



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Prison Communities International Inc. (PCI) is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to criminal justice issues. Established in 1999, PCI is the parent company under which Rehabilitation Through The Arts operates.

PHOTO CREDIT: PEGGY MCDONNELL



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share the first Annual Report for Rehabilitation Through The Arts (RTA), providing an opportunity to reflect on what was truly a breakthrough year for RTA.

A number of new and expansive initiatives marked 2019:

- RTA thrived in the five prisons in which we have been operating, and we launched a sixth program at Taconic Correctional Facility, a medium-security women's prison in Bedford Hills, NY.
- RTA as an organization has grown by leaps and bounds. We are happy to call Purchase College our home in the Center for Engagement building, the nonprofit hub on campus. We have remained committed to our engagement with the school by hosting student interns, participating in a SUNY-wide writing conference and guest lecturing in Art Management classes.

Production highlights abounded in this last year:

- *Macbeth* was performed at Fishkill Correctional Facility, along with that prison's first art show.
- The musical *1776* at Sing Sing Correctional Facility was a joyful and timely event, the result of six months of preparation including learning to sing a difficult musical score.
- Determined to bring in material more culturally attuned to the prison population, we produced *Father Comes Home from the Wars*, a play about slavery and written by an African American woman and performed at Green Haven. (Jan 2020)
- *Dutch Crown*, an original piece written by an RTA alumnus was performed at Woodbourne Correctional Facility accompanied by an art exhibit, also a first. (Jan 2020)

- Families were permitted to attend productions at Green Haven and Woodbourne Correctional Facilities for the first time. The sheer joy and pride felt both by participants and families was palpable.
- Hosted by Carnegie Hall, RTA held its annual homecoming event with the entire RTA community of alumni, their families, staff, board, and teaching artists welcoming home 26 members released in 2019.
- We held our first gala, a tremendous success in increasing revenue from individual donors and bringing new people into the world of criminal justice.
- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provided RTA with a significant three-year grant for capacity building and to launch the Reentry Toolkit Project, a film and workshop package to help currently incarcerated people better prepare for release.

Although this report is about the highlights of 2019, I cannot help but address the COVID-19 pandemic, which is unlike anything any of us has experienced in our lifetimes. While New York State correctional facilities are closed to programs, visitors and non-essential staff, RTA is working together with the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and we are committed to helping our members continue engaging with the arts in meaningful ways.

Thank you to all who share our mission and commitment. Your support provides stability, guidance, and community engagement—it recognizes our common humanity and our members know that they are not forgotten.

Yours warmly,

Katherine Vockins
Executive Director
Rehabilitation Through The Arts

RTA MISSION STATEMENT

RTA uses the transformative power of the arts to help people in prison develop skills to unlock their potential and succeed in the larger community.

PCI/RTA VISION STATEMENT

PCI/RTA envisions a justice system driven by a respect for human dignity and a belief in everyone's capacity for growth.

PCI/RTA CORE VALUES

Dignity We recognize the universal humanity of all people and treat everyone and ourselves with respect and compassion.

Creativity We are creative problem solvers and turn imaginative ideas into reality. We believe that the arts are an essential part of our humanity and make life better.

Commitment We take responsibility for our actions and understand the effect our actions have on the whole. We uphold our obligations to each other and to our work.

Collaboration We listen, share, and depend upon each other. We believe that change and growth happen when we work in partnership.

Rehabilitation Through The Arts is the lead program of Prison Communities International, Inc.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Expanded to Taconic
Correctional Facility

Received a major
three-year grant from
the Andrew W. Mellon
Foundation to expand
capacity, add two
new facilities and
support the Reentry
Toolkit project

Welcomed home 26
members at our annual
homecoming event

Presented two
full-scale productions

Hosted our first ever gala

RTA Impact

6 New York State Correctional Facilities

**BEDFORD HILLS / FISHKILL /
GREEN HAVEN / SING SING /
TACONIC / WOODBOURNE**

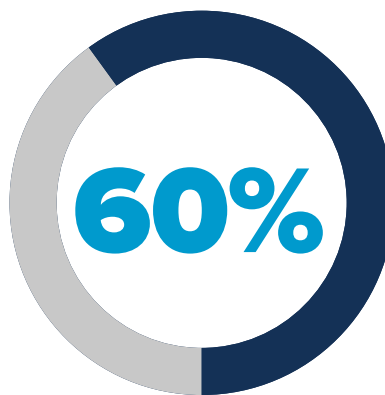


800+

MEMBERS SERVED SINCE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION

Founded at Sing Sing in 1996, RTA offers a wide-ranging creative arts program in 6 men's and women's NYS prisons. Over 30 professional teaching artists work year-round to bring innovative workshops and productions in theatre, dance, music, creative writing and visual arts, helping RTA members build skills critical to functioning in all aspects of life.

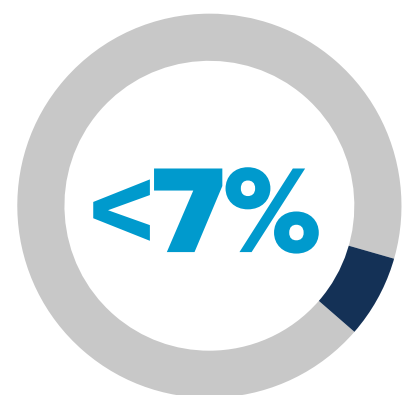
NATIONAL RECIDIVISM RATE



It costs **\$69,335*** per year to
incarcerate one person in
New York State.

* Vera Institute of Justice

RTA MEMBER RECIDIVISM RATE



RTA's low return to prison rate
SAVES taxpayers millions of
dollars each year.

Faces of RTA

RTA MEMBERS

“Where the prison culture preaches every man for himself, RTA stresses that each member is needed for the group to be whole.”



RTA members during the production of 1776 at Sing Sing Correctional Facility



ALUMNA **Dunasha**

Participating in RTA's creative arts workshops and theatre productions shaped Dunasha's time at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and helped her grow

into the person she wanted to be. "I made a mistake, and it's a chance for me to do better. RTA was life-changing for me. It helped me create a new mindset, change my perspective and let me express myself."



FAMILY MEMBER **Hector,** **Son of RTA member**

After attending RTA's gala event, Hector wrote, "It gives me chills to think about how impactful RTA truly is. It really

resonates with me due to my father's situation and I'm grateful to be a part of it. I appreciate the program for not only providing my father with a new set of skills, but also for exposing me to different environments and inspiring me to want to be a part of something larger than myself."



TEACHING ARTIST **Kate**

"RTA enriches my spirit and my life. As a teaching artist, I feel fortunate to be able to learn and grow here, as well as having a place to nurture skills and do some serious

self-examination; I can't ask the participants to do it if I don't myself! It's wonderful to be a part of this community and to find like-minded folks to collaborate with."



DONOR **Anne**

"I visit someone in prison and I've seen firsthand what RTA's program meant to her. Through choreography and dance, she was able to express herself and work towards a goal.

She gained confidence by developing her talent and being recognized for it. I'm honored to be part of this great organization that helps individuals make positive changes in their lives. It's a joy to work with RTA's creative, dedicated team of program participants, staff, alumni and board members."

PHOTO CREDITS: PEGGY MCDONNELL AND LESLYE SMITH

Thank You To All Supporters!

RTA is made possible through the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, ArtsWestchester, The Tow Foundation, the Sills Family Foundation, Tikkun Olam, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Hyde and Watson Foundation and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

RTA is also indebted to the many generous individual donors whose support is so inspiring to our community.



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Our Donors

RTA would not be the vital organization it is today without the generous support of our donors. We regret there is not enough space to list every name but we are grateful to all of our donors for their contributions in 2019.

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\$50,000 to \$99,999

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Sing Sing Prison Museum

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Leslie Sternlieb

Jean L. Stone

Nancy Head Thode

Thursday Club

Sustaining

Making a monthly gift provides a steady stream of support for our work. These are the donors who have chosen to give every month.

Jack Cino

Devin Day

Jane Dixon

Connie Grappo

Jennifer Kelly

Karen Murphy

Jennifer Ringstad and

Paul Meissner

Georgia and Jay Roelof

Gary Sloan

Please contact us if there are omissions or corrections.

PCI/RTA Financials

Statements of Financial Position

Cash Basis 12/31/2019

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,177,861
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Short-term investments	\$76,119
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Total Current Assets	\$1,253,980
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Fixed Assets

Fixed assets	\$7,037
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Other Assets

Security Deposits	\$1,400
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Total Net Assets	\$1,262,417
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LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$2,351
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Deferred restricted grant revenue	\$863,000
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Total Liabilities	\$865,351
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NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$397,066
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Temporarily restricted	\$0
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Total net assets	\$397,066
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,262,417
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REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Donations	\$533,847
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Grants	\$70,000
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Interest and dividend	\$3,254
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Other	\$99,951
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Total Revenue	\$707,052
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EXPENSES

\$716,338

Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$9,286
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NET ASSETS

Beginning of Year	\$406,352
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End of year	\$397,066
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RTASM
**REHABILITATION
THROUGH
THE ARTS**

rta-arts.org

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