

# VIBE

## THEATER EXPERIENCE



ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2014 — AUGUST 2015



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Annual Report designed by  
PATRICK LATTIN

# viBe

## ANNUAL

SEPTEMBER 2014

*Dear viBe Community,*

As you look back on our 2014-2015 fiscal year, I hope you will enjoy reflecting on all of the progress viBe Theater Experience has made over these last twelve months. We are very proud to have served our girls through our unique and comprehensive programming that provides them with the nurturing necessary to help them find their individual voices and then courageously share those stories with all of us.

When I took the seat of Board Chair in September, my goal was to build viBe's internal capacity so that we are positioned to leverage all of our resources – human and fiscal – to best serve our girls. To that end, we welcomed new board members who have brought critical professional and administrative skills to our governing efforts. We also brought in new volunteers to the viBenefit Committee who worked tirelessly to ensure that our annual fundraiser was once again a huge success. Finally, we instituted a new membership model designed to increase support and encourage our donors to stay engaged with our work.

As we enter into the 2015-2016 fiscal year, we look forward to continuing to provide meaningful and transformative opportunities for our viBe girls. As Chair, I also look forward to building on the Board's efforts; truly a "working board," we will continue to strategically align our committee work to support and grow our fundraising and programming efforts.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who contributed their time, money, and skills on behalf of viBe. We have wonderfully generous supporters and remarkably industrious volunteers. We also have reached a point where we have an alumna body that is now available to return to viBe and provide additional hands-on support to our programming. Indeed, viBe is very much thriving and we would not be here without your commitment to our work.

Thank you for helping us to provide a safe, creative space for girls to take on new challenges, gain self-confidence, find their voices and express themselves in ways they never imagined.

*viBrantly yours,*

*Gabrielle Gilliam*

**GABRIELLE GILLIAM**

CHAIR, VIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS





# REPORT

— AUGUST 2015

*Dear viBe Family,*



In FY15, viBe Theater Experience served 85 girls through five free afterschool programs, and produced four full length plays (*Think Like a Woman*, *look@me: what do you perceive?*, *The Skin I'm In*, and *My Stained Glass Window*) through our flagship program, viBeStages. Through these productions, and other invited performances (HERE Arts Center, Poetic Theater Productions' Generation Now! and Red Hook Fest), viBe girls performed for audiences totaling 550! In addition, we partnered with other community based organizations, (PowerPlay NYC, Brave New Voices Network), and city initiatives (Council Member Cumbo's Women and Girls Initiative) to raise viBe's visibility and serve more communities through our programs. Additionally, viBe was added to the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs' Coalition of Theaters of Color, a cohort of only 12 theater companies in New York City!

We are most proud of the fact that we have continued to train and hire viBe alumnae to direct our programs. By training viBe alumnae (Alex Olivier and Monique Letamendi, viBe SongMakers Program Directors, and Ayodele Temple and Alize George as Program Assistants) as practitioners of viBe's pedagogy, we are making a contribution to the field of arts education, as well as making an investment in the future leadership of the organization. viBe Theater Experience has always placed girls at the center of everything we do, and the leadership will, in the years to come, yield immeasurable results as viBe girls become young women who continue to create, perform, and lead.

We also celebrate the fact that, in FY2015, viBe maintained a 100 percent high school graduation rate, and a 90 percent college acceptance rate, with 2015 graduates headed to schools like SUNY Buffalo, Brooklyn College, New York City College of Technology, and SUNY Oswego.

Lastly, viBe's advocacy efforts, as well as our pedagogical approach have led our girls to address issues that affect them, and our nation, the most. Our girls have tackled racism, homophobia, sexism, sexual harassment, poverty, and police brutality head on in FY15. Each of our productions has placed at the center the voices of those at the margins and given young women of color a platform and an audience to amplify their voices and create their own solutions.

Thanks to our FY15 partners! Support from foundations, corporations, city and state agencies, and individuals — as listed on page 7 of this Annual Report — has helped viBe to maintain the quality of its programs as we continue to grow. Your support helps us keep our programs high in quality and free of charge as we serve girls and communities that have a dearth of free arts programming. Thank you for your support as we look toward FY16 and beyond!

*viBrantly,*

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Toya A. Lillard".

**TOYA A. LILLARD**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VIBE THEATER EXPERIENCE



# viBe PROGRAMS 2014>2015



## LOOK@ME: WHAT DO YOU PERCEIVE?

**viBeSolos Winter 2014 • December 22, 2014 • HERE Arts Center • NYC**

For three months, viBeSoloists Aissatu Young, Ayodele Temple, and Rebecca Fraser worked with Yana Landowe and Toya Lillard to explore the power of perception, and the different ways that each of us can be (un)seen, and (un)heard. This evening of theater also included a special tribute to Eric Garner and Michael Brown. **viBeSolos** is an advanced performance program where girls craft and perform their own 15 minute one-girl shows.



## THE SKIN I'M IN

**viBeStages Spring 2015 • May 17, 2015 • HERE Arts Center • NYC**

"Urban" teenage girls have become the hot topic of 2015! What does it mean to be an urban teenage girl? What do they love? Why do they fight? What do they fear? What are their hopes? How do people treat them? viBe worked with a group of young women from February-May to write and perform this original play that explored what it means to be an urban teen in NYC. **viBeStages** is a collaborative performance experience (offered three times each year) that pairs 6-12 girls with professional theater directors over 12 weeks to write and perform an original show.

## 2015 RED HOOK FEST

**Luis J. Valentino Park • June 6, 2015**

The cast of "The Skin I'm In" enjoyed performing for an audience of 75 festival goers at our annual participation in Dance Theatre Etcetera's Red Hook Fest, performing on a larger stage for a larger audience who were there to support viBe and other young artists who performed with other youth groups.



## INAUGURAL VIBE ALUMNAE REUNION

**June 29, 2015 • HERE Arts Center • NYC**

viBe was thrilled to host its first ever Alumnae Reunion where we took a moment to honor our alumnae, celebrate our graduates, and reflect on our year. We are very proud of Cheyenne Deago, MJ McPaul-Holmes, Briana Andre, and Ayodele Temple, our 2015 graduates. Ayodele Temple, a 2015 graduate of SUNY Old Westbury, co-directed the viBeStages production this summer. Additionally, two viBe alumnae, Alize George and Jessica Elixus, served as interns for the viBeSongMakers program. Alize is a rising sophomore at SUNY New Paltz, and Jessica is a rising sophomore at Brooklyn College. Lastly, viBe alum Monique Letamendi directed the Summer 2015 viBe SongMakers project. viBe is committed to training and hiring the young women that have gone through our programs and have firsthand knowledge of viBe's pedagogy and its lifelong impact.



## MY STAINED GLASS WINDOW

**viBeStages & viBeSongMakers Summer 2015**

**August 10 & 11, 2015 • HERE Arts Center • NYC**

viBe worked with a group of 10 women who participated in our viBeStages and viBeSongMakers 6-week Summer program. Over 6 weeks, the girls received instruction in vocal, percussion, choreography, stage combat, and writing through workshops offered by professional teaching artists. They then crafted their show around the theme of freedom and used music, dance, poetry, and video to speak truth to power about the issues that have affected them most: police brutality, their communities, their safety, and their ideas about freedom. The show had two performances and was well attended and well received by audiences that included family, friends, teachers, and theater lovers. **viBeSongMakers** is an advanced program providing the tools for viBe girls to express themselves through writing/recording, and composing/arranging songs in partnership with professional musicians working in New York City.



## GENERATION NOW! POETIC LICENSE THEATER FESTIVAL

**The Wild Project • April 8, 2015**

viBeCompany is viBe's resident group of artists who participate in performances, by invitation. Members were proud to perform for the third year in Poetic Theater Productions' "Generation Now!," a night dedicated to showcasing the work of youth theater groups, including EarSay, Girl Be Heard, and UrbanWord NYC. viBe presented a performance by a group comprised of alumnae of viBeStages and viBeSolos, as well as one new participant. Their performance was enthusiastically received by a lively and appreciative audience of their peers, fellow young artists, and theater lovers.





## SERVING GIRLS & COMMUNITY, VIBE EXPANDS REACH, MESSAGE

During the 2014-2015 season, viBe Theater Experience served 85 young women aged 13-22 from 3 boroughs of New York City — Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the Bronx. These viBeGirls represented eight New York City Public Schools — Achievement First Brooklyn High School, Achievement First University Prep, Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice, Brooklyn High School for the Arts, Brooklyn Latin School, Lyons Community School, High School for Language and Diplomacy, and Brooklyn Technical High School. The challenges viBeGirls face — 95 percent lacked sufficient arts exposure / programming in their schools and communities, and 80 percent come from single-parent homes — makes viBe's work especially important. viBe's free after school program engages, inspires and empowers girls through a collaborative model that helps them unpack and address the real-life issues they face daily.

viBeGirls this year produced four full-length plays and one two-song EP, performing for more than 500 audience members. Girls engaged with their own community through initiatives such as Council Member Laurie Cumbo's Denim Day NYS Social Media Campaign and through work addressing social issues such as racism, homophobia, police brutality, gender inequity, and poverty in our work. During this season, viBe partnered with peer organizations like the Sadie Nash Leadership Project, PowerPlayNYC, and The Brave New Voices Network to increase viBe's visibility and impact.

## TRANSITIONING FROM VIBE GIRLS TO VIBE LEADERS

### viBeGirlsInCharge & viBeApprentices

Beginning in September 2014, five viBe alumnae — Monique Letamendi, Ayodele Temple, Aisatu Young, Alize George, and Jessica Exilus — served as our first cohort of **viBeGirlsInCharge**. Aisatu and Ayodele created pieces that would be performed as part of "look@me:what do you perceive?" in December 2014. That performance included a talk-back discussion and pre-performance workshop for students at Achievement First Brooklyn High School facilitated by Ayodele and Aisatu. Ayodele also performed her piece as part of the Poetic License Theater Festival's *Generation Now!* at The Wild Project. This spring, Monique created a piece, *Child of the Sun* that was performed with a talk back on June 29, 2015, at viBe's year-end celebration.

Alize George and Jessica Exilus, both college freshmen and spoken-word performers, attended monthly two-hour Saturday workshops from January-June 2015 in order to further develop their theater work and to train them to serve as workshop facilitators and program assistants for viBe's 2015 summer programs. Ayodele and Monique also trained to serve as Program Directors for our 2015 summer programs. As a result of this work, the vision for viBeGirlsInCharge and viBeApprentices has expanded to include training for alumnae who are interested in leading viBe programs.

**viBeGirlsInCharge** offers one-of-a-kind workshops and performances designed by our young women for schools and community-based organizations intended to initiate civic dialogue, and introduce youth to viBe's pedagogy. **viBeApprentices** is a leadership program geared toward viBe Alumnae in high school and college who have expressed an interest in exploring careers in theater.

SEPTEMBER 7

viBenefit 2014 Kick Off, Brooklyn

OCTOBER 27

viBenefit 2014: Just In Time, Katra Lounge, NYC

NOVEMBER 16

viBenefit 2014 Wrap Up Party, Brooklyn

DECEMBER 22

viBeSolos Performance of *look@me: what do you perceive?*  
& VIP Reception HERE Arts Center, NYC

2014  
2015

JANUARY 6, 8, 22

viBeStages Try Outs, Brooklyn

FEBRUARY 3, 25

viBe workshops at Manhattan Children's Center

FEBRUARY 8

Generation Now! Youth Performances, Poetic License  
Theater Festival, The Wild Project, NYC Special performance  
by alumnae and excerpt of *look@me: what do you perceive?*

FEBRUARY 10-12

2nd Annual Brave New Voices Network Conference,  
San Francisco, CA

APRIL 10

Girl Up! Panel on Women and the Arts, Poly Prep Country  
Day School, Brooklyn

APRIL 18

Board Retreat, Hunter College, NYC

APRIL 29

Denim Day, NYC

MAY 17

viBeStages Performance of *The Skin I'm In* & VIP Reception,  
HERE Arts Center, NYC

MAY 17 - JUNE 30

Spring Membership Drive

JUNE 6

viBeStages Performance of *The Skin I'm In*, Red Hook Festival,  
Brooklyn

JUNE 29

viBe Alumna Reunion/Membership Drive Close-Out Event,  
HERE Arts Center, NYC

JUNE 22-26

Tryouts, viBeStages and viBeSongMakers Summer Programs

AUGUST 10 & 11

Summer 2015 viBeStages and viBeSongMakers  
Performance of *My Stained Glass Window*  
& VIP Receptions, HERE Arts Center, NYC

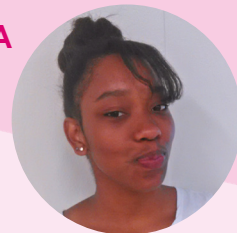
AUGUST 30

viBenefit 2015 Kick Off, Brooklyn

# viBe girls SPEAK

My biggest personal goal was to be comfortable being myself, and I most definitely accomplished it. I learned that certain subjects are not talked about within our community enough, and my own words can benefit others.

~TAKIRA



Through  
viBe, I feel

that I am continuously

growing into a creative,  
motivated and strong  
young woman.

Participating  
in viBe

programs

inspired me to  
continue writing

and

performing.

viBe gave me  
a place to go and  
something to do. viBe also

gave me  
freedom in a  
non-judgemental  
environment.

~MJ



Being  
able  
to do

what I love  
and sharing  
that with other  
people who  
enjoy the  
same  
interests.

Being in this program,  
I've never felt so at home,  
like I belong there. It has  
made me more confident.

~KELSEY



~NOVA

It allows you  
to express  
yourself without  
having half the  
world out there  
judging you.  
It's a place  
where you feel  
safe enough  
to open up and  
share what's on  
your mind or in your heart.

## SUPPORTER & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each year, viBe Theater Experience hosts **friendRaisers**, special events designed to strengthen and broaden our base of support. These events are opportunities to thank our friends and supporters and introduce new people to the important work we do. Guests are invited join us for cocktails, refreshments, and a chance to meet and speak with current viBeGirls, viBeAlumnae and viBe Teaching Artists. Attendees also hear from our Executive Director and Board about how viBe empowers teenage girls through the creation and production of original performances. FriendRaisers give us a chance to underscore the value of our work, teach people more about the difference we make in the lives of our participants, and ultimately, how they can help viBe meet its mission. viBe FriendRaisers are a fun way for us to steward our current supporters and bring new members into our community.

Starting in winter of 2014, viBe instituted a practice of hosting a **VIP reception** for all shows. This was later folded into our new membership model as a way to increase support for viBe and present an opportunity for our audiences and supporters to meet, mingle, and generally commune around viBe and its work. As has been viBe's tradition, families of participants are invited and encouraged to attend as guests of viBe. In an effort to reduce costs to viBe, these receptions are graciously underwritten and staffed by members of the Board. viBe also seeks donations of refreshments from local businesses to maximize our return while continuing to steward and engage some of our most generous sponsors.



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# SPECIAL EVENTS

VIBE-

## viBenefit 2014

viBenefit is our signature annual fundraising event with proceeds supporting our programming and operations. viBenefit 2014 was a smashing success! Held on Monday, October 27, 2014, at Katra Lounge in Manhattan, the event featured unique silent auction packages, great music by **DJ Tara**, and delicious food provided by **Clinton Street Baking Company** and **Baked By Melissa**.

Our signature cocktail – the viBetini – flowed all night thanks to our sponsors **Tito's Handmade Vodka** and **Atsby Vermouth**. Our program featured a compelling testimonial from viBe alumna, Aissatu Young, as well as a powerful performance directed by longtime viBe supporter and former Board Member Andrea Bertola Shaw. The show examined how women and girls experience the evils of street harassment. A special thanks to the wonderful women who volunteered their time and efforts to create and bring us this original piece.

viBenefit is a volunteer-led effort and viBe would like to give special thanks to our 2014 Co-Chairs, Patrick Lattin and Sue Dubrovich who, together, provided inspired leadership to all of the volunteers. Further gratitude is given to our indefatigable viBenefit Committee; comprised of all new members in 2014, each of them brought their own unique talents to the planning and execution and did so in a way that was collaborative, inspiring, and, most of all, FUN! They graciously leveraged their respective networks on behalf of the event and in sharing themselves, their friends and their colleagues with viBe, the benefit raised more than \$10,000!

Planning is under way for viBenefit 2015, which will be held at Taj II Lounge in Manhattan on October 27, 2015. We look forward to another exciting and successful event!

### VIBENEFIT 2014 COMMITTEE

SUE DUBROVICH  
PATRICK LATTIN  
CO-CHAIRS

THERESA BURNS  
THIBAUT CHARETON  
GABRIELLE GILLIAM  
MEGAN GLEASON  
CRAIG GRANT  
SIOBAN HEALY  
AVÉL HORN-MÜLLER  
MEGAN KOSMOSKI  
AJUA KOUADIO  
TOYA LILLARD  
ROLANDA TELESFORD  
CLAUDINE WAITE  
MICHELLE YO

### VIBENEFIT 2014 PERFORMERS

LAURA BLACKWELL  
RACHEL BRILL  
SUE DUBROVICH  
EVELYN DUMONT  
JENA ELLENWOOD  
DANA FORTUNATO  
AVEL HORN-MULLER  
KELLY STAUFFER  
VIBE WOMEN

ANDREA BERTOLA SHAW  
DIRECTOR

AISSATU YOUNG  
ALUMNA



# viBe SUPPORTERS

With the generous support of individuals, government funds, foundation grants, and corporate support, viBe Theater Experience has been able to serve hundreds of girls through our programs. These contributions cover costs ranging from theatre space, funding for teaching artists and theater professionals to work with viBe girls, materials, transportation for viBe girls, print materials to promote our programs, and digital productions of viBeSongMakers full length albums, where viBe Girls write and compose their own unique melodies that TimeOut New York describes as “sending small waves of uncommon jubilation through the seen-it-all local set!”

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

City Council Discretionary Funds from the  
Office of City Council Member Laurie Cumbo  
City Council Discretionary Funds from the  
Office of City Council Member Stephen Levin  
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
New York State Council on the Arts

## FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Bay & Paul Foundations  
Left Tilt Fund

## CORPORATE SUPPORT

Bloomberg Corporate Giving  
JP Morgan Chase Matching Gift Program

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Justine Beirne Akley	Robyn Jackson
Gyda Arber	Tim Keelan
Jonathan Art	Paul Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Arzt	Bob Kerner
Nicole Baguer	Ajua Kouadio
Alissa Bertola	Yanna Landowe
Nana Brew-Hammond	Patrick Lattin
Harvey Brill	Michael Lawrie
Marsha Brill	Karma Lowe
Roman Bronshteyn	Carolyn Mack
Sharae Brown	Diane Mariani
Aaron Cahan	Kristin Marting
Thibault Chareton	Joseph McElroy
Monica Chopra	Frances McGarry
Valerie Cole-Davis	Kyriell Noon
Margaret Crane	Sarah Olman
Karimah Dillard	Allen Perlin
Alanna Draudt	Marjorie Perlin
Susan Dubrovich	Liz Plahn
dana edell	Arti Ram
Elizabeth Ellenwood	Andrea Roberts
Valerie Farnum	Katherine Rolla
Dashiell Flynn	Andrea & Stephen Shaw
Erin Foley	Caroline Shepard
Trevor Foley	Kristen Shibley
Nicole Gabriel	Holly Spillane
Gabrielle Gilliam	Ellen Staller
John Gilliam	Irene Vavulitsky
Megan Gleason	Claudine Waite
Craig Grant	Dejuan Wilson
Charles Gray	Alison Yeh
Sioban Healy	
Avél Horn-Müller	

## what a contribution to viBe provides

**\$250**

PAYS FOR A VIDEOGRAPHER FOR A YEAR

**\$800**

PAYS FOR PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING  
DESIGN FOR A YEAR

**\$1,200**

PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL VIBE  
GIRLS TO AND FROM REHEARSALS AND  
PERFORMANCES FOR A YEAR

**\$2,500**

SPONSORS ONE VIBE GIRL FOR A YEAR'S  
PARTICIPATION IN OUR PROGRAMS

**\$6,000**

PROVIDES VIBE WITH REHEARSAL  
AND PERFORMANCE SPACE FOR A YEAR

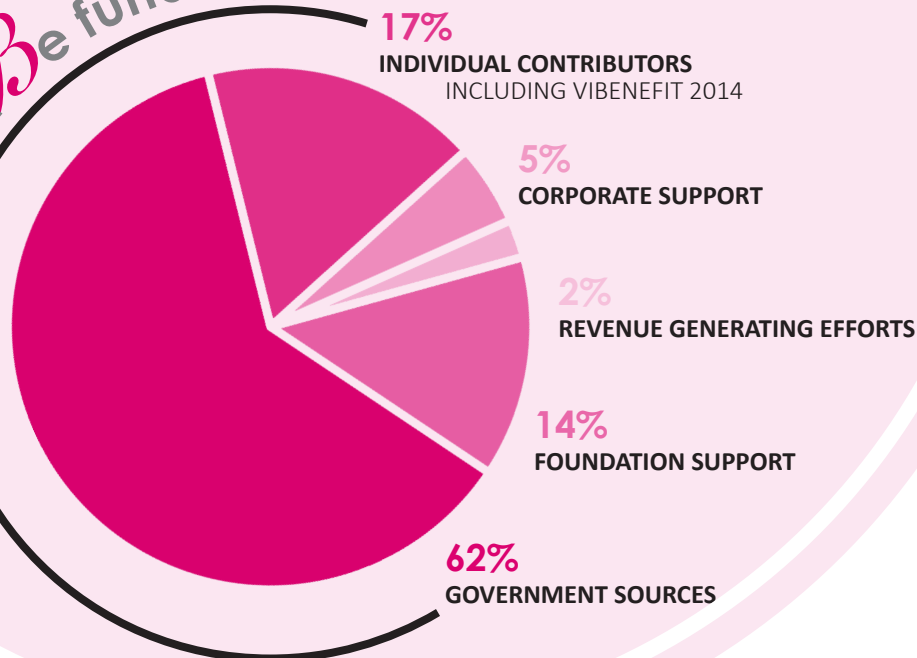
LEARN MORE ABOUT

BECOMING A VIBE SUPPORTER AT

**viBe** **THEATER.ORG**



sources of *viBe* funding



“POWERFUL  
— & —  
TALENTED  
YOUNG WOMEN  
INSPIRING  
US ALL!!!”

COUNCILWOMAN  
LAURIE CUMBO

“I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT VIBE  
BECAUSE IT **EMPOWERS** OUR GIRLS  
BY PROVIDING A PLATFORM THROUGH WHICH THEY CAN  
**UNASHAMEDLY TELL THEIR OWN VOICES.**  
THE **CONFIDENCE** THIS INSTILLS IS A BEDROCK  
FOR FUTURE **SUCCESS.**”

CLAUDINE WAITE  
MEMBER, 2014 VIBENEFIT COMMITTEE

“I SUPPORT VIBE  
FOR ITS TIRELESS WORK GIVING  
YOUNG WOMEN OF COLOR  
A CHANCE TO BE HEARD.”

WE NEED  
TO HEAR THEM  
AS MUCH AS  
THEY NEED  
TO SPEAK.”

KATHARINE CLARK GRAY

“I SUPPORT VIBE  
BECAUSE OF THE GREAT WORK IT DOES FOR THE  
GIRLS IN OUR COMMUNITY  
THAT SO CRITICALLY NEED IT.”

I WILL ALWAYS DO WHAT I CAN  
FOR A PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES A PLACE FOR  
**IDEAS** TO BE SHARED, CULTIVATED,  
AND NURTURED  
IN A **SAFE & POSITIVE**  
ENVIRONMENT.”

SUE DUBROVICH  
2014 VIBENEFIT CO-CHAIR

## TOYA LILLARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Toya is Executive Director of viBe Theater Experience, an arts organization dedicated to empowering teenage girls through the arts. She has more than 20 years of experience in arts education, particularly in the use of theatre to help youth address issues relevant to their personal and civic development. Toya has directed plays, developed curriculum, led advocacy efforts, and implemented innovative teaching artist training programs both in and out of New York City schools. As a theater artist, Toya has worked extensively and passionately with teenage girls in New York City. She is also an adjunct professor in the African American Studies Department at CUNY CityTech, where she teaches Black Theater. Toya holds a B.A. from Vassar College, and an M.A. from New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study.



## MAHAYANA LANDOWNE VIBESOLOs DIRECTOR

Mahayana is a New York-based director looking to create work with dramatic visions that transcend daily life. Recent productions include: Under a Scar Filled Sky (Dixon Place) MIXED (Baruch Performing Arts), Impossible Country (Mudbone Collective), Baruch Voices (Baruch), Picasso Project (Luna Stage), Blue. (Vital Theater), Carcass (Diaspora Drama), The Heiress, (The Roundtable Ensemble at the Mint), Machinal (U. of Rochester), Post-Code (American Living Room, HERE), and Terrible Infant (Fringe Festival). Musicals include: Spring Bling, Summer in the Hummer, and The Dick Cheney Holiday Spectacular (Ace of Clubs), Western Unidad (Ice Factory Festival, Ohio Theater), Post-Code (American Living Room, HERE). As a director, she is using her skills to do creative grassroots organizing for social issues including the NYC Dance Parade which brings together over one hundred dance organizations to dance down Broadway, and many art action activities that promote participatory art culture. She also leads workshops in Creativity through Radiant Axis (Radiantaxis.com).



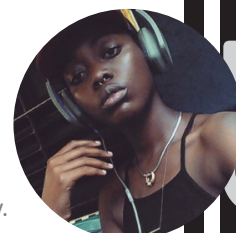
## ALEXANDRA OLIVIER VIBESONGMAKERS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Alley Olivier is a Temple University alum, reporter at Caribbean Life newspaper and semi-retired viBe girl. Beginning her journey with viBe Theater Experience around nearly eight years ago, Alley has done nearly viBe program there is to offer from Stages to Solos to even SongMakers. Now serving as the SongMakers Program Director, Alley is passionate about giving back to a program she attributes much of her success to. Without viBe, she wouldn't feel as confident addressing a crowd, trusting her voice and most importantly writing the issues that matter to girls and women beyond. Catch Alley pretending to fit in with the new generation of viBe girls and through her multimedia writings in print and digitally.



## MONIQUE LETAMENDI VIBESONGMAKERS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Monique "Orisha Love" Letamendi is a ViBe alum of 2008 turned viBe SongMakers Program Director. Monique uses her creativity and talent outside of the office as an actor, singer, poet, host and writer. Monique has worked with viBe Theater Experience on and off for going on 10 years, and is humbled to be able to watch young girls grow and progress with the same tools and love that motivated her to be the artist she's striving to become today.



## AYODELE TEMPLE VIBESTAGES PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Ayodele was a viBeGirl from 2009-2011, participating in all of viBe's programs until she graduated from the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice. She went on to college at SUNY Old Westbury and received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology in June 2015. During her Junior year she began volunteering for viBe, and last winter, she performed in the 2014 viBeSolos show, "look@me:what do you perceive?" This summer she served as the viBe Stages Program Director. She hopes to be a part of viBe for years to come.



2014-2015

## TEACHING ARTISTS

9

**JOHN GREENBAUM**

STAGE COMBAT COACH

**AMIRTHA KIDAMBI**

STAGE COMBAT COACH

**PATRICE MILLER**

CHOREOGRAPHER / DANCE COACH

**JESSIE NELSON**

PERCUSSION COACH

**JEFF TOBIAS**

SONGWRITING COACH





## MONICA CHOPRA

Monica Chopra became involved with viBe in 2011 when she attended viBenefit for the first time and was blown away by the organization, its mission and the amazing girls they work with. Since then, Ms. Chopra has served as Co-Chair for viBenefit in 2012 and 2013 and has served as a Board Member-at-large since 2013. Ms. Chopra has worked in healthcare in various capacities for 15 years and holds a Bachelor of Arts, Master in Public Health (MPH) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves as the Director of Enterprise Business Strategy at athenahealth. Monica resides in New York City. "I love viBe because we invest in our youth today to ensure that everyone has a better tomorrow."



## GABRIELLE GILLIAM CHAIR

Gabrielle Gilliam first came to viBe when she served on the viBenefit 2012 Committee. She joined the board as a member-at-large in March 2013 with the hopes of using her experience as a professional beggar to help increase support to the organization. Currently working as an independent fundraising consultant, Gabrielle has previously served as Vice President for Development at the French-American Foundation, Director of Development at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn, NY, Executive Director of Bottomless Closet New York, and, Area Development Director for Foundation and Workplace Giving for the United Negro College Fund's New York Campaign. Gabrielle received her BA in Drama from Vassar College and her MA in Performance Studies from New York University/Tisch School of the Arts. She became Board Chair of viBe in 2014 and continues to seek new ways to bring more people and resources to viBe. "I love viBe because it provides an opportunity for me to combine my passions (performing arts, social justice) and my skills (fundraising, project management) to make real and meaningful change in the lives of the young girls we serve."



## SIOBAN HEALY

While studying at Drew University, Sioban Healy learned that the Executive Director of the Apollo Theater often had to shovel the snow himself so they could open the doors for "Showtime." For some reason, she still chose to pursue a career in non-profit work. She has over 15 years' experience in fundraising, administration and events management. She has produced numerous fundraising events, working with luminaries such as the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Salman Rushdie and the New York Yankees. Some of her favorite things include travelling, cooking, pretending to exercise more than she really does, and her beloved Maltese, Reggie. Sioban joined the viBe board in January 2015. "I love viBe because the hard work, dedication and courage of the viBe girls is an inspiration to me."



## PATRICK LATTIN

Patrick Lattin, who joined viBe's Board of Directors in 2014, is a multilingual (French, German) communications professional with experience with non-profit, non-governmental organizations and institutions of higher learning with a focus on public policy, social issues, and international affairs. His work ranges from the production of print and web publications, media relations, community development, brand management, event and conference planning, and institutional advancement. He is currently Communications Officer at the French-American Foundation in New York. In addition to journalism and foreign language, Patrick studied theater as an undergraduate in his native Kansas. "I love viBe. Knowing the impact theater performance and collaborative creativity can have on one's confidence, developing a strong voice, and finding one's place in a complicated society, it's great to be able to provide future generations with the unique and enriching experience viBe offers to these girls during such a formative, often trying time in their lives."



## KRISTIN MARTING

Kristin Marting is a director of hybrid work based in NYC. Over the last 20 years, she has created 26 works for the stage, including 11 original hybrid works, 8 adaptations of novels & short stories and 7 classic plays. She is a co-founder and Artistic Director of HERE, where she cultivates artists and programs all events for two performance spaces—including 18 OBIE-award winners—for an annual audience of 30,000. She is a founding member of viBe's board. "I love viBe because of the difference it makes in the girls' lives."



## ARTI RAM

Arti Ram joined the viBe board in 2014 after attending "State of the Woman" - an incredibly powerful performance that showcased the viBe girls and the women at the Y in an effort to bridge the stories, lives and voices of inter-generational women. Seeing the talent that these young women brought to the stage inspired Arti to join the team and help the organization. Outside of viBe, she is the global head of Employer Branding & Technology Marketing at Bloomberg, based in New York. Prior to that, she's worked at J.P. Morgan and Ogilvy & Mather in marketing and advertising in New York and Hong Kong. Arti graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill (go heels!) with a degree in journalism and mass communication, while simultaneously pursuing her passion for theatre. "I love viBe because I get to help pass on my love for theatre and the benefits that being part of an ensemble as well as being on stage can bring to other young girls!"





**viBe THEATER EXPERIENCE** works to empower underserved teenage girls to write and perform original theater, video, and music about the real-life issues they face daily. viBe provides a safe, creative space for underserved girls to express their voices, take on challenges, and gain the self-confidence necessary to succeed personally, artistically and academically. viBe empowers girls through intensive, free programs, which engage and inspire them to write, create, publish, direct, and perform personal and truthful collaborative theater and music.

Since 2002, more than 60 viBe productions have brought free theater, live musical performances, videos, and radio plays to diverse audience members, changing their perceptions about the kind of art that young women can create, and what can be achieved through collaborative, process-based methods.

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