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**GILAD COHEN**FOUNDER &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If someone were to ask me to dream as big as I could — and I'm talking those pie-in-the-sky types of dreams — I still never could have imagined that we'd have the sort of year we did in 2019. In every way imaginable, it was a year beyond dreams.

2018 was a huge adjustment for our organization as we shifted midway through the year from being a volunteer-led collective to a full-fledged charity with year-round programming and full-time staff. We wanted to seize the momentum of 2018 to ensure 2019 would be our most impactful year yet, and by every measurable metric, it was.

As a city, Toronto continued to provide a welcoming environment where through film, some of our world's most remarkable people could feel safe and confident to share their human rights stories with us. I'm thankful to our community for helping us create such vital environments, allowing us to expand our Human Rights Film Festival from a three-day event into five full days of programming, offering no-questions-asked subsidized tickets, and receiving our largest audiences to date.

We completed our fourth successful season on our podcast, *The Hum*, welcoming a range of inspiring individuals — including Oscar-nominated directors Saad and Hamza Al-Kataeb and Jeremy Dutcher, winner of the Polaris Prize and Juno Award for Indigenous Artist of the Year — to have necessary and important conversations about human rights. We're so proud to say what started as a small podcast four years ago is now reaching listeners from over 80 countries across the globe.

I'm not a fortune-teller, but I can guarantee two things: the sun will rise in the morning, and the iAM Program will continue to grow. In 2019, our program expanded to include weekly programming in Richmond Hill, Mississauga, and Toronto. We helped empower 227 youth throughout the year with free arts and social justice programming through photography, spoken word poetry, and filmmaking. This year, our youth saw their hard work culminate in exhibitions like *AM I WRONG TO LOVE?*, which attracted national media attention and more than 20,000 people over its three-month run.

We're lucky Toronto has always been a vibrant hub for artistic creativity, and I'm proud that we were able to expand the magic of the arts beyond our city's borders. In 2019, we flew to two remote communities in Northern Ontario (Wapekeka and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug) and offered our programming to some of our county's most marginalized youth populations to support the youth in gaining confidence and expressing themselves. Similarly, in a country as divided as the United States, we travelled to Modesto, California and offered our two-week iAM program to 13 Afghani refugee youth in an attempt to dismantle Islamophobia and bridge communities.

As we set our sights on 2020 and beyond, we will ensure that we continue to highlight the power of the arts in creating spaces to share human rights stories and the positive impact that these spaces have in building healthier communities.

Sincerely,



# 2019 JAYU IN REVIEW

At JAYU, we strongly believe the arts provide a powerful platform to share human rights stories. Art creates a universal language of understanding, a common starting point from which we can overcome differences with shared aspirations for a better future. Through our year-round arts and social justice programming— the iAM Program, Human Rights Film Festival & Screening Series, and *The Hum*— we strive to educate, build empathy, forge community, and inspire audiences to create a more equitable world.

Launched *The Hum*: Season 3.



Screened *Man Made* in Toronto
as part of the
Human Rights
Screening
Series.

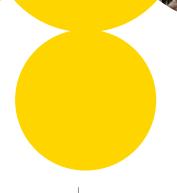
JAYU selected as a finalist for the 2019 Toronto Arts Foundation Arts for Youth Award, which celebrates an outstanding commitment to engaging Toronto's youth through the arts.





# EC.JAN.FEB.MAR.APR.MAY.JUN

Offered iAM Programming to First Nations youth in Wapekeka and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, two remote communities in Northern Ontario.



Partnered with the Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for
Refugees to present the
AM I WRONG TO LOVE?
photography exhibition
at Daniels Spectrum.

Screened *The Wrong Light* as the first Human
Rights Screening Series
screening in Guelph.

First iAM Filmmaking and "iAM Poetry L2: Training for Performance" Programs began in Toronto.

First **iAM Photography Program** began in
Richmond Hill.

Delivered two-week **iAM intensive program** to
13 Afghani refugee youth
in Modesto, California.



Screened
Standing
On The Line
as part of
the Human
Rights
Screening
Series in
Guelph.



Presented **AM I WRONG TO LOVE?** at the Harbourfront Centre as part of the Borderless Citizen Project.

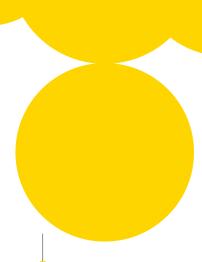
Welcomed our largest audiences to date at the 8th Annual Human Rights Film Festival from December 6 - 10.



# JUL.AUG.SEP.OCT.NOV.DEC.JA



Screened *For Sama* as part of the **Human Rights Screening Series** in Toronto.



Kicked off *The Hum*: Season 4



Awarded the inaugural **Arts for Human Rights Awards** to three Toronto artists.

JAYU's year-round iAM Program empowers youth aged 12 to 26 by helping them cultivate their artistic identity and gain industry skills in photography, spoken word poetry, and filmmaking. Weekly arts and social justice workshops connect iAM youth participants to artist mentors who facilitate conversations about social justice, inspire the creative confidence to share stories through art, and encourage healthy and positive outlets for stress. Youth participants build relationships with their mentors and peers, fostering a sense of community within the iAM network that continues long after their graduation from the program.

"For me, the most valuable part of the iAM program was the long-lasting connections I was able to make with my fellow artists."

**IAM YOUTH PARTICIPANT** 





JAYU is helping empower youth across Ontario by investing in the iAM Program. In 2019, we engaged 227 youths in arts and social justice programming — an increase from 132 youths in 2018. In October, we launched the first iAM Photography Program in Richmond Hill, added an iAM Filmmaking Program in Toronto, and introduced "iAM Poetry Level 2: Training for Performance" to re-engage Toronto's iAM Poetry Level 1 graduates. We also invited iAM graduates to return as Junior Mentors, training them to lead future cohorts with guidance from an existing Artist Mentor. Through this expansion and continuous engagement of iAM youth, we will continue to build a self-sustaining, long-term iAM Program.

"I have been spending more time in my life focusing on photography rather than using negative things to cope with things that happen in my life."

IAM YOUTH PARTICIPANT

# Expanding Our Reach

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

6

25

25

132 227

2015

2016

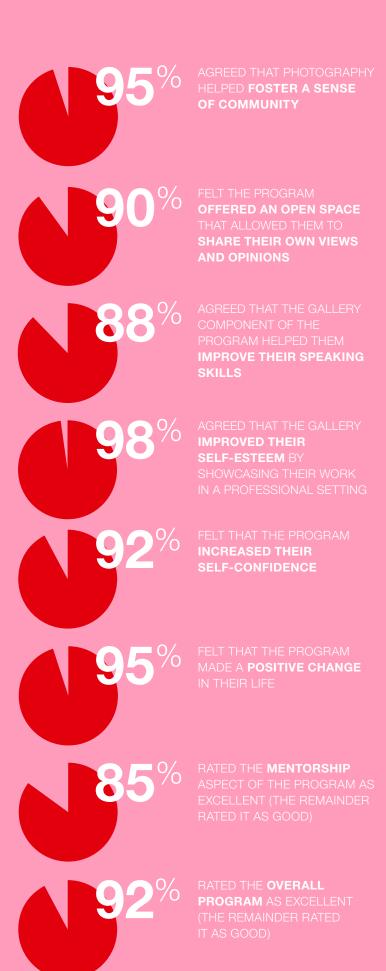
2017

2018

2019



# TEEDBACK







### **Partners**

360°kids in Richmond Hill

DAM [Cooksville | Meadowvale]

**Daniels Corporation** 

Gallery 44

The Kickback

Koffler Centre of the Arts

Luminato Festival Toronto

Right To Play

Trinity Square Video

White Owl Native Ancestry Association

Youth With A Mission

### **Outreach Partners**

Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)

Art Starts

Associated Youth Services of Peel

Black Creek Community Health Centre

Canadian Arab Institute

Community Living Ontario

Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth

Global Youth Volunteer Network

Heritage Mississauga

Horizons for Youth

The Indigenous Network

Kick Start Arts

**MABELLEarts** 

Mississauga Arts Council

Mississauga Libraries

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto

The Neighbourhood Organization

The New Six

Newcomer Centre of Peel

Nexus Youth Services

North York Community House Central Office

Our Place Peel

Peel Youth Village

PhotoEd Magazine

Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services

Rapport Youth & Family Services

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)

Ryerson Image Centre

Scarborough Arts

Toronto Public Library

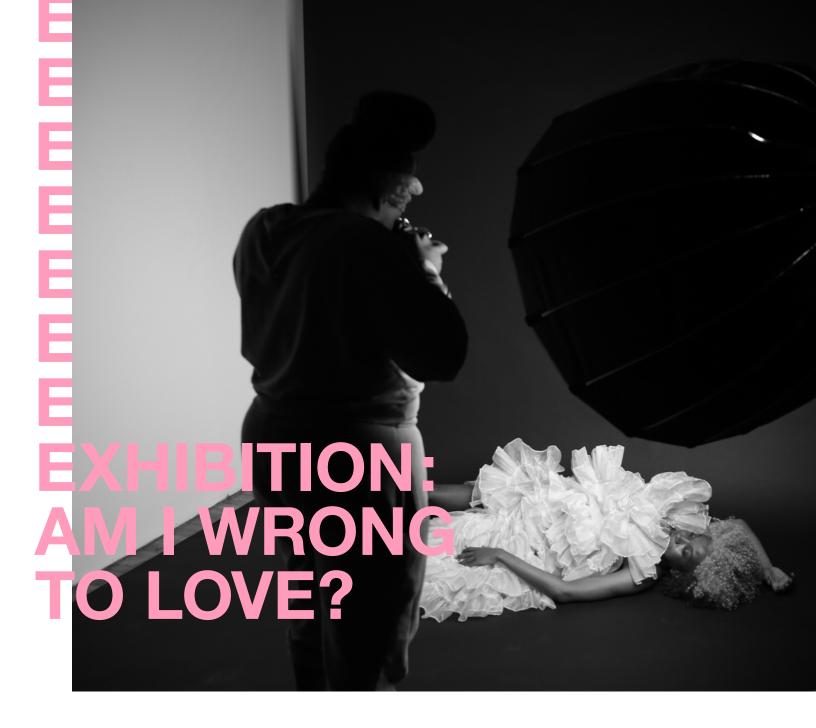
VIBE Arts

Visual Arts Mississauga

WE REPRESENT

West Neighbourhood House

WoodGreen Community Services



From May to July, we presented *AM I WRONG TO LOVE?* in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to highlight the specific adversities facing LGBTQI+ refugees.

While receiving one-on-one mentorship from accomplished photographers in Toronto, 17 iAM graduates mastered storytelling through portraiture and explored the stories of 20 LGBTQI+ refugees. Originating from ten countries, each subject came to Toronto in search of safety after suffering persecution for their gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Our largest iAM exhibition yet, *AM I WRONG TO LOVE?* attracted national media coverage and captivated over 20,000 people during its three-month run. iAM exhibitions like *AM I WRONG TO LOVE?* are crucial to our mission; not only do exhibitions serve as a platform for subjects to share their stories, they also provide public exposure and gallery experience for our youth, preparing them for their own future exhibitions.



"Tonight is the first time in my life that I'm proud to call myself a lesbian."

ANONYMOUS, SUBJECT OF EXHIBITION, REFUGEE FROM JAMAICA

"My experience as part of AM I WRONG TO LOVE? gave me a deep appreciation for the simple act of seeing and capturing a person for who they are, as their true authentic selves. I am deeply grateful to be given that opportunity and to be a part of amplifying their voices."

REBECCA, IAM YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER





ANONYMOUS, SUBJECT OF EXHIBITION, REFUGEE FROM NIGERIA

"For me, the unapologetic confidence and self-love demonstrated by the subjects even after facing so much hatred from so many people was very inspiring."

IBTEHAJ, IAM YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER





# Wapekeka & Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

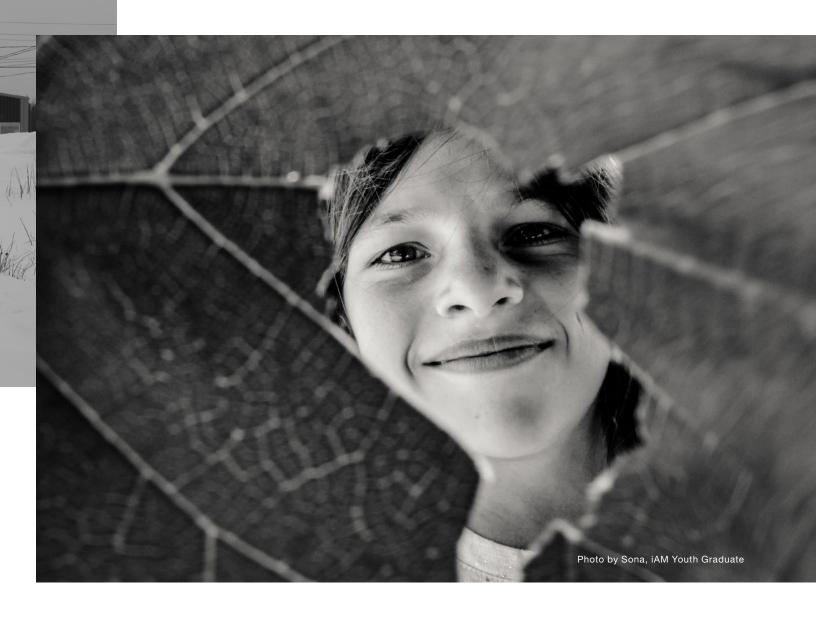
Over the course of a week in February and again in May, JAYU partnered with Right to Play to facilitate programming for more than a dozen youth in two Oji-Cree First Nations Reserves in Northern Ontario, Wapekeka and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug.

In our short time with the youth from each community, we delivered an intensive version of our iAM Photography Program. Through photography, participants were encouraged to identify and reflect on the unique barriers they face as First Nations youth. Most importantly, youth participants focused on community, family, strength, and future aspirations to conceive solutions for improving the quality of life for themselves and their communities.

Our mission to share human rights stories through the arts also includes elevating those stories that need to be heard. While these one-week programs mark an important start to this work, there is more to be done. We look forward to prioritizing this work and continuing to create meaningful relationships and collaborations with First Nations communities across Ontario.

"JAYU allowed the youth an opportunity to experience and learn about a new form of art, learn different techniques, and showcase their talent and thoughts through art expression. [JAYU] allowed them to look at some of their goals and challenges and what they'd like to see for their future."

MOSE CLEMMER, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLOR, WAPEKEKA COMMUNITY WELLNESS



# Modesto, California

In July, we offered our iAM Photography Program to a community outside of Canada for the first time in our history. Working alongside Youth With A Mission, we were invited to Modesto, California to support 13 Afghani youth refugees experiencing Islamophobia.

In an accelerated version of our iAM Program, participants received two weeks of intensive arts mentorship and photography training culminating in a local exhibition, *JOURNEYS*. The exhibition provided a platform for the photographers — all between the ages of 13 and 18 — to recount their experiences and highlight the difficulties facing newcomers in the United States.

In a city with little diversity, the youth were moved when over 250 people attended the opening of *JOURNEYS*. For many attendees, it was their first time connecting with a refugee and the only opportunity they have had to learn about stories of displacement firsthand.

In only two weeks, our iAM Program began bridging communities and dismantling Islamophobia through art. Moving forward, our goal is to continue working with this vulnerable population in Modesto and to expand iAM globally in support of underserved youth across the world.

# ARTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

We created the Arts for Human Rights Awards in 2019 as a way to sift through the artistic brilliance in Toronto and recognize the incredible individuals creating exceptional work where the arts and human rights intersect.

Thank you to our sponsors, the Lewis Cohen Family Foundation and Nikon Canada, for making these awards possible.

### **iAM Youth Artist**

Katura Gibb was awarded the iAM Youth Artist Award for her commitment to the arts and human rights. Katura originally signed up as a participant in our iAM photography and poetry programs and has since gone on to become a junior mentor in each practice where she now helps mentor other youth to become leaders.



### **Established Artist**

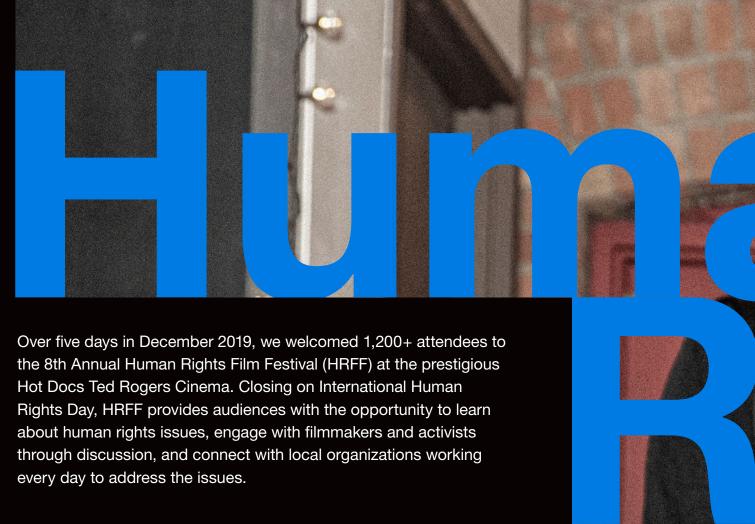
Randell Adjei was awarded the Established Artist Award for his years of dedication to sharing human rights stories through spoken-word poetry. Randell is the founder of RISE, a youthled community movement that provides a safe and welcoming platform for self-expression and healing through the performing arts.



# **Emerging Artist**

Kenya-Jade Pinto was selected as our inaugural winner in the category of Emerging Artist for her unwavering commitment to sharing human rights stories through a number of artistic platforms. A lawyer by trade, Kenya-Jade is also a multi-faceted artist with experience in photography, podcast, and filmmaking.











# **Accessibility**

With over one hundred film festivals in Toronto, we are proud to be one of the most accessible in the city. We offer relaxed screenings; include closed, open, and live captioning of films and post-film discussions; and provide an active listener and an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter at each screening. This year, we also introduced tiered pricing to ensure no one was turned away due to financial circumstances. Moving forward, we will continue working towards true accessibility and inclusion in consultation with community partners with hopes to inspire other festivals across the city to do the same.

"At all their public events, JAYU hires our qualified Sign Language interpreters as a proactive accessibility measure, which has given Deaf people the opportunity to empathize with other marginalized people globally.

JAYU is a profound leader in accessibility, and we look forward to developing future projects with them with the inclusion of the Deaf community in mind."

CHRISTOPHER DESLOGES,
PRESIDENT OF TORONTO SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER SERVICE

99%

OF ATTENDEES
WOULD RECOMMEND
THEIR FRIENDS
ATTEND HRFF

1,200+ ATTENDEES

15 FILMS

14 PREMIERES



# 13 COUNTRIES IN FOCUS

# 240 SUBSIDIZED TICKETS

"The word that comes to mind when thinking back on my experience with JAYU is passion. The JAYU team is inspired, organized, and extremely passionate about the work they are doing with the Human Rights Film Festival. As a direct result of their collective passion for their work, I felt seen, as a human being first, filmmaker second. They were so authentic and really easy to collaborate with. I truly had an incredible time at this festival and would highly recommend it!"

SASHA JOSEPH NEULINGER, DIRECTOR OF REWIND

# COMMUNITY SI

Volunteers are the heart of the Human Rights Film Festival. It is through their dedication and enthusiasm for film and human rights that we can provide the best possible experience for our audiences. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers for contributing 252 hours of your time in 2019!



"The stories shared at HRFF are engaging and powerful, but beyond that, they offer hope and a path forward. The films compel viewers to get involved. After a screening, I feel energized by speaking with guests, patrons, and filmmakers. It shows that while the problem is often difficult, it is not insurmountable."

DAVE ROSE, HRFF VOLUNTEER, 2016 - 2019



"Finding compassion and love for fellow citizens of the world is so important amongst the violence, hatred, and injustice in the news everyday. As a volunteer, I have been privileged to be a small part of HRFF and am blessed to have met many wonderful people along the way — other volunteers, project staff, cinema patrons, as well as filmmakers and their subjects. I'll be back!"

SARAH PHILIPS, HRFF VOLUNTEER, 2016 - 2019





An expansion of the Human Rights Film Festival, JAYU introduced the Human Rights Screening Series (HRSS) in 2018 to maintain audience engagement in social justice film and conversation outside of our annual festival.

In 2019, we expanded the HRSS by splitting our four screenings between Toronto and Guelph. Working with local organizations, we screened films connecting to issues affecting each respective community and invited advocates to mobilize audiences through post-film discussions.

With over 200 patrons attending each screening, the HRSS ensures audiences continue discovering important human rights issues and learning from inspiring figures year-round. Moving forward, we aim to strengthen our connections in Guelph and expand HRSS to other communities across Ontario.



In 2019, *The Hum* marked its fourth year and two of our most successful seasons to date with 20 new episodes over two seasons. True to our mission of sharing human rights stories through the arts, we invite guests to have raw, honest, and uncensored conversations to raise awareness and inform audiences around the globe.





Drawing an average of 1,500 streams per episode, The Hum's dedicated international community helped us expand our reach to over 30,000 total listeners across 80 countries. Our listeners tuned in to discover unique Canadian stories alongside conversations with activists from Baltimore, South Africa, and Venezuela.

# 1,500 AVERAGE STREAMS PER EPISO

# Notable Episodes

We discuss the filming of *TransMilitary*, a documentary about life as a transgender woman in the U.S. Army, with veteran **Laila Ireland** (S3, Ep1).

We chat with **Vuyiseka Dubula- Majola**, a mother of three, a woman living with HIV, and an activist for accessible HIV treatment in South Africa (S3, Ep4).

Jeremy Dutcher, an award-winning musician, activist, and Two-Spirit member of the Wolastoqiyik from Tobique First Nation, discusses reconciliation versus revitalization and keeping Indigenous languages alive (S3, Ep6).

We address prison reform with Grammywinning musician and frontman for hip-hop group Arrested Development, **Todd "Speech" Thomas** (S4, Ep7).

An activist and legal guardian of over 2,000 children of undocumented immigrants in the United States, **Nora Sandigo** joins us to explain the complexities of living undocumented (S4, Ep10).

# LISTENERS FROM 80 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

# 4 SUCCESSFUL SEASONS



# **Episode Focus**

Waad and Hamza al-Kateab are activists, survivors of the ongoing crisis in Syria, and directors of the Oscarnominated documentary *For Sama*. Kicking off season four of *The Hum* in October, Waad and Hamza joined us with co-director Edward Watts to discuss *For Sama*, the hardships of living in Syria, and finding love in the midst of civil unrest.

Waad and Hamza al-Kateab's episode highlights just one of the 20 inspiring conversations we shared last year on *The Hum*.

"What happened was a majority of the people, middle class, secular, educated people like Waad and Hamza, stood up to protest for rights that we all take for granted in the West — for dignity, for democracy, for the freedom to choose your own path in life and not to be beholden to corruption"

EDWARD WATTS, CO-DIRECTOR OF FOR SAMA

# OUR SUPPORTERS THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

### **Earned Revenue**





# **Corporate Donors**









**RBC Royal Bank** 

# **Sponsors**









Business/Arts

### Government











### **Foundations**





LEWIS COHEN FOUNDATION

The Charles H. Ivey Foundation

### **Festival Partners**





EARLY MERCY

What started out in 2012 as a grassroots film festival about human rights has grown into year-round human rights engagement through the arts, reaching eight regions across Ontario in 2019. Thank you to the generous supporters and partners who have helped JAYU grow exponentially and continue to support our work.

# We love our donors. Thank You!

Anonymous (76)
Dalal AlSalamah
Robert Brown
Tony Caldwell
Leo Carranza
Laurel Carter
Brittney Cathcart
Louanne Chan
Mathew Chantaj
Bryce Clemens
Gilad Cohen
Ryan Combdon
Laura Couch-Cooper
Heather and Daniel Daam-Rossi
Nadia Dabagh

Margaret & Joseph Debono
Shazmin Dhansi
Devan Dirocco
Justin Elliott
Dre Flaherty

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Jodi Weber
Megan Wilkinson
John Wilkinson

Heather Wood

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Statement of financial position as at December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Revenue		
Contributions		
Foundations	\$ 139,699	\$ 35,000
Corporations	112,500	-
Government (note 4)	59,693	34,704
Individuals	12,693	3,445
Sponsorships	53,000	100,033
Fees for service	26,434	6,697
Festival ticket sales	6,793	5,294
	410,812	185,173
Expenses		
Personnel	219,543	104,298
Program	64,130	32,421
Artistic fees	32,303	21,261
Rent	22,309	16,655
Office and general	20,366	11,323
Travel	14,050	8,363
Professional fees	8,090	5,473
Professional development	2,552	932
Advertising	2,347	1,080
Insurance	1,727	1,859
Interest and bank charges	1,187	546
	388,604	204,211
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	22,208	(19,038)
Net assets, beginning of year	19,113	38,151
Net assets, end of year	\$ 41,321	\$ 19,113

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Vella - Chair

**Brittney Cathcart** - Secretary

Jack Kim - Director

Liz Kohn - Director

Fred Martin - Director

Michael Prosserman - Director

Alicia Rose - Director

Graeme Roy - Director

Eui Yong Zong - Director

We thank Ron Samson and Jane Kim, who served on the Board from 2014 - 2019.

**GILAD COHEN**FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ANASTASIA AKULININA FESTIVAL & ACCESSIBILITY MANAGER



**SJ BROWN**FUNDRAISING MANAGER



**CELESTE COLE**iAM PROGRAM MANAGER



**JOHN DEBONO**FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING MANAGER



BLANCHE ISRAËL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



CHEYANNE LOBO
MARKETING & LOGISTICS COORDINATOR



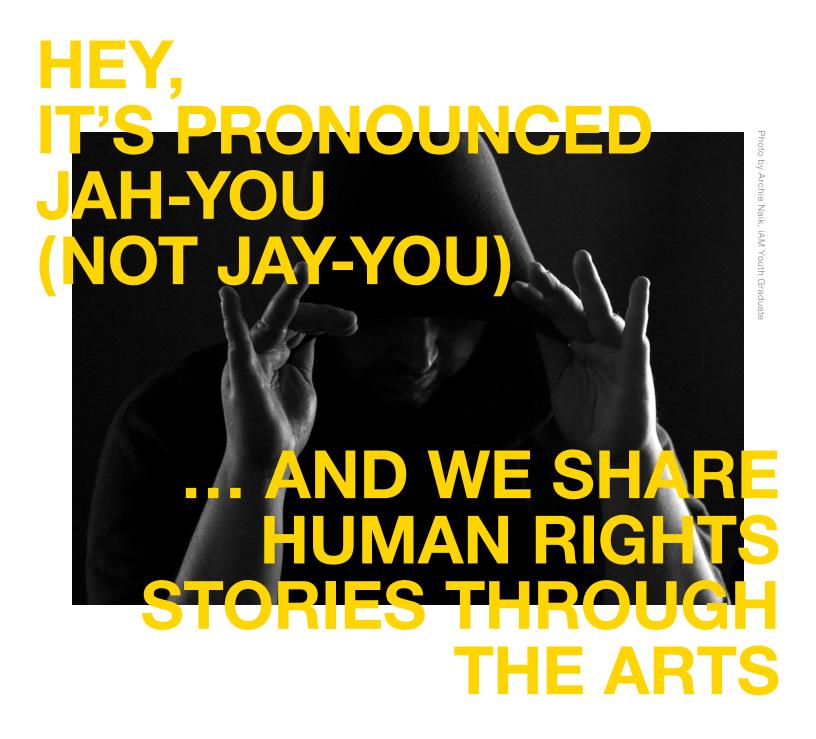
JANNET PHUNG
CREATIVE & DESIGN ASSOCIATE



ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER



MARISOL FORNONI SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR



For more information about JAYU, please visit **jayu.ca** 

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