

# Teatro Grattacielo

Creative Tableaux Report





# Creative Tableaux

by Teatro Grattacielo

As we close 2024 and look ahead to 2025, we recognize the challenges facing the opera world, including a 27% drop in attendance reported by Opera America compared to pre-pandemic levels. While many companies have scaled back, Teatro Grattacielo has embraced this as an opportunity to evolve. This year marked significant growth for our organization and for me personally, as I deepened my commitment to community work through the power of opera.

We expanded our programming to three productions annually, including *The Tin Angel*, inspired by New York City's historic jazz mecca, the Tin Palace, and launched our new community initiative, Opera at Gotham Park. As we continue to present opera in a relatable and accessible way, we aim to foster a new generation of enthusiasts and supporters.

Thank you for supporting our mission; we are excited to embark on this next chapter with you.

Stefanos Koroneos,  
General and Artistic Director



Left — Working-based learning internships, May 2024

Below — Creative workshop at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School, March 2024





# Creative Team



**Stefanos Koroneos**  
General and Artistic Director



**Duane Printz**  
Founding Director



**Krystel Juvet**  
Artistic Administrator



**David Santiago**  
Cultural Outreach Officer



**Ernest Bacon**  
Librarian / Arranger



**Suzanne Musho**  
Strategic Planning



# Part ONE

## Working-based learning internships

February - June 2024

In February, we started an internship program with the **High School of Fashion Industries** in Chelsea, NYC. During the semester, we involved students in our upcoming production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir D'Amore*.

They actively contributed to the pre-production and production phases, by designing the costumes and styling the casts.







*"It was so great to work with Teatro Grattacielo on the costumes for this production. I really enjoyed this experience very much and it was so great to get some hands-on experience in the costume world since that is what I hope to do in the future." - Huntersky Farrellconlan*





# Part ONE

## Working-based learning internships

**November 2024**

In November 2024, we had the pleasure of welcoming a talented group of female and trans students from **Seton Hall University**, who are studying various fields and taking music as part of their broader curriculum, to participate in our workshop and work-based learning internship. These students took on active roles in the chorus of our production of G. Donizetti's *Elixir of Love*.

They spent two full days workshopping the production with Stefanos Koroneos, Artistic Director of Teatro Grattacielo, and Jason Tramm, Seton Hall's Professor and Conductor.





# Part ONE

On both sides of the stage

Because we are aware that the arts can be difficult to access from both sides of the stage, it also matters to us fostering education and experiences for children that are willing to develop a passion in the arts.

## October 2023: La Vestale

In 2023, we gave the opportunity to 20 kids from the Frank Sinatra School Of The Arts to join a professional cast of international singers, and to be part of the chorus during the production of *La Vestale* in New York City.

## March 2024: L'Elisir D'Amore

In 2024, we auditioned students from the Frank Sinatra School Of The Arts to offer them roles in the chorus of *L'Elisir D'Amore*.





# Part ONE

## The Warm-Up

### May 2023: Carmen

In May 2023, we presented our educational program to 800 enthusiastic kids. This interactive program consisted of a presentation of the creative process, a Q&A, and a mini performance of G. Bizet's *Carmen* with a full orchestra. Most of these students had never heard of or been in an opera performance.

### June 2023: Don Giovanni

We presented PART ONE of Creative Tableaux at the Dominican Academy in NYC in June 2023. This interactive session was filled with engaging Q&As, captivating projections, and hands-on set/costume workshops.



Up — Attentive students at the Dominican Academy  
Right — A full audience of 800 kids discovering about opera  
Below — Our production of Carmen only for the kids





# Part ONE

## The Warm-Up

### June 2023: Don Giovanni

During Creative Tableaux at the Harrison Public Library, students got immersed in an interactive Q&As session with our Artistic Director, captivating projections, and engaging hands-on set and costume workshops. The event was a resounding success, leaving everyone inspired and eager for more.

### February 2024: Creative Coloring Workshop

In February 2024, our guest presenter David Santiago joined Stefanos Koroneos to present an interactive creative workshop based on coloring in the opera world at the North Bergen High School.





# Part ONE

## The Warm-Up

### May 2024: *L'Elisir D'Amore's* creative process

In May 2024, we came back to the Harrison Public Library to present our new interactive workshop!

We introduced participants to the creative process of operatic productions, and more specifically to the concepts and inspirations behind our modern take of *L'Elisir D'Amore*, a very vibrant and creative piece, featuring bold colors, fun costumes, and surprising projections.





# Part TWO

## All elements come together

Our June productions are always a celebration of diversity. Our Mozart's *Don Giovanni* production in 2023 and our Donizetti's *L'Elisir D'Amore* in 2024 captivated audiences, with the sold-out performances, and showcased a uniquely diverse, queer, LGBTQIA+ cast and creative team, highlighting Teatro Grattacielo's commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

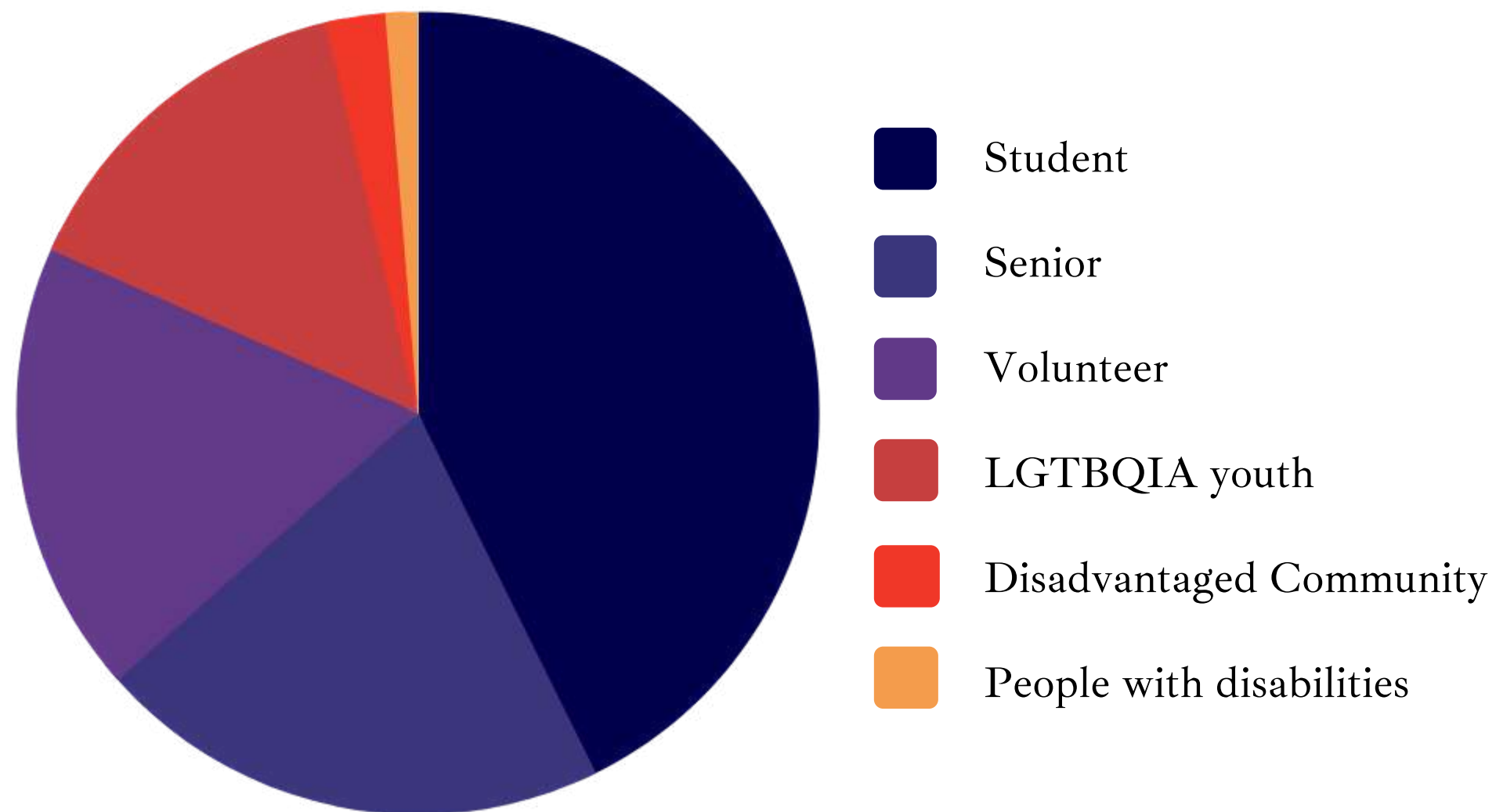
Diversity also applies when it comes to describe our audience, as it included members from several NYC public schools, seniors from the Hudson Guild, volunteers from NYC charities, members and staff of the LGBTQ Center of NY, and the general public, some of who traveled from the West Coast!





# Part TWO

## Metrics



The audience of the June performance was comprised of diverse groups:

### Students

including members from the Montfort Academy, Our Lady of Victory School, the North Bergen High School, the High School of Fashion Industries, the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School and several other NYC public schools

### Seniors

from the Hudson Guild

### Volunteers

from God's Love We Deliver

### LGBTQIA Youth

members and staff of the LGBTQ Center of NY



# Part TWO

## The 10 Faces Of Maria Callas

A musical/educational journey

2023 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of legendary soprano Maria Callas. To celebrate her legacy, our Artistic Director, Stefanos Koroneos, created a concept combining personal facts about Maria Callas and some of the greatest achievements of her career: *The 10 Faces of Maria Callas*.

Educative, interactive and intergenerational, the musical journey attracted audience at multiple occasions, in New York City and in Harrison. The grand finale, in partnership with the Consulate General of Greece in New York, took place at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and hosted over 400 guests.



Up — Introducing Maria Callas in Harrison

Right — Spectacular tribute to Maria Callas

Below — at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity





# SCHOLARSHIPS

## of Creative Tableaux

We are proud to introduce the recipients of the 2024 Creative Tableaux scholarships. This initiative aims to inspire and cultivate young talent in the arts, providing them with the tools and mentorship necessary to thrive in creative industries.

### **Anthony Jimenez Peña (Mexico, 10 years old)**

Graphic Design | Anthony's remarkable creativity and passion for visual storytelling captured our attention. Despite his young age, his work demonstrates a unique perspective and a mastery of design principles beyond his years. We are thrilled to support Anthony as he continues to explore and develop his artistic potential.

### **Huntersky Farrell-Conlan (17 years old)**

Costume Design | Huntersky has showcased extraordinary talent and innovation in costume design, blending a keen sense of history with modern aesthetics. Their dedication to their craft and eye for detail promise an exciting future in the world of theater and beyond. We are honored to play a role in nurturing Huntersky's artistic journey.



*Anthony Jimenez  
Peña's designs*



*Watch Huntersky's testimonial  
on Youtube*





# For the community

## We all come together

Teatro Grattacielo is working to increase educational opportunities for our communities, providing arts and music education on a local and global scale. The power that lies within the young voices and the history of these art forms have shaped our culture since the beginning of human existence.

Together with Teatro Grattacielo's friends, we thrive to provide arts across diverse communities.

Top — With the Greek General Consulate in New York  
Bottom — Some pictures of our beautiful community



Photo credit : Lanna Apisukh





# Thank you!

Teatro Grattacielo is devoted to creating a vibrant art world in which diversity is respected and celebrated.

Teatro Grattacielo believes that we have an obligation to be reflective of our multicultural community.

We commit to a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment, which we believe enhances our overall work and industry.

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