

UBW, Inc.
(Brooklyn, NY)

Total Award: \$100,000 over 1 year

Summer Institute: Building Community Through the Arts

To support the *Summer Institute: Building Community Through the Arts*, a project that helps artists, activists, educators and others, from across the nation gain the skills needed to develop as citizen-artists and in doing so build a leadership base of community arts practitioners. Founded in 1984, Urban Bush Women (UBW) has historically created and performed new works, trained artists in dance and community engagement, and participated in public projects in partnership with other social and cultural organizations. UBW's community practice is based in the belief that ". . .cultural meaning, expression and creativity reside within a community, and that the community artist's task is to assist people in freeing their imaginations and giving form to their creativity." The company has developed clear techniques for imbedding community engagement into creative work. UBW will develop and implement a Summer Institute in New York for individuals of diverse backgrounds who have the desire to use performance as a tool for engagement in their own community work; provide classes for intermediate and advanced dancers that place emphasis on contemporary technique, strength and individual style; introduce students to an art and activism curriculum; conduct "empowered youth" workshops for teen camp counselors; and convene a two and a half day inclusive gathering that examines activism in neighborhoods.

Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 4*