planting seeds

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



The Salt Tree Charitable Trust



IN 2019, with global ecology at the forefront of public consciousness, Salt Tree Art found a unique demand for our art as a tool for education, inspiration, and activism on addressing environmental challenges. At airports and waterfronts, in gardens and classrooms, on farms and in cities - through performances, exhibitions, workshops, lectures, and public events - Salt Tree Art spent our second season bringing environmental art to new partners in diverse places.

As this increasing interest opened new opportunities and broadened our program range, Salt Tree Art adopted a refined mission statement to "create rich community spaces that unite arts and ecology in unexpected, educational, and inspiring ways." We have been privileged to deliver on this mission in collaboration with an amazing community of support. Through your generosity and through new avenues of public and foundation grant funding, Salt Tree Art was able to support work from dozens of new eco-artists while continuing to build towards a permanent space dedicated to environmental art.

Michael Hollis



We are excited to share this 2019 annual report with you. Our journey over the past two seasons has demonstrated the radical and eye-opening creativity that environmental art brings to our communities, and we are thrilled to embark upon a third season of continued creation and growth!

Looking forward with excitement and gratitude,

The Board of Trustees for the Salt Tree Charitable Trust

Liz McCabe

Brian Soliwoda

Egabeth C. M Cate Brillion

2019 Milestones





public programs.

Salt Tree Art produced an abundant season of public activations. With participatory sculpture projects, STEAM-based youth arts education, dance and improvisational comedy performances, and more, we made community-driven, environmental art more present than ever in New York City and beyond!



engaged artists.

36

With so many new programs, Salt Tree Art also expanded on the opportunities available to our growing collective of artists. This included engaging artists working in new creative mediums - in addition to the talents of visual artists and performers, we also brought the voices of sound artists, storytellers, and literary artists to our projects.







Volunteers of all skillsets came together in force for Salt Tree Art this past year! They took photos at our events, managed information and registration tables, found space for our projects, planted seeds, built large-sale immersive art exhibits, sang, danced, played music, and shared their voices. As we continue as a volunteer-led and operated organization, this outpouring of goodwill allowed us to achieve such a phenomenal season of art!

1,815volunteer hours.



10,050 program participants.

Thousands of participants joined in creating, performing, learning, and celebrating with us this year! This exponential growth in the impact of our programs demonstrates the strong interest in regenerative art as a compelling response to environmental issues, giving us new ideas, hope, and power in our rapidly changing world.

2019 Featured Projects

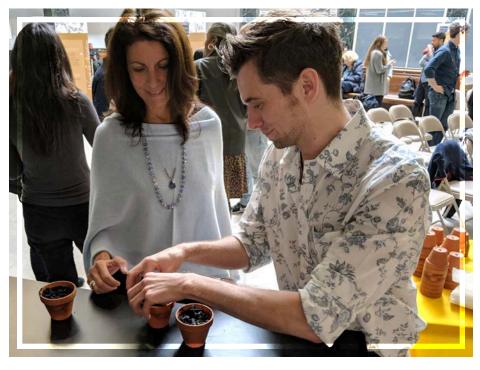
Wind and Waves

Salt Tree Art co-founder Brian Soliwoda began the year among the first artists-in-residence at the historic Marine Air Terminal at New York's LaGuardia Airport. During the residency, he collected travelers' stories about plants as they related to migration and transportation. From the literal seeds of the plants discussed in these stories, Brian created a biodegradable clipper ship sculpture in homage to the clipper planes which first flew from the terminal.

The sculpture remained in exhibition at LaGuardia throughout the winter. It then toured at events as a pop-up seed library throughout the northeast US, during which Salt Tree Art continued to collect and share "seed stories" while distributing seed-embedded pieces of the sculpture for planting into community gardens.



Above: Construction of the biodegradable clipper ship. Top Right: Discussing plant stories. Bottom Right: Collecting seed stories. Right Page: Wind and Waves sculpture at LaGuardia airport.





Wind and Waves

QUEENS COUNCIL ON THE ARTS ARTPORT ARTIST RESIDENCY

Wind and Waves

10.00

An homage to the nautical seaplanes of the Marine Air Terminal, and to the plants that propelled our migrations and manifested

Environmental artist Brian J. Solivoda finds inspiration in the regenerative agriculture movement, where holistic approaches to food cultivation create positive impacts for eccentration and communities.

In this project, Brian connects natural and social individual through a biodegradable sculpture of a clipper ship, with seeds woven and embedded into its sails and structure. Each seed variety highlights a different plant with a role in Each seed variety implication history.

From tea plants (the earliest cargo for nautical capes) traveling between the Americas, Nais, and Europe) to the potato (which has South American origin; and played a role in Irish immigration to New York City) – these seeds and many others will create a garden of transportation and many others will create a garden of transportation that reflects the diverse origins of our urban community.

The public is encouraged to share personal scores of plants and migration with Brian to be incorporated into the project.



2019 Featured Projects

Waggle It!

Back by popular demand, our Earth Day celebration of the honey bee returned for its second season with a much larger community footprint! The event still centered around our participatory, choreographed dance performance of the "waggle," a series of movements that bees use for communication. This year also included a pop-up visual arts walk, games, information tables, and beekeeping discussions with the local honey producer Astor Apiaries, all taking place on the beautiful New York City waterfront in Hunters Point Park South. Salt Tree Art was excited to produce this expanded event through funding from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Queens Council on the Arts.





Left: Salt Tree distributed seed packets at information tables and discussed beekeeping. Top: Visitors to our pop-up art exhibit at Hunters Point Park South Right: Highlights from the Waggle It dance performance and activities.

Waggle It



2019 Featured Projects

Ecopolis

Salt Tree Art closed its season with its most ambitious project yet! The Ecopolis Project created an immersive art installation presenting five urban environmental systems: climate, soil, water, food, and energy. Each system was explorable through an interactive visual arts vignette throughout the grounds of the Smiling Hogshead Ranch in New York City. Live performances accompanied each vignette, during which artists guided participants through the exhibits, making otherwise daunting urban environmental issues creatively accessible. Ecopolis was funded through grants from the Queens Council of the Arts, the the Puffin West Foundation, and the generous support of many individual patrons.

copolis



Right Page: Artists and attendees explore the interactive environments of Ecopolis.

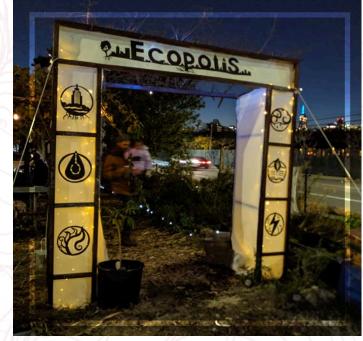


Ecopolis









Other 2019 Highlights

Queens Green Day

Salt Tree Art was honored to become an artistic partner for the annual Queens Green Day event at the Socrates Sculpture Park in Astoria, Queens. We premiered our "Roots" program during the event, with storytelling and illustration used to share the tales of heritage plants important to local community history.





NOFA

Salt Tree Art was delighted to again bring our innovative concepts to Northeast Organic Farming Association events for New York State and for the region. In addition to pop-up galleries and community art activations, Salt Tree Art cofounder Mike Hollis also spoke at the annual regional conference on the use of regenerative agriculture concepts in urban design.



5 there a plant that's important to your heritage?

Add your story to the project

Wind & Waves Concept model

Other 2019 Highlights

Underwater Urbanites

Salt Tree Art introduced youth programs at New York City's Travers Park and Socrates Sculpture Park in which young artists (aged from 1 to 17) created biodegradable sea creature sculptures based on the many aquatic animals found in the New York Harbor.

Below: Youth artists holding their aquatic creations.





Fungi Festival



Myco-Rise, our year-long exhibition of experimental "living" sculptures, concluded with a fungi-themed festival celebrating the mushroom world! With live performances curated by Hallet's Cove Theatre, the festival featured musicians, dancers, an improvisational comedy troupe, and other artists, as participants learned more about the sculptures and their citizen science components.





Other 2019 Highlights

Sticky Situations

The first slow-form sculpture from Salt Tree Art's Sticky Situations series made its debut! The work was produced by housing a wood-carved bust inside an active beehive for one year, with our insect collaborators combing atop the bust to create a haunting and unexpected organic sculpture. The sculpture has been making rounds at New York City's galleries, including at the Factory Gallery for the LIC Arts Open.



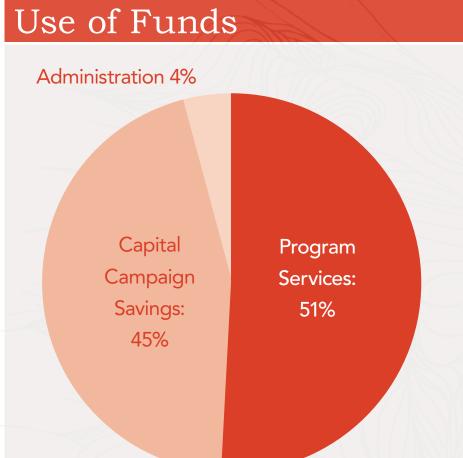
Administration 4%

PROGRAM SERVICES: 93% of expenses (51% of total allocations including savings for capital campaign)

ADMINISTRATION: 7% of expenses (4% of total allocations including savings for capital campaign)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SAVINGS: 45% of total allocations placed in savings for capital development campaign

2019 Financial Snapshot



Our volunteer-led, program-focused operations allowed us to reduce our administrative costs to 7% of our total expenditures in 2019. 27% of our budget provided direct support for local environmental artists!



With Gratitude to Our:

Board of Trustees

Michael Hollis Liz McCabe Brian Soliwoda

Advisory Board

Lauren Alzos Iordan Benke Cherie Chalouhi Nicholas Enna Iennifer Iurek Ashley Rebecca King Steve Krauss Graham McCarty Kristen Terrana

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Volunteers

Karen Adelman Brianna Anderson Camila Arboleda Anne Bae Lizzie Benzik Hannah Bisewski Colleen Burns Geoff Burns John Burns Kathleen Burns Jared DiCroce Kait Ebinger **Ripley Enna** Clara Fialho William Finnegan Nick Hoefly Renee Lasher Katie Lowen Loclan Mackenzie-Spencer Tyler Mashek Chen Meiying Mehdi Mihir Priscilla Perez Brian Placcio Lai-Lin Robinson Sara Schraeter Ben Stansbery Bryant Sterczala Erika Sutter Emily Sun













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