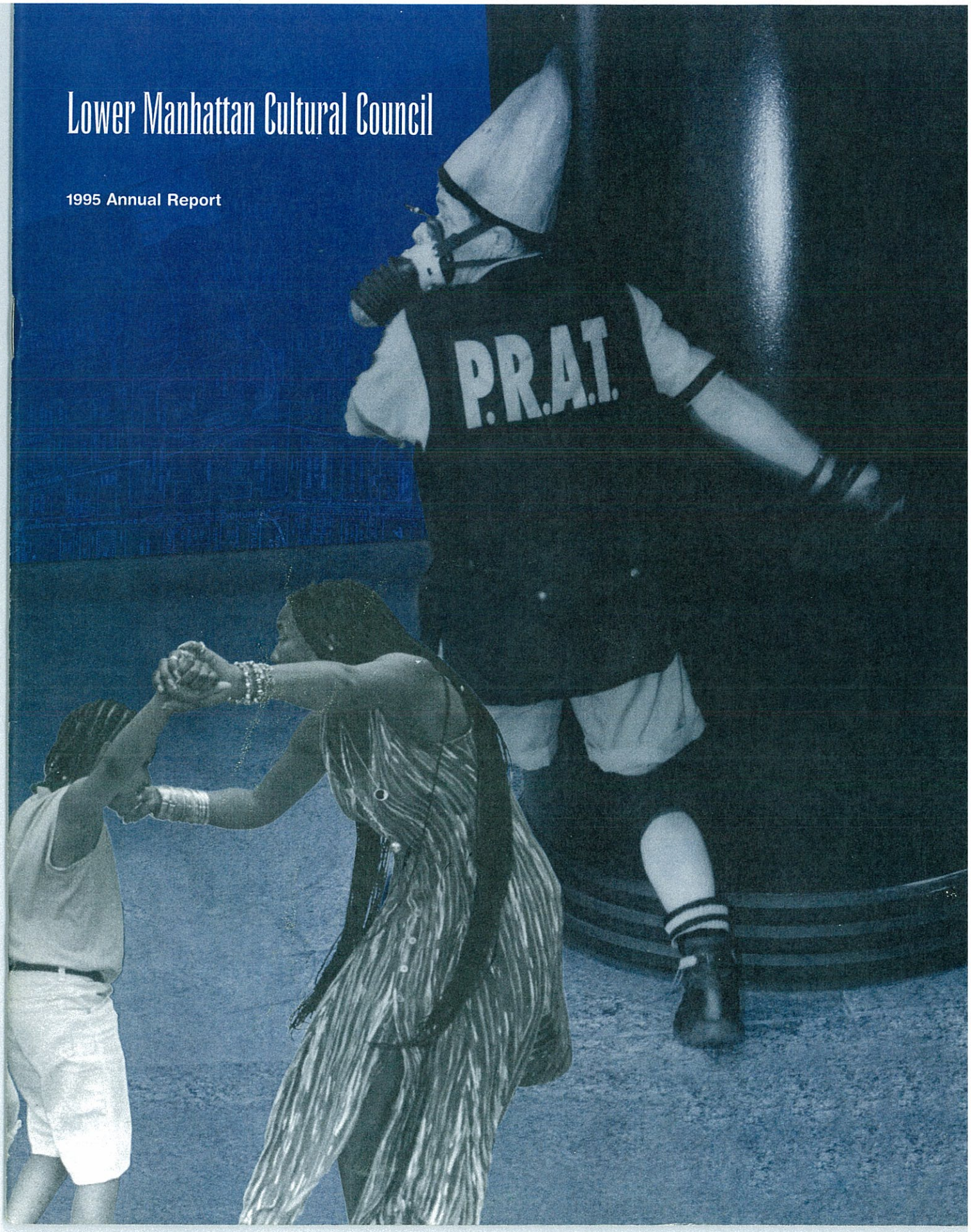
Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

1995 Annual Report



Buskers Fare 1995

➡ "Today's financial district was once the theater district. At the tip of Manhattan, the first Broadway theater opened. Dozens of circus troupes had their home here, and street artists—buskers—mixed with the rising financial jugglers. For three years now, this forgotten tradition is re–enlivened for a week each summer with the Buskers Fare.... The grafting of buskers and business is attractive in a poetic sense...."

➡ *Neue Zuericher Zeitung*, June 29, 1995 (Zurich)

On Tuesday, June 13th, 1995, promptly at noon on the steps of City Hall, the Honorable Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor of The City of New York, proclaimed: "Let the Buskers Fare begin!" With a blow of his whistle, the founder of New York's Big Apple Circus, Paul Binder, signaled the 100–strong Fort Hamilton High School Marching Regiment and more than 200 street performers to march down Broadway for opening festivities on the Austin J. Tobin Plaza of the World Trade Center. The third edition of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's annual festival of street performance was underway.

➡ Over six days, downtown's streets, plazas, and parks were enlivened by a wide array of free entertainments. Circus, vaudeville, mummery and magic joined Lower Manhattan's businesses, service and tourist industries, cultural attractions, residents, and artists in a summer kick–off that celebrates the Financial District as an unparalleled international community. The Buskers Fare is an accessible, broad–based celebration of Lower Manhattan's most intrinsic assets: its streets, its diversity of people, its dynamic links to past and present and its inherent creativity. The art of busking—street entertainment—has proved an appropriate fit.

➡ In 1995, the largest event of its kind in the United States reached an audience of 225,000. A widely recognized model for engaging the local businessman or corporation as an integral participant in a cultural event, LMCC's third Buskers Fare presented more than 350 performers in over 250 performances on sites from City Hall to the Battery, and from river to river. Spontaneous and colorful midday parades captured the attention of surprised passersby on Broad, Wall, and Water Streets. A "Buskers Ball" on the World Trade Center Plaza drew 10,000 for a 5–hour whirlwind evening of Carnivale. The steps of Federal Hall played host for a site–specific music theater piece based on the legendary financier, J.P. Morgan. And Trinity Church's acclaimed choir sang before its landmark doors. Around every corner, the pageantry was a reaffirmation of art and culture as an essential element of the urban landscape.

➡ The roster of artists for 1995 included expanded international representation and headliners who complement the unique aesthetic that has become a Buskers Fare trademark. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College presented premiere performances at Battery Park City and the World Financial Center, with the Big Apple Circus' clown star Grandma as guest performer. The off–Broadway cast of "Stomp" opened a music series at Chase Manhattan Plaza, while Broadway's Lillias White, featured in "How to Succeed...," closed the festival with a no–holds–barred evening concert on the pier of the South Street Seaport. The "Buskers Ball" at the World Trade Center spotlighted the sounds of Trinidad with The Mighty Sparrow, the uncontested King of Carnivale. The hostess for the evening was comedienne Judy Tenuta.

➡ The Buskers Fare counts among its artistic accomplishments its ranking in the international festival circuit. Buskers Fare 1995 brought together puppet troupes Tam Tam from The Netherlands, Grupo Saltimbanqui from Mexico, and Green Ginger Microtheater from Wales. Franco Bassetti, Britain's finest white–faced clown, played guest doorman at the Millenium Hilton. At Chinatown's PS 1M, National Circus Project's resident artists, Yang Xiao Di of China and Bill Brookman of England, taught circus arts to 100 elementary school children. The Canadian Consulate General returned as a sponsor to join Century 21 for a VIP salute to Canadian buskers. A performance of "The Brick Bros. Circus," a specialty act from Toronto, was staged in the department store. LMCC was pleased to renew this relationship with the consulate and to add the Arts Council of Wales and the Netherlands Theatre Instituut to its sponsor list.







➡ National, regional, and local artists and troupes rounded out a cast of high talent. Glenn Singer of West Virginia, who mimics a circus horse as "El Gleno Grande," is a student of commedia dell'arte masters, Carlo Mazzone Clementi and Tony Montanarro. Amy Rose of Massachusetts, a stunt-comic who attempts human flight, trained at The Circus Space in London and Switzerland's Scuola Teatro Dimitri. Hokum W. Jeebs, manager of the Seattle Bach Choir who applies his classical music training to the travelling calliope and the musical saw, has appeared with Orchestra Seattle and the San Francisco Symphony. Brooklyn's Ishangi African Dancers were awarded the UN World Peace Medal.

➡ Philadelphia Mummers String Bands returned with their regional street tradition of New Year's "shooting." The Jellyrollers, who meet every Saturday in Harvard Square to pitch a penny with other street musicians to determine who plays where, did the same on Church Street. In Battery Park, Connecticut's Mystic Paper Beasts joined families in a parade of fantastical creatures and whimsical musical instruments. And real commodities traders danced with New York's Sabrina Peck Performance Company with the Trade Towers and brilliant blue sky as their backdrop.

➡ A signature event for Lower Manhattan, the Buskers Fare heralds the creative community of the future, one in which the artist, business, and the community at large share in mutual respect, commitment and play. As LMCC continues to develop and present the Buskers Fare, it aims to redefine the notion of "festival" as a catalyst for original—and essential—corporate cultural collaboration.

L TO R
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College
Paul Binder, Grandma, and Mayor Giuliani
J. BECKER

Buskers Fare 1995

Buskers Fare was produced by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council with the support of the downtown business community



Sponsors and Contributors

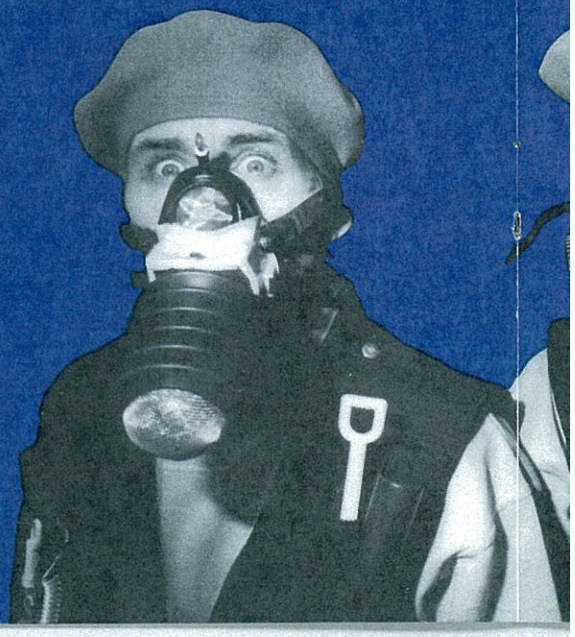
Alliance for Downtown New York, Inc.
Arts Council of Wales
Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS
Association for a Better New York
Au Mandarin
Battery Park City Authority
Ben & Jerry's
Best Western Seaport Inn
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Century 21 Department Store
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Chemical Bank
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The National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution
Nestea Lemonade Tea
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New York State Council on the Arts
New York Vista Hotel
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Pace University
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PS 1M
PS 234
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Spring Street Bar and Restaurant
Talk–a–Walk/Sound Publishers Inc.
Time–Warner City Cable
Toyota Comedy Festival
Tribeca Performing Arts Center
Trinity Church
Tri–State Brick & Building Company
WNYC Radio
World Financial Center Arts and Events
The World Trade Center

Buskers and Performing Troupes

Air Force Band of Liberty
Adam Auslander
Neil Alexander
Atlantic Wave
Avalon String Band
Axe Bahia Brazil







Laine Barton
Franco Bassetti
Paul Binder
Bond Street Theatre
Bill Brookman
Chicken Wings
Crescent City Six
Frank DellaPenna
Designer
Double Dutch Divas
Dik Downey
Seamus Egan & Ensemble
En Garde Arts
Ethnic Folk Arts Center
Bill Ferguson
Ferko String Band
Preston Foerder
Ft. Hamilton High School Marching Regiment
David Gonzalez
Grandma
Green Fools Physical Theater Society
Green Ginger Microtheater
Sean Grissom
Grupo Saltimbanqui
Hampton String Quartet
International Performance and Production
In-Vest
Ishangi African Dancers
Hokum W. Jeebs
The Jellyrollers
Fred Kahl & Kiva
King Charles Unicycle Troupe
Lisa B. Lewis

The Living Doll
Madame Buskerfly
The Mighty Sparrow
Jennifer Miller
Muke
Music From China



Mystic Paper Beasts
National Circus Project
New York Village Halloween Parade
Pat Oleszko
Ron Pearson
Sabrina Peck Performance Co.
The Pedestrian Project
Pepito
Pink Inc.
Puppetmongers Powell
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College



Brian Richardson
Ben Robinson
Amy Rose
The Round Band
Glenn Singer
Doug Skinner
Spoke the Hub Dancing Stomp
Sunshine Steel
Tam Tam
Judy Tenuta
Camden Toy
Trinity Church Choir
Yuri Type
Lillias White
Yang Xiao Di

Performance Sites

1 Battery Park Plaza
Battery Park
Battery Park City
Chase Manhattan Plaza
City Hall
Federal Hall
The Millenium Hilton
Nassau Street Mall
The National Museum of the American Indian
Pace Downtown Theater
PS 1M
PS 234
80 Pine Street
So Grand Studio
South Street Seaport
Trinity Church
110 Wall Street
The World Financial Center
The World Trade Center



TOP, L TO R
Mystic Paper Beasts
Brian Richardson
Doug Skinner
J. BECKER
LOWER, L TO R
Glenn Singer
Green Ginger Microtheater
J. BECKER