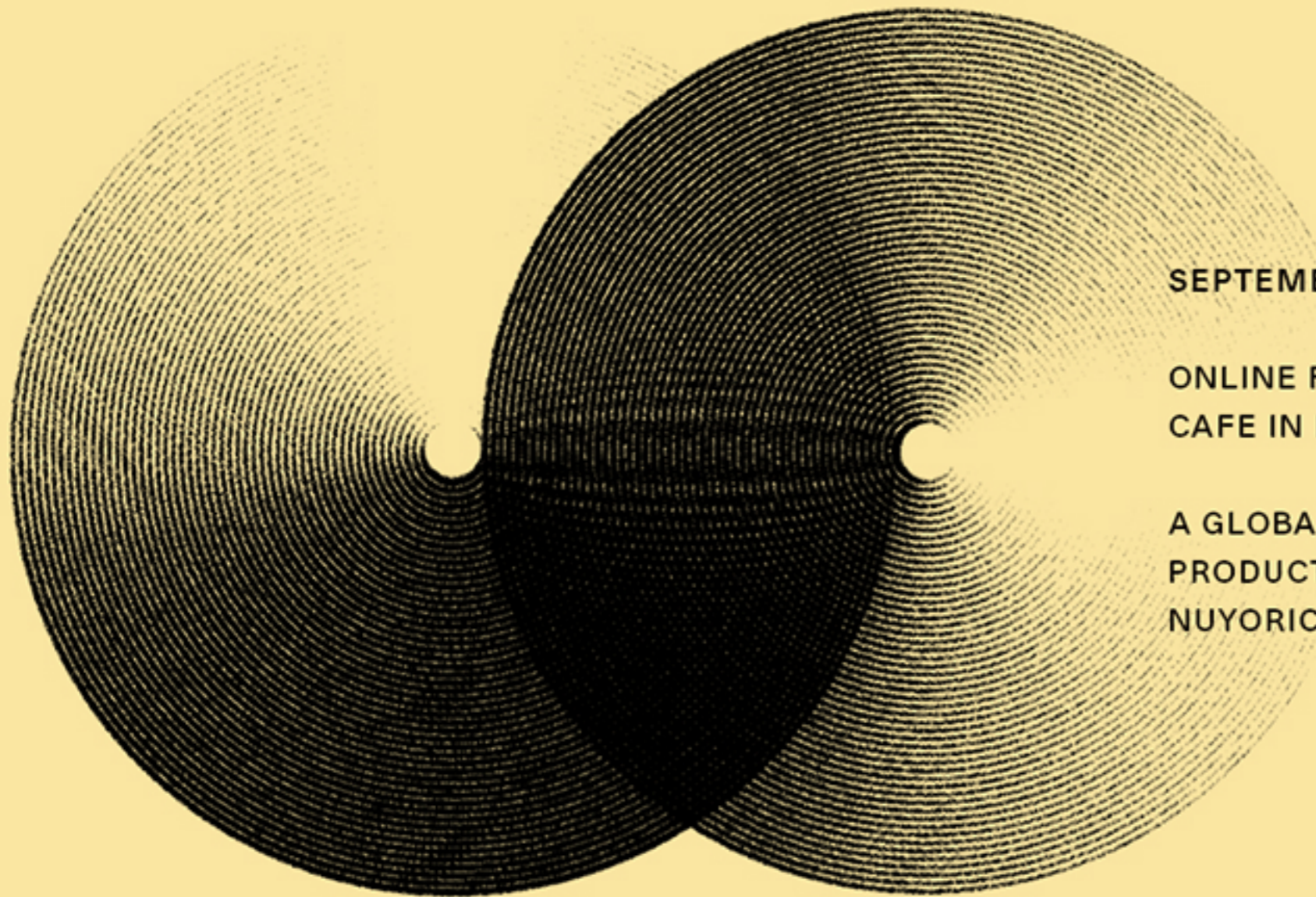


POETRY SLAM FOR PEACE 2020

SHAPING PEACE TOGETHER

A SHOWCASE WITH ARTISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD REFLECTING ON THE MANY SHAPES THAT ARE A PART OF SHAPING PEACE TOGETHER

PROGRAM



SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 – 1:00-2:00 PM EST

ONLINE FROM THE NUYORICAN POETS CAFE IN NYC DURING PEACE WEEKEND

A GLOBAL FAMILY FOR LOVE AND PEACE PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NUYORICAN POETS CAFE

SPONSORED BY THE MUSEUM OF WORLD RELIGIONS, CHAN SPACE NYC, UNITY EARTH, THE NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-NY, PURPOSE EARTH AND INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S MONTH

ARTISTS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

PEACE – ABBA ALI YARIMA MUSTAPHA is a Humanitarian who employs the use of pen and mic to advocate and campaign for a world free of violence and other societal issues. His works have been published on many online platforms and his performances have been seen on many stages.

His passion towards peacebuilding is ignited and inspired by the ongoing conflict in his hometown in North-Eastern Nigeria, Maiduguri, Borno State. Changing the narrative through Humanitarian works and art has always been the focus of his work.

Abba is the African Youth Ambassador of International Children’s Month and Co-founder of Green Panthers (Environmental/Climate Change) and works with community-based and international organizations combating terrorism, building resilience and helping the most vulnerable.

“We can change the world with Pen and mic not guns and tanks?”

www.abbaaliyarima.blogspot.com

[Facebook: abba ali yarima mustapha](#)

[Instagram: @abbaaliyarima](#)

[Twitter: @abbaaliyarima1](#)

[Youtube: abba ali yarima mustapha](#)

FOOTPRINTS – DONA LA LUNA Xin chào các bạn! I am a Vietnamese-Chinese femme who is a spoken word artist, arts-based facilitator, community organizer and cultural worker based in Tio’tia:ke (Montréal) on the unceded and vibrant territories of the Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk people). My practice is inspired by regenerative patterns within nature, the exploration of my ancestry and liminality, stories of resilience and diaspora, and the expansive and evolving work of what it means to decolonise, to heal, to love, and to seek truth(s), even in the darkest of places. www.donalaluna.com

AIM HIGH – SHANELLE GABRIEL is a poet, singer and educator who has toured internationally and is known for both opening and featuring on HBO’s Def Poetry Jam alongside Jill Scott. She has also shared the stage with artists such as Talib Kweli, Nas, Dave Chapelle, and more. Shanelle was spotlighted on the Rachael Ray Show, in a promo for the NFL Draft, and was named one of “8 Millennial Feminist Poets That Deserve Recognition” by BET and a “Powerful Indie Artist Activist You Should Know” by Blavity. She was selected to curate a series of poems for Fast Company Magazine’s 2019 European Innovation Festival at the Gucci Hub in Milan, Italy, and was the subject of a mini-documentary on the Lifetime Network regarding her battle with Lupus.

For links to her music & poetry and to learn more, visit www.shanellegabriel.com and follow her on Instagram [@shanellegabriel](#).

OHM – DARIAN DAUCHAN is an award-winning solo performer, actor, and poet who has appeared on both Broadway (Twentieth Century) and Off-Broadway Theatre (Jean Cocteau Rep., Classical Theatre of Harlem). TV and Film credits include Law and Order, Nickelodeon’s Bet the House as Darian the “SoundFX” Guy, and the Lionsgate feature film *Things Never Said*. He was a member of the 2006 National Poetry Slam Team for the legendary Nuyorican Poets Cafe, was crowned the 2007 Urbana Grand Slam Champion for the Bowery Poetry Club.

He is the 2016 Loop Station Vice Champion of the American Beatbox Championships and just recently completed *The Brobot Johnson Project*, a Sci-Fi Hip Hop transmedia piece, with the support of the All For One Theater. The web series *The New Adventures of Brobot Johnson* won for Outstanding Score, Theme Song, and Comedy Series at the 2017 LA Web Festival, BEST music at the Toronto Web Fest, BEST soundtrack at the Escape Velocity Festival sponsored by the Museum of Science Fiction, BEST original music at the 2018 HollyWeb Fest, and BEST editing at the 2018 Independent Television Festival and the show *The Brobot Johnson Experience* is

a critically acclaimed Ben Brantley New York Times Critics’ Pick. His new single Ohm is now available on Spotify and other streaming platforms. www.dariandauchan.com

FOOD FOR PEACE – NIACHLOE “MAMA BLOSSOMS” BOWMAN Known as Mama Blossoms, NiaChloe has been writing poetry and prose as early as high school. Being born and raised in NYC, she is deeply inspired by the multitude of cultures and rhythms that make up the beautiful diversity of the city. During her college career, she won several awards and designations for using her poetry and literature to bring awareness to topics of social justice, womanhood and historical events. NiaChloe has performed in various open mics in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Boston to promote her works and contribute to safe spaces.

SURVIVAL – RAMYA RAMANA An Indian-American poet and author, Ramya made her debut in 2014 at the inauguration of Mayor Bill De Blasio, where she was asked to perform an original piece. The New York Native then went on to perform at over 200 venues in one year, making mentions in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Brown Girl Magazine and many more. Ramana released her first manuscript, “Don’t Drown Her in the Baptism,” the collection of poems explored femininity, faith and race.

Ramya received her bachelor’s at St. John’s University, which she attended on a full scholarship with the NY Knicks Poetry Slam. As a first-generation Indian-American, Ramana’s work illustrates both the immigrant experience and exploring existentialism. Her upcoming projects include: creating a spoken word album and songwriting. She is currently receiving her MFA in poetry at The New School.

ramyaramana.com

[Instagram: @ramyaramana](#)

[Twitter: @ramyaramana](#)

THINGS I CAN NEVER TELL THE SEA – CAMRYN BRUNO is a Queens-born spoken word poet. She was the 2019 Youth Poet Laureate for New York City and a member of the Urban Word NYC Youth Leadership Council. With many other titles under her belt, she is internationally recognized and has performed at various festivals in the Caribbean, in the Apollo Women of the World Festival, and was a two-time participant of the Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Festival. She was also the winner of The 2017 Trinidad and Tobago First Citizens National Poetry Slam and the 2017 Ms. Tobago Heritage Personality Queen. Her poems usually explore social issues that affect youths and she is passionate about youth development, aiding those who have walls as windows. As a young female, she is always looking for opportunities to help young women around the world. www.camrynbruno.com

THE BLOOMING – GABRIEL RAMIREZ is an Afro-Latinx poet, activist, and teaching artist. Gabriel is a mentor at Urban Word NYC, was a member of the 2012 Urban Word NYC Slam Team, and won the 2013 National Youth Poetry Slam Championship in Boston. Gabriel has performed on Broadway, at New York Live Arts, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Lincoln Center, Apollo Theatre and other venues around the nation. Gabriel was featured on Upworthy.com and at a TEDxYouth Conference. He is a Willow Arts Alliance fellow, Watering Hole Fellow and participant of the Callaloo Writers’ Workshop. You can find his work in various spaces, including in publications like The Volta, Winter Tangerine, Blueshift Journal, Drunk in a Midnight Choir, VINYL, African Voices, in ¡MANTECA!: an Anthology of Afro-Latino Poetry (Arte Público Press 2017) and forthcoming in Bettering American Poetry Anthology (Bettering Books 2017).

www.ramirezpoet.com/

RUBY SINGH PRESENTS JHALAAK (SPARK), a Sufi Hip Hop project that leans back to mystic poetry from the 13th century and rides that current into the future with global bass sounds. Spanning two continents, Jhalaak brings together the powerful sounds of Qawwali (devotional Sufi music from Pakistan and India), Hip hop, and EDM. Internationally celebrated artists Chugge Khan, Salim Khan and Khete Khan are 19th generation Rajasthani musicians from the Manganiyar tradition, steeped in the elation and ecstasy of Sufi music and poetry. Under the constellations of the 2014 summer sky, they found a kindred spirit in Canadian born Desi Hip Hop artist, multi-instrumentalist, and composer Ruby Singh. To expand the spectrum of Jhalaak, Juno and Emmy nominated producer and DJ Adham Shaikh contributes to their hypnotic and explosive chemistry. [Lyrics](#)

Made up of an ensemble of artists who have toured the world over, Jhalaak is a potent combination of musicians sparking dance floors worldwide. Chugge Khan with recent project Junun toured extensively with Radiohead and was mentored as a young vocalist by the inimitable Ustaaad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. Ruby Singh’s spoken word, rap and beatboxing have taken him across the globe throughout North America, Europe, and the South Asian continent, which prepared him for creating rap interpretations of these Qawwali songs that date back as far as 700 years. Six years ago they collided in Vancouver through the Indian Summer Festival and have been jumping back and forth between India and Canada ever since. Recently they have learned, through a long twist of fate, Singh’s ancestors migrated 300 years ago from the same city in Rajasthan that the Khan brothers have been living for generations. Destiny seems to have a hand in weaving this band together.

www.rubysingh.ca

[Instagram: @rubysingh](#)

[@jhalaak](#)

THE MESSAGE – IAN KETEKU is a poet, writer, multimedia artist and educator living in Toronto, Canada. He is the 2010 World Poetry Slam Champion. His work is committed to using words as both an interpretation and cure for the human condition. He conducts poetry, writing and performance workshops for students of all ages, inspiring people to accept the power of their own voice. His debut poetry book Black Abacus is published by Write Bloody North (2019).

He teaches at the Ontario College of Art and Design University. In his courses, students explore writing practices in multiple genres that have successfully engaged community ideas, critiquing society, and addressing issues at the artistic and activist levels — utilizing artistic tools as a catalyst for social change and action.

Raised by Ghanaian parents, his work is strongly influenced by his upbringing and journeys throughout Africa.

[Instagram: @ianketeku](#)

TAHANI SALAH is an educator, poet, and activist based in Brooklyn, New York with a Bloodline to Palestine. She is a graduate of Columbia University. A former Professor of curriculum development at the Cuny Graduate Center. She also is a member of the Nuyorican Slam Team. Tahani has been featured on HBO’s Def Poetry Jams. She is passionate about peace and activism and carries that into the classroom as an educator, showing how life creates art and uses it all as a tool of expression.

My poem stands as a reflection of the power of youth standing for justice in today’s world. How power of voice and action starts and ends with All of us, not just folks in power.

AIDAN DOESN’T TALK – PENELOPE ALEGRIA is a Peruvian-American of Hispanic lineage, is the 2019-2020 Chicago Youth Poet Laureate. She is a three-year member

of Young Chicago Authors’ artistic apprenticeship Bomb Squad. Her work has been featured or is forthcoming in La Nueva Semana, Muse/A Journal, and the Breakbeat Poets Vol 4: LatiNEXT. Penelope is a Brian Mill Press Editor’s Pick and was awarded the 2018 Literary Award by Julian Randall. Her poem, “Papa’s Deli Order”, will be animated and showcased in international film festivals as part of ARTS By the People’s “Moving Words” initiative. She has performed spoken word at the Metro, Pitchfork Music Festival, University of Chicago, and elsewhere.

Her chapbook Milagro (Haymarket Books 2020) is a retracing of parental lineage, a recount of the stories that course through the veins of family. The collection examines the effects of immigration from the perspective of both the immigrant and the immigrant’s child, investigating how the act of leaving reverberates through generations. These poems echo with fondness and longing, with love and sacrifice that reflect the first-generation American’s struggle to belong. Alegria writes about uncles, Peruvian cuisine and first boyfriends to show what immigrants choose to leave behind is often what their children carry with them.

CLIMATE JUSTICE HUMAN JUSTICE – REVEREND BILLY & THE STOP SHOPPING CHOIR are a radical performance community based in New York City. We oppose the monoculture in the broadest terms: consumerism, militarism and capitalism’s attack on nature. We focus our energy on hyper local issues and global ones, and their intersections. We often work in coalition but we also approach things alone and very much on our own terms. We confront and contend with racism and economic inequality within our own community and organize with the understanding that both are at the heart of nearly every issue. We work for the Earth.

www.revbillly.com

NATHANIEL VALDIVIESO is an artist, 2020 NYC Youth Poet Laureate Ambassador, and performer who has shared his work on stages such as the world-famous Apollo Theater, Vineyard Theater, and more. He was a part of the Urban Word NYC collective that featured at the 2019 Rebel Verses Festival. He is a junior at Workspace Education in Connecticut where he is extremely active in the school community.

FINDING PYRAMIDS – ERIK “ADVOCATE OF WORDZ” MALDONADO Jester. Philosopher. Poet...Advocate Of Wordz is a writer and performer who prides himself on teaching kids how to talk their way out of detention and sharing his own personal skewed perception of what is in front of us all. Raised in the Bronx between one of the seediest neighborhoods and affluent communities, he began fashioning the English language in an attempt to bridge the duality of his world.

His articulate measures have since evolved into a perverse eloquence that has led him to be referred to as “incomparable”, and has afforded him the fortune of traveling the nation performing comedy and poetry as well as being a guest speaker at public forums. His work has been covered by major publications and media outlets including PBS, the LA Times, Fox News, BET, CNN and Univision.

A veteran of the performance art scene in New York City, Erik is a resident poet at the legendary Nuyorican Poets Cafe and Lincoln Center, and founder of [El Grito De Poetas](#), a collective of diverse Latino and Latina poets dedicated to the craft and performance of modern poetry.

“WE BE” BY EPIK DANCE CO FEAT. LADY CARESS “See, they wanted us to tiptoe through the tulips”. We said, No, we gon’ footwork and move hips...”. The art forms we enjoy, express and perform are rooted in Black and Brown culture. “We Be” weaves historical context and popular culture, celebrating who we are. The We Be Foundation pays homage to those who paved the way in music and dance culture.

In Memory of Marcus White

Directed by Luis “Weezy” Egurrola & Sarah “Saza” Kent
Cinematography & Editing by Justin Villalobos

Vocal Production: Mark Picchiotti
Poetry Written & Performed by Lady Caress

Dancers:
Chase "Zoom" Bell
Dominique "Keys" Brown
Terrance "Hush" Eddings
Luis "Weezy" Egurrola aka Javi Star
Adrian Mendle
Laura Holt
Anthony "Akelz" Kelly
Emmanuel "Kunta" Moore
Ashley Palma

Film Locations: Monarch Theater, Phoenix & Z Room, Tempe

www.patreon.com/epikdanceco
www.epikdanceco.org
[Youtube.com/epikdanceco](https://www.youtube.com/epikdanceco)
[Facebook.com/epikdanceco](https://www.facebook.com/epikdanceco)
[Instagram: @epikdanceco](https://www.instagram.com/epikdanceco)
[Twitter: @epikdance](https://twitter.com/epikdance)

VIDEO POEM – "YAHU" BY TANYA EVANSON, an Antiguan-Québécoise poet, performer, producer and arts educator. Author of two books of poetry, Nouveau Griot (Frontenac House 2018) and Bothism (Ekstasis Editions 2017), her debut novella Book of Wings is forthcoming from Véhicule Press in spring 2021. With a 20-year practice in spoken word performance, she has presented work in over a dozen countries, released four studio albums and six video poems including the award-winning Almost Forgot my Bones. In 2013, she became program director of Banff Centre Spoken Word; Poet of Honour at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word; and received the Golden Beret Award for her contribution to the genre. Born and based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal, she moonlights as a whirling dervish. www.mothersonguemedia.com

WE'RE ONE IN THIS REBIRTH (SOMOS UNO EN ESTE RENACER) FREEDOM CEREMONIES – FOUNDER ALICIA QUINTANA We create ancestral Mexican ceremonies for any type of event. Weddings, family unions, cacao, engagements and groups. Performances always focus on the opening of spiritual and environmental consciousness full of history, with a touch of magic, color and passion.

www.freedomceremonies.com
[Instagram: @freedomceremonies](https://www.instagram.com/freedomceremonies)
[Youtube: Freedom Ceremonies](https://www.youtube.com/FreedomCeremonies)
[Facebook: Freedom Ceremonies](https://www.facebook.com/FreedomCeremonies)

PAUSE FOR PEACE – CINNAMON (SPEAR) KILLS FIRST is a word warrior from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana. With a rez education from home and two Ivy League degrees from Dartmouth, she's become a cross-cultural communicator who helps bridge the gap between Indian Country and the rest of the world. Cinnamon received her MFA in Fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and designed her career as an author, documentary filmmaker, and traditional beadworker. She currently lives in Chinook ancestral territory where she owns and operates Northside Advocacy LLC. As an artist, speaker, and advocate, Cinnamon is committed to facing hard truths in order to bring about change. She has two children's books published by Scholastic, and she also serves on Scholastic's National Equity Advisory Board. Follow her on Instagram [@cinnamonkillsfirst](https://www.instagram.com/cinnamonkillsfirst), or visit cinnamonkillsfirst.com.

WE'RE MIGHTY – WAYQUAY GHOSTFLOWER Wayquay's music has been reviewed as a "...brilliant fusion of rhythms and chants from her Native American background merged with the grooves of blues, rock, funk, and poetry...". Her music video "Navigate" won the best music video award at the Native American Music Awards and the American Indian Film Festival.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

GLOBAL FAMILY FOR LOVE AND PEACE was founded by Dharma Master Hsin Tao, who was tricked into joining a Burmese guerrilla army at nine years old. At the age of 15 Master Hsin Tao heard the story of Bodhisattva Guanyin, the Goddess of Compassion. From that moment, Master Hsin Tao made a vow to spend his life following the spiritual example of Bodhisattva Guanyin, working for peace through dialogue, education and service.

The long-term goal of GFLP is to sow the seeds of peace, bringing to life the United Nations Resolution on the Right of Peoples to Peace (A/RES/39/11): that "peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace" and that "the maintenance of a peaceful life for peoples is the sacred duty of each State". www.gflp.org

THE MUSEUM OF WORLD RELIGIONS was founded by Master Hsin Tao. utilizing the principles of nature to inspire love and peace through teachings of the world's religious and spiritual traditions. The Museum's interactive exhibits and the recreation of real-life experiences allows the visitor to better understand the bewilderment about life and enables them to reaffirm life's worth. www.mwr.org.tw/mwr_en

CHAN SPACE NEW YORK sits in contrast to a fast-paced city life, offering respite and teachings through dynamic and contemporary programs to encourage curiosity, conversation, reflection and enjoyment. Under the guidance of Venerable Guang Guo Shih, there are weekly meditation classes, courses on Buddhism, walking and sound meditations, musical events, art shows, calligraphy and tea ceremony. www.chanspacenewyork.org

NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-NY monitors implementation of the commitments to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the success of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Committee works closely with relevant UN commissions and agencies, and the United Nations NGO community. www.ngocsd-ny.org

UNITY EARTH brings people together through fostering reverence for the Sacred and respecting all forms of diversity, using music, events and media to proclaim the universal unity of all beings. UNITY EARTH is building a worldwide movement for unity and peace. www.unity.earth

PURPOSE EARTH, launched in 2020, is a purposeful partnership between UNITY EARTH and GLOBAL PURPOSE MOVEMENT created to inspire real-world impact driven by a sense of purpose. At the heart of PURPOSE EARTH is the PURPOSE EARTH FUND, a global initiative supporting a grant and mentorship program focused on empowering social entrepreneurs, passionate community leaders and purposeful organizations creating positive change.

Creative solutions to our environmental and social challenges are being developed around the world, and this good work requires economic resources not always readily available from larger funding institutions. The PURPOSE EARTH FUND works to fill this gap. Grants are distributed directly to our PURPOSE EARTH grant recipients, allowing contributions to make a powerful, immediate impact on local communities.

PRODUCTION TEAM

CREATOR / PRODUCER / DIRECTOR LAURENCE SINGER has been the United Nations Representative for Global Family for Love and Peace for the past 18 years, working in the areas of the Culture of Peace and the International Day of Peace. Laurence serves on the Board of Directors of UNITY EARTH.

As an entrepreneur, the range of Laurence's experience extends from the packaging of entertainment projects, to establishing the global operations for a NYC-based record company, to producing music videos, concerts,

online events and fashion shows. Traveling to Africa for 40 years, Laurence currently is producing a romantic comedy in Ghana for the launch of the entertainment company, Rhythms of the Globe.

Laurence has extensive experience as a lawyer in the areas of entertainment, arts, media, non-profit, and intellectual property. In 1973 Laurence founded Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, continuing this work through the present, working with many non-profit arts and cultural organizations and actively participating in the local Washington DC and NYC creative communities.

EDITOR – DAVID BRYEN is an award-winning New York City based video editor. He has edited many television commercials and music videos as well as corporate and social videos. His interest in the film business started at a young age when he was interested in being a musician. Through the study of music and film soundtracks and sound design, he found an interest in technology. In addition to editing videos he is a music composer and makes video art.

"I edit videos using a similar language as music composition. I think in terms of beat and measure and stanzas and phrases. Keeping a song structure in my video editing, verse, chorus, bridge, makes for a smooth final presentation that is easy on the eyes and the ears. I try to experiment and find a new visual vocabulary for every video that I edit. I like finding new solutions to existing problems. I use my many years of life experiences to guide my vision. Time is elastic and can be manipulated."

LIVESTREAM TECHNICAL DIRECTOR ELLIA BISKER is a seasoned arts manager, a nationally touring performing and recording artist ([Charming Disaster](#), [Funkrust Brass Band](#), [Sweet Soubrette](#)), and an experienced live and virtual event producer based in Brooklyn, NY. She is a core staff member of NYC's [Bindlestiff Family Cirkus](#), and she consults with other nonprofits and artists in grant writing, crowdfunding, social media marketing, and livestream production. Since March 2020, she has been involved in producing over 50 livestream events. Learn more: elliabisker.com

DESIGN BY SABLA STAYS is a multidisciplinary Designer and Art Director who creates from a space of cultural connectivity. Her work seeks to channel the multidimensionality of our collective experience through image and design. www.sabla.work
[Instagram: @callmesabla](https://www.instagram.com/callmesabla)