

Institute for Diversity in the Arts



2013-14
ANNUAL
REPORT

ABOUT	03
STUDENTS	11
ACADEMICS	17
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE	23
PROGRAMMING	27
THANKS	36

**WE VALUE
AND PRACTICE
CREATIVITY.**

**WE NURTURE
DIVERSITY
OF CULTURES,
IDENTITIES,
AND FORMS
OF ART.**

**WE STRIVE
TO ACHIEVE
EXCELLENCE
IN ALL OF
OUR WORK.**

**WE BELIEVE
IN THE POWER
OF ART TO
TRANSFORM.**

The Institute for Diversity in the Arts (IDA) is an interdisciplinary program in the humanities that involves students in the study of culture, identity and diversity through artistic expression. Our mission is to create, support, and advance powerful, collaborative, and transformative arts practice and arts leadership.

**EXCELLENCE.
CONNECTION.
CHANGE.**



In the arts, IDA has become a hub of vital student leadership and development, an incubator for rigorous and progressive thinking and practice, and a space of expression and joy.

In our third straight year of expansion under the leadership of H. Samy Alim, IDA engaged more students and artists than ever in the process of learning and practicing artistic excellence, and connecting thriving creative communities. We did all of this while keeping our eyes focused squarely on changing the world.

It was a great year. So of course, we're very happy to tell you all the great things we experienced...

JEFF CHANG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeff Chang was named by The Utne Reader as “One of the 50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World.” He has been a USA Ford Fellow in Literature, a founding editor of ColorLines, and a co-founder of CultureStrike. His first book, *Can’t Stop Won’t Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation*, won the American Book Award. His forthcoming books include *Who We Be: The Colorization of America* (St. Martin’s Press, October 2014), *Youth* (Picador), and a biography of Bruce Lee (Little, Brown).

ELLEN OH

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Ellen Oh has an M.A. in Arts Administration from Columbia University and has spent over fifteen years working in marketing, development, volunteer management and program coordination for nonprofit arts organizations both nationally and internationally. Recent experience includes serving as Executive Director of Kearny Street Workshop and Associate Director, Marketing for Sundance Institute.

H. SAMY ALIM

FACULTY DIRECTOR

Faculty Director H. Samy Alim is Professor of Education and (by courtesy) Anthropology and Linguistics. Alim received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University. He has lectured widely on Global Hip Hop Cultures and Hip Hop Arts and Education. His most recent book, *Articulate While Black: Barack Obama, Language, and Race in the U.S.* (Oxford, 2012), with Geneva Smitherman, has received widespread acclaim. In addition to his work at IDA, he directs the African & African American Studies program.

ELIZABETH QUINLAN

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

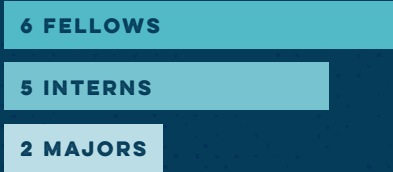
JENNIFER KALLINI

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Students.

HOW WE'VE GROWN

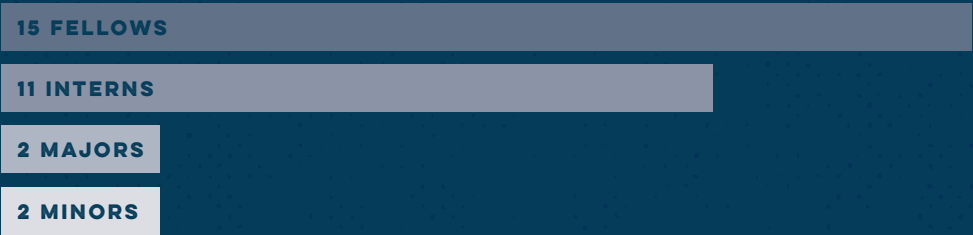
2010



2011



2012



2013



COMMUNITY ARTS FELLOWS

Vy Tran
Sarah Perkins

FELLOWS

Kyle Abraham
Kareem Allston
Tyler Brooks
Tucker Bryant
Shanae Davis
Cody Laux
Taylor Litchfield
Kalyn McCall
Gabriella Moreno
Thanh Nguyen
Chris Russ
Erica Schoonover
Miranda Shepherd*
Vanessa Zamy*

*CO-CHAIR

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Charlie Geronimus
Hana Kajimura
Annabeth Leow
Janei Maynard
Thomas Plank
Natasha Mmonatau
Annie Phan
Alejandra Salazar
Bojan Srbinovski
Kyle Sykes
Noël Tucker
Jake Winkelman

HIGHER GROUND

“I was so proud and happy to be a part of Jessica’s Higher Ground. The performance was amazing and the crowd received it really well. I will always remember that night.”

VANESSA ZAMY
IDA FELLOW CLASS OF 2014

As a climax to her time at Stanford, Jessica Anderson, a four-year IDA student, decided to put together a senior honors capstone project. What resulted was something Stanford had never seen before. Inspired by her exhaustive research into the historic relationship between gospel music and social movements, Jessica wrote, produced, and led ***Higher Ground: A Gospel Musical***. On March 1, 2014, the show—featuring a cast of 15, a full band, gospel choir, and a crew of a dozen more—played to a standing-room only crowd of more than 750 people at Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

Higher Ground was a three-part theater production which moved from the fields of the American South to Ireland, Czechoslovakia, Bangladesh, and Zimbabwe. It presented the music of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, Mahalia Jackson, the Clark Sisters, and the South African anti-apartheid struggle as a continuity of “freedom songs” across time and space. By all accounts, it was one of the artistic and social peaks of the school year, an uplifting testament to the mobilizing powers of art for social change, and a beautiful example of the expansive brilliance of Jessica and the passionate artistic excellence of her fellow students.

IDA's popular classes afford students the opportunity to rigorously explore identity, diversity, and aesthetics. Over each of the past three years, seniors graduating with an IDA concentration have won honors in their fields. IDA faculty and visiting artists have also been recognized for their teaching excellence.

Academics.

ART IN THE STREETS

Identity in murals,
site-specific works,
and interventions
in public space

VISITING ARTIST
ALA EBTEKAR

Internationally renowned artist Ala Ebtekar—whose work spans drawing, painting, sculpture, photography and installation—returned in the winter quarter to teach his seminar **Art in the Streets: Identity in murals, site-specific works, and interventions in public space**. The course included lectures, presentations by renowned street artists such as Ray Patlan and APEX, field trips, and hands-on art practice. Students created a Street Art Truck, modifying and beautifying a delivery truck, parking it in White Plaza and inviting other students to take part in their mobile experiential installation.

“Ala’s class was amazing. He brought us into the community and taught us new ways of seeing how art enriches the lives of its members. It inspired me in my own work, and I can’t imagine doing art the way I did it before I met him.”

ART IN THE STREETS STUDENT
WINTER 2014

WHAT WE WANT IS WE

Identity in Visual
Arts, Engagement,
and Civic Propositions

VISITING ARTIST
JEROME REYES

Jerome Reyes—an acclaimed artist, educator and curator—taught a spring seminar entitled **WHAT WE WANT IS WE: Identity in Visual Arts, Social Engagement, and Civic Propositions**, which looked at contemporary culture through case studies on visual art, race theory, urban studies, and resistance legacies. From these case studies, students made public art/text/performance experiments and learned research and grant writing approaches for designing long-term political projects.

“We took a crash history course in pre-/post-multicultural arts radicalism, installed our own original works across the Peninsula, and even had a multidisciplinary panel of Bay Area arts laureates judge our ideas in a real-time mock grant proposal session, SF Arts Commission-style. Perks also included visionary backstage pass-level rants by Jerome, free Pablo Helguera social arts practice manuals, and a myriad of guest visits by meteors like Julio Cesar Morales, Leslie Hewitt, and Mary Valverde. In a word, ‘What We Want is We’ was unforgettable, proof that Stanford is an amazing place to study identity and the arts.”

TYLER BROOKS
IDA FELLOW CLASS OF 2014

THE 5TH ELEMENT

**Hip Hop Knowledge,
Pedagogy, and
Social Justice**

INSTRUCTORS
**H. SAMY ALIM
JEFF CHANG**

IDA's nationally renowned spring course/ speaker series focused this year on hip-hop arts, knowledge, and education. "The 5th Element" proved to be one of the most popular and best evaluated courses across the entire arts and humanities this past year, and resulted in Samy Alim and Jeff Chang winning the Dr. St. Clair Drake Teaching Award for excellence.

In the class, students unpacked the cultural meaning of knowledge as "the 5th element" of Hip Hop Culture and examined how educators and artists leverage culturally relevant and culturally sustaining pedagogies for social justice. Each week over 150 students, including a large high school contingent from East Palo Alto, and up to 300 more community members

"Alim and Chang were a dynamic duo that had a clear vision and plan for the class. This course needs to be replicated across the nation and democratized for many others (which they do partly through offering it online streaming). This course pushed my thinking, identity, academic understanding and personal conviction. I am honored and so privileged to have been a part of this class and hope that Alim and Chang are truly recognized for their pioneering radicalism. All in pursuit of equality, justice and hip hop."

5E STUDENT
SPRING 2014

enjoyed the course. Over a thousand more enjoyed the course via online streaming.

Guest lecturers included The GZA of WuTang Clan, Marc Lamont Hill, Gloria Ladson-Billings, Bryonn Bain, Mark Gonzales, Michelle Lee, Dr. Christopher Emdin, and South African artist/activists Emile YX? and Shaheen Ariefdien. High schoolers from the Mural Music and Arts Project and East Palo Alto Academy spoke on pedagogical issues and performed.

Because of the class's great success, it will become a permanent part of the IDA curriculum. In 2015, IDA begins a groundbreaking research project exploring many of these same issues with the Mural Music and Arts Project and the East Palo Alto Academy.

"The 5th Element was by far the class I enjoyed the most during my times at Stanford. The speakers who came in every week forced me to think deeply, and – more importantly – left me feeling inspired and wanting to go out and change the world. I couldn't wait to go to class each week, as it was a huge highlight of my week."

5E STUDENT
SPRING 2014


Artists in Residence.

Theater and Performance Studies Department lecturer and founding director of Robert Moses Kin Dance Company, **Robert Moses** served as choreographer for Jessica Anderson's production, Higher Ground, and organized a series of dance workshops in the spring with members of his SF-based company.

Theater and Performance Studies Department lecturer **Aleta Hayes** brought her

multi-genre performance group, the Chocolate Heads Movement Band and their performance at the Cantor Museum.

In conjunction with Theater and Performance Studies Department lecturer, poet and playwright **Cherrie Moraga**'s spring quarter course, IDA hosted guest artists Carmelita Tropicana and Chicano Secret Service as part of her signature Counter-Cultura series.

A group of approximately 15 diverse young adults, including men and women of various ethnicities, are posed in three rows in front of a light-colored curtain. They are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

This year, IDA produced 46 unique programs, which ranged from artist talks at Harmony House to public class sessions with guest speakers to film screenings to hands-on art practice workshops to field trips. We hosted members of the renowned Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the breakout filmmaker Ryan Coogler, ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro, and the infamous rapper Heems from Das Racist.

Programming.

ART IS MY OCCUPATION

"By attending the Art is My Occupation events, I learned what it looks like to work in the arts, how artists and arts administrators work together in creative communities, where to look for jobs and how to best prepare myself during my time at Stanford."

GABY MORENO
CLASS OF 2015

Noting the lack of information and resources on campus for students interested in careers in the arts, IDA initiated a program entitled Art is My Occupation (AiMO) in 2012. Bringing together the Career Development Center, the Art & Art History Department, the Music Department, the Stanford Arts Institute and IDA, AiMO became a tremendously successful interdepartmental program that empowers students to explore their personal and artistic identity, connects them to professional creatives, and provides career guidance and resources. Having grown from three events annually, this year's programming reached more than 200 students and included two panel discussions, a career preparation workshop, a field trip to three San Francisco arts organizations and a winter quarter course. Students were able to meet and ask personal career advice from working professionals such as the Executive Director of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, a documentary filmmaker and KQED producer, a Guggenheim Fellow, a Lines Ballet dancer, the Marketing Director of the Asian Art Museum, and many other professionals working in the field.



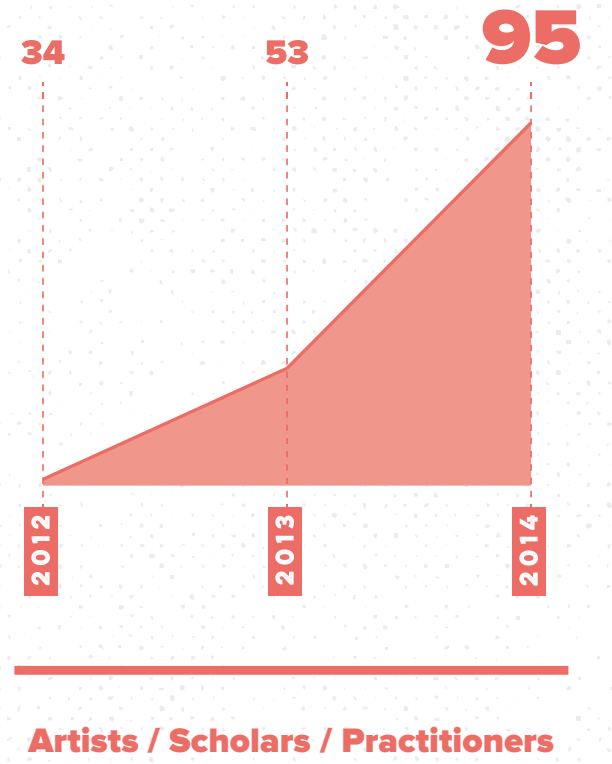
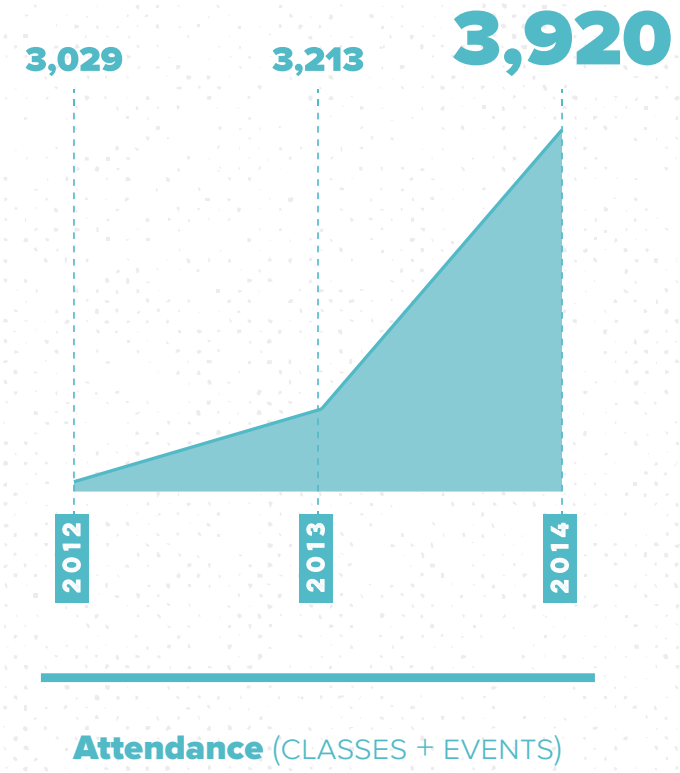
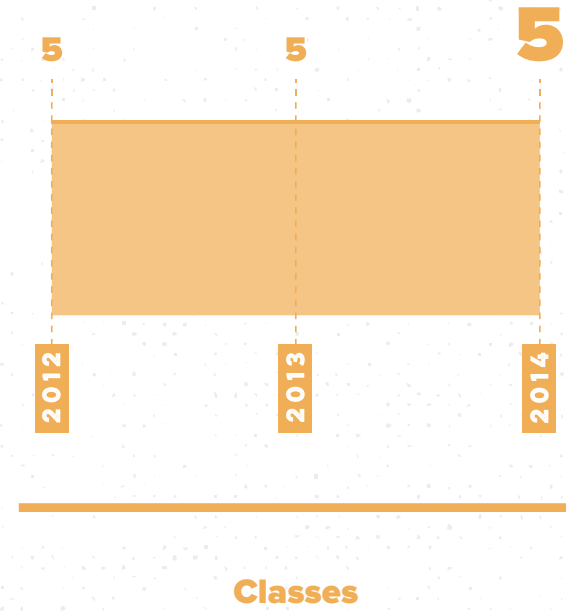
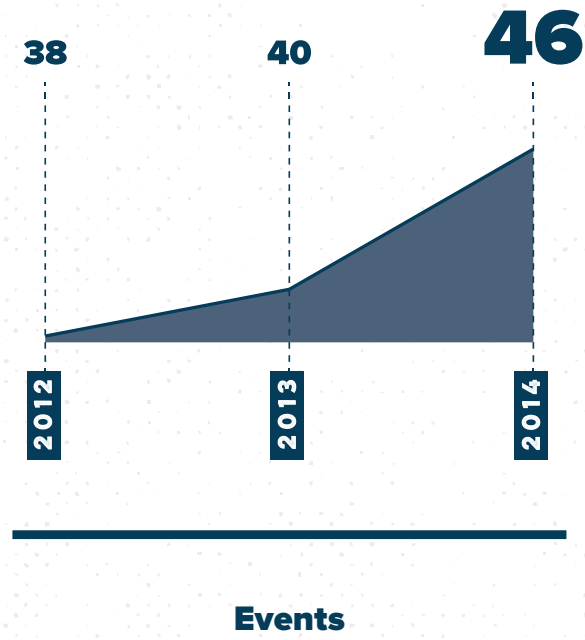
POETICS OF PROTEST AND POLICY

“Javier Sicilia was an inspiration, from his personal history to his passion for peace. The talk really made me think about the power of words and how art’s presence (or absence) can make a difference in the world.”

EVELYN ANDERSON
CLASS OF 2016

Visiting Artist Rubén Martínez brought acclaimed Mexican poet and activist Javier Sicilia to Stanford in October to discuss *The Poetics of Protest and Policy: Peace Beyond the Drug War*. Award-winning author and journalist Martínez led a discussion with Stanford scholars and Mexico’s best known poet who has given up writing to lead the country’s largest peace movement. The event was co-sponsored by The Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

IDA BY NUMBERS



HARRY ALLEN
APEX
MICHAEL ARCEGA
SHAHEEN ARIEFDIEN
BRYONN BAIN
BRENDAN BARTHEL
SABRINA BEDFORD
HARRY BELAFONTE
MANUELITO BIAG
BEN BIGELOW
DERECA BLACKMON
BRYAN BROWN
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KATHERINE DISENHOF
MAX DOTY
AIDAN DUNN
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MARK GONZALES
LORRAINE GOODWIN

THE GZA
NINA HAFT
TIM HALLMAN
ALETA HAYES
HEEMS
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LESLIE HEWITT
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BINTA IOFEMI
VIJAY IYER
DAMONDRICK JACK
LAURA JESSUP
WANDA JOHNSON
ERIC KOZIOL
GLORIA LADSON-BILLINGS
MONICA LAM
MARC LAMONT HILL
YURI LANE
LENORA LEE
MICHELLE LEE
CHRISTY MACLEAR
RUBEN MARTINEZ
SCAPE MARTINEZ
MARC MAYER
JULIO CESAR MORALES
ROBERT MOSES
AUDREY MOYCE
TASNEEM NANJI
TAD NAKAMURA
NICK NAVARRO
JUDY NEMZOFF
RAQUEL ORENDAIN
SHRESTHA W/ “JACE”

GIGI OTALVARO
DJANGO PARIS
PRATIBHA PARMAR
DAVID PATINO
PAMELA PRICE
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