

FOUR CORNERS PUBLIC ARTS 2019 - 2023

A pilot program led by a public/private partnership created to support community-engaged, public arts initiatives in the Four Corners Historic District in Newark, New Jersey.





Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2019)

Four Corners Public Arts (“FCPA”) was initiated in 2019 through a public/private partnership convened to support public arts initiatives in Newark’s Four Corners Historic District. The partnership includes **The City of Newark, Invest Newark, Newark Arts, Newark Downtown District, Paramount Assets,** and **RBH Group.**

The partnership evolved out of a common interest to give care to under-acknowledged areas of the City through the arts, with the goal of cultivating creative communal space for everyone. At a time when Newark was undergoing a marked transformation, the partnership believed it was imperative to create opportunities that strengthen the local creative community.

MEANINGFUL MURALISM: FOUR CORNERS PUBLIC ARTS NEWARK, NJ — 5

Introduction by Rachel Fawn Alban

INSIGHTS & IMPACT — 11

Program Report by Linda Morgan and Rebecca Pauline Jampol

Infrastructure — 13

Phase I — 14

Phase II — 16

Phase III — 18

PUBLIC ARTWORKS & ARTISTS 2019-2023 — 23

FCPA PARTNERSHIP — 29



MEANINGFUL MURALISM: FOUR CORNERS PUBLIC ARTS NEWARK, NJ

Introduction by Rachel Fawn Alban

Magnitude and Bond (In-progress) | Image Credit: Stafford Woods (2019)



Phase I Artists, Supporters and Stakeholders gather on Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2019)
Image Credit: Anthony Alvarez

Since 2019 Four Corners Public Arts (FCPA) has transformed downtown Newark, New Jersey's disused alleyways and spaces into an open-air gallery featuring over twenty permanent art installations and offering a range of public programming.

The art installations include colorful murals by local artists and art collectives, vibrant displays of contemporary photography, and asphalt murals themed around social justice issues as painted by hundreds of local families and individuals.

In an arts-centric city where public art is thriving, FCPA has created opportunities for artists to collaborate, gather, create, and strengthen neighborhood bonds. **The result is meaningful public artwork that connects to the shared stories and values of the community.**

Some of the examples: Noelle Lorraine Williams' intervention, *To Be Seen* features historical photographs of African American women made at photography studios that were located in Newark on Treat Place and on Springfield Avenue. Neighboring murals by Joel Lopez and Armisey Smith honor the lives and stories of Lenni-Lenape people and the indigenous plants used by the original inhabitants of New Jersey. *Sacred Water* by GERALUZ addresses the drinking water crisis and the necessary community care and collaboration that can emerge at such an urgent time. Latinx aunt and niece art duo CAZORLA + SALEME created their mural and sculptural installation *Hope* to commemorate our communities' resilience and create a space for joy.

Will You Be My Monument created by writer Salamishah Tillet, photographer Scheherazade Tillet, and designer Chantal Fischzang addresses issues of representation and visibility of Black girls. The four story installation includes a large-scale photograph of a young girl who was celebrating her eighth birthday on the night of the removal of the Columbus statue in Washington Park, now renamed Harriet Tubman Square. Acrylic mirrored elements reflect the diversity and vibrancy of Newark.

Now, in its fourth year, more public works have been added to the FCPA collection, including a mural by Amanda Thackray and Wendell Jeffrey about coastal climate risk and a community-painted asphalt PRIDE mural, *Sound the Rainbow!* Artist Eirini Linardaki restored and expanded her 2019 artwork *Waves / Passaic (Immigration and History)*. *Sankofa ("Go Back and Get It")*, a 4,000 sq. ft. mural, was created by Ghanaian artist Mohammad "Moh" Awudu as part of Newark's Sister Cites program.

To commemorate this exciting moment, four artists reflect on their experiences with this unique public arts program.

"One thing about the Newark arts scene is that there's an authenticity in people's artwork. From mural to mural, from piece to piece, each one is so distinctive," says **Linda Gartrell Street of Pink Dragon Artist Syndicate**, a local arts consulting agency. "One doesn't necessarily look like the others. Styles and subject matter are so different from one to the other. Treat Place has become an embodiment of that uniqueness.



The Gantalism Dedication by Manuel Acevedo and Pink Dragon Syndicate, Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2019)
Image Credit: Anthony Alvarez

This mural program allows artists to stretch and expand and see their work in different ways." Street represents and manages the archives of Jerry Gant, the renowned Newark artist who died in November 2018. A prolific multimedia artist and educator, Gant used a tremendous variety of materials and methods: spray painted tags and stencils on the street ("his self-commissioned pieces," Street says fondly), printed textiles and clothing, assemblages made of broken objects, small-scale wire sculptures, and sculptures made of laser-cut metal.

For FCPA, Street was deeply involved in organizing and developing *The Gantalism Dedication*, a mural honoring the beloved artist, designed and painted by Newark-native Manuel Acevedo, an interdisciplinary artist and former collaborator of Gant's. "I was moved by Manuel being the artist to create this because he and Jerry had so much history - personally and creatively. They were art brothers."

Created in November 2019, exactly one year after Gant's death, *The Gantalism Dedication* centers the artist's iconic motto, "Detox the Ghetto," and features images and symbols sourced from his own art journals and original stencils. "This manifestation of his work is special. It was heavy, deep work to go through his art and things. It gives this mural a different kind of significance for me," says Street. "I see so many people taking selfies and impromptu photo shoots there! It speaks to the relevance of Jerry's work, even after his death.



The Gantalism Dedication by Manuel Acevedo and Pink Dragon Syndicate, Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2019)
Image Credit: Fred Sly

People are using the murals as a background for performances and things like that. It's a fitting way of honoring his legacy in the community." Street noted that Source of Knowledge, a bookstore adjacent to the mural site, had recently reoriented its main entrance from Broad Street to face Treat Place. "Before the murals, that never would have happened! Let's just say that Treat

was not a place where you would ever want to walk... Now there is foot traffic and customers. **It shows the sheer power and attraction of art to enrich businesses. This is the economic aspect that comes out of public art. That's powerful, you know. It's a whole transformation in the city that's occurring around the art.**" She continued, "Jerry had always been a supporter of "Source of Knowledge" over the years. This would have made him very happy."

Jamaican-born **Shoshanna Weinberger** has been living and working in Newark since 2006. Weinberger says, "**There's a lovely cultural diversity here and complexity, and the art movement here is very giving. I think Newark is a giving city. I think especially with the past two mayors, the idea of arts being culturally important to our city and who's making that art is important.**" Weinberger continued, "Another reason why Newark is so appealing to me is how many women-run and LGBTQIA-run businesses, artists incubators, and organizations are here. We are forming this community and supporting each other. "

An accomplished studio artist, ceramicist, and printmaker, Weinberger's FCPA mural *Rising Up* was her first public art piece and her first painted mural. The artist thought carefully about the messages her work would take on in the public space. "I've always thought of myself as a visual anthropologist going through an archaeological dig, sort of picking out the areas of the body that are objectified and portrayed through the male gaze. Thick thighs, high heels, butts, breasts, lips, hair. I had to consider how this imagery would read as public art and think

about how some of my imagery could be misinterpreted," she explained. "Public art shouldn't be just about artists going big. We must think about the people that live there, people that work there."

At the mural's base are four large, stacked squares representing building blocks or earth. Each square is painted in either a horizontal or vertical striped pattern with a specific number of stripes for representing measured time and history: 24 hours; 7 days, 12 months, 13 lunar months and 13 original colonies. "I use stripes throughout my work. For me, stripes are a codifier for skin -- because I've been called a zebra growing up. But then also they allude to flags, borders, fences. Stripes are on everything we buy as bar codes," Weinberger explains. At the top of the mural, like a crown, are braided coils of hair representing our collective consciousness growing from the blocks of time and history.



Rising Up by Shoshanna Weinberger
Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2022)
Image Credit: Angel Bellaran

Most of the FCPA artists live, work, or have deep ties to Newark. “We were Newark kids, born and raised here, with Latin American roots. My family is from El Salvador, and Andre’s is from Ecuador,” says artist Robert Ramone, of the art duo known as **Rorshach Collective**. “It was nice to be a part of this project in our own city and represent for our culture.”



Radiance by RORSHACH
Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2019)
Image Credit: Fred Sly

Their mural *Radiance* represents and celebrates generations of unacknowledged women of color.

“We tried to hit a home run for people in the city and beautify the neighborhood. We wanted people to understand that we’re serious artists, we’re here to stay, and we’re here to represent our city.”

Since 2019, when they painted *Radiance*, Rorshach has become known for their signature style: a blend of figurative realism and abstract

expressionist graffiti in bold color combinations such as fuchsia, orange, and turquoise.

“FCPA was a good stepping stone for us, not only because of the pay, but the relationships that were built and opportunities it led to,” says Ramone. “Curators reached out to us because they saw *Radiance* and loved it. That was our third mural, and it opened the door for us to paint on bigger scale projects.”

Some of these projects include international mural festivals in Brooklyn, Jersey City, and Miami, inclusion in a group exhibition at the Morris Museum, commissions throughout New Jersey and New York City, and a quarter-mile long mural along Raymond Boulevard in Newark. Reflecting on what set FCPA apart from some of the other projects they have worked on, Ramone said, “FCPA is an artist-led project—this is artists working with artists. Everyone on this team is very capable and jumps in to help. Like, you’ve got two assistants that are willing to get on the lift and paint with you or help move your lift if you need a hand. It makes the project move so much smoother. The logistics of it were kind of perfect; they all did a really good job. Hopefully, they get more funding, and we get more opportunities to work together.”

Magnitude and Bond, a ten stories high collaborative mural by a Womb of Violet Collective, Layqa Nuna Yawar and Kelley Prevard honors the legacy of two deceased, beloved Newark artists: Gladys Barker Grauer and Brea Knight. A member of Womb of Violet Collective, Kween Moore’s photographs were used as source material for the mural.

As a Newark-based multimedia artist, poet, and educator, **Kween Moore** describes a powerful connection to the mural. “When I first saw it on the building in 2020, I was eight months pregnant, standing in the middle of Halsey Street... I’m looking for the first time, and I’m seeing my best friend Brea Knight, and I’m seeing my own photography work, and I’m seeing Mrs. Grauer. Now, whenever I do get stuck, or whenever I do lose my way, I climb the stairs to the roof at Project for Empty Space - where I can gaze at the mural and talk to some of the most influential people I have known in my life.”



Magnitude and Bond, Halsey Street and Branford Place, Newark, NJ (2019)
Image Credit: Anthony Alvarez

In addition to her contributions to *Magnitude and Bond*, Moore was also involved in many of the public programs organized by FCPA. She helped lead the community asphalt mural painting on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard proclaiming “ABOLISH WHITE SUPREMACY” and “ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER” on Halsey

Street. Moore also facilitated volunteer painting for *Resist COVID/ Take 6!19*, an artist-driven public awareness campaign by internationally renowned artist Carrie Mae Weems.

“When I think about Four Corners, I visualize it as four pillars that are upholding a community,” says Moore. **“FCPA has created opportunities for artists to become professionals, to learn how to work in business, to learn how to advocate for themselves, to create work that represents themselves culturally and demographically. That’s the type of connectivity and collective that I need to be a part of -- or I’m playing myself.”** She described a sense of spiritual connection and meaning from these experiences: “I have been involved in countless projects and programs with Four Corners that have seemingly been connected to my life work. My son is at every event almost with me while I’m working. When I look over at him enjoying himself there, it’s the same way I looked over at my parents when they were building houses and just trying to make a way. Creative practices- photography, poetry, writing, dance, filmmaking, building, painting- were passed down to me by my family way before I even trained and went to school for some of these things. Now, my son is watching me just like I watched my parents. I want him to gain the spark and that innate drive for whatever he does. So, believing in what I do and believing what I create is the most important thing.” •

About Rachel Fawn Alban: A photographer, writer, and arts educator based in Newark, NJ, Rachel Fawn Alban (she/her) is primarily known for documenting arts and culture. Her photos, articles, and interviews have been published on many outlets including Discover Jersey Arts, State of the Arts NJ, Street Art NYC, and ArtBreakOut. Rachel’s photography has been exhibited at the Newark Museum of Art, Obscura Darkroom, and she was the project photographer for the inaugural phase of the Newark Artist Collaboration presented by Audible Inc. As an arts educator, Rachel currently works with MoMA and Paul Robeson Galleries. In 2023, she is working on public art projects in Newark and on Roosevelt Island in NYC. Rachel holds a BFA in Art Education with double major Graphic Design and a MPS in Art Therapy, both from the School of Visual Arts.

Below Image (Left to Right): Jillian M. Rock, K. Desiree Milwood, Kween Moore, Shekia Norris, fayemi shakur and Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams. Courtesy of Dream Play Media.

Magnitude and Bond is a 10 stories high collaborative mural located on Halsey Street in Newark’s historic downtown that features two key figures, Gladys Barker Grauer and Brea Knight, and imagery that celebrates their significant contributions to the Newark arts and poetry community, using visual language to provide a sense of intergenerational and communal connection as a unifying force and source of power and healing.

This mural was visualized and executed by *A Womb of Violet*, a Black women’s artist collective of writers, poets and visual artists that includes fayemi shakur, Jasmine Mans, K. Desiree Milwood, Bimpe Fageyinbo, Jillian M. Rock, Shekia Norris, Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams, Margie “Mia X” Johnson, Kween Moore, Jennifer Mack-Watkins, and muralists Laqya Nuna Yawar, and Kelley Prevrad.



CHECKS
CASHED

INSIGHTS & IMPACT FOUR CORNERS PUBLIC ARTS

By Linda Morgan & Rebecca Pauline Jampol

Overflow by Amanda Thackray and Wendell Jeffrey (In-Progress) | Image Credit: Rachel Fawn Alban (2023)

The Four Corners Public Arts program took place in the Central Ward of downtown Newark. In the first phase, the focus was on two neglected alleyways proximate to residential buildings, local small businesses, and educational spaces- Treat Place and Beaver Street. Part of the program's impetus was an ongoing and urgent request from local businesses to enhance the economic viability of a neighborhood that had long seen disinvestment.

Later phases extended out from the alleyways to activate undermaintained or barren space and enliven streetscapes in the Central Business District.

FCPA

INFRASTRUCTURE



Newark Is For Artists by Gabe Ribeiro
Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2019)

Leadership and Stakeholders

The City reached out to key stakeholders in the immediate area, resulting in the formation of a unique public/private partnership committed to improving these downtown alleyways.

The partnership included:

- **Mayor Ras J. Baraka** and the **City of Newark Division of Arts and Cultural Affairs** led by **Keith Hamilton** and **Director fayemi shakur**.
- **Invest Newark** as the City's nonprofit economic development arm led by **Franklyn Ore** and **Roger Johnson**.
- **Newark Arts** as the nonprofit advocate for arts organizations in the City led by **Jeremy Johnson**, **Regina Barboza**, and **Lauren Craig**.
- **Newark Downtown District**, the special improvement district led by **Thomas Goletz** and **Mbacke Faye**.
- **Paramount Assets**, which owns many of the buildings along Treat Place led by **Richard Dunn**.
- **RBH Group** as the developer of Teachers Village adjacent to Treat Place and redeveloper of the former Paramount Theater adjacent to Beaver Street led by **Ron Beit** and **Linda Morgan**.

To manage FCPA, the partnership hired Lead Curator **Rebecca Pauline Jampol**, Co-Director of Project for Empty Space, and instructor at Rutgers University-Newark. She led the cohort from 2019 through the program's completion in 2023.

Audience

- Central Ward residents and Greater Newark
- Central Ward organizations and businesses, many of which are BIPOC and WOMEN-owned
- Citywide, regional, national, and international artist communities
- Local educational spaces, including 1000+ Students: Pre-k-8th grade in Discovery Charter School, Great Oaks Charter School, Chen School, and KIPP Spark Academy within Teachers Village.

Funding

The program was executed over three years with a total budget of \$350,000. In addition to contributions by the founding partners, additional support was provided by the City of Newark's Creative Catalyst Fund, the City of Newark's *Love Your Block* grant, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Rutgers University-Newark, Provident Bank, PSE&G, Hanini Group, Edison Properties, and Robert and Rosemary Steinbaum.

PHASE I

TRANSFORMING SPACE

2019 - 2020



The Natural World of the Lenape by Armisey Smith
(Work In-Progress) Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2019)
Image Credit: Fred Sly

Phase I of the program raised approximately \$150,000, two-thirds from the two developer partners, with the rest contributed by public funding, in-kind and other sources. Phase I funding supported community meetings, public programs, and the completion of fourteen murals and sidewalk installations along the two alleyways.

Community Engagement, Open Call, and Artist Selection Process:

At the outset of the project, questions were proposed to artists, residents, and stakeholders about the hopeful outcomes of this program:

- *Are there members from the community that should be elevated for their work?*
- *How can we include diverse voices and promote inclusivity and representation?*
- *Are stories told only representing one point of view or a single voice?*
- *How can we increase community participation?*
- *Can we match emerging artists with seasoned artists for mentorship?*

The artist selection process included the release of an RFP advertising opportunities to create murals on Treat Place and Beaver Street. Open discussions were offered for interested artists to explain the project and answer any questions. Research assistance for artists was provided at the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center at the Newark Public Library, as well as artistic and technical support from the program manager.

FCPA made a commitment to paying selected artists a fair price for their creative work and

promised to maintain the murals beyond their initial application.

A panel of stakeholders juried the applications and Invest Newark served as the fiduciary for the project- managing contracts and the financial accounting for FCPA. Additional agreements were created to secure permission from building owners to allow the artwork to be erected on facades and to ensure the murals would be maintained over time.

Some key accomplishments of the project in Phase I (2019-2020) included:

- Fourteen completed murals of varying scales on Treat Place, Beaver Street, and surrounding areas.
- Improved and maintained streetscapes that showcased vibrant public artworks derived from local research and community considerations.
- Care and consideration for “blind spot” areas including a response by the public utility to the partnership’s request for installation of improved street lighting resulting in enhanced safety, maintenance, and walkability along the alleyways.
- Community engagement opportunities from ideation and conception, direct collaboration, mentorship, youth involvement, and more.
- Advocacy for authentic, collaborative local programs that benefited a multifaceted audience.
- National recognition for FCPA’s innovative programming and world-class artworks.
Full archive: fourcornerspublicarts.org/press.



Womb of Violet Collective Community Workshops, Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2019)

PHASE II

CENTERING COMMUNITY

2020 - 2021



Will You Be My Monument (detail) by writer Salamishah Tillet, designer Chantal Fischzang, and photographer Scheherazade Tillet
Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2020)

This public art installation was inspired by the City of Newark's removal of the Columbus statue in Harriet Tubman Square (formally Washington Park) on June 25, 2020. Faa'Tina, an eight-year-old Black girl celebrated her birthday that evening and was photographed by Scheherazade Tillet. The above image features Faa'Tina with her parents in front of the completed mural.

Phase II of FCPA launched during the summer of 2020. The worldwide Covid-19 pandemic had led many corporations to close their downtown offices in favor of having their employees work from home, including an estimated 50,000 commuters working in Newark. Local businesses were strained as they tried to operate their businesses safely and with a drastically reduced customer base.

This period also saw a countrywide racial reckoning and distrust of police. Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka addressed this moment calmly and consistently, holding daily Facebook chats, instituting protocols to help inspect and approve local businesses to safely reopen, and setting up various avenues for local entrepreneurs, artists, and businesses to access financing from State and Federal sources.

Stakeholders were all impacted in different ways during this time, but the FCPA partners found creative ways to continue to support placemaking and public improvements downtown. Newark artists and activists joined together to make their mark for social justice through strategic and care-driven street activations and art installations executed throughout 2020-2021. Public art became a way to safely convene, collaborate and heal, as local artists took to the streets to combat unsanctioned graffiti on storefront gates as well as to report illegal dumping on sidewalks and in underutilized spaces.

Process

To build upon the collaborative work that had distinguished Phase I of the FCPA, the open call

for artists to participate in Phase II mandated a robust community engagement strategy. The open call for artists drew fewer projects but yielded impressive collaborations.

Funding

During this phase, due to the constraints of the pandemic, formerly accessible resources and donations were scarce. FCPA was determined to continue its work, noting that despite the current conditions, public art continued to bring joy to the community, as it was something that could be safely consumed and participated in. Despite individual hardships, each partner made it a priority to keep the program alive and contributed what they could.

In 2020, the local administration, under the leadership of Director fayemi shakur, launched the Newark Creative Catalyst Fund, distributing \$800,000 to 120 artists, art collectives, and cultural organizations. FCPA was a recipient, using this critical funding as a base for executing this phase. Additional grants were secured from Provident Bank, the public utility PSEG, and donations made by local organizations and individuals including Edison Properties, Hanini Group, and Robert and Rosemary Steinbaum.

Phase II of the program operated on a total budget of \$75,000.

Some key accomplishments of the Phase II project (2020-21) included:

- Execution of five multifaceted art initiatives that included varying forms of engagement with the local community. The initiatives included

#MuralsforJustice, Will You Be My Monument, The Newark Artist Photo Documentary Project, IMVisible Newark, and Rising Up. Each project was designed to give representation to a community in Newark, directly engaging hundreds of residents in dialogue and production.

- Paid art-making opportunities during a time of economic hardship for many.
- Opportunities for community members, students, youth, and residents to engage in various installations and public programs throughout the year.
- Gatherings were held outside and online, successfully providing safe spaces for joy and creation and the fostering of critical dialogue around artmaking. For example, *IMVisible* hosted several online community forums, welcoming the public to contribute ideas, personal anecdotes, and direction toward their cumulative project.
- Community feedback was gathered regarding safety and lighting improvements. FCPA community members participated in a site walk with PSE&G to identify broken and missing streetlights on Treat Place and in the immediate area.
- A catenary light program was launched by FCPA partnering agency Newark Downtown District. They chose Treat Place and Halsey Street in front of the Hahnes building as the two pilot project locations to install new lighting and had three public meetings on Zoom during Covid to gather comments and ideas.

Press and Recognition

During this time, FCPA received national press and recognition for innovative programming and world-class artworks. Notably, many of the artists and artworks were featured in a New York Times article, “*Newark Artists: Thriving Amid Crisis on Catharsis,*” by Siddhartha Mitter which centered public art as the hallmark of resilience and healing.

Below Image:

The Newark Artists Photo Documentary Project by Colleen Gutwein O’Neal, Edison Place, Newark, NJ (2021)

This initiative highlights Newark-based multidisciplinary visual artists, creating an archive of legacy artists and contributions that have defined our local creative community for the past century. A full archive of nearly one hundred portrait sessions can be found online: newarkartsphotodoc.com.

This mural shares six larger-than-life portraits of artists João (Juno) Zago (2018), paulA neves (2018), Noelle Lorraine Williams (2013), Bisa Washington (2015), Nell Painter (2013), and Cesar Melgar (2018).



PHASE III

PROGRAMMING

2021 - 2022



FCPA partnered with Urban Agriculture Co-Op to provide a robust farmers market, and local urban farmer showcase. Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2021)
Image Credit: Anthony Alvarez

Phase III of the program was produced in conjunction with the Mayor's *Back Together Again* Initiative and focused on programming the newly transformed spaces.

With the support of Mayor Ras J. Baraka, the City of Newark's Division of Arts and Cultural Affairs, and Central Ward Councilwoman LaMonica McIver, an immersive market space was developed in the Treat Place arts alleyway. The market space allowed opportunities for commerce, elevating the visibility of nearby businesses, and empowering local creative initiatives. From food justice to urban farming to social justice-focused arts organizations and musicians, this cohort of collaborators created public programs centered around justice, healing, and service.

Two market activations took place in the summer of 2021 titled *Murals | Market | Music*, drawing hundreds of residents and commuters to gather together and engage in downtown Newark.

Murals | Market | Music partnered with two local organizations: Newark Arts Justice and *IMVisible* Newark to bring critical perspectives and justice-driven themes to each marketplace. In collaboration with Express Newark's Newark Arts Justice, the theme acknowledged a Phase II artwork, *Will You Be My Monument (WYMBM)*. Titled, *WYMBM: An Ode to Black Girlhood*, the event aimed to address and redress the ways in which public monuments reproduce racial and gender violence. It also sought to promote dialogue and activism, in real-time, around our history of colonization and slavery, to make demands for racial justice and gender equality today.

The second iteration *We Are Home*, was an intervention that demanded a safe space to celebrate the culture, arts, and creativity of the intersectional immigrant communities of Newark.

These markets included:

- A partnership with Urban Agriculture Co-Op, which curated a robust farmers market, and local urban farmer showcase.
- The *Farmer + A Family Program*: For \$35, a patron could send a bag of groceries to a local family-in-need that would provide fresh fruits and vegetables for a week.
- Health services and onsite vaccination opportunities.
- Live music, poetry, dance, performance, panel discussions, and readings.
- Curated creative vendors and artisans.
- Hands-on art-making opportunities for all participants.

Funding

Funding continued to be challenged due the dwindling pandemic. Funding for Phase III was pieced together with the continued support of the partners, the City of Newark's *Creative Catalyst Fund*, the City of Newark's *Love Your Block* Grant, New Jersey State Council of the Arts, and Rutgers University - Newark.

Some key accomplishments of the project in Phase III (2022-2023) included:

- *Murals | Market | Music*, a pilot immersive market space, proved the viability of FCPA's creative and inclusive programming. This initiative catalyzed a stream of programs on the street produced by other community groups that included block parties, book fairs, fashion

shows, and more, continuing beyond the initial period of the FCPA program.

- Three robust programs were held on Treat Place drawing close to 1,000 unique visitors which included *A Call to Create and Care* (a mural and streetscape maintenance initiative), and two iterations of *Murals | Market | Music*.
- New public artworks and artwork maintenance were completed during the festivals including *Sacred Nature* by GERALUZ and a collaboration with *Resist COVID / Take 6/19*, an artist-driven public awareness campaign by internationally renowned artist Carrie Mae Weems.
- The repair of Newark's #muralsforjustice community ground (asphalt) murals.
- PSEG repaired non-functioning streetlights on Treat Place and Beaver Street improving evening walkability and safety.
- Continued streetscape advancements commenced, including the installation of Newark Downtown District's pilot catenary lighting program. String lights were installed from Maiden Ln. to William St., creating an opportunity for night-time enjoyment of the public space.
- The partnership implemented maintenance programs, including a weekend-long artwork repair and community cleanup of these public spaces.
- Forthcoming is the addition of an audio tour of the murals hosted by PLACES by Audible.

Below Image:

Murals | Market | Music: *We Are Home* presented by IMVisible Newark is an intervention that demanded a safe space to celebrate the culture, arts, and creativity of the intersectional immigrant communities of Newark.

As part of their activation, artist Carrie Mae Weems' *Resist COVID / Take 6/19* was featured. This public awareness campaign aimed to get information and resources to combat the spread of the deadly coronavirus into the hands of BIPOC communities via billboards, buttons, lawn signs, take-out bags, and other creative means.

Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2021)



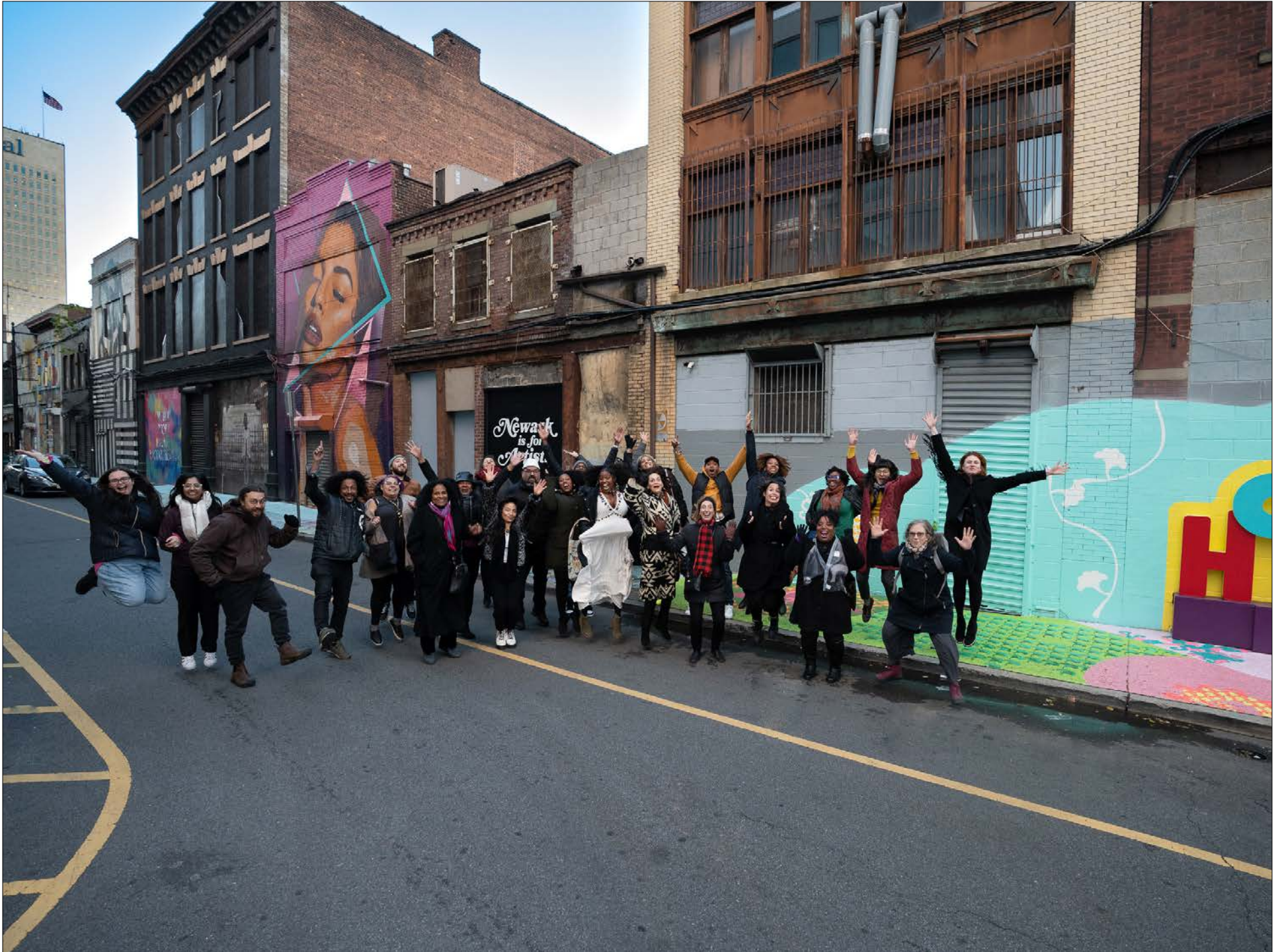


Murals | Market | Music on Treat Place in Newark, New Jersey (2021)
Image Credit: Anthony Alvarez

The Four Corners Public Arts program drew over a thousand participants and attracted local and national press for the creativity and inclusiveness of its arts and place-making initiatives. A robust website chronicles the various stages and contributions of the projects over time at fourcornerspublicarts.org.

Stores that once locked their back doors have re-opened these entries and initiated book sales, food sales, seasonal plantings, and parklets in the alleyways. Local schools now use the spaces for parades and kids' activities during the week, while spontaneous weekend festivals formed around the murals in celebration of cultural holidays. All these activities contribute to local economic impact, and improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in the neighborhood, which was a key goal of stakeholders from the inception of the program. Treat Place and Beaver Street have become a destination for arts and entertainment, attracting residents, workers, families, and tourists to photograph the murals, take selfies, and spread the word among friends and colleagues.

FPCA has become a model for neighborhood-focused activations, spurring multiple collaborative arts projects throughout the downtown, contributing to economic development, tourism, and enhancement of the pedestrian experience for all. The FCPA partnership is grateful to their funders, partners, curator Rebecca Pauline Jampol and all the artists, residents, and citizens of Newark and beyond who participated with open hearts, minds, and generosity to make it a lasting success.



Artists, Supporters and Stakeholders gather on Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2022)
Image Credit: Rachel Fawn Alban



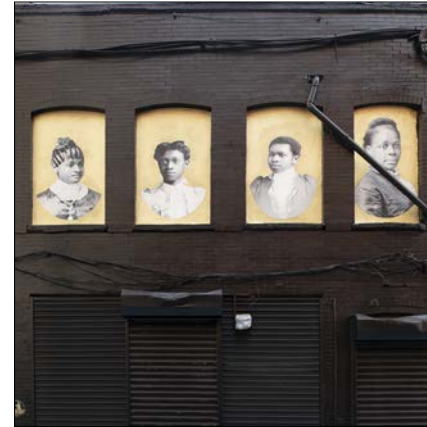
PUBLIC ARTWORKS & ARTISTS 2019-2023

Full Archive: fourcornerspublicarts.org

Sacred Nature by GERALUZ | Image Courtesy of the Artist (2021)



Magnitude and Bond (2019)
A Womb of Violet
Layqa Nuna Yawar
& Kelley Prevard
Branford Place, Newark, NJ



To Be Seen (2019)
Noelle Lorraine Williams
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



Migration is the American Way (2019)
Himed & Hokzyn
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



The Natural World of Lenape (2019)
Armisey Smith
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



Newark is for Artists (2019)
Gabe Ribeiro
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



The Gantalism Dedication (2019)
Manuel Acevedo & Pink Dragon Syndicate
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



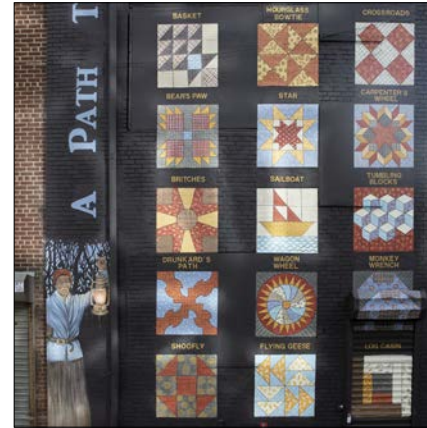
Radiance (2019)
Rorshach Collective
 Treat Place, Newark, NJ



The Guardian of the City (2019)
Jo-el Lopez
 Treat Place, Newark, NJ



Welcome Quilt (2019)
Daniela Puliti
 Treat Place, Newark, NJ



Sewing a Path to Freedom (2019)
Barat Foundation & Sue Daly
 Treat Place, Newark, NJ



Wrapping Beaver Street (2019-2022)
Nancy Saleme & Patricia Cazorla
 Treat Place, Newark, NJ



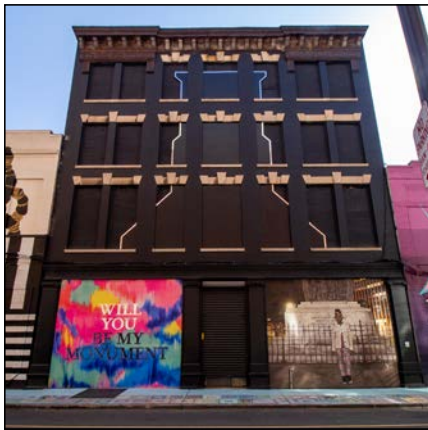
Sacred Water (2019)
GERALUZ
 Corner of Market Street & Beaver Street, Newark, NJ



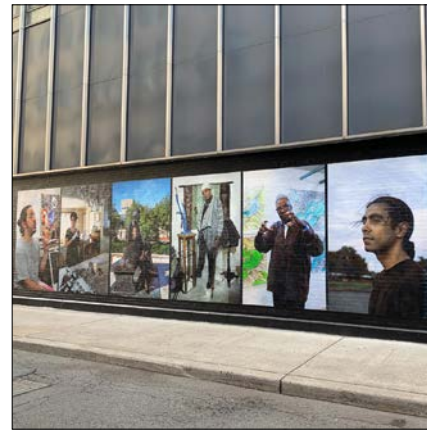
Raise #3 (2019-2022)
Eirini Linardaki &
Discovery Charter School
Beaver Street, Newark, NJ



Waves / Passaic, Part One (Immigration and History) (2019)
Eirini Linardaki
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



Will You Be My Monument (2020+)
Salamishah Tillet
Chantal Fischzang &
Scheherazade Tillet
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



The Newark Artists Photo Documentary Project (2021)
Colleen Gutwein O'Neal
Edison Place, Newark, NJ



Sacred Nature (2021)
GERALUZ
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



There is This We: #MuralsforJustice (2021-2022)
In partnership with Rutgers University-Newark Honors Living Learning Community
Linden Street, Newark, NJ



***Rising Up* (2021)**
Shoshanna Weinberger
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



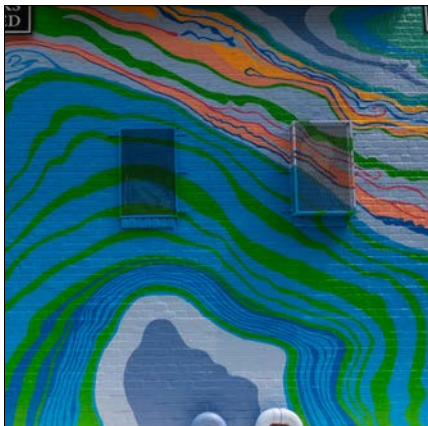
***HOPE* (2022)**
**Nancy Saleme
& Patricia Cazorla**
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



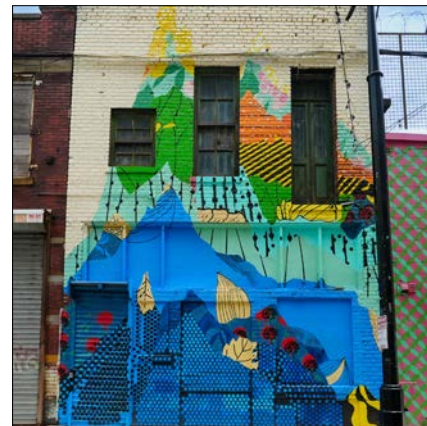
***Sound the Rainbow* (2023)**
**Equal Space, Project for
Empty Space & 100+
Community members**
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



***Sankofa* (2023)**
(Go Back and Get It)
Mohammad Awudu
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



***Overflow* (2023)**
**Amanda Thackray
& Wendell Jeffrey**
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



Waves / Passaic, Part One
***(Immigration and History)* (2019)**
Eirini Linardaki
Treat Place, Newark, NJ



Sankofa (Go Back and Get It) by Mohammad Awudu, Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2023)
Image Credit: Rachel Fawn Alban

FCPA

PARTNERSHIP

2019 - 2023



• **Division of Arts and Cultural Affairs** is the catalyst for participation, education, collaboration and development to encourage and support excellence in the arts within the City of Newark.

This division is responsible for:

- overseeing the City's arts initiatives
- supporting community engagement in arts and cultural programming and events throughout the City;
- providing organizational support to existing and evolving art institutions;
- developing a world-class public art program;
- encouraging collaborative partnerships and investment in the City's artists and arts and cultural organizations;
- supporting the creation of a more sustainable, equitable, inclusive, and creative economy in Newark that enlivens our neighborhoods and fires the imaginations of our children.

• **Invest Newark** is the City's nonprofit economic development arm with a mission to propel the City's strong and diverse economy, build vibrant communities, and create opportunities for all Newarkers. They ensure all Newarkers have the resources to thrive. Invest Newark supports small, women and minority-owned businesses, invests in world-class internet service, spurs real estate development and executes economic development activities to produce and sustain economic growth, generate jobs and create wealth for the citizens of Newark.

Learn more: investnewark.org

• **Newark Arts** as the nonprofit advocate for arts organizations in the City. Newark Arts' mission is to power the arts to transform lives. The organization's vision is to become a

nationally recognized catalyst for the collaborative power of the arts in Newark and urban America. Newark Arts is the producer of *Newark Creates*, a community-led cultural plan, created in partnership with the City of Newark.

Learn more: newarkarts.org

• **Newark Downtown District**, a special improvement district, is dedicated to revitalizing downtown Newark by improving the economic viability of the central business district and enhancing the quality of life for residents, workers, students and visitors through supplemental services, marketing & physical improvement programs. **Learn more:** downtownnewark.com

• **Paramount Assets**, which owns many of the buildings along Treat Place, is a real estate investment company serving the needs of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Paramount takes underutilized historical buildings and renovates them completely, retaining their original structure and grandeur while making them suitable properties for affordable housing, restaurants, banks, shopping centers, and more.

Learn more: paramountassets.com

• **RBH Group** is the developer of Teachers Village adjacent to Treat Place, the Honors Living-Learning Community (HLLC) at Rutgers University-Newark, Maker's Village (home to AeroFarms), and the former Paramount Theater adjacent to Beaver Street. Located in downtown Newark, NJ, RBH Group, LLC and its sister companies RBH Project and RBH Management, offer full-service real estate financing, development, and management services to foster urban redevelopment that manifests positive social impact in Opportunity Zones nationwide. **Learn more:** rbhgrp.com



Sound the Rainbow! community painters on Treat Place, Newark, NJ (2023)
Image Credit: Rachel Fawn Alban

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the artists, residents, and citizens of Newark and beyond who participated with open hearts, minds, and generosity to make Four Corners Public Arts a lasting success.

