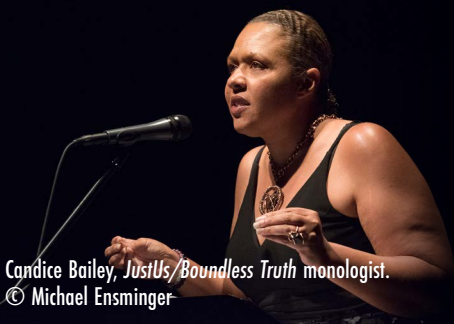


# 2021 MOTUS ANNUAL REPORT



Candice Bailey, *JustUs/Boundless Truth* monologist.  
© Michael Ensminger



Brenda Cisse, *JustUs/Boundless Truth* monologist.  
© Michael Ensminger

## A YEAR OF ELEVATING STORIES AND INSPIRING ACTION TOWARDS A VISION OF TRUE JUSTICE!

In 2021, Motus Theater was able to resume in-person performances, with the option of live-streaming, after the pandemic paused live performances in 2020. 2021 was an exceptional year of impactful and strategic programming and performances. **Over 11,200 people** attended Motus' **39 in-person, virtual, and hybrid performances**. Almost **60,000** watched our performances via Facebook Live.



*JustUs/Boundless Truth* monologist, Cynthia Randall. © Michael Ensminger

### JUSTUS: STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINES OF THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

*"Motus Theater's JustUs presentation at Fair & Just Prosecution's 2021 Conference truly surpassed even our incredibly high expectations. Motus' performances will make a difference in decisions made by DAs across the country and, as such, in the willingness to rethink punitive approaches that simply waste more lives."* - Miriam Krinsky, ED of Fair & Just Prosecution

In 2021, Motus Theater toured the *JustUs* monologues through virtual and in-person performances. In what was perhaps our most strategic *JustUs* performance so far, Motus presented monologues in front of more than 50 District Attorneys from across the country at the Fair & Just Prosecution (FJP) conference in LA.

For some performances, Motus invited decision-makers in the criminal legal system to stand with *JustUs* monologists and read aloud their stories. Readers included the ED of CO Dept of Corrections, Dean Williams and DAs: Michael Dougherty (Boulder County, CO), Brian Mason (Adams & Broomfield County, CO), Sherry Boston (DeKalb County, GA), DA Mark Dupree (Wyandotte County, KS). *JustUs* monologues were also read by Boulder County Commissioner Marta Loachamin, Boulder County NAACP Madelyn Strong Woodley, and Rev. Pedro Silva. In addition to FJP, Motus presented performances in collaboration with Conference on World Affairs, the Colorado Coalition for Restorative Justice Practices, the Museum of Contemporary Art - Denver, and Redline Gallery.

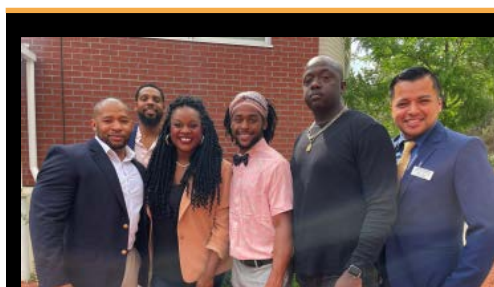


*JustUs* reader, ED of the Colorado DOC, Dean Williams. © Will Prosper

*"Justice and mercy require us to walk in the shoes of others."* - Dean Williams, ED of Colorado DOC about reading a *JustUs* Monologue

Motus also developed new autobiographical monologues with a group of Black women leaders who experienced incarceration. These monologists had their powerful world premiere at the Dairy Arts Center in a performance called, *Boundless Truth: Women's Stories of Freedom & Incarceration*.

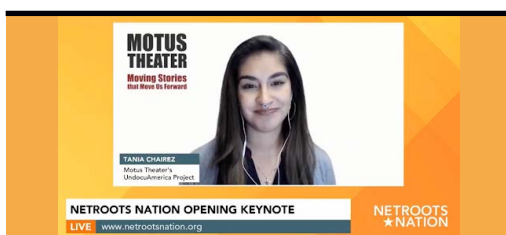
*"...once I felt safe on the stage and overcame whatever came up for me in those first few minutes, I felt empowered to tell the story. And I truly looked at it as medicine. I think we all gave a bit of medicine not only to ourselves, but also to the community."* - Cynthia Randall, *JustUs/Boundless Truth* monologist



### THE NEXUS BETWEEN THEATER & POLICY CHANGE

Motus' work lives at the nexus between theater and policy change. *JustUs* is creating deep change in Colorado legislation toward criminal justice reform. **CO State Rep. Leslie Herod** credits the *JustUs* monologues for inspiring her legislative work, including two bills passed last year: **HB21-1315** eliminates fines and fees within the juvenile court system; and bill **HB21-1314** eliminates the ability for courts to revoke one's driver's license for small, non-driving related infractions for failure to pay fines and fees.

### UNDOCUAMERICA PROJECT: STORIES FROM OUR UNDOCUMENTED NEIGHBORS



Tania Chairez presenting her *UndocuAmerica* monologue at Netroots Nation 2021.

The *UndocuAmerica Project* amplifies autobiographical monologues of people who

are undocumented to support audiences to understand the impact of immigration policy on the lives of undocumented people in the U.S. In 2021, Motus' 23 *UndocuAmerica* performances reached over **66,051 people** across our nation. *UndocuMonologues* were featured at the 2021 Netroots Nation Opening Plenary, joining keynote speakers *DNC Chairman Jaime Harrison, Congressman Joe Neguse, and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib*; as well as at CU Law School's 29th Annual Ira C. Rothgerber Jr. Conference. Motus also presented monologues in collaboration with Emerson Collective, Women Donors Network, National Partnership for New Americans, and Black Alliance for Just Immigration. The project was covered in 28 regional, national, and international media outlets.

### UNDOCUMONOLOGUES WITH PROMINENT NATIONAL LEADERS!

Motus worked with national and regional leaders to step into the shoes of an undocumented leader and amplify their story by reading it aloud in *UndocuAmerica: Shoebox Stories* Live performances. 2021 guest readers included Rep. Jayapal of Washington State and Reps. Crow and Neguse of Colorado; the Honorable Mimi Tsankov, National Association of Immigration Judges; co-founder of Black Lives Matter, Patrisse Cullors; UNC President Andy Feinstein; Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo; and prominent religious leaders, including two Bishops and rabbis.

**Congressmen Jason Crow and Joe Neguse reading Juan Juarez's *UndocuAmerica* monologue the day after the January 6th insurrection. Read why they joined Motus after that fateful day.**



*"Joe [Neguse] and I are sitting here the day after encountering an insurrection in the Capitol and an assault on the Capitol building where we were trapped inside. This country is in desperate need of healing. This country needs empathy and it needs compassion, and we need to find a way to open up our hearts and minds to each other and figure out a path forward. There's no better time to start that than today.... And there's no better way to start that than sharing the story of someone in our community -- so we can better understand each other."* - Rep. Jason Crow

*"At the end of the day, here in the people's house, our job is to try to make people's lives better. And reading your story reminds us what we're fighting for and the ways in which this congress can truly make your life better, and the lives of so many others across our country."* - Rep. Joe Neguse

# MOTUS THEATER MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Motus Theater is to create original theater to facilitate dialogue on critical issues of our time. We aim to use the power of art to build alliances across diverse segments of our community and country.

**CONNECT WITH US**  
Subscribe to our newsletter at [motustheater.org](http://motustheater.org) and to our podcast at [shoebxstories.org](http://shoebxstories.org).

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Follow us on Instagram: [@motustheater](https://www.instagram.com/motustheater) and [@shoebxstoriespodcast](https://www.instagram.com/shoebxstoriespodcast)

Email us at [info@motustheater.org](mailto:info@motustheater.org) to get involved!

# CURRENT BOARD AND STAFF AT MOTUS

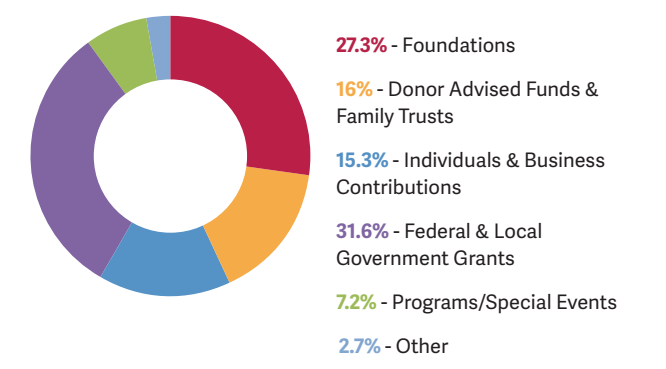
**STAFF:**  
**Kirsten Wilson**, Artistic Director  
**Dr. Rita M. Rufino Valente-Quinn**, Producing Director  
**Armando Peniche**, Partnerships & Project Manager  
**Caroline Grinnell**, Development & Administrative Manager  
**Tania Chairez**, *UndocuAmerica* Project Strategist  
**Juaquin Mobley**, *JustUs* Project Strategist  
**Wendy Talley**, Transformative Healing Coach

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
**Arthur Figel**, Chair  
**Perla Delgado**, Vice-Chair  
**Margi Ness**, Treasurer  
**David Ensign**, Secretary  
**Alexis Miles**, Founding Board Member  
**Audrey Fishman Franklin**  
**David Breña**  
**Juan Ignacio Stewart**  
**Katharine Reece**  
**Leslie Allen**  
**Lorenzo González-Fontes**

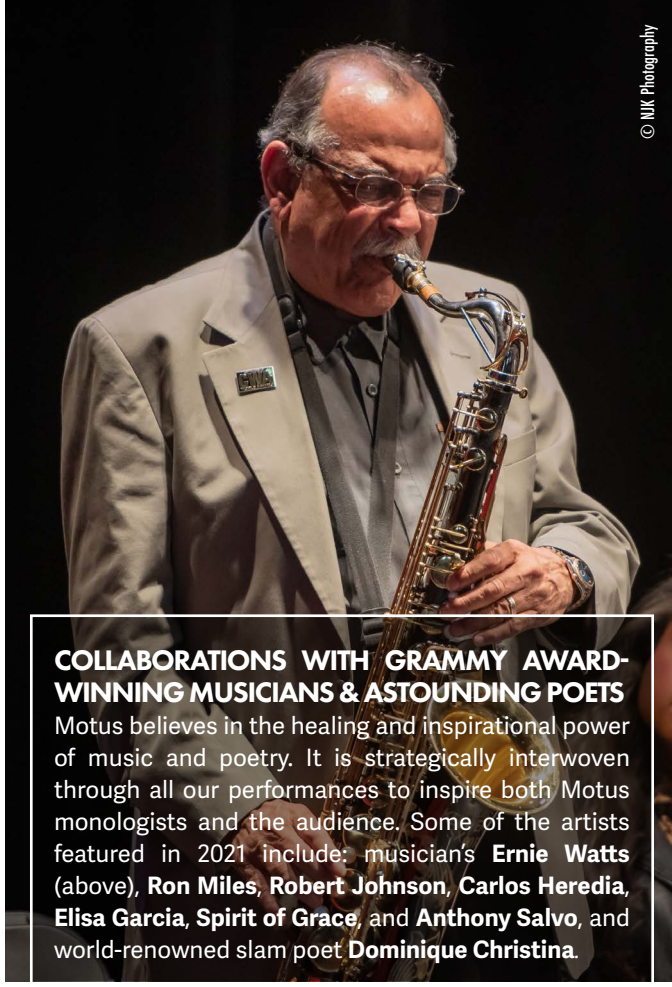
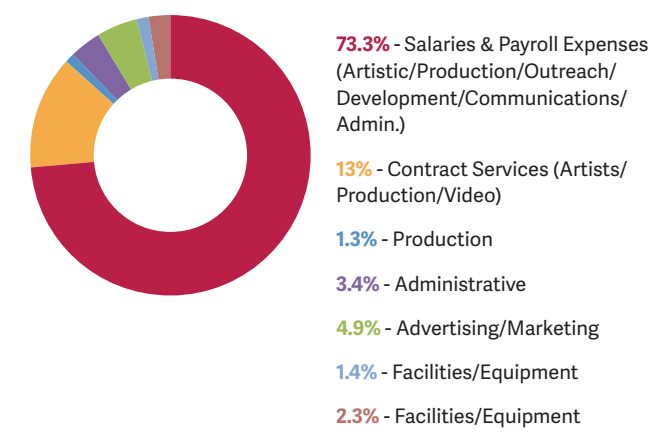
# 2021 FINANCIALS

Motus Theater continues to be in a solid financial position at the end of 2021. Motus staff was recognized locally and nationally by continued and new funding. Motus ended the year with \$500,152 in revenue from a healthy variety of sources for programming to be executed between 2021 and 2022. Expenses totaled \$419,559 in 2021, showing Motus' increasing investment in our staff and programming contractors for groundbreaking theatrical projects. Motus' carryover will be applied toward our continued investment in staff and programming in 2022. We thank our friends, donors, and community members for ongoing support contributing to Motus' success in fulfilling our mission.

# 2021 MOTUS THEATER REVENUE



# 2021 MOTUS THEATER EXPENSES



© NIK Photography

**COLLABORATIONS WITH GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING MUSICIANS & ASTOUNDING POETS**  
Motus believes in the healing and inspirational power of music and poetry. It is strategically interwoven through all our performances to inspire both Motus monologists and the audience. Some of the artists featured in 2021 include: musician's **Ernie Watts** (above), **Ron Miles**, **Robert Johnson**, **Carlos Heredia**, **Elisa Garcia**, **Spirit of Grace**, and **Anthony Salvo**, and world-renowned slam poet **Dominique Christina**.

# APPRECIATION & THANKS

Motus' work is made possible by the generous support of many individuals, foundations, businesses, and local and federal governments. For a full list of our supporters and partners, please visit [www.motustheater.org/contribute](http://www.motustheater.org/contribute).

# GET INVOLVED, GET A MUG!

**Invest** in Motus' mission! Become a monthly member and receive a Motus mug. Monthly members provide Motus with sustainable support needed to carry out our programs throughout the year. Set up your monthly donation at [www.coloradogives.org/MotusTheater](http://www.coloradogives.org/MotusTheater).

**Volunteer** and help be the momentum in Motus! Volunteers provided more than 281 hours to Motus in 2021, for a value of over \$12,225.



JustUs monologists dancing with members of the Intergenerational Women's African Drum and Dance Ensemble at the premier of *Boundless Truth*. © Michael Ensign

**MOTUS THEATER**  
Moving Stories that Move Us Forward

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