



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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.



"RTA means that I can leave the place where I am told I am nobody and I can enter a place where I am told I am somebody. In this most sacred place, I am lifted up as a person worthy of love."

- RTA MEMBER AT BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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†In 2021

*As of 2022



ARTWORK BY RTA MEMBER RYAN LAWRENCE
CHILDREN'S ASSEMBLY REQUIRED, 2022
CREATED AT SING SING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2021, RTA marked its 25th anniversary — proud of the more than two decades of helping people in prison develop critical life skills through the arts. When RTA began in 1996, our approach to the justice system based on human dignity rather than punishment was an outlier model. Twenty-five years later, there is a greater understanding and desire for change in the way we approach the carceral system. I'm proud to say RTA has become the model for arts in corrections in New York State. We are an organization that has successfully changed lives, helped rebuild communities and reconnected families for generations. We continued to thrive in 2021. Here are a few highlights from our silver anniversary year:

- ✦ In the first half of an ongoing pandemic year, RTA continued to provide distance learning programming to our participants while also connecting with the community through virtual events like our annual RTA Member Homecoming and the *UPLIFT!* concert featuring some of our talented alumni.
- ✦ As the year progressed and pandemic restrictions loosened, we joyously saw the full return to in person prison programming. Having the benefit of being one of the first programs to return to prison since the pandemic began, RTA has been able to reboot the curriculum stronger than ever, with a robust program of three different workshops per week in each facility.
- ✦ In the spring, we launched a new website to share our mission more effectively and released *Unlocked*, a short film highlighting the success stories of several RTA alumni.
- ✦ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has always been essential to the community RTA serves. We have made significant strides in our DEI work over the past year. We formed a committee of Board, staff and an RTA alumnus and hired a consultant to conduct training in DEI and Culturally Responsive Education.

- ✦ We began the pilot phase of an innovative and comprehensive reentry program entitled, *Reimagining Myself*. It is a major initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation, meant to help incarcerated people plan for the emotional and social challenges of reentry.
- ✦ In the fall, RTA organized a panel discussion following the Broadway performance of *Clyde's*, a play by Lynn Nottage about formerly incarcerated people working at a diner and their oppressive boss. The talkback raised awareness about the issues people face post-incarceration.

RTA is nothing without its community of supporters. Implementing new initiatives and relaunching in person programming takes time, effort and financial stability. As our annual report illustrates, RTA has seen considerable growth with a well-balanced portfolio of foundations, individual donors, and government support in the last year. It is this investment in our mission that has provided a healthy cushion for RTA as we look ahead to the next 25 years.

With deep gratitude,

Katherine Vockins
Founder & Executive Director
Rehabilitation Through the Arts



MISSION

RTA helps people in prison develop critical life skills through the arts, modeling an approach to the justice system based on human dignity rather than punishment.

Founded at Sing Sing in 1996, RTA works with professional teaching artists to lead year-round workshops in theatre, dance, music, creative writing, and visual arts. The RTA model provides an intensive, comprehensive arts program that builds critical life skills so that people can meet the challenges of connecting with family and community when released.

RTA demonstrates that an approach based on human dignity is vastly more successful than one based on punishment. **Less than 5% of RTA members return to prison**, compared to the national recidivism rate of 60%.

Who We Serve

RTA operates in six maximum and medium-security men's and women's New York State correctional facilities within a 200-mile radius of New York City.

Bedford Hills
Maximum-security women

Fishkill
Medium-security men

Green Haven
Maximum-security men

Sing Sing
Maximum-security men

Taconic
Medium-security women

Woodbourne
Medium-security men

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.

"Art allows you to think differently, so you behave differently, so that you can get different results. To me, that's the definition of rehabilitation."

– RTA MEMBER AT SING SING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY





ARTWORK BY RTA MEMBER HECTOR RODRIGUEZ
INERTIA, 2021
GREEN HAVEN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Winter



RTA alumnus, Jose Perez with his daughter Beia shortly after returning home.

The annual Homecoming Celebration held virtually. Welcoming home 20 RTA members!

Spring



UPLIFT! A heartwarming, virtual concert featuring performances by RTA alumni, messages from our members and cameos from our community.

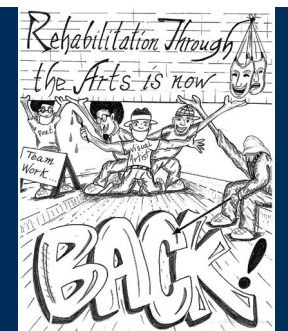


To mark the 25th year of RTA, we refreshed our logo, updated our website and social media channels.



We launched *Unlocked*, a short film that captures the unsparingly honest stories of formerly incarcerated men and women who participated in RTA's prison arts program.

Summer



After 18 months of distance learning, RTA resumed in-person programming. Rebuilding the program began over the summer.

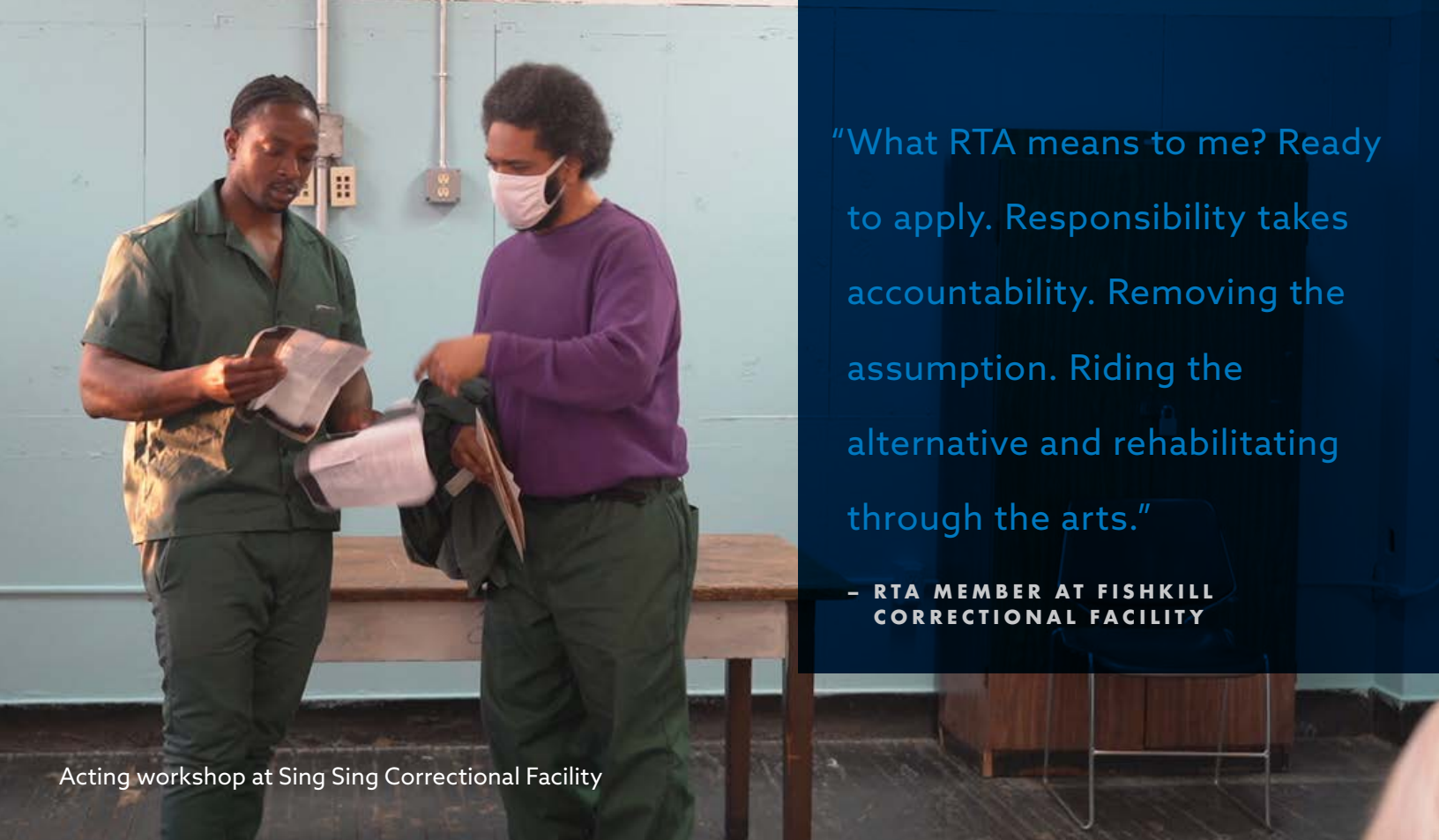
Fall



Clyde's, a Broadway production of Second Stage Theatre, invited RTA and guests to attend a final dress rehearsal and to lead a talkback in a later performance.



Workshops commenced in the fall and included music, theatre, visual arts, public speaking and new to the list — storytelling through knitting and puppetry.



Acting workshop at Sing Sing Correctional Facility

"What RTA means to me? Ready to apply. Responsibility takes accountability. Removing the assumption. Riding the alternative and rehabilitating through the arts."

— RTA MEMBER AT FISHKILL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

OUR SUPPORTERS

RTA is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

RTA is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

RTA is proud to be a grantee of ArtsWestchester with funding made possible by Westchester County government with the support of County Executive George Latimer.

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



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 2021.

PATRON \$50,000+

Anonymous
Jon and Linda Halbert Family Foundation
Jefferies Financial Group
Mellon Foundation
New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
New York State Legislature
Judith O. and Robert E. Rubin

BENEFACTOR \$10,000 TO \$49,999

Art for Justice Fund
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National Endowment for the Arts
New York State Council on the Arts
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\$500 TO \$999

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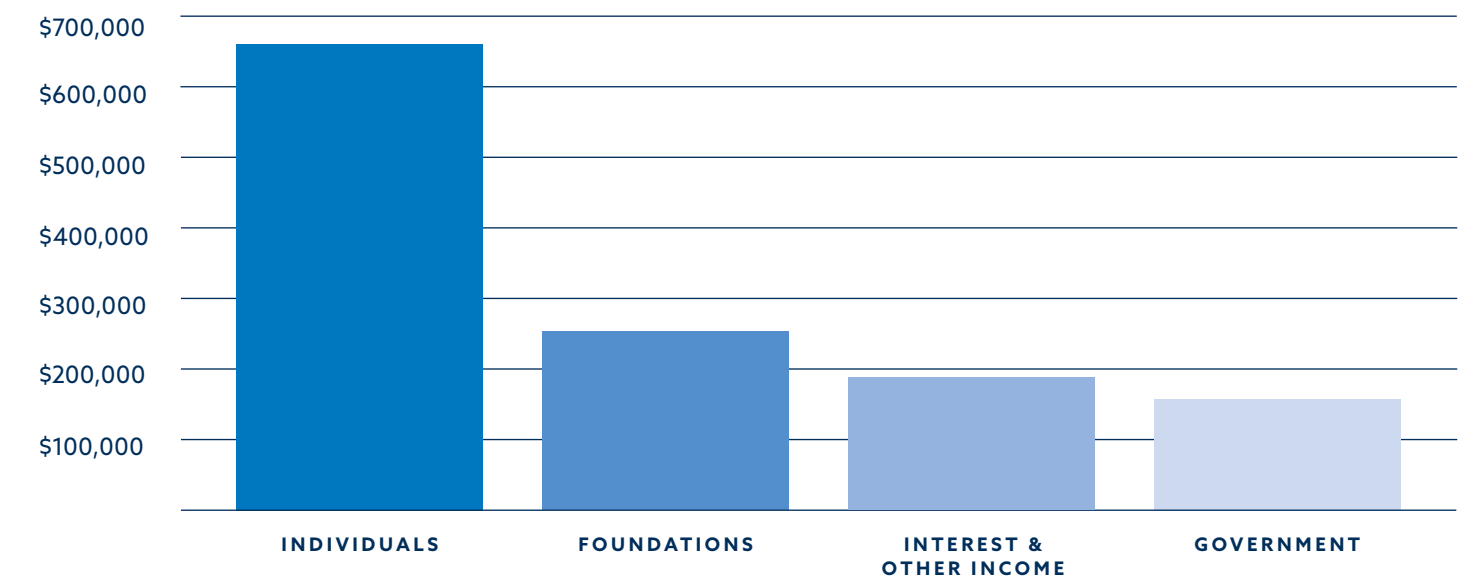
SUSTAINING

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

Karin Almquist
Jane Dixon
Jennifer Kelly
Lorena Liñero Lopez
Jennifer McHugh
Karen Murphy
Jennifer Ringstad and Paul Meissner
Mauricio Rivera
Georgia and Jay Roelof
Gina Shea
Gary Sloan
Andrea and Winthrop Wetherbee
David Zuluaga Martinez

Please contact us if there are omissions or corrections.

MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES



Katherine Vockins with RTA alumni, Clarence Maclin, Albert Fermin, Charles Moore and Lawrence Bartley at the fundraising event, Camp Runamuk

PCI/RTA FINANCIALS

Selected Statement of Financial Position
Full Financial Statements are available upon request

Cash Basis 12/31/2021

Assets (Current Assets)	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$278,676
Short-term investments	\$1,404,647
Total Current Assets	\$1,683,323
Fixed Assets	\$6,789
Other Assets	\$78,641
Total Net Assets	\$1,768,753
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$8,122
Credit Cards Payable	\$4,529
Deferred restricted grant revenue	\$612,830
Total Liabilities	\$625,481
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$942,771
Temporarily restricted	\$200,500
Total Net Assets	\$1,143,272
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,768,753
Revenue and Other Support	
Donations	\$665,067
Grants	\$425,682
Interest & Other Income:	\$190,393
Total Revenue	\$1,281,142
Expenses	\$809,354
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$471,789
Net Assets	
Beginning of Year	\$671,460
End of year	\$1,143,272



RTASM
REHABILITATION
THROUGH THE ARTS

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