



2023

Impact Report

TEA
ARTS &
CULTURE

OUR MISSION



CREATING CONNECTIONS THROUGH THE ART OF TEA

Our mission is to cultivate connections to ourselves, nature, and one another through sharing the art of tea. We believe that tea can nurture creativity, mindfulness, and community.

2023

A YEAR OF GROWTH & CULTIVATION

As we reflect on our 3rd year as a non-profit organization, we are excited to share the ways we have grown and cultivated our tea-centered programs and services to inspire intercultural and intergenerational connections across diverse communities in NYC.

Nature Tea Program

We served over 500+ people at our Nature Tea gatherings to foster harmony with each season. Together with our partners, we featured creative arts, music, and tea tastings that brought people together to celebrate Summer and Winter Tea in Prospect Park, Autumn Tea in East New York Farms, and Spring Tea in Bay Ridge.

Golden Tea Program

We greatly expanded our efforts to address isolation and enhance wellbeing through serving tea to senior communities. We provided multi-sensory and social tea experiences for elders across the city--from Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) and RAIN in the Bronx to Immigrant Social Services (ISS) and DOROT in Manhattan to Brooklyn Community Services.

What's to come

As we continue to grow and deepen our work, we are actively working to establish a solid foundation for sustainability, enabling us to reach and serve diverse communities effectively. We are thrilled about our new project, Odes to Common Things, which will weave a cohesive thematic thread throughout our existing and emerging programs over the next few years. Additionally, we are developing our education and membership programs, which focus on sharing the rich diversity of tea arts and culture and fostering a deeper appreciation for the simple yet profound pleasures of brewing, sipping, and enjoying tea within our community. Stay tuned in 2024!

Community Engagement & Mentorship Program

We continued to nurture community roots and connections through our partnership with GreenThumb NYC and diverse community gardens throughout NYC. Our Mentorship Program trained ten community gardeners from different gardens around the city in our approach to sharing tea to engage the community. We are looking forward to seeing them use these skills and manifest their work in their local community.

Financial Growth

We are building a resilient and sustainable foundation for our next phase of strategic development. We tripled our budget in 2023, funding our Mentorship and Golden Tea programs, and collaborated with Brookfield Properties Arts & Culture.

IMPACT

OUR VISION

Together let's envision and work towards a better world rooted in our shared humanity and harmony with nature, one cup of tea at a time.

We deeply believe that sharing the art of tea can have a long-lasting impact on individuals and communities.

TESTIMONIALS

" The mentorship was more than just about learning the technique; It was also about creating a space to gather, share a cup of tea, and connect, whether with each other or simply with ourselves, in quiet celebrations of self-discovery. We are now eager to share this experience with the community, crafting warm spaces of tea and connection. "

- Noopur, 2023 Mentee



GreenThumb NYCTraining Program 2023

TESTIMONIALS

"A mi experiencia, la reunion de compartir una taza de te, es tan beneficiosa porque en ese momento se realiza el intercambio de ideas, experiencias, conocimientos en beneficio de cada uno. GRACIAS por regalarnos su tiempo! "

"In my experience, communing with a cup of tea has many benefits; in that moment one realizes the importance of the exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. Thank you for giving us your time! "

- Maggie from Maggie's Magic Garden, East Harlem

" I gave up counting
So many smiles in Prospect Park
Peaceful summer day "

- Florencia, Poetry Composing Tree participant, Summer Tea 2023



Winter Tea in Prospect Park, Jan 2023, Photo @ Yuyi Mao

TESTIMONIALS

“ One moment passed, one day passed, and before I realized it, another year had passed. I am very happy to be chatting with my neighbors and being happy around tea. “

-Qin Fong

“ I rarely go to communal and group activities. I am glad to meet so many of my neighbors. We all live in the same building and this activity makes us closer to each other. “

-Ping

“ It has been delightful. I enjoyed very much. It feels very comfortable for me. “

-May Lin

Golden Tea Participants at Immigrant Social Services (ISS), 2023



Photo @ Giovanni-Pipoli

80%

OF OUR PUBLIC
PROGRAMS ARE FREE

27

PUBLIC COMMUNITY
EVENTS

SERVICED

4

NYC BOROUGHES

25

ARTISTS RECEIVED
STIPENDS

MORE THAN
2,000
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS SERVED

MORE THAN
1,960
VOLUNTEER HOURS
CONTRIBUTED

MORE THAN
40
VOLUNTEERS
INVOLVED



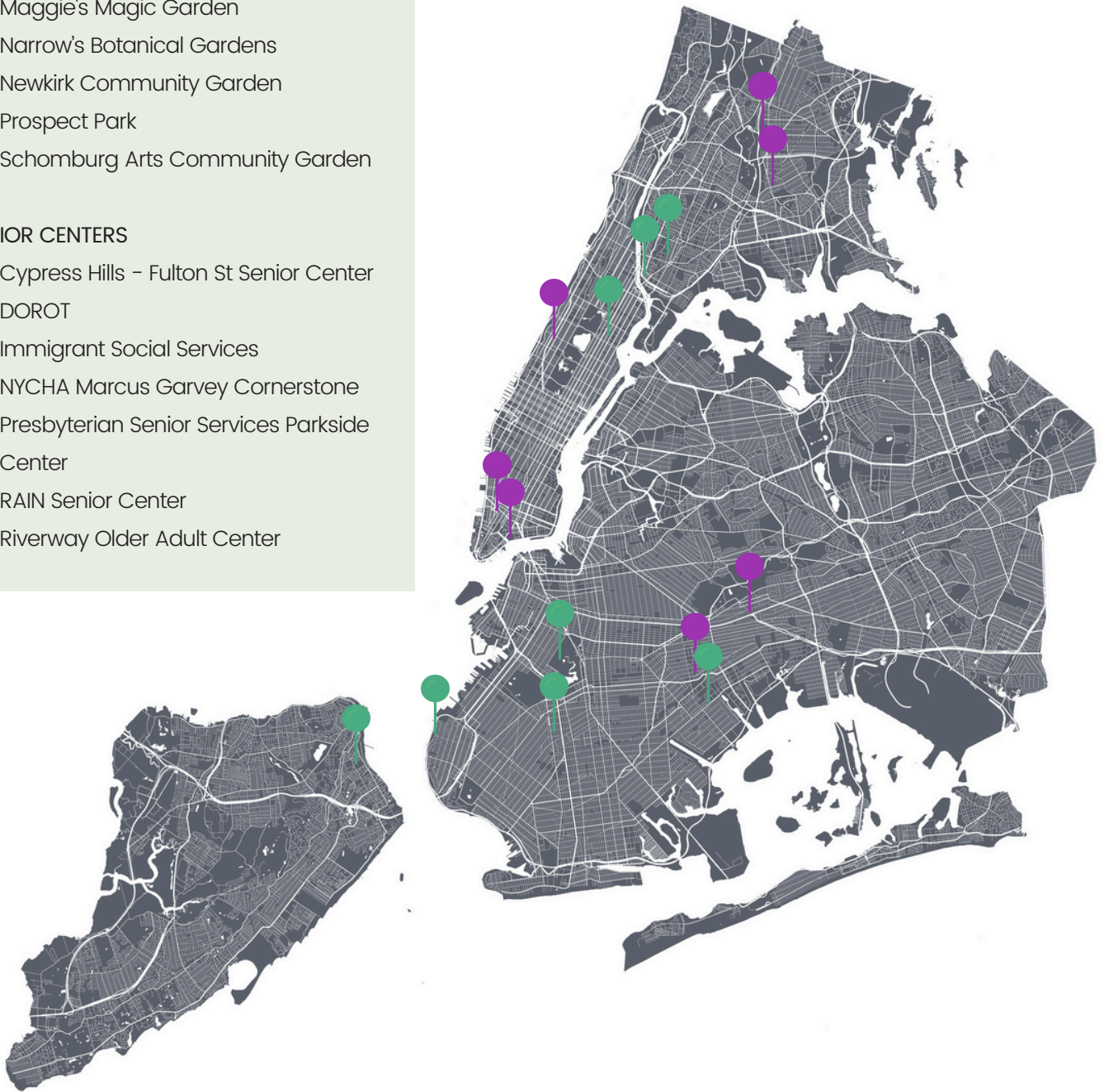
OUR PROGRAM MAP 2023

PUBLIC PARKS & COMMUNITY GARDENS

- East New York Farms
- Hill St Community Garden
- La Finca Del Sur Community Garden
- Maggie's Magic Garden
- Narrow's Botanical Gardens
- Newkirk Community Garden
- Prospect Park
- Schomburg Arts Community Garden

SENIOR CENTERS

- Cypress Hills – Fulton St Senior Center
- DOROT
- Immigrant Social Services
- NYCHA Marcus Garvey Cornerstone
- Presbyterian Senior Services Parkside Center
- RAIN Senior Center
- Riverway Older Adult Center



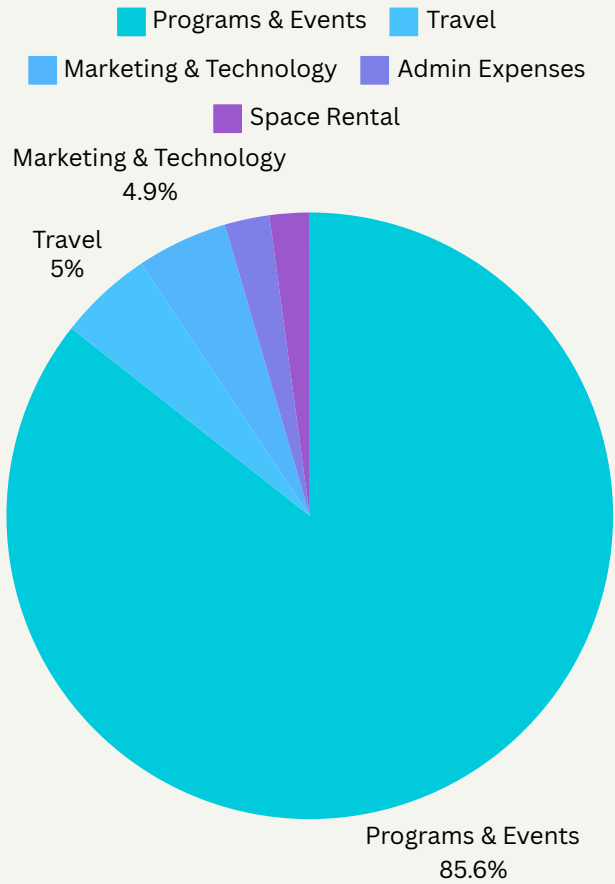
 Nature Tea & Community Engagement Tea

 Golden Tea Program

FINANCIALS



2023 EXPENSES



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our gratitude goes to our family, friends, partners, team members and many volunteers who have supported us in 2023 to get to where we are today.

Brookfield Properties Arts & Culture
Brooklyn Arts Council
Brooklyn Community Services
Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture
Children's Chinese Book Gardens
East New York Farms
GreenThumb NYC
Hamilton-Madison House
Hill St Community Garden
Maggie's Magic Garden
Narrows Botanical Gardens
New York Tea Society
Proskauer LLP
Prospect Park Alliance
Steeping Films
TETSU COLLECTIVE
The Brooklyn Nomads
Anne-Laure Py
Annette Perry
Benjamin Schultz
Chelsea Skye
Cheryl Valerie
Darcie Soltis
Dov Bert
Eduard Boguslavsky
Eleanor Lee
Elena Soterakis
Enmy Uribe
Erika Houle
Fifa Atef
Gamall Awad
GGrippo
Gordon Arkenberg
Greg Succop
Haru Matsuhisa

Ines Sun
Jackie McDougall
Jeannine Bardo
Jennifer Cosenza
Joyce Miao
Kelebohile Nkhereanye
Kristina Bajunaishvili
Leigh Fanady
Lia Lucero
Lisa Pires
Manyi Wong
Mengyan Gong
Michele Brody
Michele Brody
Nizar Gartit
Noopur Bhandari
Rachel Huges
Rena Tucker
Renee Keitt
Robin Lampman
Sandy Lin
Sara Shacket
Scott Norton
Sidney Negron
Svetlana Kirmayer
Taka Kawajiri
Takiyah Gray
Tatiana Arocha
Theresa Wong
Tierra Desir
Vandra Thorburn
Weili Shi
Wenting Zhang
William Hempel
Yuko Nishikawa

2023

OUR JOURNEY
CONTINUES, TOGETHER

I am extremely grateful for the many active hands, hearts, and minds contributing to the continuous growth and evolution of Tea Arts & Culture. As our efforts become intertwined, I find more of a profound purpose and resonance in the future we are shaping. I hope we all can celebrate more joy in these connections and collaborations. One day, when we look back, we shall be very proud of these moments and how each of us contributed in our own way on this journey together. What a ride to create pathways we can walk on and see the light ahead!

Wenting Zhang
Director, Founder

2024