



*Birds Sing Differently Here at the Guthrie Theater*

2017

IRAQI AND AMERICAN RECONCILIATION PROJECT

# ANNUAL REPORT

# FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

2017 brought exciting opportunities as we expanded across Minnesota and Iraq to new venues, new cities, more exchanges, and expanded aid. Some of our most exciting highlights included premiering our Iraqi Voices' first play at the prestigious Guthrie Theater in October; screening our Iraqi Voices films at the Vail film festival in Colorado, the Walker Art Center, the MSP International Film Festival among others; and sharing Iraqi wedding traditions with thousands of school children and Minnesotans at the Festival of Nations. We hope you take a look at our overview by the numbers page to see some of the other highlights of 2017. **We could not have done this without the support and hard work of our staff, board members, volunteers, artists, participants, and donors. Thank you.**

As IARP's longtime executive director Kathy McKay transitions to her new role as board member emeritus, we are honored to continue her legacy. We are excited about what the future holds. We will continue to build upon this great foundation to —*welcome refugees and immigrants, empower new voices, and rebuild inclusive communities.*

We could not do this without you. We hope to see you soon at our annual potluck, a Books for Mosul event, or somewhere out in the community.

Thank you for your generosity, time and support for making 2017 such a phenomenal year! We hope you join us as we grow beyond 2018 to **welcome, empower and rebuild** in Minnesota and Iraq.

Sincerely,



Jessica Belt Saem Eldahr  
*Executive Director*



Salam Murtada  
*Board Chair*

## IARP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017



Pictured: Kathy Adam (Secretary), Mohammed Raef Al Azzawi, Muntadher (Ali) Al-Jayashi (Treasurer), Erin Hart, Salam Murtada (Board Chair), Rev. David Smith, Ethan Wilensky-Lanford (Vice-Chair), Jessica Belt Saem Eldahr (Executive Director)

Kathy McKay, *Board Member Emeritus*  
Luke Wilcox, *Board Member Emeritus*  
Steve Clemens, *Board Member Emeritus*

### IARP STAFF:

Jessica Belt Saem Eldahr, *Executive Director*  
Erin Hart, *Director of Development and Communications*

IARP PROVIDED OVER 50 ACTIVITIES TO CONNECT AND ENGAGE OVER 53,000 IRAQIS AND AMERICANS.



# 2017 IMPACT

## HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS FOR PEACE

EXPANDED AID

**100** Dignity Kits for 100 families who fled ISIS in Mosul

**10** Homes winterized in East Mosul

## IRAQI ART PROJECT

NEW STORIES, NEW VENUES

**1000** Audience members at 13 film screenings and discussions

**13** New Iraqi Voices stories

**600** Audience members watched premiere of *Birds* at Guthrie Theater

**11** New film and theater venues

## EXPANDING ACROSS MINNESOTA + IRAQ

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

MORE EXCHANGES

**09** Gatherings of women's friendship group

**07** Meetings of new interfaith dialogue team

**85** Attendees at Ramadan Iftar

**100** Attendees at Fall Potluck and Picnic

**50K** Attendees at the Festival of Nations

**600** People at Minneapolis Sister City Day

**340** Letters for Peace



# STORIES OF COMING TOGETHER



## AUDIENCE REACTION TO BIRDS SING DIFFERENTLY HERE

"I wish all Americans could see this kind of performance. It is always important to get to know people and see them as individuals and not just numbers on the news."

"Thank you for your gracious and fearless gift of vulnerability in the stories. We are all people, but we don't all know each other's stories. It was great to hear yours. Thank you."

"I thought this was an incredibly powerful, well-balanced, beautiful and universally affecting experience. Just an amazing job."

## AUDIENCE REACTION TO IRAQI VOICES FILMS TOUR

"The films gave humanity to Iraqi-Americans, not just labeling them as immigrants or refugees, but scientists, engineers, doctors, students, business owners, school board members, and artists."

"These and the other stories make us see behind the veil of the official narrative, and see beyond the flash of bombs falling behind a reporter's shoulder."



## WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

"Through the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project, I have the opportunity to spend time each month with these fun and interesting Iraqi-Minnesotans...These women are educated, cultured, strong and funny. The more we open up to those who are different from us, the richer we and our culture becomes!"

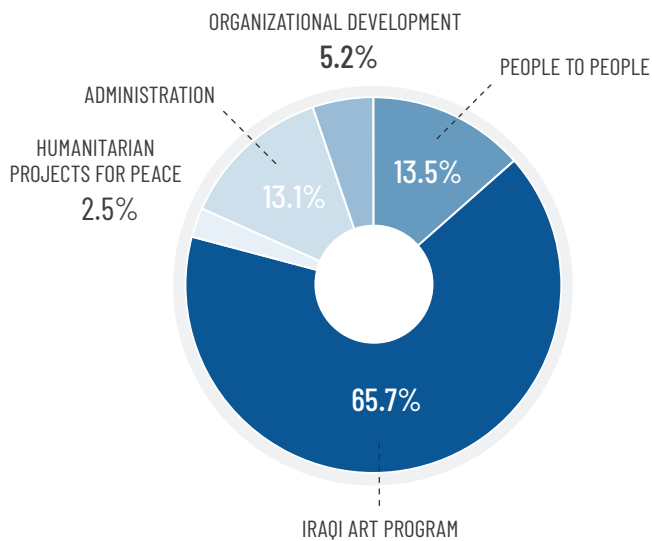
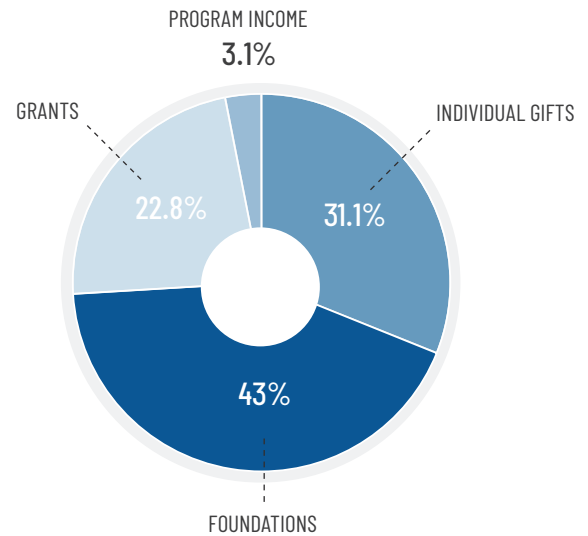
—Non-Iraqi Women's Friendship group participant

"It is a good opportunity to listen to other parties [beliefs], thoughts, cultures and suggestions to create very wonderful environments of cooperation. We need Americans women to play [influential roles] in introducing Iraqi women to Minnesotan historical and famous places to be aware of, as Minnesota will be their new home."

—Iraqi Women's Friendship group participant

# 2017 FINANCIALS

REVENUE	
Total Individual Gifts	\$30,594.91 (monthly donors: \$8,511.00)
Foundations	\$42,274.60
Grants	\$22,474.00
Program Income	\$3,050.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$98,393.59</b>



EXPENSES	
People to People Program	\$16,097.25
Iraqi Art Program	\$78,288.38
Humanitarian Projects for Peace	\$3,001.30
Administration	\$15,632.73
Organizational Development	\$6,228.37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119,248.03</b>

# THANK YOU **شكراً لكم!**

At the heart of our mission, individual supporters, funders, and partners are making a difference with — and through — the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project. We recognize them here, with enormous appreciation for the change and bridge building we are achieving together.

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Aaron Hughes	Drew Johnson	Joanna Perkins	Lotti Matkovits	Robert Edelstein
Activated Artist Coalition	Elise Sjogren	John Dziak	Luanne Nyberg	Rodney Olsen
Al and Anne Nettles	Elizabeth Michaelis	John Hancock	Luke Wilcox	Ruth Berger
Alan Nachtigal	Ellen & Gerald Krause Abbott	John Marty	Lynn Olsoan	Sarah Radice
Allie Harris	Erin Hart and Ben Langager	Joyce Lyon	Lynn Shoemaker	Scott Smith
Amy Merrill	Fatma Reda	Judy Reinehr	Lynne Hardey	Sean Coffman
Andrew Wallmeyer	Fletcher and Joan Hinds	Julia Dieperink	Margaret Merkow	Sheila Hoffman
Angelo and Mary Percich	Gail Hughes	Juliann Brunzell	Mark Mahon	Steve and Christine Clemens
Ann and Jim Ricketts	Gregory Mcdaniels	Julie Andberg	Mary Ann and David Higgins	Sue Johnston and William Stoeri
AnnMarie Celiberti	Hal Sansone	Kai Dickmann	Mary Frances McKay	Suellen Kinsley
Anonymous	Hassan Alshehabi	Karen Fitzgerald	Mary Louise Menikheim	Susan Hendrie-Marais
April Spas	Jamal Ali and Jameela Hassoun	Karen Pope	Maura OLeary	Susan Schirber
Barbara and Donald Gerten	James and Dorothy Langager	Kathleen McKay	Michelle Frost	Tate Sheppard
Basman Kraidi	Jane Bernauer	Kathryn and Rodger Ringhams	Mike Rollin	Thomas Lange
Beverly Caruso	Jane Powers	Kay Andrews	Muntadher Al-Jayashi	Thomas Moyer
Bill Berneking	Janet Pearlman	Kim Bo-Sung	Nancy Hensel	Walt Handschin
Carol and Winston Cavert Witte	Jay Broeker	Kristen Bahner	Nausheena Hussain	Walter Novash
Catharine Abbott	Jeff and Karin Grosscup	Larry Valley	Patricia Kriha	Wendy Farrar
Daniel Leisen and Andi Kuenning	Jennifer McAuliffe	Lauren Glinke	Peter Lacovara	William Goldman
David Bicking	Jenny Nilsson	Lindsey Smith	Phil Runkel	Zena Khalil
David Smith	Jess Winter	Lindsey Thomas	Philip & Kathleen Adam	Zina Balbo
Deborah Brown	Joan and Philip Haan	Linnea Olesen	Ram and Neena Gada	
Deborah Kalin	Joan Bechtold	Lisa Kuhn	Rebekah Bryan	
Deborah Wuerffel	Joanna Lees	Lori Leibig	Robert and Kathy Wedl	

## PARTNERS FOR PEACE (MONTHLY DONORS)

Anonymous, Susan Schirber, Steve and Christine Clemens, Lotti Matkovits, Luke Wilcox, Luanne Nyberg, Lawrence Valley, Phil Runkel, Kathy McKay, Daniel Leisen and Andi Kuenning, Erin Hart and Ben Langager, Jay Broker, AnnMarie Celiberti, Robert and Kathy Wedl, Aaron Hughes

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Doing Good Together, University of Minnesota, Immigration History Research Center, Minnesota Association of International Baccalaureate World Schools, Vail Film Festival of Colorado, All Are Welcome Here, Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, Minneapolis St. Paul International Festival, Festival of Nations International Institute of Minnesota, SouthWest High School, St. Joan of Arc Church, Good Girls Supper Club, Dreamland Arts, Intermedia Arts, Zeitgeist, Duluth Art Institute, Mizna Arab Film Festival, Guthrie Theater, Wisdom Ways, Target-Champlin Store, Mankato State University

## FUNDERS

Laura Jane Musser Fund, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Wirtanen Family Fund, Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet, Carolyn Foundation, Mary's Pence, Marbrook Foundation, Solidarity MN, St. Joan of Arc, Minnesota State Arts Board

## SUSTAINING VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

Mary Hunt, Erin Hart, Narmin Rolston, Nicole Rash, Allison Brady, Allie Harris, Abigail Massell, Jamal Ali



### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO KATHY MCKAY, FOUNDING MEMBER AND LONGTIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After the start of the Iraq War, Kathy and a group of colleagues started IARP as a way to support a different kind of relationship between the people of Iraq and the US. Kathy and the group set out to build bridges of communication and support between Iraqis and Americans. After ten years as IARP's volunteer executive director Kathy transitions this year to her new role as board member emeritus.

*"Kathy's hard work and dedication to peaceful togetherness and humanizing reconciliation will always remain with me, as I'm certain it has remained within all the hearts that have had the joy of interacting with her."*

—Irene Gibson, former intern

*"Kathy is one of the most generous, caring, and inspiring friends and colleagues I've ever known. Her passion and commitment to bringing people together and building connections across cultures had a tremendous impact on many lives in the U.S. and Iraq, including mine."*

—Luke Wilcox, Board Member Emeritus and former IARP Director of Development and Communications

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO TRICIA HEURING, LONGTIME COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT AND IRAQI ART PROJECT CURATOR

Tricia started her work with IARP in 2010 when she began to develop a contemporary art program, bridging American and Iraqi artist perspectives in response to the war and personalizing relationships through art. Tricia led several curatorial projects including group exhibitions: Navigating the Aftermath in 2011; Not About Bombs in 2012; and the National Veteran's Art Museum in Chicago in 2013. Since 2014, she has supported the Iraqi Voices film and theater programs through art direction, consulting and program evaluation.

We are grateful for Tricia's years of friendship and invaluable contributions to IARP. We wish her all the best in her next chapter as co-director of Public Functionary, a non-profit contemporary art gallery based in Minneapolis.



## DID YOU KNOW WE MOVED?

2021 E. Hennepin Ave, Suite 200  
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[RECONCILIATIONPROJECT.ORG](http://RECONCILIATIONPROJECT.ORG)

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