

# first harvest

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



The Salt Tree  
Charitable Trust





**ONE YEAR AGO**, Salt Tree Art began with a small group of artists, ecologists, and community activists sharing a vision for a regenerative art movement. We believed that regeneratively focused arts could offer an essential perspective in addressing complex challenges, from strengthening local community resilience, to building regional food security, to mitigating global climate change.

With the seed of that vision, Salt Tree Art launched into an extraordinary first year. Through dozens of public events, exhibitions, workshops, and performances, we premiered twelve innovative projects that embodied the principles of regenerative design, creating positive outcomes for the ecosystems and communities in which we worked.

We have been exceptionally privileged to see our vision transform from an abstract idea into these tangible productions. We are also overwhelmingly thankful to our community of support for making our rapid progress and powerful impacts achievable.

We are proud to share this initial annual report with you. This year's success established a powerful foundation from which we will continue building a regenerative art movement in 2019, and will continue working towards a permanent home for this movement.

We eagerly anticipate moving ahead with this season's momentum into a second year of creation and growth.

Looking forward with excitement and gratitude,

The Board of Trustees for the Salt Tree Charitable Trust

Michael Hollis

Liz McCabe

Brian Soliwoda



## 2018 Milestones



# 12

works produced.

Salt Tree Art's 2018 productions included **sculpture**, **dance**, **illustration** and **painting**, **puppetry**, **textile arts**, **music**, and **improvisational performance**. More than half of the works were participatory, engaging their audience directly in their creation.



# 28

events held.

With **youth and adult workshops**, **exhibitions** and **gallery shows**, **community outreach activations**, and **public performances**, Salt Tree Art created a broad showcase for regenerative art in 2018. These events took place in **Connecticut**, **Massachusetts**, and **New York**, with our strongest presence in the New York City neighborhoods of western Queens.



# 59

creators engaged.

Our community of **artists**, **gardeners**, and **designers** grew significantly in 2018, with dozens of **environmentally-focused creative professionals** joining the Salt Tree Art family and lending their skills to the production of fun, powerful, and impactful art.



# 6,321

program participants.

Thousands of community members joined in **building**, **dancing**, **learning**, and **celebrating** with us in 2018. We believe the **power for social transformation** exists at the **community level**, and we have been thrilled by the public interest in regenerative principles as a tool for change-making.



# 2018 Featured Projects

# Waggle It

## Waggle It!

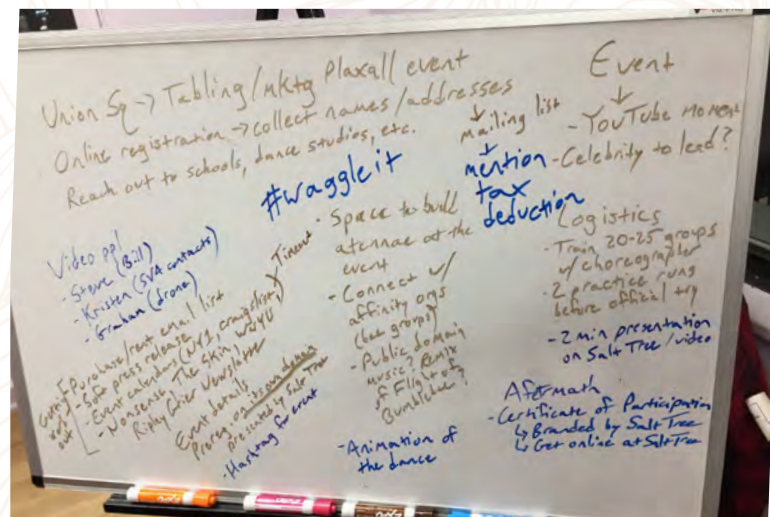
We began our first season with dozens of artists, volunteers, and community members joining us on Earth Day 2018 for Waggle It, a celebration of the honey bee and its importance to urban ecosystems. The event centered on a participatory, choreographed dance performance of the waggle, a movement series that bees use for communication, with participants making a Guinness World Record attempt for the world's largest waggle dance.

The event also included bee-themed work from regional visual artists in an outdoor gallery, as well as community art projects and activities from Salt Tree Art and local environmental groups.

Salt Tree Art worked with Long Island City Artists (LIC-A) and the Plaxall Gallery as the hosting venue for the Waggle It premiere.



Team brainstorming session during the Salt Tree Art meeting for "Waggle It!".





Show us how you  
**WAGGLEIT!**

**Record your  
best honeybee  
waggle dance!**

**#waggleit**



**And join us on April 22 as we attempt  
a Guinness World Record!**

**Registration at  
<https://waggleit.dance>**



Salt Tree Art  
[www.salttree.art](http://www.salttree.art)





# 2018 Featured Projects

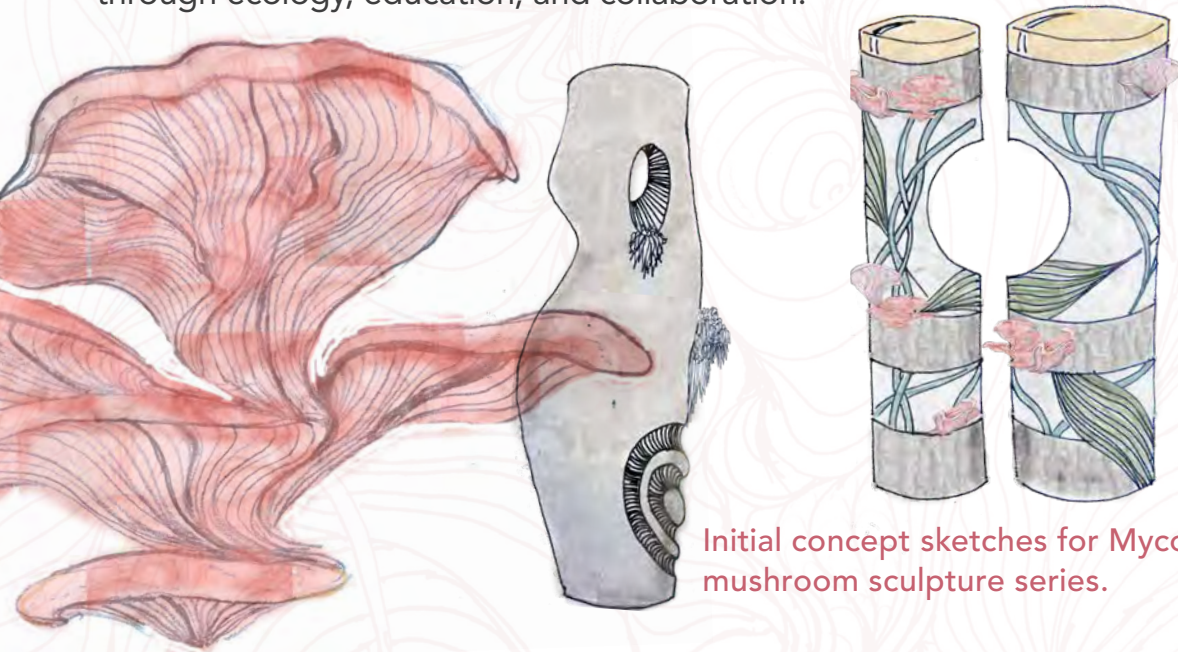
# Myco-Rise

## Myco-Rise

Salt Tree Art launched the year-long public exhibition of Myco-Rise, a sculptural series using art to improve agricultural practices for mushroom farmers. The four sculptures are constructed entirely of organic materials which serve as a growing medium for yellow oyster and lion's mane mushroom varieties. Initially resembling carved monuments, the works have been gradually transforming into blooming towers of harvestable mushrooms as they biodegrade.

Community groups participated in the design and construction of the sculptures, including youth artists from the non-profit Hour Children.

Funded through the Burning Man Global Art program, the installation will continue through June 2019 at the Smiling Hogshead Ranch, an urban farm in New York City that focuses on community empowerment through ecology, education, and collaboration.



Initial concept sketches for Myco-Rise mushroom sculpture series.





## Queens Understory

With Queens Understory, Salt Tree Art collected personal experiences during public outreach events throughout 2018, including NYC SummerStage and the Sunnyside Better World Festival.

We asked Queens residents to decorate wood medallions, inspired by their best Queens memories, their favorite spots in the borough, or any imagery that Queens sparked in them. Like each ring in the trunk of a tree forms a fragment of the tree's life story, each of the wood medallions collectively created a larger story of the human experience.

The hundreds of submissions reflected the incredible diversity of Queens, with participants' sketches ranging from their families and local parks, to sports teams and favorite foods. All submissions were assembled into a "Queens understory" as a digital gallery on the Salt Tree Art website.

Logo for Queens Understory by Brian Soliwoda, incorporating an image of the Unisphere found in Flushing Meadows Park, Queens.



# Queens Understory





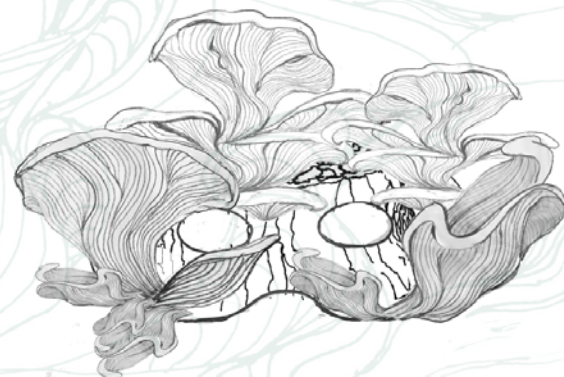
# 2018 Featured Projects

City of Green

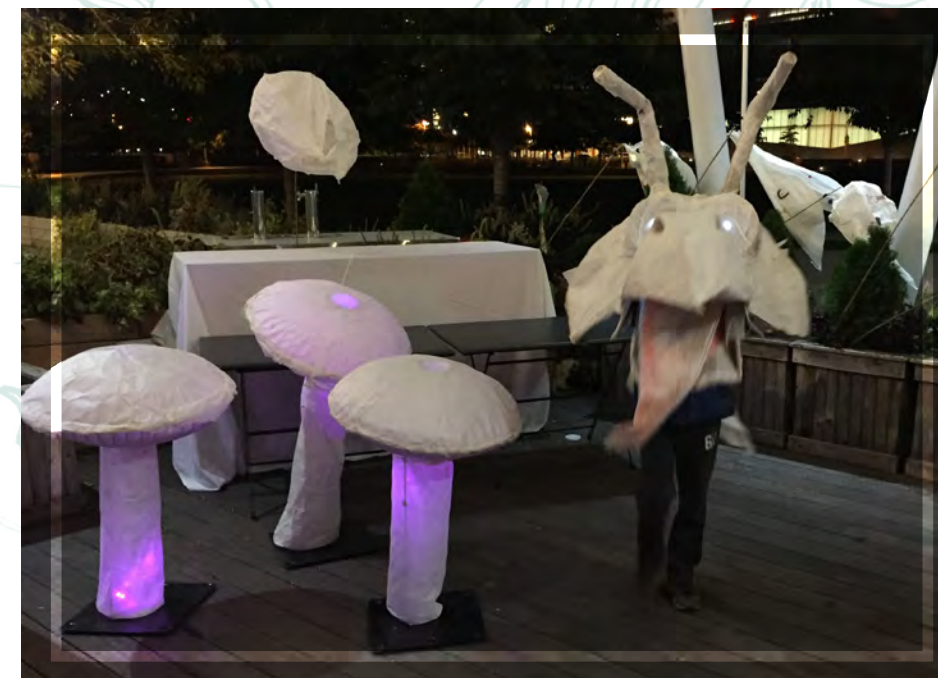
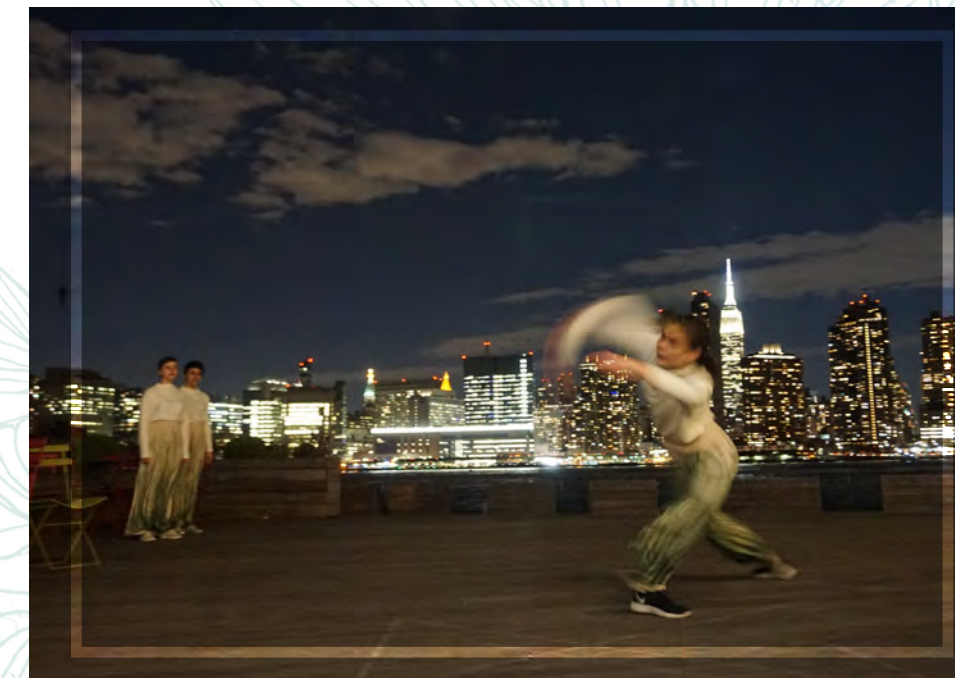
## City of Green

Our 2018 season's programming concluded with City of Green, an artistic celebration of urban wilderness spaces. Held at the Hunter's Point Parks, the event's main stage performances included dance, music, puppetry, improv, and storytelling, while community arts and crafts projects, pop-up galleries, and ambient performers also continued throughout the evening.

The festival also included an illuminated plant parade, with the Girl Scouts of America marching through the park with handmade paper lantern puppets. The event provided an exciting finale for our year, as we reveled together on the New York City waterfront with an evening of art, ecology, and community.



Salt Tree artists sketched masks for guests to print out and design prior to the event.





## Other 2018 Highlights

### Payback

**Payback**, an interactive mixed-media sculpture raising awareness on the endangered rusty patched bumble bee, was showcased at the Plaxall Gallery's Unnatural Selection exhibition, themed around species endangered by human activity. On inserting a coin into Payback's dispenser, the sculpture gave gallery visitors a milkweed seed bomb to help build food sources for the bumble bee and many other key pollinators.



### NOFA Annual Conference

Salt Tree Art presented a framework for integrating art into regenerative agriculture practices through a lecture to farmers, horticulturists, educators, artists, and non-profit administrators at the **Northeast Organic Farming Association's annual conference**.



Top: Brian Soliwoda giving a lecture at the NOFA conference.  
Right top and bottom: Edible mushroom sculptures.





## Other 2018 Highlights

### Somewhere That's Green

Somewhere That's Green, a puppetry performance using a "crankie" shadow box, offered a vision for a regenerative urban future. The work premiered at the Northeast Organic Farming Association's summer fair, and had several showings throughout the season at New York City venues.



### In the Media

Salt Tree Art received some exciting media attention, including an article on our Myco-Rise installation from Switzerland's Nau Media, a feature interview with lifestyle blogger Rachel Meyer's Raw Rach Radical Art/Work series, and a shout-out from the New York Times on our upcoming project at LaGuardia Airport.



February 14, 2018

**RADICAL ART/WORK: MEET URBAN REGENERATIVE DESIGN ARTIST BRIAN J. SOLIWODA**

Share 1 comment

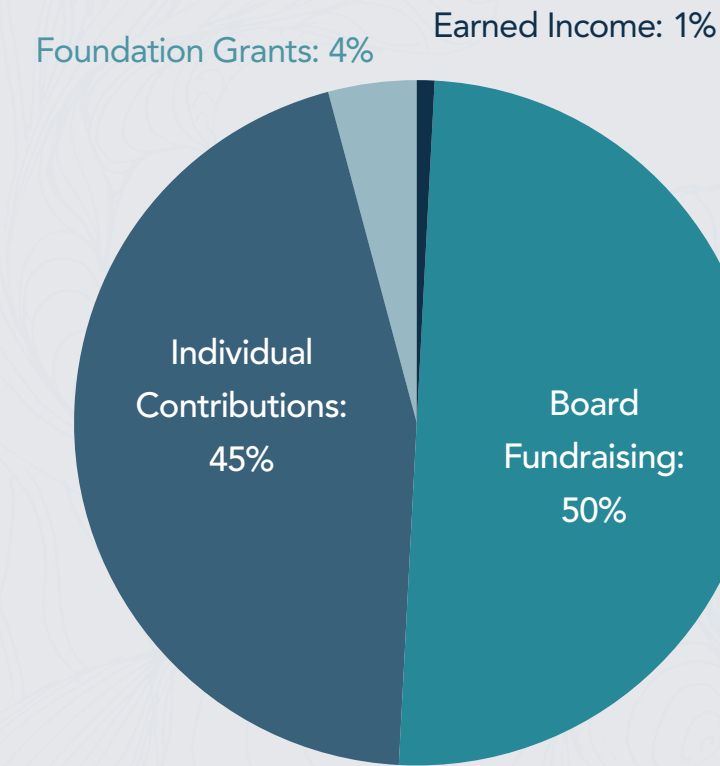




# 2018 Financial Snapshot

## Sources of Support

Revenue: \$38,834.02



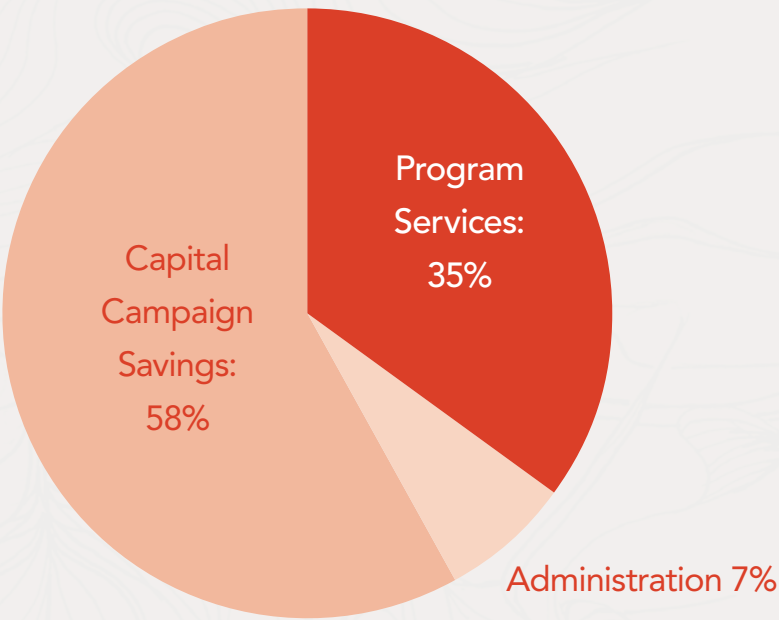
**Other Supports:**

**IN-KIND DONATIONS:** Equipment and materials valued at \$31,000

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE:** 2,421 hours (value of \$58,442.94)

## Use of Funds

Expenses: \$30,339.81



**PROGRAM SERVICES:** 83% of expenses (35% of total allocations including savings for capital campaign)

**ADMINISTRATION:** 17% of expenses (7% of total allocations including savings for capital campaign)

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SAVINGS:** 58% of total allocations placed in savings for capital development campaign

# With Gratitude to Our:

## Board of Trustees

Michael Hollis  
Liz McCabe  
Brian Soliwoda

## Advisory Board

Lauren Alzos  
Jordan Benke  
Cherie Chalouhi  
Nicholas Enna  
Jennifer Jurek  
Ashley King  
Steve Krauss  
Graham McCarty  
Kristen Terrana

## Patrons & Grantors

Michele & Charles Hollis  
Diane & Tim Soliwoda  
Karen Soliwoda  
Burning Man Global Art

## Supporters

Karen Adelman  
Saskia Bankert  
Aldo Barahona  
Lizzie Benzik  
April Brucker  
Lauren Butler  
Andrew Cook  
Jared Blake DiCroce  
Jacqueline Fiorillo  
Nora Fitzgerald  
Mary Beth Garrick  
Sophia Gutchinov  
Michelle Harper  
Falls Kennedy  
Nadia Khayrallah  
Deric McNish  
Charlie Nolet  
Gabe Ofesh  
Dina Pizzarello  
Jennifer Plewka  
Margaret Sheehe  
Liz Toff  
Lauren Ullrich  
Francesca Vetrano

# Thank You to Our Partners:







[www.SaltTree.org](http://www.SaltTree.org)