

INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVAL OF  
**ARTS**  
**25**  
**YRS** **IDEAS**



**SILVER ANNIVERSARY GALA**

**Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00PM**



# **International Festival of Arts & Ideas: Silver Anniversary Gala**

Honoring Anne T. Calabresi and Dr. Roslyn Milstein Meyer

Presented live from New Haven, Connecticut

Monday, September 14th

2020

# Getting Ready & Technical Support

The link to view the event is: **ARTIDEA.ORG/2020Gala**

The program is scheduled to begin at 7:00pm EST and end at approximately 8:00pm. Stop by our virtual lounge starting at 6:30pm to get set-up, chat with other attendees, play trivia, and more!

If you are worried about technical aspects of enjoying the program, please reach out to Brian at [bnekoloff@artidea.org](mailto:bnekoloff@artidea.org) or Shannon Mykins at [smykins@artidea.org](mailto:smykins@artidea.org) prior to the event so that we can walk you through.

## *Technical Recommendations*

The Gala is designed to be best-enjoyed by guests viewing on one screen and participating on their laptop, phone, tablet, or other device. You can also view only by accessing the event using the link that was sent to you!

## **PARTICIPATE LIVE**

To get the full experience, check in at any time by visiting **ARTIDEA.ORG/gala** on your computer or tablet or by texting **festival25** to **76278**

## **HOW TO BID**

You can participate in the silent auction now through Tuesday, September 15 at 7PM by visiting **ARTIDEA.ORG/gala** on your computer or tablet or texting **festival25** to **76278**

## **MAKE A GIFT**

Thank you for showing your support by attending this evening's event! If you are moved to make an additional gift to help us meet our goal, you can do so at any time via text. You can give any amount...please note the following examples!

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# Welcome

Welcome to our Silver Anniversary Gala, Honoring Anne T. Calabresi and Dr Roslyn Milstein Meyer! We can't thank you enough for joining us as we celebrate together through our virtual stage.

## Schedule of Events

**6:30PM Doors Open - [ARTIDEA.ORG/2020Gala](https://ARTIDEA.ORG/2020Gala)  
Join us in our virtual lobby and be sure to check-in!**

Check in by texting festival25 to 76278 or visiting [ARTIDEA.ORG/gala](https://ARTIDEA.ORG/gala)

Visit our Gala HQ at [ARTIDEA.ORG/gala](https://ARTIDEA.ORG/gala) to view auction items and more

Join the conversation by clicking on "Say Something" in the chat box near the video

**7:00PM Program Begins - [ARTIDEA.ORG/2020Gala](https://ARTIDEA.ORG/2020Gala)**

Opening Remarks, live from New Haven

Greetings from Zinc

Acrobuffos: Premiere performance "William Tell's Turmoil"

25 Years of Arts & Ideas

Lila Downs: Special performance

Kaki King: Preview performance of new work

Award Presentation and Remarks, Anne & Roz

Artsucation™ Academy Network, featuring Hanan Hameen

Closing Remarks

# Letter From Shelley Quiala

Greetings,

This time last year, I was just one of the many people from throughout the country and around the world who looked at the work of the International Festival of Arts & Ideas with awe and admiration. Trust me when I say that the kaleidoscope of artists, genres, scholars, thinkers, activists, and workshops is unparalleled.

This speaks to the excellence of the hundreds of people working behind the scenes and also to the richness of the New Haven community: lifetime residents and newcomers whose creativity and cultural diversity resounds in the work, the academic and business communities we count as friends, and peer arts organizations who work with the Festival as partners while also inspiring the organization continuously with their own extraordinary work. Clearly, founders Jean Handley, Roslyn Milstein Meyer, and Anne Calabresi had the right idea when they looked at the New Haven Green and were inspired to create this great Festival that we now all know and love.

And you. You make this Festival special. Your love of great artistry, story and your willingness to hear from other's perspectives...and share your own. Your vision of a community that is greater than the sum of its parts, where every person has something unique and special to offer. Your belief that through the arts we can and will be stronger in every aspect of our lives, and that equity and justice are not just ideas to be discussed but are values we must practice in order to realize our full potentials.

So as I finish this letter I want to take the opportunity to thank each one of you. For welcoming me to this organization and to my new home of New Haven with open arms. For building this extraordinary organization and stewarding it through peaks and valleys. And for trusting me, as we move forward together toward the next 25 years and beyond.

Festively yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelley Quiala". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

Shelley Quiala  
*Executive Director*

# Wrap Up From Tom & Liz

From former co-directors Tom Griggs and Liz Fisher

Back in April, we said that this year's Festival was going to be very different from any we've done before, but that it would be a Festival we can all take part in—and love. We set out to deliver all the things audiences know and love about the Festival, and the results exceeded our wildest dreams.

The Festival, which officially concluded its 25th anniversary season on June 27, welcomed more than 120,000 virtual audience members from at least 30 countries. All programming was presented free of charge, with the exception of the KeyBank Food Series and Arts on Call, which raised more than \$35,000 and \$10,000 respectively, all of which went directly to the participating local businesses and artists.

The Festival featured more than a dozen virtual Ideas events centered on the theme “Democracy: We the People,” with vital thinkers, including 2012 Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco, award-winning scholar Dr. Khalilah L. Brown-Dean, NEA Big Read Author Stephanie Burt, renowned writer Anand Giridharadas, and 2020 Pulitzer Prize winner Nikole Hannah-Jones.

The virtual artistic offerings included the episodic video series, *More or Less I Am*, created by Compagnia de' Colombari; the *Activist Songbook* project, created by Aaron Jafferis and Byron Au Young; *Keigwin + Company's Let's Make a Dance*; and presentations by the Yale-China Fellowship program.

The KeyBank Food Series, which brought New Haven chefs and mixologists into participants' homes via Zoom; a virtual *Box City*; a new *Dinner Stories* series; NEA Big Read and Juneteenth programs; as well as self-guided and virtual bike and walking tours rounded out the Festival's nearly 200 events and 265 performances. Nearly 1,500 New Haven residents also enjoyed live, socially distant outdoor performances by local performing artists through the Arts on Call program.

We are so proud of the work that the entire Festival staff produced, and we are thrilled that we were able to share it with so many friends and neighbors, near and far. It turned out we really were the little Festival that could. We made lemonade out of lemons—and as Liz says: Who doesn't like a good lemonade!

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. On the left is the signature 'Liz', which is written in a cursive, flowing style. On the right is the signature 'Tom', also in a cursive style, appearing slightly more upright and less fluid than Liz's signature.

# History



*Opening Parade Banner, 1997*

Anne Calabresi, Jean Handley, and Roslyn Meyer founded the Festival 25 years ago, in 1996, gathering world-class artists and thinkers from around the globe. They envisioned an annual celebration in New Haven—a city steeped in a rich array of cultural and educational traditions—distinguished from other arts festivals by its fusion of the arts with events centered on sharing ideas.

Since its founding, the Festival has become one of New England's most significant cultural undertakings, attracting audiences of more than 100,000 people each June. In 2008, the *New York Times* called the Festival “a happening hard to top for sheer scale and variety,” and in 2020 in an arts season marked by cancellations due to Covid-19, the Festival distinguished itself by pivoting to the digital space and highlighting local artists, thinkers, and doers. “From GoPro biking tours to performances broadcast in assisted living homes to Zoom cooking classes with food kits from local restaurants replacing the food bazaars and tastings of past festivals, Arts & Ideas is finding alternate ways to bring people together,” said American Theatre.

Our founders believed, as we do today, that presenting authors, scientists, and leading innovators alongside outstanding artists heightens our ability to understand our world and each other. The Festival's additional programming includes the annual Visionary Leadership Award, celebrating a leader whose trailblazing work impacts the world, and the High School Fellowship Program, a fully funded, college-level course that immerses New Haven public school sophomores and juniors in all aspects of the Festival.

# Anne & Roz



**Anne T. Calabresi** is a dreamer whose great love of her community and embrace of humanity's promise shows what we can accomplish together. Born in New Haven, Anne has led countless initiatives that look at the city holistically while also meeting each person's individual needs and circumstances.

In the early 1990s, this led her to work with partners including Roslyn Milstein Meyer and Jean Handley to create two organizations that have become anchors in our city: LEAP and the International Festival of Arts & Ideas. As she stated in the 1996 opening remarks of the Festival, however, she knows that "ideas, even good ideas, are a dime a dozen." That is why she continued to dedicate countless hours to these organizations and a dozen more over the years. Even today—when most people who have accomplished what she has are enjoying retirement—she is still ready to say "yes," sharing her wealth of knowledge and new ideas with a new generation of changemakers and do-gooders.



**Dr. Roslyn Milstein Meyer** has been a steadfast and committed leader, quietly supporting dozens—if not hundreds—of organizations working to make the world a better place through the arts, medicine, education, journalism, the environment, and beyond since first arriving at Yale University to complete her psychology studies in her 20s.

Having already worked together to launch LEAP and other initiatives, Roz was one of the first people Anne called when she envisioned the International Festival of Arts & Ideas. Immediately inspired by the goal of uniting the academic world of Yale with the world's greatest art and the rich culture of New Haven, she jumped right in without hesitation. Like Anne, Roz remains dedicated to the International Festival of Arts & Ideas as an engaged member of the Board of Directors.

# Artists' Bios



## **Seth Bloom** and **Christina Gelsone**

met at a circus in Afghanistan, became engaged while street performing in Scotland, married in China, and occasionally go home to New York City. Since 2005, they have created seven shows together, competed in international circus festivals, performed in over 25 countries, headlined at the Big Apple Circus,

and were even featured on a postage stamp. Their most recent production, *Air Play*, has toured the globe several times since being presented at Arts and Ideas in 2016.



Brooklyn-based composer and guitarist **Kaki King** is considered one of the world's greatest living guitarists, known both for her technical mastery and for her constant quest to push the boundaries of the instrument. In 2015 Kaki launched "The Neck is a Bridge to the Body", a groundbreaking multimedia performance that used her guitar

as projection screen to explore the genesis of the instrument and her relationship to it as well as her own origin story. The show toured extensively throughout North America, Europe, Australia, Turkey, Japan and Brazil, marking her first foray into multimedia.

Kaki has released 9 albums over the past 14 years and toured extensively all over the world, presenting her work in such prestigious arts centers as the Kennedy Center, MoMA, LACMA, The Met and Smithsonian Design Museum. She has created music for numerous film and TV soundtracks, including "August Rush" and Sean Penn's "Into the Wild", for which received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Original Score. In addition to her solo work she has performed with symphonies and chamber ensembles, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and string

*Kaki King continued...*

quartet Ethel, and recorded an album in collaboration with the Porta Girevole Chamber Orchestra commissioned by the Berklee College of Music.

Kaki's 10th album, *Modern Yesterdays*, will be released Fall 2020.



**Lila Downs** is one of the most influential artists in Latin America. She has one of the world's most singular voices, and is known for her charismatic performances. Her own compositions often combine genres and rhythms as diverse as Mexican rancheras and corridos, boleros, jazz standards, hip-hop, cumbia, and North American folk music. Her music often focuses on social justice,

immigration, and women's issues.

She grew up in both Minnesota and Oaxaca Mexico. Her mother is from the Mixtec indigenous group, and her father was Scottish-American. Lila sings in Spanish, English, and various Native American languages such as Zapotec, Mixtec, Nahuatl, Maya, and Purepecha.

She has recorded duets with artists as diverse as Mercedes Sosa, Caetano Veloso, Juanes, Nora Jones, Juan Gabriel, Carla Morison, Natalia LaFourcade, Santana, The Chieftains, Nina Pastori, Soledad, and Diego La Cigala, Aida Cuevas, Toto La Momposina, and Bunbury. Chavela Vargas named Lila her "successor".

She has sung with symphonies such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony and the UNAM symphony in Mexico, as well as with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She has given concerts at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, the Hollywood Bowl, and Auditorio Nacional in Mexico City. She was invited by Barack Obama to sing at the White House, and has performed at the Oscars for her participation in the film *Frida*.

Lila has recorded nine studio albums. She has been nominated for nine Grammy Awards and has won six.

# Artists' Bios

## Artsucation™ Academy Network

### Co-Choreographers Hanan Hameen and Baidy Ba

Featuring

**HANAN HAMEEN** - *Founder/Director*

**FATOU NIANG** - *Dancer*

**MAMADOU DIALLO** - *Dancer*

**M'BOSSÉ DANCE COMPANY**

**BAIDY BA** - *Director*

**MODOU DIAGNE** - *Musical Director*

**MAISA DIAGNE** - *Accompaniment*



**Ms. Hanan Hameen**, Doctoral Candidate is the Founder of the Artsucation™ Academy Network, Ms. Hanan's Dance and Beyond, New Haven Hip-Hop Conference, Keepers of the Culture Performing Arts Company, and the Premiere Dance Company at Neighborhood Music School. Ms. Hameen is also Artistic Director of the BAM DanceAfrica Candle Bearers founded by Baba Dr. Chuck

Davis, and an Adjunct Professor. Currently, Ms. Hameen is pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Administration, Master equivalent in Dance Education, Master of Science in Educational Leadership with an Advanced Certificate in School Building Leadership, Dance Education Laboratory Alumni, a Lupus support group facilitator, an author, dance mentor, and curriculum developer. Before Lupus diagnosis in 2010, Ms. Hameen performed with 13 dance companies, instructed at 8 colleges and universities in NYC and CT, choreographed for major and independent artists, founded 6 dance companies, and owned/operated 4 dance schools during her dance career of over 30 years. Now being employed disabled, through Artsucational™ events she uplifts the community domestically and abroad. Ms. Hameen's awards and recognitions include three honors societies and Arts Council of Greater New Haven 2018 Phenomenal Woman and Artist Commission Awardee. Her doctoral research interests are on STEAM education, culturally relevant instruction, and gifted and talented African-American youth. During this pandemic Ms. Hameen is hosting an online diasporic class series with former artists from BAM Dance Africa and national dance companies.



**Baidy Ba** is a Senegalese dancer, choreographer, and performer, native of Kaolack City, who started dancing from an early age. From 2012 - 2018, Baidy trained in contemporary, classical dance, Afro contemporary dance, and popping and locking with several major artists and pioneers of dance in Senegal including Guillaume Siard from Preljocaj Ballet, Alioune Diagne from Cie Diagn'art in St Louis, Senegal, Germaine Acogny at Ecole des Sables, Gil Roman from the Ballet

Bej'art, and actress Marie Koda, to name a few. In 2018, Baidy earned his diploma in the art of teaching dance and mastering traditional and contemporary African dance at Ecole Des Sables.

From 2015 - 2019, Baidy Ba toured Germany, the United States, Spain, and London with several companies including the production Political Bodies choreographed by Yolanda Guttierrez, the Tenane Company in the DanceAfrica Festival at Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2016, the Festival Kaay fecc in 2017, and the Festival Cuadernos esceninos in Spain. In 2017 Baidy founded his own company, the Mbosse Dance Company, which brought him to France for a cultural exchange as part of the Nicola project, in London, England and Brazil. His first solo entitled Gouddi Ndakarou, was presented in Tchad at the Souar Souar Festival at the Goethe Institute of Dakar, at the Blaise Senghor Cultural Center in Dakar and at the Ecole des Sables in Toubab Dialao. His second solo entitled Illusion was presented in the Soloduo International Contemporary Dance Festival in Cologne in 2018.

Through his organization that helps the children of the Street, Kilifete Euleuk, in Kaolack, Baidy was invited to participate in a project, Un pas en Avant, in Tchad to work with the War Refugees for three months in 2019. Baidy performed with the music group Guiss Guiss Bou Bess in the Transmusical Festival in Rennes and participated in a 2 week residency in Lille. While in in Rennes, France another Sabar Fusion was organized in Athens, Greece for a seminary at the Quilombo Center. Baidy Ba is also the Founder/Director of the first 100% international Dance Festival in Kaolack in 2017 and presented the second festival in 2019. In Kaolack, Baidy created cultural training and exchange projects for local dancers.

Currently, Baidy is working on a Collective project with dancers from the Kaolack region, the Alliance Française de Kaolack, and dancer/choreographer Nicoletta Key From Italy to create a national tour of Senegal. Lastly, Baidy Bâ opened the first mixed dance center in Kaolack in collaboration with L'alliance Frances de Kaolack where he trained more than 50 young students and lovers of dance. Through his mentorship, 40 young dancers became professional, including 6 dancers who have graduated in teaching and writing dance.

# Why Leave Your Legacy To Chance?

Enrich the lives of future generations by making  
a Legacy gift to the Festival!

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“With all its surprises, artistic excellence, and welcoming community, the International Festival of Arts & Ideas embodies the promise of a future still-to-be-imagined. That is why I am proud to be a part of the Legacy Society to ensure that future generations have the chance to explore great art and hear new ideas for decades and centuries to come.”

***-Ruby Melton, Legacy Society Member***

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## **Legacy Society Members**

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*\*In grateful memory*

Let us know you have included us in your plans! Or have a confidential discussion with Legacy Society member and Individual Giving Manager **Brian Nekoloff** at 203.498-3704 or [bnekoloff@artidea.org](mailto:bnekoloff@artidea.org).

More information is available at **[ARTIDEA.ORG/planned-giving](https://ARTIDEA.ORG/planned-giving)**

# Silent Auction - *Live Now*

Participate in the silent auction now through Tuesday, September 15 at 7PM by visiting **ARTIDEA.ORG/gala** on your computer or tablet or texting **festival25** to **76278**

## Thank You to Our Auction Sponsors



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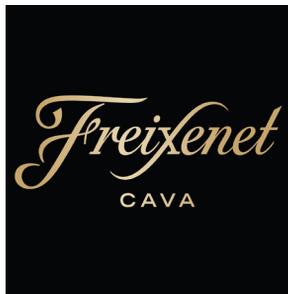
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We are so fortunate to have a generous community of individual supporters who share our vision and put your trust in us even when things are uncertain...we cannot thank you enough for making all that we do possible!

Whether you support us with a gift, volunteer your time, join us at the Visionary Leadership Award, or attend the Festival year after year, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you for being here with us through it all. These unprecedented times have been tough, but we are excited to be here for another 25 years with you by our side.

# Thank You to the Sponsors of Our 2020 Festival



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# Thank You to Our Team

The 2020 International Festival of Arts & Ideas was made possible thanks to the extraordinary work and dedication of our team.

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# Honoring the Legacy of Louise Endel



**“If you arrive friendless, penniless and relationship-less in New Haven, within a week Louise will have you hooked up with a job, a relationship and something to do on Saturday night.”**

*- Former Mayor John DeStefano, on Louise Endel in 2011*

We were heartbroken by the news of the passing of Louise Endel in April. Connecting people to create positive change was the driving force behind Louise’s remarkable life. The International Festival of Arts & Ideas was one of 58 organizations who benefited from her brilliance, kindness, and hard work as a board member. We will always be grateful for her dedication as a founding board member in 1996—a dedication that continued unabated for more than 20 years and culminated in her serving as Board Emeritus since 2018.

Her success at generating enthusiasm and support for cultural organizations and progressive political action was rooted in her inherent belief in the value and abilities of the people around her. Louise was always eager to connect people of all ages to opportunities and relationships where their talents will shine. We honored her commitment to community in 2015 with our only endowed position, the Louise Endel Community Engagement Manager.

The International Festival of Arts & Ideas thanks Louise for allowing us to be just one part of her tremendous legacy of love and hope.

# Help Make The Festival Possible



Did you know that even with ticket sales, almost 90% of our events are funded through the generosity of hundreds of people giving what they can? Giving by people like you supports our famous free concerts, of course, but it also allows us to do amazing year-round programs in New Haven and keep ticket prices affordable to all.

**Will you join us with a gift?**

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**Mail a check** to us at 195 Church Street, 12th Floor, New Haven, CT 06510

**Questions about using your Donor Advised Fund, donating stock, or other ways to support the Festival?**

Contact Brian Nekoloff at [bnekoloff@artidea.org](mailto:bnekoloff@artidea.org)

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Find out more about Native Land near you by visiting [www.native-land.ca](http://www.native-land.ca)