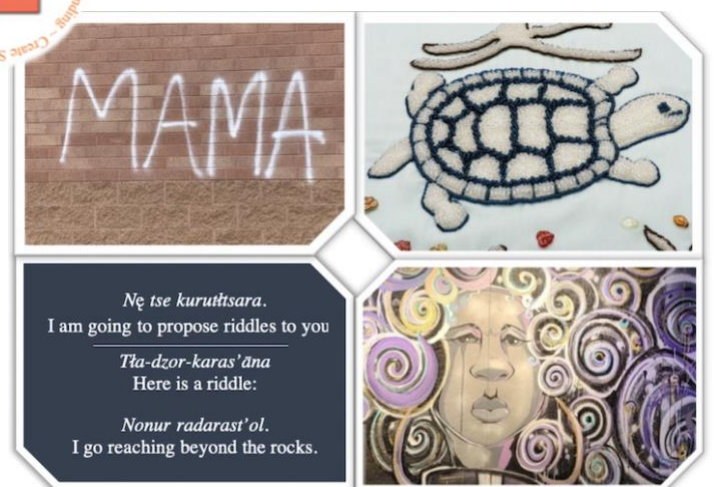
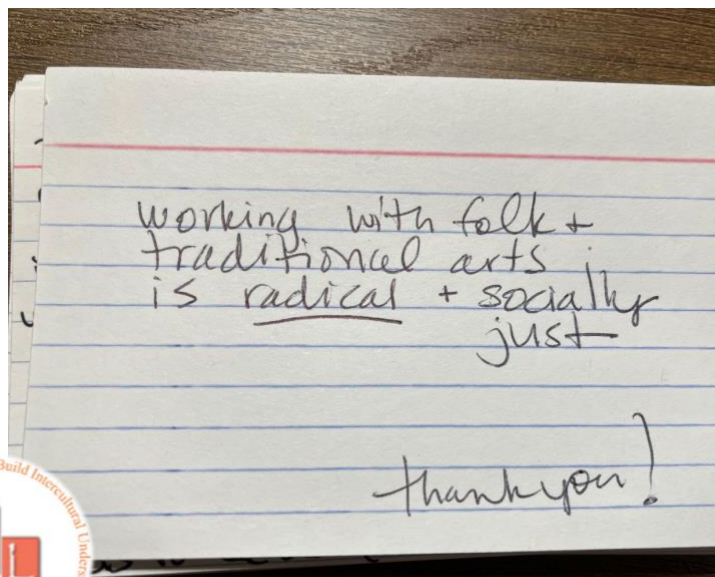


# 2021 Annual Report



*Nê tse kuruttisara.*  
I am going to propose riddles to you  
*Tla-dzor-karas'ana*  
Here is a riddle:  
*Nonur radarast'ol.*  
I go reaching beyond the rocks.

Creative Texts | Creative Traditions



- THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR FOLK ARTS IN EDUCATION

Bringing a cultural lens to complex subjects since 1993

*Local Learning connects folklorists, artists, and educators across the nation and advocates for the full inclusion of folklife and folk arts in education to transform learning, build intercultural understanding, and create stronger communities.*

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

# Journal of Folklore and Education

## Creative Texts | Creative Traditions (Vol. 8)

Featuring case studies, lesson plans, and research, this issue engages folklore’s values of context, candor, use, imagination, and love to help students to craft text with authentic purpose and consequences. The strategies offer readers opportunities to consider how the merely personal can contain the universal, how to make genuine connections, how to work toward equity, or how to strengthen social bonds. [Read it here.](#)



*I asked an 11-year-old writer, "If a poem could be a tool for doing things, what tool would it be?" He was not at all confused by the request. Straightaway, he drew his ideas to help him as he talked:*

*An anvil. You can forge words and ideas on it. All the time, you have these thoughts floating around in your head, sort of soft and messy and not real. When you try to put them into a poem, you have to forge them out. The hammer and the heat of it gets the shape you really want—you get more world-like ideas.*

*Taught in the light of folklore’s values—context, use, candor, imagination, and love, writing poems that notice, praise, and witness, young people could forge language as an act.*

From "Make the Anvil Theirs: When Poetry Meets Folklore," by Dennie P. Wolf

The *Journal of Folklore and Education* (ISSN 2573-2072) is a publication of Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education. Volume 8 (2021) featured 14 articles, 2 memoirs, and 4 reviews. We accepted 70% of submissions, following peer review.

Editors: Paddy Bowman and Lisa Rathje; Design: Lisa Rathje; 2021 Review Editor: Rebecca Smith

### 2021 Journal of Folklore and Education Publications Committee & Advisory Committee

#### 2021 Publications Committee

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Rick Kearns-Morales

Sarah McCart Jackson

Andy Kolovos

Sahar Muradi

Mark Miyake

Christine J. Widmayer

Langston Collin Wilkins

Steve Zeitlin

Visit the new website: <https://JFEPublications.org>

# Professional Development

We facilitate a variety of professional development workshops for educators and artists and offer consultancies that particularly focus upon art forms that can be found in the communities of students of all ages (K-12–Adult).

Study of traditional arts and their creators contributes not only to students' understanding of culture and community, but also to their ability to think critically, gather and analyze evidence, learn key social-emotional skills, and express their ideas and interpretations through personal creativity. A few examples of what this looked like in 2021 include:

## 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

22 PRESENTATIONS, 14 VIRTUAL

15 STATES & 2 COUNTRIES

548 EDUCATORS, ARTISTS, & FOLKLORISTS.

38 CONTENT PAGES, 91 RESOURCE POSTS, &

135 JOURNAL ARTICLES INDEXED & PUBLISHED ON

2 NEW WEBSITES.



Photo courtesy New York Folklore

## Story Sharing in Classrooms and Communities

*Barrio Stories—Nogales*, our workshop in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, brought the research process of oral history, the role of teaching with primary sources, and the pedagogy of teaching through the art of storytelling to a diverse regional group of educators. Artist Queen Nur co-facilitated this workshop and also was a featured speaker in our Pennsylvania Culture, Community, and the Classroom series that culminated at the American Folklore Society conference in Harrisburg.

Our partnership with HistoryMiami Museum offered a chance to engage in community-centered learning and the design process to develop a resource for sharing stories through culturally relevant, community co-created mechanisms. The project complements ongoing work of HistoryMiami to explore the complexity of Miami's diverse Black communities through oral history interviews and story sharing.

## Building our NY Folklore and Education Network

Following 12 hours of in-person Professional Development training for teachers and artists in Binghamton, eight educators hosted artist residencies in their schools. Our November showcase brought 100 people to the Roberson Museum, sharing the transformative learning that happened in these residencies. Comments included: *"This is an amazing in-person experience where teachers and artists could share their views...I came back with different perspective of words, which helped me expand my current intellectual horizon."* And *"...I definitely benefited as a teacher and personally. It was a very focused, intentional, and well-planned workshop. Great tools and activities! One of the best workshops I've ever participated in!"*

NEA National Heritage Fellow Juan Gutierrez-Rodriguez and Julia Gutierrez-Rivera presented at our New York Folk Arts Roundtable workshop, followed by strategic planning for our new statewide network in partnership with New York Folklore.

# 2021 Highlights

## **New Look. Expanded Search Capabilities. Two Websites.**

The new <https://LocalLearningNetwork.org> website offers all the content of our old site with enhanced organization, accessibility, and user-focused design. Sections highlight why folklore should be included in all learning spaces, offer advocacy tools that share the value of folk arts in education, and include resources such as learning activities and research that are searchable by theme, topic, and subject. We continue to maintain our national and regional folklife map pointing visitors to organizations and individuals near them, and we highlight opportunities to bring Local Learning staff and consultants into schools, museums, or communities. We invested in the *Journal of Folklore and Education* (JFE) as the flagship journal of Local Learning and for the field of Folklore and Education. Now housed in the new website [JFEpublications.org](https://JFEpublications.org), users may search more easily, find full citations for articles, browse by theme and issue, and sort by subject, theme, and topic.

## ***Journal of Folklore and Education* Writers Fund becomes the Documentary Arts Fund for Writers.**

JFE is grateful for the Govenar Family Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas and Documentary Arts' support of this important funding source for invited JFE authors. In 2021 we supported 15 individuals through this fund. It is more important than ever to acknowledge that many JFE authors are not institutionally supported to write about their important work.

## **Local Learning leads a Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) grant from the Library of Congress.**

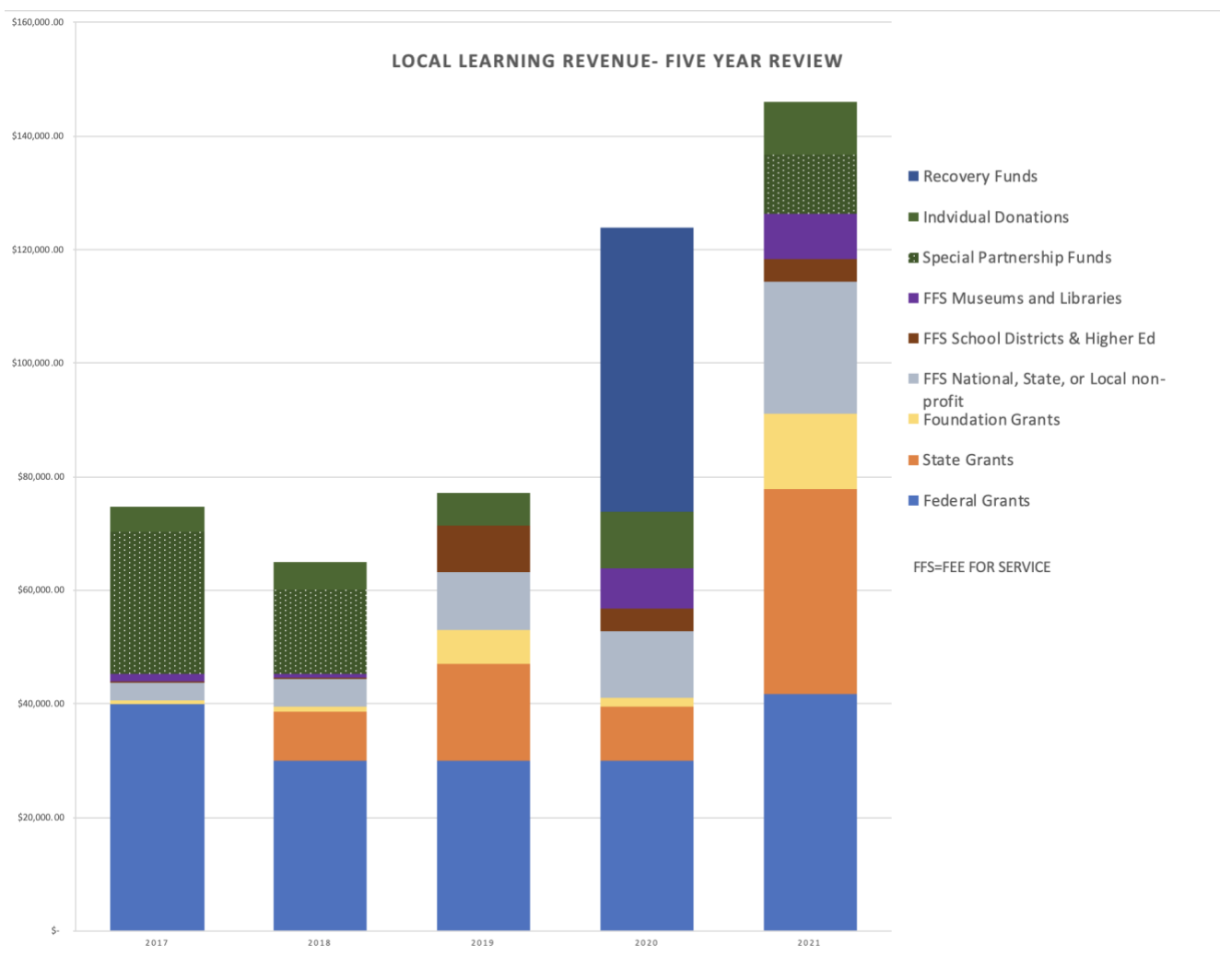
TPS is the premier educational program of the Library of Congress, focused on helping educators enhance students' critical thinking and analysis skills and content knowledge using the Library's collections of millions of digitized primary sources. Titled ***Counter(ing) Narratives to the American Story with Ethnographic and Oral History Collections***, Local Learning will co-direct the curriculum and professional development project with the Vermont Folklife Center and our partners HistoryMiami Museum, Oklahoma State University Library and the OSU Writing Project, and the American Folklore Society.

## **Investing in the New York Folklore and Education Network and National Advocacy**

- In 2021 we announced and hired a shared position with New York Folklore. Mira Johnson began facilitating new connections and opportunities for Network engagement September 1. Reach her at [NYnetwork@locallearningnetwork.org](mailto:NYnetwork@locallearningnetwork.org).
- The Local Learning Executive Director serves on the Arts Education Partnership (AEP) [Equity Working Group](#) and was an invited member of the AEP Think Tank [Arts and Literacy Think Tank](#). She also serves on the AEP Higher Education working group and helped facilitate publication of a folk arts piece in the blog *ArtsEd Amplified* by Jeannine Osayande and Avalon Nemec. Titled "[How to Sustain Cultural Art Forms in Arts Education Equitably](#)," their writing asked: "What can be learned by including experienced teaching artists in arts integration planning and inviting co-teaching into the classroom?" It was named in the AEP 2021 annual report as one of the top 5 viewed blogs, and it extended some of the questions that the authors considered in their popular 2020 JFE article [AGO/AME](#).

# Financial Statement

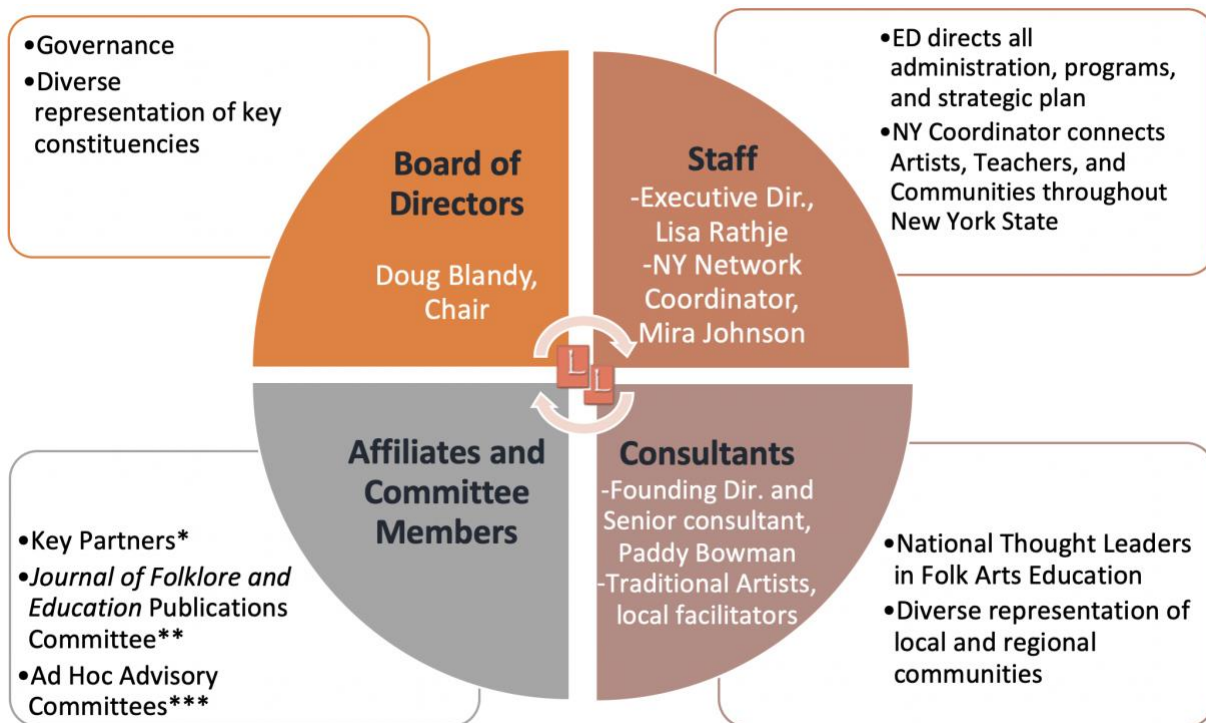
Local Learning received a competitive CARES Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for recovery and relief in FY20-21. These funds supported staff salaries, allowing us to better meet the significant needs in culturally responsive education across the nation through training (of both teachers and traditional artists), publication, and resource development. Local Learning announced in November that we have received multi-year funding from the New York State Council on the Arts for the first time, totaling \$148,500 (\$49,500/year) beginning in 2022. This supports our continued investment in the New York Folklore and Education Network and professional development in the state.



The Local Learning budget is growing. Our 2021 income (pending final accounting) was \$146,500 with expenses of \$140,600. A \$50,000 CARES grant accounted in 2020 is being expensed in Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022. Given the multiple challenges of doing work in a time of COVID19, we see demonstrated resilience in our revenues.

# Local Learning Board Updates

The current Local Learning Board, reflecting on the organization's significant accomplishments over the past years and knowing that these accomplishments would be impossible without the Founding Directors' service in our first years as an independent nonprofit, amended the bylaws to create an *Emeritus* board position. These honorific positions recognize the significant contributions of these individuals to our mission and organization: Betty Belanus, Amanda Dargan, Maida Owens, Anne Pryor, and Steve Zeitlin.



\*Key Partners see page 7; \*\*Publications Committee see page 2, \*\*\* JFE Advisory Committee see page 2.

## Local Learning Board

**Doug Blandy** (Chair) is a professor in the School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management at the University of Oregon.

**Michael Knoll** (Treasurer) is a folklorist and Vice President of Curatorial Affairs at HistoryMiami Museum.

**Ellen McHale** (Secretary) is Executive Director of New York Folklore.

**Linda Deafenbaugh** is a Folk Arts Education Specialist at the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures School in Philadelphia.

**Maribel L. Alvarez** is Associate Dean for Community Engagement & Jim Griffith Chair in Public Folklore, University of Arizona.

**Halle Butvin** is Director of Special Projects at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

**Marcus Cederström** is a community curator of Nordic American folklore at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

**Terry Liu** is past interim Chief Executive Officer at Hawai'i Arts Alliance.

**Shanetra Nowell** is Associate Professor of Secondary Education at Oklahoma State University.

# Key Funders and Partners

Strong partnerships are a core value for Local Learning and are necessary for sustaining and nurturing the field of Folk Arts in Education.

## 2021 Funding, including Grants, Fees, and Honoraria from the following:

National Endowment for the Arts  
New York State Council on the Arts  
Arts Education Partnership  
Govenar Family Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas  
HistoryMiami Museum  
The Hoyt Foundation  
Humanities New York  
Library of Congress  
New York Folklore  
Oklahoma Arts Council  
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
Pennsylvania Department of Education, CAIU  
The Roger Kresge Foundation  
SouthArts  
Southwest Folklife Alliance  
317 Main  
University of Louisiana-Lafayette, a National Endowment for the Humanities project

### Local Learning meets \$5,000 Donation Challenge!

We are pleased to share that we raised \$11,420 through our 2021 Giving Campaign. We are grateful to our anonymous friend to Local Learning who gave \$5,000 for this Donation Challenge and the individual donors who support our mission.

**Thank you** for supporting our work to transform learning, build intercultural understanding, and strengthen communities through Folk Arts in Education.

## 2021 Partners who donated in-kind time, space, and services include the following:

American Folklore Society  
The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes  
GLOW Traditions  
Broome-Tioga BOCES  
City Lore  
*Journal of Folklore and Education* Guest Editor and Publications Committee Members

## How can you support Local Learning?

- [Follow us on Facebook](#)
- [Subscribe to our quarterly e-bulletin](#)
- Publicize our work among colleagues
- Volunteer to become a JFE peer reviewer
- Recommend potential networks and resources
- [DONATE](#)

## Contact Us to Learn More!

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Executive Director: [lisa@locallearningnetwork.org](mailto:lisa@locallearningnetwork.org)  
[www.locallearningnetwork.org](http://www.locallearningnetwork.org)

