



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, Executive Director
+1-646-854-6205
marissa@artejustice.org
www.artejustice.org

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST ANNUAL VISIONS OF JUSTICE AWARD FOR WOMEN ARTISTS OF COLOR

[New York, 17 January 2020] [Art and Resistance Through Education \(ARTE\)](#), a Brooklyn-based non-profit organization that amplifies the voices of young people using the visual arts for human rights change, is announcing the Visions of Justice Award in New York City.

The [Visions of Justice Award](#), first of its kind in this field, will honor a woman of color who has made significant contributions as a visual artist to their community. Nominations are open to women of color artists who utilize their artistic practice to further human rights and social justice, either by using the arts to bring attention to issues directly impacting others and/or using the arts to share and amplify the narratives of their community.

ARTE has created this Visions of Justice Award to bring attention to gender disparities in the arts. For instance, according to the National Endowment for the Arts, “nearly half (45.8%) of visual artists are women; on average, they earn 74¢ for every dollar made by visual artists.” While larger institutions are making efforts to become more equitable, the disparity still exists. The National Museum of Women in the Arts cites a study from the Public Library of Science that finds in “a recent data survey of the permanent collections of 18 prominent art museums in the U.S. found that out of over 10,000 artists, 87% are male and 85% are white.” In a country where women-identified artists of color are constantly creating, innovating, and implementing powerful pieces of artwork on important community issues on a daily basis, we find this economic disparity and lack of representation unacceptable.

For all of these reasons, we are thrilled to introduce the Visions of Justice Award. Nominations are currently open and can be digitally submitted via the following link: bit.ly/vojaward. Applications can be self-nominated and will require submission of links that are best representative of the candidate's community work.

The award panel of judges consists of the following five prominent leaders in the New York City in the arts community: Jessie McGuire (Managing Director, ThoughtMatter), Kemi Ilesanmi (Executive Director, The Laundromat Project), Monica Montgomery Nyathi (Executive Director & Chief Curator, Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center), Priyanka Dasgupta (local community artist) and Robyne Walker Murphy (Executive Director, Groundswell Community Mural Project).

The recipient of the Visions of Justice Award will be honored at ARTE's upcoming fundraiser. The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Stitch Bar & Lounge, 247 West 37th Street, New York City from 6-9pm. Tickets are currently available for purchase at: bit.ly/artevoj2020. Renowned community activist and house music DJ, Sabine Blaizin will be performing a set at the fundraiser.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to support ARTE's community work. Since its inception, ARTE has engaged over 5,000 community members, including youth, teachers, artists, and activists in its arts-based, human rights pedagogy and has created several community-based mural projects in four boroughs across New York City. In 2019, ARTE collaborated with the New York City-based design agency, ThoughtMatter, to design and raise funding to print 4,000 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on its 70th anniversary.

Most importantly, through the 2020 Visions of Justice Award and in the face of grave human rights violations, ARTE honors the resistance of women of color artists, activists, curators, educators, and organizers, who have and continue to catalyze change, instill hope, and uplift their communities.

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If you would like to learn more information on this project, please contact info@artejustice.org.