

TALLER PUERTORRIQUEÑO

**2017-2018 SEASON
EXPANDING AUDIENCES**

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



TALLER PUERTORRIQUEÑO, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In June of this year, Taller was recognized with two important awards. Taller's El Corazón Cultural Center was awarded the Willard G. "Bill" Rouse Award for Excellence from the Urban Land Institute. This award recognizes excellence in "leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide." The winners represented a variety of project types and were selected by a national jury of 12 experts based on elements, such as innovation in design, high standard of real estate development, and achieving sustainability, among others. The jury recognized El Corazón Cultural Center for excellence in community impact, sustainability, and financial success. The second of these important awards is the selection of Taller as one of 5 finalists in the very competitive process known as Impact 100 Philadelphia.



These awards are in recognition of the high standards of program production and financial stewardship the organization has maintained throughout its history. During this period of growth for the organization, Taller has maintained its commitment to serve as a point of pride for the community, and as a destination for the city and region as a whole.

Our organization is at a dramatic point in its development, poised for growth and expansion beyond anything we've experienced so far. For over 43 years, Taller has been a community anchor and asset, attracting new audiences, businesses, and investments. In our new home, we are further magnifying Taller's role as a transformative force in one of the most negatively economically impacted areas of the city, while at the same time, our programs are attracting new audiences as they help build bridges to connect communities in challenging times, when the forces that divide us seem stronger than the ones that bring us together. Today, this work is more important than ever, and Taller is meeting these challenges.

Taller is profoundly grateful for the support and recognition it receives from funders and partners at all levels. Together, we can be hopeful for another year of growth and progress.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year represents the first full year of operation in the new space. It has been a year of adjustments, expansion and implementing projections that would prove us right if they were on target. This stunning new facility continues to reassure us we were on the right track. It has allowed Taller to incorporate new initiatives as we intensely work to expand audiences and diversify our economic model towards long-term sustainability. This new building embodies our community's vision and aspirations for social and economic development.



The Corazón Cultural Center is proving to be what so many of us envisioned, a gathering place for our Latino community, imbued with a deep sense of belonging. Taller's programs offer opportunities for mutual understanding and self-discovery specifically for young people. With art exhibitions, music, dance, theater performances, and popular festivals, Taller works to broaden the demographics attracted to our many events and programs, making El Corazón Cultural Center a hub for our community and a destination for Latinx arts and culture.

Following the success of its inaugural year, Taller's exhibitions program has continued to organize ambitious shows of Latinx artists, building relationships with artists and organizations both locally and beyond. More relevant than ever, **Miguel Antonio Horn's *Dissonance*** channeled public outcry in the face of political and economic crises in both the US and the artist's native Venezuela. **Ron Abram's *El Ambiente*** (The Environment) brought together folklore, family history, and popular culture to explore queer sites of memory masked in stories and legends. And, **Jaime Alvarez**, explored intimacy, sentimentality, and loss in his series of large-scale photographs of found and discarded objects.

Taller's **Meet the Author Series** featured local and national authors for conversation about their work. Authors included Marissa Johnson-Valenzuela who shared her role as an editor and publisher of the anthology *Dismantle*, an anthology featuring work from over 50 writers of color from across the nation. In December, Puerto Rican-born and Philadelphia-based poet Raquel Salas-Rivera (now the city's poet laureate) read a selection of recent poems.

Taller has also hosted several community-wide special events. On January 5, we celebrated the traditional **Three Kings Day Festival**. In February, Taller hosted the **22nd Annual Arturo A. Schomburg Symposium** with the theme, "Does Violence Have Color?"

Taller's off-site art residencies **Visítenos Program** reached 1,700+ students across 8 Philadelphia public schools, bringing arts classes with a culturally specific Latinx lens including visual art, dance, and music. From its inception this program demonstrates positive outcomes in literacy, behavior and other academic parameters.

Through art, Taller breathes, embodies, and responds to the issues that impact us all, including our intense work to support Puerto Rico and those that needed to relocate to Philadelphia in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. For us, art is an essential vehicle to help understand and overcome the many social and cultural challenges we face. Art is a tool to combat prejudice, and to preserve and keep our culture alive and relevant. Art can build bridges to connect communities in challenging times, when the forces that divide us seem stronger than the ones that bring us together. Today, this work is more important than ever, and Taller, with your help, is primed to meet these challenges.

Taller Puertorriqueño, Inc.
Activities and Accomplishments
2017-2018

In our new home, we are magnifying Taller’s central role. By expanding programs and increasing reach, broadening demographics, and initiating important dialogues across divisions of class and culture, Taller plays a catalyst role to foster a Latino community that is engaged, culturally aware and economically vibrant in a society that values its cultural diversity. This report describes the progress we made during this past programmatic season.

GENERAL PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS

I EDUCATION DIVISION:

Taller’s Art Education programs serve children and youth in our community, increasing the number of Philadelphia students with access to the arts, and provide direct academic support to children and youth in schools with high dropout rates. These activities consistently demonstrate positive impacts in academic achievement and emotional development in a community that still suffers from ethnic profiling, economic disinvestment, and social upheaval.

A. Cultural Exploration Program (CEP)



Last summer was the conclusion of the years theme **“Celebrando Nuestra Latinidad”**. Last academic year the theme developed was **A World Inside Taller**, to counteract the negative bombardment our kids are exposed to regarding their identity. Art can be a path to personal empowerment, helping them to value who they are. Coming from different backgrounds and places we will take a journey around the world to discover where they come from, where they are now, and what they want for their future. In search of ethnicity and identity, we will explore origin

stories, mythology, migration, music, and much more. The three sessions will be guided by **Where we Come From** (the past); **Where we Live** (the present).

Field Trips:

Trips included:

July 14, 2017 (7/14/17): Franklin Mills Movie Theater

July 21: Cherry Crest Adventure Farm

July 28: Franklin Institute
August 4: Legoland

Students explore issues of acceptance, broadening their vocabulary and encouraging social awareness and participation. Participants used dance, music, and visual art to explore the range of topics encompassed in the themes. Talent shows at the end of each session in August, December, and May brought together parents and kids to enjoy the work produced. The walls are covered with the artwork produced, and performances highlight dance and theater.

B. Youth Artist Program: Last summer 20 students from YAP, Big Picture Alliance and Esperanza Academy were again involved in the complex collaboration with the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Big Picture Alliance, and Esperanza Academy, the Delphi Summer Film Project, now in its 19th year. Students learn the technical aspects of filmmaking and editing, and gain cognitive skills in interpretation and analysis. By the end of this process, students are informed of contemporary media studies, and have confidence in career opportunities. Participants work individually and as teams on all aspects of production, from concept, writing, creating props and finally filming and editing. The movies were presented at Esperanza Academy Charter High School's auditorium on Thursday August 3d.

We are adding 2 new components this year, photography and printmaking. We continue to strengthen the digital skills component through computer instruction, and the work of the students to produce the Zeen magazine: **PLAY—Proud Latino Art by Youth now in its 5th edition.**

A mayor improvement to monitoring and documenting the artistic success is the implementation of an annual formal portfolio review. These sessions will be adapted as we continue to learn what works best.

YAP trips included:

July 7, 2017: Playdrome-UPenn
July 14: AMC – Phillycam - Philadelphia Community Access Media
July 21: Cherry Crest, Dorney Park
July 28: Franklin Institute, North Bowling
October 11: Next Fab
October 12: Traction Company
October 27: Moore College of Art and Design
November 5: National Portfolio Day
March 29, 2018: University of the Arts
June 2: Youth Salon Philadelphia Latino Film Festival, University of the Arts
June 16: YAP Taller Boricua in NYC

Visítenos (Visit Us):

Taller continues to host visits to its center and community for guided tours and hands on workshops that further our education and outreach efforts to thousands of visitors across the city and region. Groups consist of school groups, teachers, university classes and interested citizens.

Taller's Visítenos Artist Residencies continued to provide weekly, standards-based Arts focused instruction to students attending K-12 Philadelphia Public Schools during the 2017-2018 academic year. Through that Puerto Rican/Latino focused curriculum lens, students in grades K-12 were offered instruction in Art, Music (vocal and instrumental), Dance and Storytelling using a central theme to guide the curriculum and lesson planning.

Our very encouraging results demonstrate: 1) Overall, attendance of participating students in all Arts classes was higher on the days of the program than on other days of the week during the marking periods. 2) Student collected comments indicated an improved self-image and bolstered self-confidence as a result of being engaged in Arts activities that foster self-expression and exploration. 3) Students overall made gains to a higher level of achievement advancing to Proficient and Advanced in the post-test with predicted values that were statistically significant. And 4) the predicted main effect of receiving the intervention was significant for Arts/Cultural Content, Word Count and Vocabulary.

II COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

A. The 27th Annual Three Kings Day Celebration was held on January 5, 2018, from 3 pm to 5 pm. Taller has, for over a quarter of a century, maintained this important tradition with music, and presents for the children. Approximately 150 children and adults participate, keeping this tradition alive in Philadelphia. The Three Wise Men marched down 5th street from our old headquarters building at 2721 North 5th Street to the new Center at 2600 N 5th Street, where they distributed donated presents to the children.



B. Cultural Education Enrichment:

22nd Arturo A. Schomburg Symposium "Does Violence Have Color?"

Speakers and presentations:

10:00-10:45 am "Overview of Racial Oppression and Terrorism - Brazil and the US" - Dr. Kenneth Dossar is a cultural historian working for social change and community enrichment through writing, lecturing, producing, and teaching courses on Brazil and Afro-Atlantic culture.

10:45-11:30 am "Institutional Violence in the Juvenile Justice System in South America" Xiomena Abello is a Ph.D. student at U. Mass-Amherst. Originally from Cali, Colombia, she has a degree in social work and focuses here research in the issues of Afro-Colombian women and families.

11:30-12:15 am "Violence, Culture and State: A look from within" Dr. Pablo Luis Rivera is Assistant Professor of History at Interamerican University, Fajardo Puerto Rico. He has created courses and lectured on Afro-descendence, folklore and bomba.

2:00 - 2:45 pm "The color of violence in Mexican immigrant communities in the US: Racial identity and the economics of colonialism" Dr. Elizabeth L. Sweet is an Assistant Professor of Instruction at Temple University in the Department of Geography and Urban Studies.

3:00 - 4:45 pm PANEL "Institutional Racism, Violence and Justice"

Panelists:

Moderator: Evelyne Laurent-Perrault, Assistant Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara. She is an Afro-Latina activist and scholar. While on staff at Taller Puertorriqueño, Ms. Laurent-Perrault conceived the Annual Arturo Schomburg Symposium.

Carmen Mojica is a midwife, writer and reproductive health activist. Her work focuses on the empowerment of women and people of the African Diaspora. She utilizes her experience as a midwife to raise awareness on maternal infant health for women, highlighting disparities in the healthcare system in the US for women of color.

Tali Ziv is a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania studying the racial politics of court mandated substance abuse and mental health treatment from an urban political economic perspective.

Maritza Perez is a Legislative Staff Attorney at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, (MALDEF) in Washington, DC who started her legal career advocating for policies to end mass incarceration and the disproportionate representation of Latinos in the criminal legal system.

III EXHIBITIONS PROGRAM:

The **inaugural exhibition (12/7/16-3/7/18)** in the expanded and more flexible gallery space, originally occupying the whole gallery, the exhibit featured a selection of the work in our collection we had not been able to show due to space constraints. The works represent many artists from Puerto Rico, New York, Philadelphia and through out the states and include artists, mostly residing in the states, from almost every Latin American heritage. During the term of the show, several selections of the works were chosen within half of the exhibit space, asking another artist, whose work was complementary, to comment on a particular exhibit piece with artwork of his/her own, thus the title **“Llamada y Respuesta” (Call and Response)**. In its many reconfigurations this show lasted 18 months.

Miguel Antonio Horn (b. 1983): *Dissonance* (9/15 to 10/28/2017) In the past few years, opposition leaders in Venezuela have organized “Marchas de Ollas Vacías” (Marches of the Empty Pans) in which protestors strike empty pots and pans, denouncing food shortages and the growing economic crisis the country faces. *Dissonance* recreated the frustration through documenting the tiresome, repetitive act of violently striking pots and pans made of non-resonant materials. The installation included original audio by Daniel de Jesus. Miguel worked in residence with the Youth Artist program, and participated in Philly Free Streets demonstrating the act of protest with empty pots.

Ron Abram's (b.1962) exhibition, *El Ambiente (The Ambiance, 11/17/17-1/13/2018)*, is centered on printmaking and included sculpture, animation, prints and photography working together in an installation format around issues of the intersection of gay identity, Latino identity, place and folk history. The exhibition included sculptural forms and etching puppets/animation/videos that were part of his Berlin show. The second piece of the project, *El Ambiente*, was developed specifically for El Corazón Cultural exhibit space and explored the duality of his identity as a gay man and his ethnic identity as Puerto Rican. A panel discussion **Queer Prism: Casting a Light on Latinidad, Intersectionality, & Place** held December 2 moderated by Prof. Larry La Fontaine included Ron Abram, David Acosta, Gerard Silva and Nikki Lopez and was part of Taller’s 2018 PNC Arts Alive sponsored **Diálogo** Series.

Jaime Alvarez “Consumption” (2/2/2018-4/20/2018) comprised a series of large-scale



photographs of found and discarded objects. *Consumption* explored intimacy, sentimentality, and loss. The show stemmed from Alvarez 2016 residency at RAIR (Recycled Artist in Residency), which operates out of a recycling center in North Philadelphia. Through manipulating the selected found objects and photographing them Alvarez confers a mystery and monumentality upon what some might call trash, calling attention to what

gets lost vs what is personally a meaningful possession. The exhibit was complimented

by a workshop **“Disposable and Indispensable”** on March 24th, where the engaged audience discussed issues of sustainability in an age of built-in obsolescence with members of RAIR, and Jaime Alvarez, illustrating how the creative process can enhance understanding. Each audience participant was asked to bring a “disposable/indispensable” object. If they did, they were treated with a photograph by Jaime Alvarez posing with their object.

EXTENSION OR COMMUNICATION: PUERTO RICO (April 7-June 2nd)

This exhibit/lab further highlighted emancipatory projects that emerged in Puerto Rico and Philadelphia in the aftermath of hurricane Maria. As the crisis lurched forward into its fifth month, some citizen brigades congealed into civic groups looking past the immediate relief efforts; some beginning to create joint strategies for the long-term transformation of vital sectors of Puerto Rican society. During a recent visit to the island, Ricky Yanas, Grimaldi Baez, and Sheldon Abba collected images, texts, and interviews looking for critical contexts and generative possibilities. **EXTENSION OR COMMUNICATION** is a multi-disciplinary collaborative project. The group sought to engage artists and communities through inquiry and exchange producing artworks, research, new spaces, and other satellite efforts. The project focused on the critical intersection of literacy, technology, aesthetics and civics bringing to light emancipatory forms being developed by engaged citizens. Contributors included community organizers Chariito Morales and Tania-María Ríos, Poet Laureate Raquel Salas Rivera, and artists Jose Ortiz Pagan, and Jessi Koch.

Youth Artist Program Portfolio Exhibition and Cultural Exploration Program Art Selection, (5/4/2018-5/26/2018) showcased the work of the youth and participants in Taller’s on site art education programs. The event included the announcement of the First Annual Carlos Pascual Award.

Roberto Lugo: “Boricua, Barrio, Barro” starting 6/15/18, which translates to Puerto Rican, Neighborhood, Clay was Lugo’s fist solo show at Taller and a home coming of sorts to the area where he grew up. During this period Lugo took shop in the gallery space in order to create new work to be incorporated in the formal gallery space during the October exhibit. Although for unexpected personal reasons, his vision was not fully realized there were several workshops and tours the artist was able to host. One in collaboration with the Clay Studio brought 50 community members to decorate their own ceramic bowls with the theme of community aspirations. Another brought a group of 50 art teachers for a demonstration.

IV JULIA DE BURGOS GIFT SHOP:

Taller’s Julia de Burgos Gift Shop is the presenter of the bi-monthly **“Meet the Author Series”**. This past year these included:

October 28 A multi-talented writer, publisher, and editor and an important new voice in contemporary Latinx literature, **Marissa Johnson-Valenzuela** discussed her work as editor and publisher of *Dismantle*, the VONA/Voices anthology that features work from

over 50 writers of color from across the nation and an introduction by Pulitzer award winner Junot Diaz. Her prose and poetry has been published widely. She is currently working on a new novel.

November 19 “Meet the Author” Series– *Motivos Magazine* celebrated 11 years of providing a voice for youth with poems, prose, interviews, and artwork published in the magazine. *Motivos* subscribers are now in 1200 schools, 42 states, Puerto Rico, Colombia, and Costa Rica.

December 9 AN AFTERNOON WITH POET RAQUEL SALAS RIVERA Philadelphia-based Puerto Rican poet, writer, and translator read a selection of recent poems from *oropel/tinsel* (2016) in both English and Spanish, exploring moments of bilingual friction that express the poet’s dual linguistic identity and engaging with other bilingual readers. Later this year Raquel was named Poet Laureate of Philadelphia.

March 10, Angélica Y. Rodriguez introduced the second installment of her **Bubba the Purple Cat** series, which encourages readers of all ages to believe in themselves and to follow their dreams. Designed especially for young readers, Rodriguez’s bilingual text is accompanied by illustrations by her husband, Luis Perez. Angelica Y. Rodriguez is a book author and artist from Puerto Rico.

April 7, Mark Martinez “Caciquita” Raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mark Martinez is devoted to telling the story of his people and sharing the magnificence of Puerto Rico via children’s stories. *Caciquita* is a bilingual historical Caribbean tale about a girl determined to find her way back to her grandfather, the Taíno chief. In this story, the hero teaches young readers about the strength and regality of Puerto Rico’s original people.

May 19, At fourteen, **Liliana Velásquez** walked out of her village in Guatemala and headed for the U.S. border, alone. On her two-thousand-mile voyage she was robbed by narcos, rode the boxcars of La Bestia, and encountered death in the Sonoran Desert. When she was caught by Immigration in Arizona, she thought her journey but it had just begun.

June 16 Edgardo Miranda Rodriguez, to a SRO audience, presented the second installment of his *La Borinqueña* heroin comic book, as well as *Ricanstruction: Reminiscing & Rebuilding Puerto Rico*, an anthology compilation of stories created in collaboration with DC Comics, dedicated and in support of Puerto Rican reconstruction.



July 28 The Ruins-Rafael Reyes-Ruiz novel explores nostalgia in a plot that spans continents. The story of a professor, Tomás Rodríguez, in Japan who finds himself hunted by the past. In this journey we explore the mind of a man eager to understand and reconcile with the past.



V SPECIAL EVENTS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS:

The **32nd FERIA del BARRIO** held on September 17th, 2017, continued to attract thousands of participants from Puerto Rican/Latino and other communities throughout Philadelphia and the Region. Feria featured Philadelphia's own **Tino Serrano and Orquesta Salsa Dura** with guest salsa star **Frankie Vázquez**. This was the first

time Feria's location was modified to accommodate Taller's new center location, south of Lehigh Avenue. In addition to the many information tables and posts, Feria partnered with Telemundo65 with sponsorship support by Xfinity, Creative Philadelphia, PNC Bank, PECO, Health Partners, Jefferson Health, and others. Families enjoyed children's activities, including face-painting, arts and crafts, and learned about community resources presented by area organizations and companies.

October 27 Culminating event celebrating the conclusion of Taller's **"Imagine the Possibilities: From There to Here,"** a program funded by Aroha Philanthropies that brings classes in the visual and performing arts to seniors. With theater and dance performances, as well as a display of quilts, all made by seniors, the creative forces as source of inspiration at any age was in evidence.

October 28 Passion & Protest: Songs of Resistance A performance of songs of resistance from Spain and the Americas. Performers Diana Sáez, and Pável Urkiza, Suzette Ortiz and Leo Alvarez, offered stirring contemporary renditions of timeless classics by artists like Rafael Hernández, Victor Jara, Caetano Veloso and Joan Manel Serrat. This was also part of Taller's 2018 PNC Arts Alive sponsored **Diálogo** Series



December 6 Parrandas For 18 years Taller has organized the traditional celebration of songs in the spirit of the season, bringing joy, unity and love to friends, warming Philadelphia up. This year it was a special gathering to provide support to families impacted by hurricane Maria.

Parranda photo courtesy of David Cruz

April 11 – Jewelry Workshop A hands on workshop with Aida Devine, designer of the Masada Shabath Jewelry line. Participants learned how to design their own jewelry in this two hour training session under the personal instruction of this master craftswoman.

May 6 The HeArt of Art: In support of Children Creativity, a collaboration with Cooks Who Care, celebrate food and great company to support our youth art education programs. Each year, Taller fortifies the academic and creative development of thousands of youth in our community and beyond through after-school, summer, field trips, and in-school programs at a time when arts and free expression are crucial.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018				
ASSETS				
Current Assets	(Restated) 2017	2018		
Cash and Equivalents	471,254	368,237		
Grants & Accts Receivables	222,921	218,050		
Inventory	40,232	38,899		
Prepaid Expenses/Sm. Business Tax Credit				
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	734,407	625,186		
Property and Equipment				
Property and Equipment	17,509,987	16,880,511		
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(845,021)	(760,732)		
NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	16,664,876	16,119,779		
Other Assets				
Capital campaign project				
Security Deposit	4,839	4,839		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,404,122	\$16,749,804		
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Bank Credit Lines	34,514	-		
Current portion of long-term debt	1,172,186	-		
Accounts payable	74,719	51,633		
Sales Tax Payable	785	577		
Accrued Salaries & benefits	14,679	13,865		
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,296,883	66,075		
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES				
Note payable-less current portion	9,868,029	9,760,000		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$11,164,912	\$9,826,075		
NET ASSETS				
Net Assets-unrestricted	5,869,279	6,707,646		
Net Assets-temporarily restricted	369,931	216,083		
TOTAL NET ASSETS	6,239,210	6,923,729		
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$17,404,122	\$16,749,804		

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2018 ENDING JUNE 30				
	Unrestricted 2018	Temporarily Restricted	2018 Total	2017 Total Restated
SUPPORT & REVENUE				
Contributions & grants	305,294	1,597,578	1,971,672	4,795,771
Membership	18,510		18,510	29,497
Program Income, Store Sales, Fundraisers, Lease Income	226,583		226,583	92,277
Interest Income	50,290		50,290	58,459
TOTAL REVENUES	600,677		2,198,255	4,946,507
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	1,751,426	(1,751,426)		
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	2,352,103	(153,848)	2,198,255	4,946,507
EXPENSES				
Program Services	891,974			830,482
General Administrative	143,805			233,561
TallerPR Expenses	574,057			386,434
Fundraising	72,555			39,155
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,682,391			1,489,632
Change in Net Assets	669,712	(153,848)	515,864	3,456,875
Other Income (Gain on sale of building)			168,655	
NET ASSETS BEGINNING	5,869,279	369,931	6,239,210	2,782,335
NET ASSETS ENDING	\$6,707,646	\$216,083	\$6,923,729	\$6,239,210

STAFF

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