth Platte's funeral services via Zoom. Sister Ardeth was a Youth Arts educator for our Real Women of Orange is the New Black workshop series. She was also a life-long anti-nuclear civil resister and inspiration to countless people who work for peace and social justice.

Now in 2022, we continue to miss, mourn and celebrate the singular presence of Sandy Parker, our Vice-President, a major donor, supporter and cheerleader for all things Youth Arts. Sandy had a vision for supporting the untold stories of Indigenous Peoples in Oklahoma and beyond. In her memory, Youth Arts New York will produce a series of curricula and action plans based on nuclear related sites and industries in the United States that disproportionally harm Indigenous Peoples. Coming soon to a website near you — www.nuclearnarratives.org

As a pre-cursor to our newest project — the Sandy Parker Nuclear Narratives Initiative: Stories Untold — Kathleen founded the Nuclear Truth Project, together with Pam Kingfisher, Dimity Hawkins, Arjun Makhijani and others around the world. The Nuclear Truth Project, aims to connect Indigenous Peoples, affected communities, international and civil society organizations, experts and governments working for nuclear abolition. Its mission is to build support and political will to maintain momentum for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, together with redress for those who have been harmed, and to minimize future harms from the widespread ecological damage that has already been done.

Hibakusha Stories participated in and supported consultations for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons' (TPNW) positive obligations as well as ICAN Geneva's nuclear mapping project. This work was conducted in preparation for the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, held in Vienna in June 2022. Kathleen travelled to Toronto to support Setsuko's virtual participation in the 1MSP where she made formal presentation to the Civil Society conference and shared her testimony with a parallel Youth for TPNW conference, held in tandem at the UN in Vienna.

Hibakusha Stories developed the NYC Nuclear Map together with graphic designer and theater producer, Noah Diamond, just in time for the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' event at Times Square called Amnesia Atómica NYC: ZERO NUKES, a collective effort to address nuclear threat. The public exposition was on view for seven days in Times Square and was centered around artist Pedro Reyes' ZERO NUKES, a 30-foot-tall inflatable sculpture, which functioned as a beacon to bring experts, political leaders, and engaged citizens together and drive conversations around the anti-nuclear movement.

HIBAKUSHA STORIES

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD

HIBAKUSHA STORIES REMEMBERS SANDRA W. PARKER

Youth Arts New York Vice President Sandy Parker left us for the other world on November 14, 2021. She died most probably from cardiac arrest. She was sitting at the foot of her bed with her phone and her iPad and showed no signs of distress when she was discovered in the morning. Sandy and her husband Jody were Youth Arts most generous and steadfast supporters. There was no one in the world like Sandy. She was delicious. Everything about her was delicious. Her sagacious and elfin beauty, her taste in clothes, her love of fine art, her aesthetic, her home, her garden, her love of life, her love of her family, her love of her friends, her intellectual curiosity (you mention something, she got a book and read about it), her generosity, her support, her wines, her restaurants, her cheeses! Even the mundane was delicious in Sandy's presence. The hole in our communal heart is enormous, All of us who knew her, even the hardest hearts among us, have shed tears over her passing. To her husband Jody and their children, to her brother and sister and their families, her Youth Arts New York family showers you with light and love and we will not be strangers. In 2005 Sandy wrote, "Upon my death . . . I want no list of degrees or educ. or accomplishments (that has always embarrassed me – too large, too small, always a hollow way to describe a soul.) I would like to be cremated and tossed to the wind." May Sandy's delicious love of life and of us live on and on and on beyond space and time. Her **obituary** was published in the *Tulsa World*.

2022 YANY FINANCIAL REPORT

OPENING BALANCE JULY 1, 2021	9,780
CLOSING BALANCE JUNE 30, 2022	35,290
REVENUES	
Individual Contributions	28905
Foundations & Trusts	8000
Corporate Employee Match	651
TOTAL REVENUES	37556
EXPENSES	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
Credit Card Fees	79
NYFA Maintenance	180
NYFA Administrative	2998
NYFA Contract	100
Insurance	1038
Supplies	67
Messenger	450
TOTAL ADMIN	4912
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Artistic Fees	250
Workshop Instruction	1150
Professional Fees	1319
Space Rental	350
Supplies	450
Online Expenses	3353
Food & Hotel	162
Production Expenses	100
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	7134
TOTAL EXPENSES	12046

FOUNDATIONS

Thomas C. and Sandra Sullivan Foundation
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS
Martin Schmidt Family Fund

photos: Seth Shelden

COLLABORATIONS

Over the year Youth Arts New York collaborated with a number of groups including Reverse The Trend, the Marshallese Educational Initiative, the Irish Consulate General to New York, NY Peace Action, the New York Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Rise and Resist, the Illuminator and the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

November 2: participated in a Reverse the Trend event at the Yale Club

November: 6 hosted a reception honoring Benetick Maddison of the Marshallese Educational Initiative

November 13: organized a reception for Helena Nolan, Irish Consulate General to New York

January 3: co- hosted a Zoom for Setsuko Thurlow's 90th birthday

January 19: illuminated the UN Secretariat Building with the Illuminator, Rise and Resist and Peace Action New York

March 16: co-hosted a webinar on communites affected by nuclear weapons

March 17: honored Bayard Rustin as an NYC Nuclear Free Hero with Rustin's partner Walter Naegle and City Council member Erik Bottcher

April 22: hosted a reading of Ray Acheson's book Banning the Bomb, Smashing the Patriarchy

May 16: honored Leslie Cagan as an NYC Nuclear Free Hero

May 17-19: participated in a Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists event at Times Square

June 12: organized and participated in an event comemorating the 40 anniversary of the March and Rally for Nuclear Disarmament and Human Needs.

June 17-23: supported Setsuko Thurlow's participation in the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Vienna.

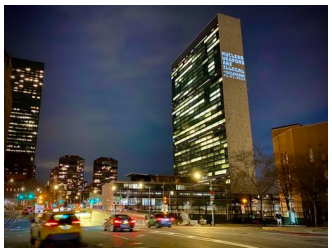
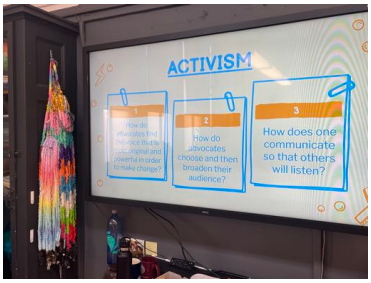
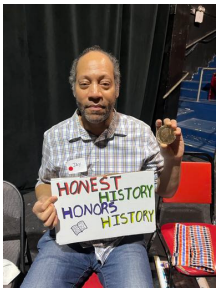
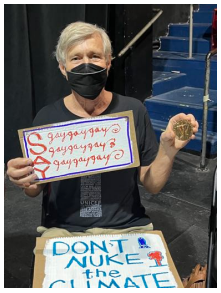
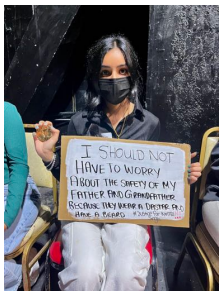


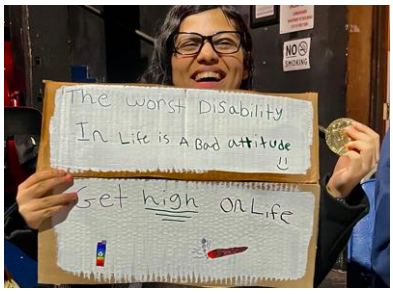
photo: Seth Shelden

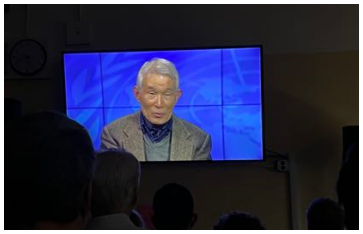












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