**FABnyc is 20.** We’re deeply proud of what FAB has accomplished in the past two decades. We’re choosing to celebrate our history not only by looking back and remembering... but by looking forward. What are our hopes for the next twenty years? Do we have a vision for our work in the Lower East Side that goes beyond a season or two?

Cultural equity is essential for a thriving LES. In our FABnyc 20/20 vision plan, we’re sharing ideas that expand opportunities for cultural participation, nurture partnerships, and activate open spaces for creativity and community.

We hope this vision plan will spark imagination, dialogue, and deeper collaboration with partners and neighbors on the future of arts and culture in the LES.

**FABnyc**

September 2021
Cheers on 20 FABulous years!

from your friends at

NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP
PART I
Looking Back on 20 Years

5:30pm - 7pm @ E 4th St btwn 2nd Ave & Bowery

with.. DJ Sabine Blaizin (Oyasound) and Okai Musik

and an exhibit celebrating our founding members and
the history of the East 4th Street Cultural District

PART II
Looking Forward and Imagining Our Next 20

7pm - 9:30pm @ Downtown Art, 70 E 4th St

with... Agustín Grasso Quartet, Dennis RedMoon
Darkeem, and more from DJ Sabine Blaizin

and an exhibit to launch our FAB 20/20 Vision Plan
imagining our next 20 years
Cooper Square Committee, a founding member of FAB, has been fighting tenant displacement for 62 years. We congratulate FAB on your 20th anniversary!

https://coopersquare.org/
@coopersql
@CooperSq
@coopersquarecommittee
About FABnyc

FABnyc is a team of artists and organizers working to preserve, sustain, and grow the cultural vibrancy of the Lower East Side neighborhood.

FABnyc was founded in 2001 by a coalition of cultural and community nonprofits on East 4th Street to save their homes. Today our commitment to sustaining the cultural character and diversity of the community extends across the LES: from 14th Street to Canal, from Bowery to the East River.

FABnyc works in partnership with the community—bringing artists and arts strategies to

• Fight physical and cultural displacement
• Build collective power and collaboration
• Increase equity and access to cultural resources and public space
• Support local resiliency and community health
CONGRATULATIONS
FAB!!

—Phoenix Theatre Ensemble

www.phoenixtheatreensemble.org

VESELKA

Congratulations on 20 years of serving the East Village community

144 2ND AVE, NEW YORK, NY 10003
veselka.com
Fourth Arts Block (FABnyc) was founded by grassroots arts and community organizations on East 4th Street to rally against their own displacement from the neighborhood. Through collective advocacy and with community support, groups successfully purchased six buildings and two vacant lots from the city, all deed-restricted to nonprofit cultural use. Today the East 4th Street Cultural District houses 14 arts groups, 10 cultural facilities, and 22 performance and rehearsal venues, and has more active cultural space per square foot than any other block in New York City.
Arts for All

Congratulating FAB on 20 years of preserving, strengthening, and growing the cultural vibrancy of the Lower East Side.

We look forward to continued collaboration over the next 20 years!
FAB’s focus area expanded six years ago to embrace the full Lower East Side, from 14th Street to Canal, from the Bowery to the East River. Through our programs we produce public art and performance, organize community festivals, offer support to 45 member cultural organizations, and commission creative projects that address affordable housing, resiliency, small business survival, and cultural equity.

**FABnyc’s markers of cultural vibrancy**

- All residents have multiple opportunities to access and participate in arts and culture
- The neighborhood is home to a diverse network of thriving cultural organizations
- The cultural legacies of the community are honored and shared
- Arts and culture are integrated into everyday life
1624: Dutch arrive, begin to build farms ("boueries") along Lenape trail, renaming it 'Bowery'

1625: First Africans arrive, enslaved by Dutch; some likely labored on local farms

1664: British oust Dutch, New York established

1832: Developers build Albion Place, a row of upscale Greek revival homes

1910: Union organizing centered at Labor Lyceum, 64 East 4

1900: The Lower East Side is the most densely populated place on earth

PRE HISTORY: Small waterway leads towards marshland to the east, habitat of beaver, otter, and black bear

PRE COLONIZATION: Bowery, at western end of East 4th, is the primary Lenape path running north/south in Mannahatta

PRE COLONIZATION: Kintecoying (today's 'Astor Place') - major crossroad and meeting place for Lenape trade, diplomacy, and games

Source: Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian

FABnyc: Tracing Our Roots
Timeline: East 4th Street
1959: Robert Moses leads NYC purchase of 4th Street properties, to be razed in ‘slum clearance’ program

1959: Residents form Cooper Square Committee to stop demolition of East 4th St

1974: Ellen Stewart secures month to month “as is” lease from city for vacant building at 66 E 4; other cultural groups follow

1994: Cooper Square forms first community land trust for low income residents in NYC

2000

2001: 4th Street arts groups organize against their displacement, founding Fourth Arts Block (FABnyc)

2005: NYC transfers 8 properties to FAB groups for $1 each, deed restricted in perpetuity

2016: FAB grows, expanding activities to serve the entire Lower East Side

2020: NYC reaches $45 million investment in 4th Street cultural buildings

2021: FAB turns 20
A big round of applause for the FABulous Fourth Arts Block! Thank you for being part of East 4th Street’s tremendous growth & success over the years. We at Teatro Círculo greatly appreciate your dedication, hard work and creativity. We celebrate not only an organization’s anniversary, but also a family that only grew strong defying the odds. Happy 20th Anniversary!

📍 64 EAST 4TH STREET, 3RD FLOOR, NY NY 10003
📞 (212) 505-1808
🌐 http://www.teatrocirculo.org/

Congratulations to FAB NYC for another year of visionary work!
FABnyc Members

The 4th Street Photo Gallery
ABC No Rio
Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company**
Art Loisaida Foundation
Artists Alliance Inc.
Arts for Art
Center for Remembering and Sharing
Clemente Soto Vélez Cultural & Educational Center
Cooper Square Committee **
Cooper Square Mutual Housing Association **
Creative Time
Dixon Place
Dorill Initiative
Downtown Art **
Duo Multicultural Arts Center **
Earth Celebrations
East Village Art View
East Village Community Coalition
Educational Alliance Art School
First Street Green Art Park
FRIGID New York
Gene Frankel Theatre
GOH Productions
Grand Street Settlement
Green Map System
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP)
IATI Theater **
KGB Bar and Red Room

La MaMa E.T.C. **
Loisaida, Inc.
Lower East Side Girls Club
Mabou Mines
Magnum Foundation
Mark DeGarmo Dance
More Art
MoustacheCat Dance
Movement Research
New York Neo-Futurists
New York Theatre Workshop **
Nuyorican Poets Cafe
The Art, Education, and Community Practice Program at NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Performance Space New York
Phoenix Theatre Ensemble
Printed Matter / St. Marks
The Poetry Project
Queer | Art
Rod Rodgers Dance Company **
Swiss Institute
Teatro Círculo**
The Ukrainian Museum
Third Street Music School Settlement
University Settlement – The Performance Project
The Wild Project
Works in Progress NYC **
WOW Café Theatre **

FOUNDING MEMBERS INDICATED WITH **

ADDITIONAL FOUNDING MEMBERS: Choices Theater Project, Lower East Side Printshop, Millennium Film Workshop
Congrats to FABnyc on 20 years!

We celebrate your two decades of service to the Lower East Side and greater NY arts community!

With deep gratitude and appreciation for your support, we thank you for providing space to host our Unity Obon!

Sincerely, the Unity Obon Committee:

The Unity Obon is a space for joy, care, and community-building, organized by an ad hoc committee of NYC-based Japanese Americans and organizers.
Project Highlights
From the Past 20 Years

• **FAB! Festival** - cultural celebrations on 4th Street
• **Load Out!** - a backyard arts recycling event
• **FAB Cafe** - a neighborhood hang out on 4th Street
• **Model Block** - a sustainability, energy conservation, and white roofing project
• **Dance Block** - a collaboration on 4th Street to provide affordable dance space
• **Art Up!** - murals on scaffolding, dumpsters, sidewalks and streets
• **NYC Cultural Plan** - outreach partner for citywide cultural plan
• **Lower East Side History Month** - co-founder and organizer
• **LES Community Hero Awards** - neighbors honoring neighbors as unsung heroes
• **Open Arts LES** - a neighborhood wide arts open house
• **Public Art** - installations throughout the LES
• **The People’s LES** - an online archive of LES history and culture
• **LES Community Culture Council** - a resident group of folks who care about the arts
• **Arts on Avenue B** - weekly free performance and arts on Avenue B
• **East 4th Street Open Street** - weekly free performance on 4th Street

Plus years of...

• workshops, advocacy, and gatherings to support LES arts organizations
• sharing out info on local arts & culture
• collaborations to support small businesses
• project partnerships with local community organizations across the LES
Congrats to FAB, its founders, its members, and its partners! 20 years of art, culture, and organizing together..

www.downtownart.org
70 E 4th Street NY NY 10003
Thank You

Our deepest gratitude to all our Community Partners over the past 20 years including...

Association of Latino Business Owners and Residents (ALBOR)
Cooper Square Committee
Cooper Union
Downtown Art
East Village Independent Merchants Association (EVIMA)
First Street Green
Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)
Hester Street Collaborative
IATI Theater
Loisaida, Inc.
Loisaida Open Street Community Coalition (LOSCC)
Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts NY (NOCD/NY)
NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Rod Rodgers Dance Company & Studios
Teatro Círculo
University Settlement
Urban Design Forum
Van Alen Institute
WOW Café Theater

Plus all of our FAB members (listed in section six) and the 80+ participating organizations in LES History Month

Love forever to FAB’s first Executive Director Tamara Greenfield for her leadership, caring, and many years building the ground on which we stand.
La MaMa is honored to be part of the vital cohort that is Fourth Arts Block. We celebrate FAB’s 20th with pride and love!

66 E 4th St, New York, NY 10003
(212) 254-6468
https://www.lamama.org/

@lamamaexperimentaltheatre
@LaMaMaETC
@LaMaMaNYC
@lamamaetc

THE TENEMENT MUSEUM CONGRATULATES FABNYC ON 20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY-BUILDING AND HONORING LOWER EAST SIDE HISTORY!
FAB Staff and Board

Staff
Ryan Gilliam - Executive Director
Antígona González - Production Manager
Dakota Devereux Scott - Managing Director
Imani Vieira - Senior Programs Manager
ArtsPool - Finance and Compliance

Board of Trustees
Molaundo Jones, President - Founder, The Clever Agency
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Tomie Arai - Artist
Dipti Desai - Author and Professor, The Art, Education, and Community Practice Program at NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Winston Estevez - Artistic Director, IATI Theater
Chimene Okere - Program Officer, Unitarian Universalist Congregation Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
Jasmina Sinanovic - Artist, WOW Café Theatre

Supporters
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NYC Small Business Services
NYC Department of Transportation
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NYS Assembly Member Harvey Epstein
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Humanities New York
New York Community Trust
Con Edison
Deutsche Bank
La Vida Feliz Foundation
Dance NYC / Mellon Foundation
Mertz Gilmore Foundation
Van Alen Institute
NYU Community Fund
THE APPLICATION FOR THE 2022 FRIGID FESTIVAL IS NOW LIVE!

GO TO FRIGID.NYC TO APPLY

ARTISTS KEEP 100% OF BOX OFFICE

CHEAP-ASS (QUALITY) VINTAGE!

EAST VILLAGE VINTAGE COLLECTIVE
12TH ST BTWN A & B
@EVVINTAGECOLLECTIVE