



# INWOOD ART WORKS

2024 2024 2024  
ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL REPORT



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# MISSION

Inwood Art Works is a nonprofit organization with a **mission** to create and curate professional performing and visual arts in Inwood and its surrounding community.

Founded in response to a neighborhood bereft of cultural arts venues, Inwood Art Works (IAW) has quickly established itself in Inwood and Northern Manhattan as a leading multidisciplinary cultural arts hub. Through creative placemaking, Inwood Art Works creates arts programming for an historically underrepresented community, and champions local professional artists by giving them an opportunity to create. Through its Film Works (Inwood Film Festival, Film Works Alfresco), Art Works (Gallery), and Stage Works (On Air, Mendelssohn on the Hudson, Live Performances) programs it encourages positive social engagement, goodwill, and unity through live theater, music, dance, film, new media, and visual arts within accessible proximity at affordable prices or free of charge.

Our **vision** is to establish a dedicated cultural arts destination that fosters a vibrant multicultural community nourished by local connectivity and sustained by artistic equity.

We **value** encouraging positive social engagement, goodwill, and unity through live theater, music, dance, film, new media, and visual arts within accessible proximity at affordable prices or free of charge. We **value** and champion the craft and cultural diversity of local professional and emerging artists. And we **value** the education of youth through the arts.

# STAFF AND BOARD LIST

## FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Aaron Simms

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Jeff Ballard

## TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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## PHOTOGRAPHER

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## DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## GRANT WRITER

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## EDUCATION CONSULTANT

Gordon Ostrowski

## WEB DESIGN

Philip Goldsmith



## Dear Friends,

Our 2024 season can be summed up as being a record breaker. Across the board, Inwood Art Works programming achieved record breaking attendance and income!

True to our mission, we kept it local for our annual **Inwood Film Festival** at Columbia University's Campbell Sports Center from May 23-26 (page 7). The 9/11 themed documentary feature, *The Boys from Kingsbridge* opened the festival to a sold-out crowd. After presenting thirty films in four days, the festival concluded with a new adaptation of *Robin Hood*, which was written and filmed by key players from the Pied Pieper Children's Theatre during the COVID-19 lockdown. In addition, IAW continued its commitment to invest in our local artists by awarding a record amount of \$42,500 in funding to "green light" the projects of nine local filmmakers through our **Filmmaker Fund** (page 11).

It was a busy and exciting summer of bilingual cinema and live musical performances, as our **Film Works Alfresco** program at The Hudson at Dyckman Marina in Inwood Hill Park reached a new high of over 2,400 attendances. Then, IAW toured the program up and down the Heights for enjoyable presentations at Mother Cabrini Shrine, Roger Morris Park, Yeshiva University and the Hispanic Society Museum and Library for a new record of 20 events (page 15).

IAW proudly continued our extremely popular **On Air** podcast for a 5th season. Local and international audiences grow annually to listen to live performances and interviews that showcase artists of "all stripes" that make their home in Upper Manhattan (page 17).

Speaking of live music, why go downtown when you can have it uptown? IAW expanded our Community Concert season to six unique performances (page 19) that ranged from avant-garde jazz and poetry to contemporary compositions to classical repertoire performed by professional musicians. In addition, we commissioned and presented the premiere of local composer, **Brian Morales'** *Strangers: A Modern Ballet about Immigration* (page 21).

Reflecting on our 2024 season, I am most encouraged by exceeding over \$400,000 in total income for the first time due to the generosity and passion of our patrons supporting us with 345,856 in contributed giving. The connection to the record numbers in the seats and in our ledgers is related to the quality recognized by our programming. No arts organization presents a more diverse offering or a higher caliber arts experience for the residents of Northern Manhattan.

From the top of Manhattan and the bottom of my heart, I hope you recognize this quality and embrace our programming in whatever meaningful way it speaks to you. Please enjoy the following pages, as they demonstrate the social and artistic impact IAW has made in our community.

Do you know what they say about records? They are made so they can be broken.

Onward!

Aaron Simms  
Founder and Executive Producer  
Inwood Art Works

# THE 2024 INWOOD FILM FESTIVAL

The Inwood Film Festival (IFF) completed its annual festival from May 23-26, 2024, at Columbia University's Campbell Sports Center. The festival opened with a special presentation of the acclaimed documentary film, *The Boys from Kingsbridge*, with a post screening interview with local-based filmmaker, Thom MacNamara to a sold out house. To meet demand, the festival presented ten unique programs consisting of thirty films and two pay-what-you-can seminars. Of the films presented, ten were world premieres. All films presented were made in the Inwood community or by local Inwood community filmmakers; 62% of which were created by those from historically underrepresented groups.

The seminars offered at the IFF addressed vital industry topics, such as "Contracts for the Indie Filmmaker" presented in partnership with **NY SAG-AFTRA** chapter, and "Budgeting for Filmmaking." The festival closed with a screening of an adaptation of *Robin Hood* created by students from Inwood-based **Pied Pieper Children's Theatre** during COVID-19 followed by a post-screening discussion with the student filmmakers and their mentors. The in person festival drew a total attendance of 1,309, and the online extension of the festival (IFF+) engaged over two hundred fifty viewers through June 16.

4 days | 10 events | 30 films | 10 world premieres  
62% created by historically underrepresented filmmakers  
Over 1,300 in attendance



# INWOOD FILM FESTIVAL

## BY THE NUMBERS

**7000+** Visitors

**197** Films Presented

**122** Women and Underrepresented Filmmakers

**80** World Premieres

**72** Volunteers

**62** Unique Programs

**55** Screenings

**40** Grants to Local Filmmakers

**22** Days of Professional Film

**18** Student Films Presented

**8** Educational Seminars

**1** Vision Achieved for Celebrating and Showcasing Inwood and its surrounding community through the moving image



# FILMMAKER FUND

Congratulations to all the recipients of the **2024-25** Inwood Film Festival Filmmaker Fund. These are their stories that IAW is helping bring to the screen.

The Fund was created to financially support and encourage the creation of locally made **independent** cinema in the Inwood NYC community, which includes Inwood, Washington Heights, Harlem, Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, and Riverdale. Now in its **sixth** year, IAW has persisted to "green light" the visions of local filmmakers with awards totaling \$42,500 – a new record. This was possible thanks to an increase in individual giving specifically ear-marked to support the "fund."

This award not only functions as an unrestricted production grant for the creation of new work, this initiative funnels capital into our local artistic economy, providing over **\$149,700** in grants to **40** local filmmakers. More than **67%** of the grant money this year was awarded to women and minority filmmakers as part of our goal to reflect the diversity of New York City and the Uptown (Manhattan/Bronx) community in our programming.



## LESLIE KINCAID BURBY

**Project Title: The Choice**  
A trio of Hessian Soldiers who have been living in 1889 New York. A husband brings his wife to his physician/alienist when he discovers that she is practicing birth control and depriving him of an heir. The physician is charged with helping this woman see the errors of her ways and follow traditional culture rules. He gets more than he bargains for when he meets Camille, a strong, smart, free-thinking woman.



## CALEB CLARKE

**Project Title: An Act of Penance**  
A young actor prepares for the role of Dimmesdale in a theatrical staging of The Scarlet Letter, but as he strives to fully embody his character, his past comes back to haunt him, and the lines between reality and fiction blur.



## CHEN DRACHMAN

**Project Title: Blood and Sex Over Ambition**  
In 1888 Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Gauguin shared a home in Provence, France for two months, at the end of which Van Gogh suffered a breakdown. To this day, no one knows what happened. Or do we?

# \$42,500 IN AWARDS

# 67% TO WOMEN AND MINORITY FILMMAKERS



## CARLOS HICIANO



## RACHEL KERRY



## STEVEN E. MALLORCA



## CLARE PARME MILLER



## MEGAN ROSSMAN



## SAMUEL WRIGHT SMITH

**Project Title: The New Neighbors Association**  
A newfound HOA sprouts in an existing neighborhood haunting an unsuspecting family.

**Project Title: With Iron Teeth**  
A woman who scams senior citizens out of money learns that stealing from the wrong person has terrifying consequences.

**Project Title: Play it in Woo**  
Philip Woo, a 5th generation Chinese American musician, comes of age in late '60s Seattle to play keyboards with such funk and soul luminaries as Roy Ayers, and Frankie Beverly and Maze, becoming one of first prominent Asian American players in the funk and soul scene of the '70s and '80s.

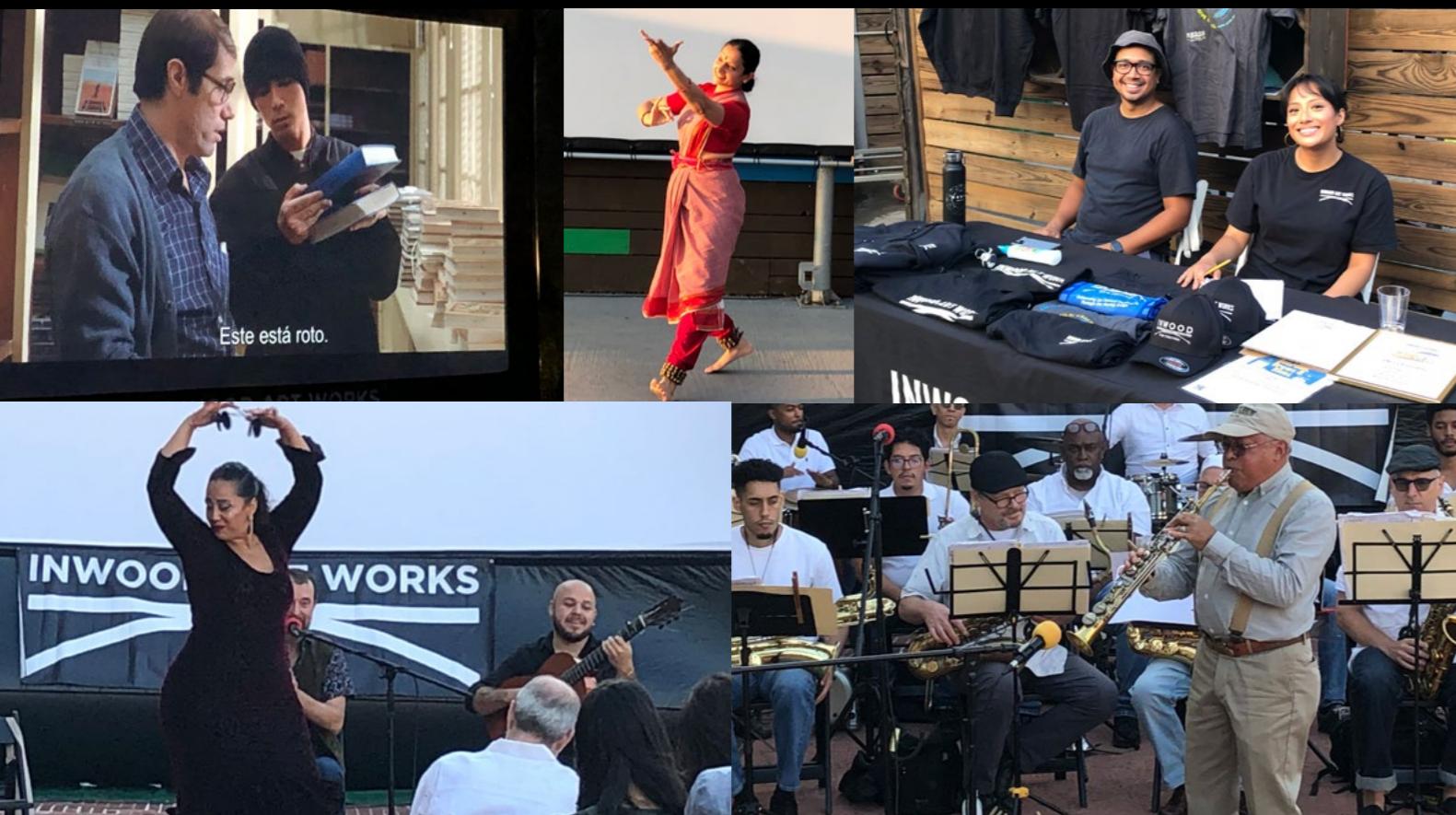
**Project Title: The Deepest Corners**  
Annie, a busy wife and mother by day, is haunted by recurring dreams about her former life as a dancer by night. A chance encounter forces her to confront her feelings about her past which she realizes she can no longer ignore.

**Project Title: North Fork Women**  
North Fork Women is a short documentary about an organization that started in the 1990's after the traditional healthcare structure failed the lesbian community on Long Island.

**Project Title: Embodied**  
Embodied is a short documentary that shares the voices and experiences of terminally ill individuals. Through experimental animation, participants reflect on lessons illuminated by mortality, share the reality of their dying process, and open dialogues around compassionate healthcare.



13 SCREENINGS | 2400 PEOPLE ATTENDED | 29% LATINO | 18% SENIORS | 10% KIDS



## 2024 SUMMARY

# FILM WORKS ALFRESCO

In 2024, Inwood Art Works presented its 7th season of **Film Works Alfresco**, which is the only free outdoor summer cinema series in New York City presenting English and Spanish language films. In a neighborhood bereft of a single movie theater, IAW presented a season of thirteen free screenings consecutively presented every Monday evening June through August at The Hudson in Dyckman Marina in Inwood Hill Park. This curated film series focuses foremost on presenting independent and popular films with local relevance that culturally resonate with the Northern Manhattan community. Not only does this English and Spanish language seasonal cinema series expand public access to professional filmmaking, but it also presents as diverse an array of films as the community it serves. As part of presenting a dynamic live event, Inwood Art Works employs local musical and theatrical artists and arts groups as live pre-show acts before each screening.

In the 2024 summer season, over 2,400 people attended Film Works Alfresco in Inwood Hill Park. This eclipsed our attendance record by one hundred from 2023. Categorically, of those who attended, 29% were Latino, 18% seniors, and 10% children under the age of twelve. Our primary target audience was the residents of Inwood and Washington Heights who live in the zip codes of 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10040.



Inwood Art Works values its partnerships with local community stakeholders to bring its Film Works Alfresco programming to neighborhoods throughout Northern Manhattan. In 2024, IAW collaborated with Morris-Jumel Mansion, Yeshiva University, Mother Cabrini Shrine, and the Hispanic Society Museum & Library to activate their outdoor spaces for programming.



The **On Air** podcast showcases film, stage, music, visual artists and writers from Inwood and neighboring communities. The program consists of two featured segments: **Artist Spotlight** and **Live N' Local**. In Artist Spotlight segments we tell the stories of Inwood artists and creators recorded at beloved local haunts in the community. In Live N' Local segments, we provide an intimate platform to feature a live showcase of the talents of local musicians.

In 2024, we presented our **5th season** which published **40 podcasts**. IAW On Air is the only podcast which documents and champions the work of the Upper Manhattan and NW Bronx artists of our time and creates a portrait of them for audiences to experience for free in audio and video formats.

Unique to this season we enhanced our On Air programming by capturing **Cultural Spotlight** episodes with distinguished arts and culture administrators. In addition, we captured the recordings of the live pre-show concerts from 2024's Film Works Alfresco events in their entirety as podcasts they can live on for future audiences to enjoy.

65% percent of our episodes profiled local artists from historically underrepresented backgrounds. New episodes aired in both audio and video formats to provide multiple access points to the program through major distribution platforms, such as Spotify and YouTube. New York City is the podcast's primary audience, with **5,166 local listeners** and **7,366 viewers**.

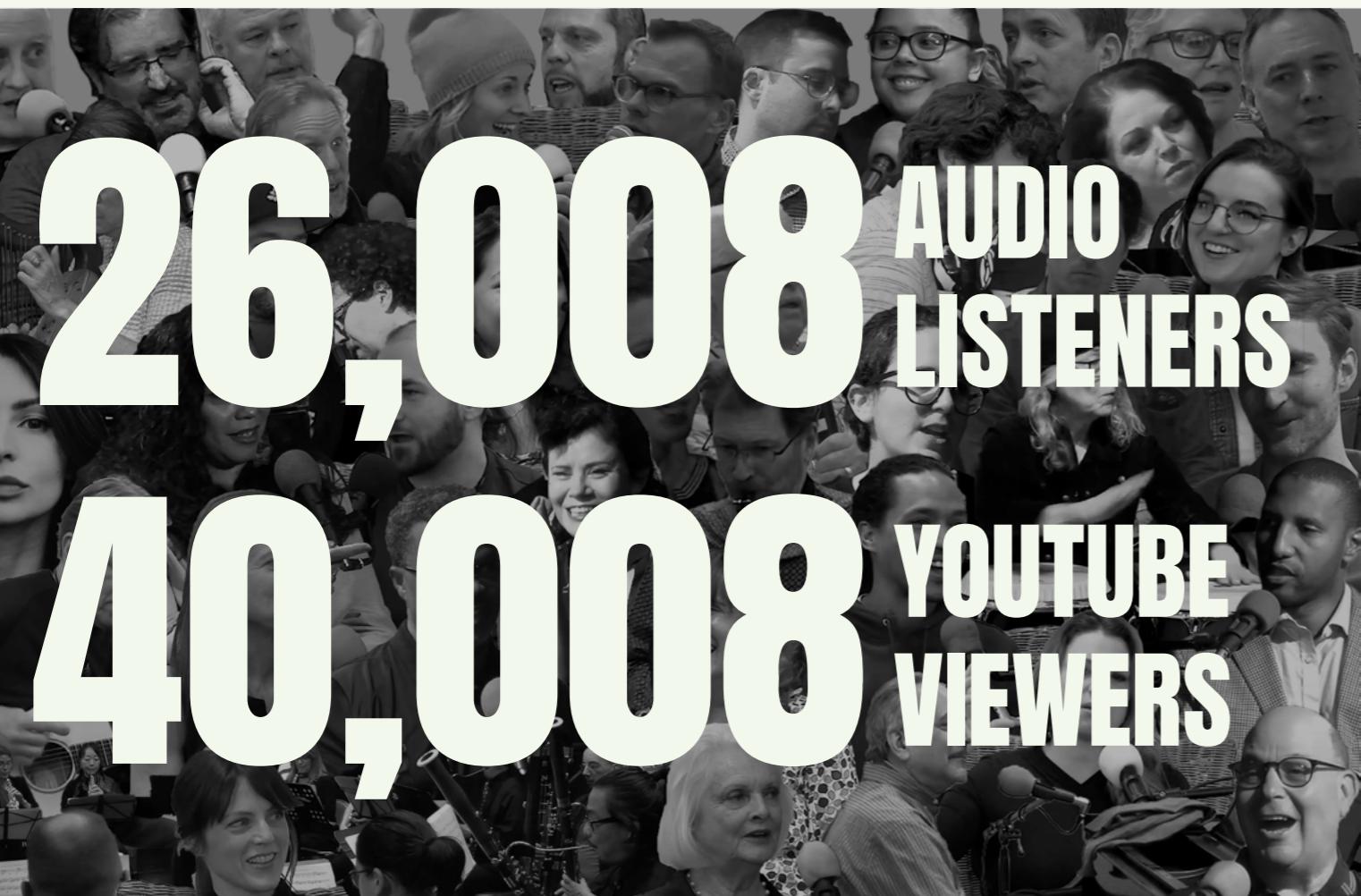
## ON AIR PODCAST



**Inwood Art Works ON AIR podcast presents a Who's Who of the multicultural artistic community who make their home in "Upstate Manhattan". Who do you know?**



Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts and on Inwood Art Works You Tube channel at [youtube.com/inwoodartworks](https://youtube.com/inwoodartworks).



**26,008** AUDIO LISTENERS  
**40,008** YOUTUBE VIEWERS





Inwood Art Works' **Community Concerts** series was created with the intention to present world-class classical and contemporary music played, and sometimes composed, by local professional musicians. IAW believes professional musical artists are vital to the existence of the cultural landscape of Upper Manhattan and New York City. In commitment to this idea in 2024, we presented our first concert season with **six pay-what you-will** concerts to champion local professional musicians and provide an accessible opportunity to experience the joy of a live musical performance.

# COMMUNITY CONCERTS

IAW kicked off the season on February 22 with a festive classical program with selections from the works of Ferenc Farkas, Gordon Jacob, Antonin Dvorak, and others entitled *Dances Through the Centuries* by the **Inwood Chamber Players**. This was followed by a performance on April 22 by **Big Tent**, a trio featuring modern jazz and poetry by local composer, **Jerome Kitzke**.

On June 2, the **Inwood Chamber Players** performed popular classics entitled *European Masters* at Good

CONTINUED

Shepherd Auditorium with arrangements by local resident, **Gilbert Dejean**. Featured soloists included, oboist, Setsuko Otake on Giacomo Puccini's "Senza Mamma" from *Suor Angelica*, and flautist, Helen Campo, on Franz Doppler's "Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise."

On June 30, we commissioned local composer **Brian Morales'** *Strangers: A Modern Ballet about Immigration* which featured a woodwind quintet, percussion and four dancers. Choreographed by Julia Bengtsson, this new one act dance production offered a deeply moving and cathartic experience for a neighborhood as diverse as New York City, itself.

The **Inwood Chamber Players** closed out the summer

with *The Magic of Mozart* on September 22 at Good Shepherd Auditorium. IAW's first tribute to Mozart

## IAW believes professional musical artists are vital to the existence of the cultural landscape of Upper Manhattan and New York City.

was a crowd pleaser with a program that included excerpts from *The Magic Flute*, *Divertimento in F* for



**600 in attendance**

**44% from historically underrepresented groups.**

2 Oboes, 2 Horns, 2 Bassoons, Symphony No. 39 1st Movement, and Sextet for 2 Clarinets, 2 Horns and 2 Bassoons.

Acclaimed flute/percussion quartet **Caballito Negro + Friends** presented a not-to-missed concert on Sunday, October 27th at Good Shepherd Auditorium. The concert centered around a brilliant, virtuosic, family-friendly music piece, *Birds, Bees, Electric Fish*, which was commissioned from composer Juri Seo, and includes poetic, imaginative pieces by other American composers. The event began with a special Spanish/

English bilingual talk, led by Good Shepherd's own Carla López-Speziale. Followed by a journey into the unique sounds of instruments from all over the world.

IAW closed the season with *Selections from the Nutcracker* played by the Inwood Chamber Players for our annual Holiday Concert, on December 8 to a standing-room-only crowd in Good Shepherd Auditorium featuring a performance of highlights from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* arranged by local resident, **Gilbert Dejean**.

### Selections from *The Nutcracker* Featuring the **INWOOD CHAMBER PLAYERS**

Featuring a performance of highlights from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* arranged by Inwood resident, **Gilbert Dejean**.

Bring your family and meet your friends to celebrate the holiday season with music performed by the Inwood Chamber Players. All are welcome!

**Reception with light snacks and beverages following the performance.**

**Sunday, December 8 at 2:00pm**  
**Good Shepherd Auditorium**  
**620 Isham Street, New York, NY**

**Minimum Suggested Donation of  
\$20 Adults / \$5 Children**

**All proceeds benefit Good Shepherd School**



Presented by  
**INWOOD ART WORKS**

[www.inwoodartworks.nyc](http://www.inwoodartworks.nyc)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

IAW connects community through the art of food, fun, and music.



## Bourbon, Brews and Blues

Inwood Art Works presented a sensational evening of live blues music, smooth bourbon, and delightful wine & brews at our first Bourbon, Brews, and Blues fall fundraiser on Sunday, September 29 from 4-7pm indoors at The Hudson at Dyckman Marina! Patrons enjoyed a premium Bourbon tasting, unlimited select craft beer from Alternative Medicine Brewing

Company and Dyckman Beer Co., delicious hors d'oeurves, and a live blues set by The Fabulous Faustones. Over 100 people came together on a rainy afternoon filled with great community vibes, delicious drinks, and fantastic tunes on the gorgeous Hudson River.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Italian Pasta Party

Inwood Art Works in collaboration with Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council 443 to produce its second community Italian pasta night on November 16, 2024. Over 140 people enjoyed homemade dishes made by community members!

A poster for the Good Shepherd Freiduría de Pescado. It features a red and white checkered border. At the top are the logos for Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council 443 and Inwood Art Works. The event is on Friday, February 16th, 2024, from 7PM-9PM at Escuela Buen Pastor, 620 Isham St. It includes fish fry, french fries, coleslaw, and cornbread. The price is \$10 for children, \$20 for adults until February 11th, and \$25 thereafter. It also includes a \$15 "takeout" box. Beverages and desserts are available for purchase. The poster features a cartoon fish in a frying pan and a QR code. Text at the bottom encourages people to buy tickets online at [www.kofc443.org](http://www.kofc443.org) or call the rectory at 212-567-1300.

### Fish Fry

Inwood Art Works in collaboration with Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council 443 produced a community Fish Fry on February 16, 2024. Over 150 attended this sixth annual event!

# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

INWOOD ART WORKS

**1 6 9 10 20**

WORLD PREMIER  
DANCE THEATER  
PRODUCTION

COMMUNITY  
CONCERTS

GRANTS TO LOCAL FILM-  
MAKERS TO GREENLIGHT  
THEIR FILMS

WORLD PREMIERE  
FILMS

FILM WORKS  
ALFRESCO EVENTS

**23**

LIVE PERFORMANCES

**24**

DAYS OF FILM PRESENTED  
IN INWOOD

**40**

ON AIR PODCASTS

**68**

UNIQUE PROGRAMS PRESENTED  
THIS YEAR

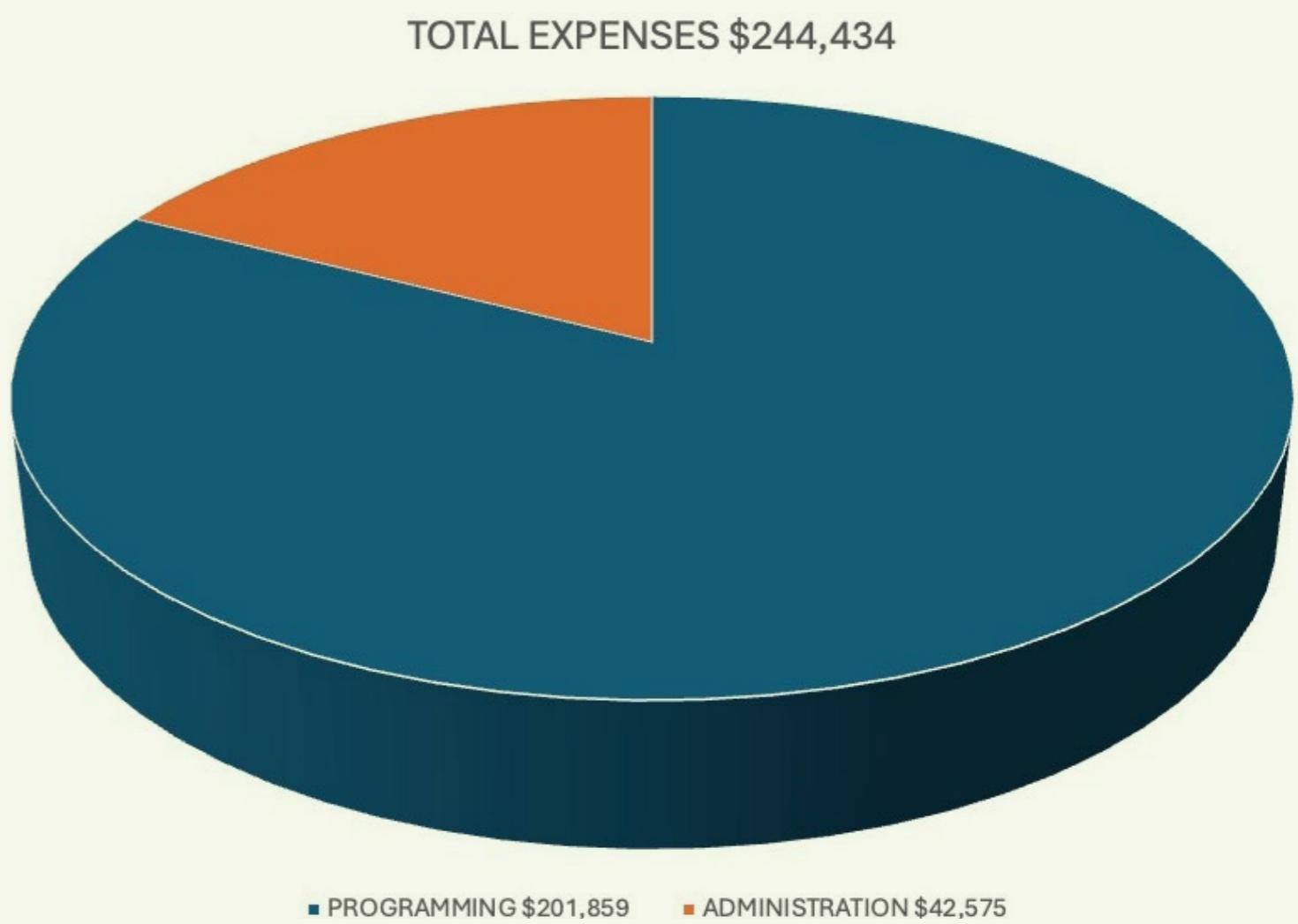
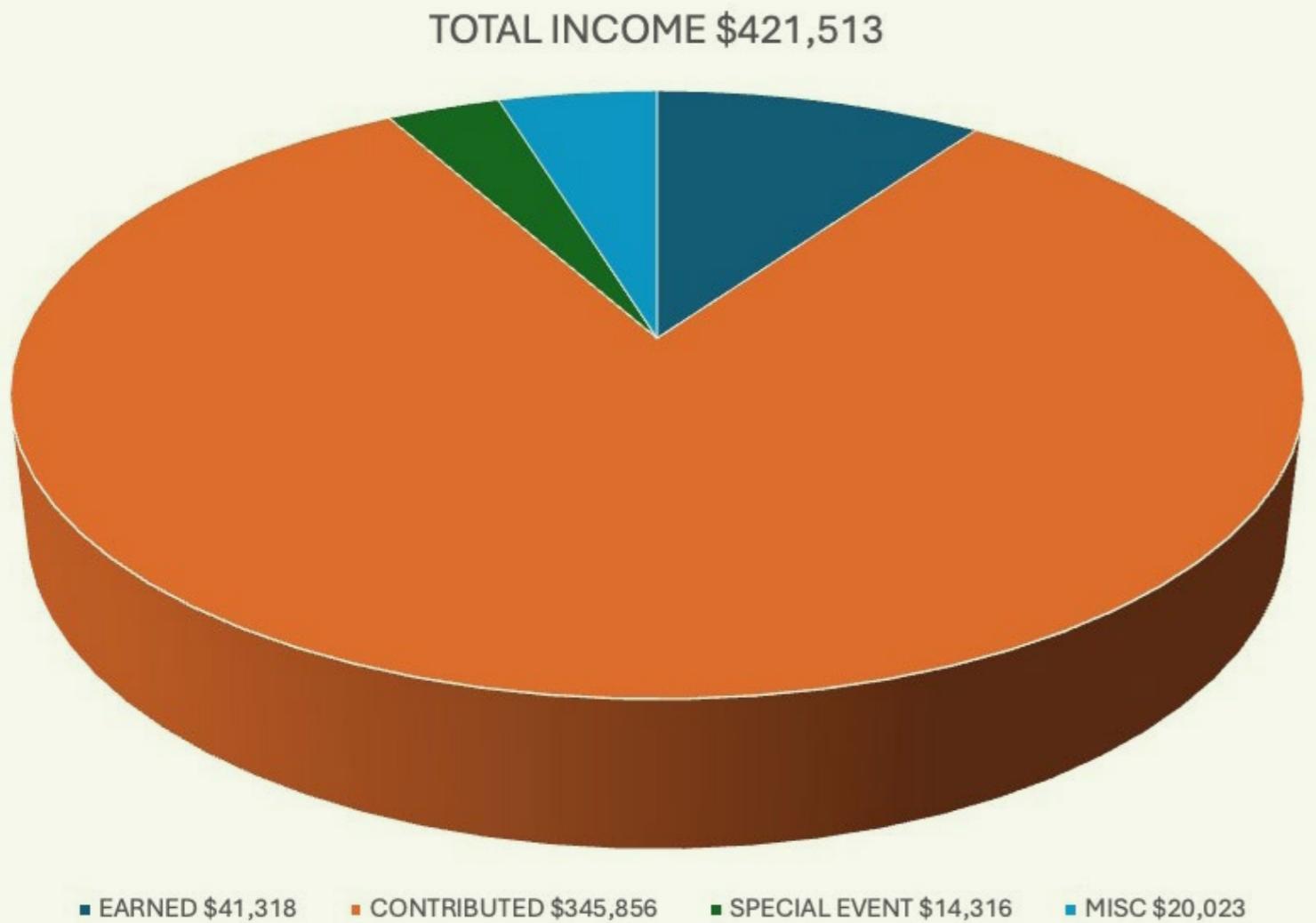
**4,309**

IN-PERSON AUDIENCE MEMBERS

**12,782**

ONLINE AUDIENCE MEMBERS

# 2024 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN



# CORPORATE SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRATITUDE

To the following individual donors for their generous support:

Gail Addiss, John Affleck, Adele Bartlett, Jon Becker, Joann and Stan Benson, Sujata Bharani, James Bosley, Tim Brown, Joseph Bruno, Emily C. Buckley, Elizabeth Amy Cambron, Jennifer Cameron, John P. Carroll, Vern Calhoun, Ching-Hua Chen, Lonnie Cooper, Kevin Coughlin, Leslie Day, Gilbert Dejean, Carla DeVore, Jerry DeVore, Zammy Diaz, Clara Dolan, Dean M. Dolan, Cathy Downes, Diane Drescher, Elisa Dunn, Elephant Rock Foundation, Adam Elliott, Natalie Espino, Shana Farr, Kelly Jean Fitzsimmons, Elisa Gore, Regina Gradess, Claire Anne Gray, Marcy Gregory, Leon Grayson, Joseph Grochowalski, Elizabeth Haggerty, Rebecca Hall, Tom Hall, Jamie Hamilton, Steven Hansen, Billy Hart, Amelia Haywood, Delena Cambron Hardaway, George Hermann, Christopher Hickens, Sloka Iyengar, Andrea Janz, Eric Jensen, Ethan David Kent, Rebecca Klein, Edward Kneafsy, Gene Lefebvre, Roxana Lehman-Haupt, Brian Lehrer, Marcos Lopez, Tony Lopez, Gregory Marcy, Peter Marino, Patricia Martin, Susan Mathisen, James McCormick, Mary McCune, John McDermott, Edward McTiernan, David Mold, Shawn Moore, The Gates & Barbara Moss Foundation, Carole Guss Mulligan, Daniel Mulligan, Jim Mutton, Deborah Nabavian, Victoria Nahorn, James Noyes, Tom Okada, Gordon Ostrowski, Skye Pape, Allison Simms Parmiter, Janet Parmiter, Ingrid Price, Kavita Ramdas, Sharon Razor, Don Rice, Mary Richman, Elizabeth Ritter, Wend Roig, Tricia Ross, Erin Brooke Roth, Patrick Saling, Nelly Saviñon, Darlene Scheer, Sandra Alisa Schein, Anne Schlotmer, Jessica Schulte, Mary Shannon, John Sheridan, Mary Sheridan, Allison Simms, Debby Simms, Matt Simms, Jon and Jeanine Simon, Sam Smith, Karin Sokolove, Jonathan Spencer, Ann Sprayregen, Jonathan Spencer, Barbara Taff, Gena Taylor, Wade Trefethen, Gina Verdi, Lucy Ogburn Weaver, Ryan Wedig, Brannan Whitehead, Greg Wilson & Kristin Price-Wilson, Bob Windbeil, Tony & Katie Wright, Alison Yu, and many anonymous but no less impactful donors!

To our community corporate sponsors:

Chamber of Commerce of Washington Heights and Inwood, ChocNYC, Columbia University, Evident Dentistry, Grandpa's Pizza, Inwood Farm, Josie's Beauty Center and Spa, New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital, New Heights Realty, Ray's Barber Shop, Serrano Salsa, The Medical Center Neighborhood Fund, Tryon Public House, Tubby Hook Tavern, UPS Store Dyckman & Broadway, Uptown Movement, Washington Heights Inwood Business Improvement District (WHBID).

To our government supporters:

Manhattan Borough President, Mark Levine, New York State Assemblymember, Manny De Los Santos, New York State Senator, Robert Jackson, New York City Councilmember Carmen De La Rosa, New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



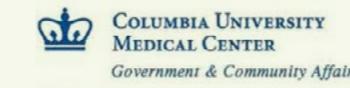
Inwood Art Works is a 501(c)(3) not for-profit arts organization. Contributions can be made online at [www.inwoodartworks.nyc/support/donate-now/](http://www.inwoodartworks.nyc/support/donate-now/) or addressed to: "Inwood Art Works" • 97 Park Terrace West • New York • NY 10034.

For more information on how you can get involved and support our mission contact [aaron@inwoodartworks.nyc](mailto:aaron@inwoodartworks.nyc).



Council Member  
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New York City Council District 10

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www.chocnyc.com  
4996 Broadway @ 212th Street



NewYork-Presbyterian  
Allen Hospital



THE HUDSON





At the northern tip of Manhattan, a rich tapestry of cultures and the island's largest swath of natural forest provide inspiration for a dynamic community of artists, film makers, musicians, and writers. Inwood Art Works aims to harness and promote the artistic energy of Inwood and its surrounding community with programs of events for visual arts, film, and stage.

**INWOOD ART WORKS**



[www.inwoodartworks.nyc](http://www.inwoodartworks.nyc)