

INTERFAITH NYC

THE INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Interfaith Center of New York. From its inception in 1997, ICNY has worked with hundreds of grassroots and immigrant religious leaders from the Afro-Caribbean, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities of New York City. Because of your support, in 2017 the Interfaith Center of New York strengthened the civic fabric of New York City by providing:

- a new **Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy** for 20 emerging grassroots religious leaders and faith-based activists who gather at Trinity Wall Street's Parish Center for bimonthly workshops beginning in November 2017. Over the next several months, participants will hear from the **Mayor's Office of Community Affairs** (Learning City Government), **Faith in New York** (Community Organizing Training), **CUNY-CLEAR** (Know Your Rights Training), **NYPD's Collaborative Policing Department** (Hate Crimes Awareness), and **The Center for Court Innovation** (Navigating the Courts). At the end of the program, they will receive funds to start civic initiatives in their own faith communities.
- an ongoing annual three-week **National Endowment for the Humanities' Summer Institute for Teachers** that has enhanced the capacity of over 100 public, private, and parochial school teachers from around the country by helping them to teach religious diversity more effectively. Also, this year the **Social Work & Religious Diversity Program**, a day-long continuing education conference for social workers, focused on **Religion, Spirituality, and Family Life**.
- a collaborative rapid-response to NYC bias incidents during the 2016 Presidential campaign and the 2017 Muslim Travel Ban Executive Orders—supporting public Jumma prayers with allies in Foley Square and hosting the 2017 **Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat, "Hospitality in a Time of Hate,"** for religious leaders, civil libertarians, and immigration advocates.
- outreach to diverse religious leaders, judicatories, and faith-based organizations to secure sign-ons for two **amicus briefs**: the first submitted by Covington & Burling LLP challenging the first Executive Order 13769 (the Muslim Travel Ban) and the second for a brief by Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, writing on behalf of religious leaders challenging the President's decision to end DACA.
- a new partnership with the **Micah Institute**, a powerful faith-based advocacy coalition of mostly Christian as well as a few Jewish leaders from across the city, who are interested in expanding the religious diversity of faith leaders in their coalition and with whom we are partnering to increase the number of congregations in the New Sanctuary Coalition.

With our ever-changing city, this has been a year when ICNY has been given the opportunity to make a significant impact through its mission to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by activating the power of the city's grassroots religious and civic leaders and their communities. With your help we look forward to continuing this work in 2018 and beyond.



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director



The Very Rev. James Parks Morton
Founder and Chair Emeritus

ADVOCACY



Following the violence in Charlottesville this past August, ICNY partnered with the Society for the Advancement of Judaism to hold an interfaith service, “Yes to Love, No to Hate,” at the Fourth Universalist Society on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Both Fourth Universalist and the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew (**see above left**) were targets of anti-Semitic graffiti in a rising tide of hate incidents at houses of worship around New York City. Following the first travel ban in January, ICNY together with the New York Immigration Coalition (**see above right**), organized Jummah Prayers with allies in Foley Square. In addition, ICNY has organized religious leaders in support of DACA and with the New Sanctuary Coalition to accompany undocumented individuals to their ICE appointments at 26 Federal Plaza, and posted bonds to release detainees. With African Communities Together, we also recruited diverse religious leaders for a 24-hour vigil and tent city in support of refugees (at Trinity Wall Street). Speakers at the City of Refuge profiled (**see below right**) also included refugees from Sudan, Tibet, Haiti, and Syria. Finally, ICNY and the Micah Faith Table supported Hawah Bah, mother of Guinean Muslim immigrant Mohamed Bah, who was shot by NYPD officers in his apartment five years ago. Christian and Muslim religious leaders (**see below left**) rally behind Hawah Bah in support of her quest for justice for her son.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In July 2017 we were proud to host the fourth meeting of the Religious Worlds of New York Summer Institute, a program cosponsored by ICNY and Union Theological Seminary with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, that helps K-12 teachers teach more effectively about American religious diversity. Through the past four Religious Worlds institutes, we have now trained over 100 teachers from public, private, and faith-based schools throughout the United States. Classroom by classroom, the teachers we work with are transforming the study of religion in K-12 schools and empowering a new generation of Americans to bridge the divides between their religious

worlds. In May 2017 we held a day-long conference for social workers and their colleagues, "Social Work and Religious Diversity," cosponsored by the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services and the Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute. Through this annual conference, ICNY has now also trained hundreds of mental health and social work professionals.



"The institute was truly superlative in every way. It went above and beyond my ideas of quality professional development, and I consider it one of the highlights of my teaching career."

— Attendee of the Religious Worlds of New York Summer Institute

Haitian-American Vodou priest and multidisciplinary artist Houngan Gran Bwa at the fourth meeting of the Religious Worlds of New York Summer Institute, organized with support from the National Endowment of the Humanities (**see left**). Buddhist Faith Leader panelists, Rev. Dr. T. K. Nakagaki, Bhante Heenbunne Kondanna, and ICNY Board Member Sylvie Sun, also at the Religious Worlds of New York Summer Institute (**see below left**). Two attendees of the Social Work and Religious Diversity conference (**see below right**).



COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

As a new fiscal sponsor and long-time partner, ICNY has entered into a closer collaboration with the Micah Institute to increase both entities' ability to work more effectively within the religiously diverse communities of New York City on issues of justice and equity. The Micah Institute was established in 2010 at New York Theological Seminary (NYTS) as a faculty initiative under the direction of Rev. Dr.



Peter G. Heltzel (**see far right**), who is Associate Professor of Theology. Inspired by the Hebrew prophet Micah's call to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8), the Institute seeks to educate and equip faith leaders to fight poverty and injustice. To this end, the Micah Institute offers workshops in faith-rooted organizing and advocacy, convenes an annual Faith-Rooted Organizing Conference, and provides opportunities for advocacy and community outreach through the Micah Faith Table. Now led by Executive Director Rev. Joel Gibson (**see above left**), The Micah Institute seeks to transition from a primarily multid denominational Christian effort to a religiously diverse initiative for justice and equality in New York City.

This fall, ICNY launched its first-ever Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy, sponsored by Trinity Church Wall Street. ICNY will sponsor 20 fellows to participate in bimonthly evening workshops on civic engagement, legal literacy, and community organizing. All fellows will receive stipends and as well as small grants for community projects. Workshops will be led by ICNY staff and our expert training partners, including: the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Center for Faith and Community Partnerships, Center for Court Innovation, Legal Hand, Faith in New York, CUNY-CLEAR, and the New York City Police Department.



Donna Lieberman (**see left**), Executive Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, was the keynote speaker at the 33rd Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat for Social Justice last spring titled "Hospitality in a Time of Hate," which was attended by over 100 people representing 15 religious faiths. The Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat for Social Justice is the oldest of our ICNY programs, and over the years has successfully convened over a thousand participants from dozens of faith communities in New York City.

"Leaders of faith have often served as the lone and courageous voices for dignity, human rights, and peace, and I'm so grateful to learn about the Interfaith Center of New York."

— Donna Lieberman, Executive Director, NYCLU

ICNY 2016-2017 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Fiscal year revenues increased by slightly over 20% from the prior year, while expenses increased by about 2.5%. We are grateful to our grant funding partners who are investing in new and innovative programming, including the new for 2017 Civic Leadership Academy. Our financial results also reflect the generous commitments of our broad base of individual donors. Our work to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding could not happen without our individual and organizational partners. Thank you to every one of you who helps, through your donations and involvement, to make this work more vibrant and effective.



Kevin Oro-Hahn, ICNY Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2017 Revenue

Contributions & Grants	\$476,872
Contract Revenue	175,226
Program Fees, Special Events	218,742
In-Kind Contributions, Investments, Interest, etc.	50,904
Total	\$921,744

Fiscal Year 2017 Expenditures

Programs	\$486,733
Fundraising	180,920
Administration	219,636
Total	\$887,289

Financial statements of The Interfaith Center of New York, Inc. are available at www.interfaithcenter.org.

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“Everyone who cares about tolerance, everyone who cares about justice, should support the Interfaith Center of New York’s commitment to civic engagement for grassroots religious leaders.”

— Preet Bharara, former US Attorney for the Southern District of New York



THE INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

CONNECTING RELIGIONS, BUILDING PEACE

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