



COMPANY  
**ONE**  
THEATRE

» what's next.

---

**PUBLIC  
ART  
FOR PUBLIC  
GOOD**

---



**COVER:** AUDIENCE AT BLACK SUPER HERO MAGIC MAMA. PHOTO BY LAUREN MILLER.

**L-R:** MARK W. SOUCY, ALISON YUEMING QU, SCHANAYA BARROWS, AND JADA SAINTLOUIS AT BRANCH OUT WITH C1 AT INPUBLIC 2022, PHOTO BY NOHEMI RODRIGUEZ.

**MISSION**

**Company One Theatre builds community at the intersection of art and social change.**

**VISION**

**A Boston defined by justice, equity, and artistic innovation.**

**COMPANY ONE THEATRE**

» what's next.





# WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

Whether you are new to Company One Theatre or you've been with us for the past 24 years, we are grateful that you're a part of our community at the intersection of art and social change.

Who is Company One Theatre? We are storytellers, artists, educators, and community organizers fighting for social justice, and cultivating the next generation of changemakers. Company One Theatre aims to work in healthy partnerships with artists, organizations, and activists to create dynamic theatrical events which amplify opportunities and urgent issues impacting systemically and historically marginalized people in Boston.

What makes C1 distinct? Where Boston's other socially-engaged arts organizations may focus on serving distinct age groups, culturally-specific populations, or particular neighborhood geographies, C1 is dedicated to advancing the cultural health of the entire city. All of our programs (education, production, new work development, and connectivity) are designed to reach multiple generations in multiple geographies in multiple modes of engagement. Our work combats the siloing and segregation that isolates individuals and allows inequity to thrive.

Let's connect through art and activism and together, find our way towards a better Boston.

With love and hope,  
**Company One Theatre's Leadership Team**



**Nicole Gilmore**  
Board President

(SHE/HER)



**Shawn LaCount**  
Artistic Director

(HE/HIM)



**Karthik Subramanian**  
Managing Director

(HE/HIM)



**Summer L. Williams**  
Associate Artistic Director

(SHE/HER)



**Mark Abby VanDerzee**  
Director of Education

(HE/HIM)



**Ilana M. Brownstein**  
Director of New Work

(SHE/HER)

# BEST OF BOSTON 2021

AWARDED BY BOSTON MAGAZINE

# BEST OF BOSTON 2019

AWARDED BY BOSTON MAGAZINE

# BEST OF BOSTON 2017

AWARDED BY BOSTON MAGAZINE

# BEST OF BOSTON 2015

AWARDED BY BOSTON MAGAZINE

"They really have a sense of where to take theater in this moment — to stretch it, to make it new, to reach different audiences...

**They are a company the nation is paying attention to."**

— JARED BOWEN, WGBH



LEFT: GREG MARAIO AND MINH-ANH DAY IN *WOLF PLAY*. PHOTO BY ANDREW WANG.

RIGHT: RAMONA LISA ALEXANDER IN *BLACK SUPER HERO MAGIC MAMA*. PHOTO BY LAUREN MILLER.






COMPANY  
**ONE**  
THEATRE  
» what's next.

//////  
**BOSTON'S  
THEATRE  
FOR THE  
PEOPLE**  
//////

# C1 is redefining Public Art in Boston.

- » Boston has a rich legacy of public sculpture, architecture, murals, historical sites, and more. We believe theatre belongs in the same conversation. As Boston's Theatre for the People, we address our city's social issues through financially accessible productions **designed to meet the public where they are.**
- » Unlike traditional performing arts organizations who produce in a singular theatre, **we bring our art and education into community spaces**, creating plays and events in publicly accessible, city-owned spaces rooted in our audience's neighborhoods.
- » We are developing **the next generation of creative thinkers and changemakers** through educational residencies in 9 Boston Public Schools and professional development opportunities for actors, educators, and writers.
- » We center long-term, **reciprocal relationship-building between community partners** invested in building a Better Future for Boston.
- » We provide support for bold, innovative storytellers and artists who **push social justice movements forward.**



**50%**  
OF C1'S STAFF AND  
BOARD IDENTIFY AS  
PEOPLE OF COLOR



**58%**

OF C1'S AUDIENCES  
IDENTIFIED AS  
PEOPLE OF COLOR

compared to 11% of all arts attendees  
in Boston, according to ArtsBoston's  
Audience Initiative

**52%**

WERE UNDER  
THE AGE OF

**35**

FIRST-TIME THEATRE ATTENDEES

**DOUBLED**

SINCE OUR TRANSITION TO FULLY  
PAY-WHAT-YOU-WANT PRODUCTIONS  
IN SEASON 21

LEFT: C1 STAFF RETREAT IN 2021. RIGHT: ANDERSON STINSON, III IN  
BLACK SUPER HERO MAGIC MAMA. PHOTO BY LAUREN MILLER.

# BOSTON'S THEATRE FOR THE PEOPLE

“Working on *can i touch it?* with Company One was truly the most magical theatrical debut I could have asked for; it was a homecoming centered on collaboration.”

The process as a whole felt like it fulfilled every aspect of C1’s mission, from artistic excellence to centering student voices and, something that was particularly important to me, relationships with community partners that were dynamic, inclusive and intentional.”

— PLAYWRIGHT FRANCISCA DA SILVEIRA,  
SEASON 23’S *CAN I TOUCH IT?*



LEFT: SCHANAYA BARROWS, CHRIS EVERETT, *CAN I TOUCH IT?* PLAYWRIGHT FRANCISCA DA SILVEIRA, AND JADA SAINTLOUIS. PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN RUIZ.

RIGHT: SHARMARKE YUSUF, LORRAINE KANYIKE, KADAHJ BENNETT, AND CLOTEAL HORNE IN WORKSHOP OF IDRIS GOODWIN’S QUOTABLES.





COMPANY  
**ONE**  
THEATRE  
» what's next.

---

# **BOSTON'S HOME FOR ARTISTS**

---



# A Home for Powerful New Stories and Storytellers

Over the past few years, the American theatre lost a series of important programs and organizations dedicated to the development of new works for the theatre. These closures are especially harmful for playwrights from communities that have been historically and systemically excluded from the nation's stages. But at C1, creating opportunities for these writers has long been a priority, and a core mission-driven approach to nurturing **powerful storytellers** who are also **impactful culture-makers**.

At C1, we pride ourselves on being an artistic home to an extensive and ever-growing network of artist-activists, at all stages of their careers. Through mentorship, creative development, and professional skill building, we create intentional communities with writers, dramaturgs, performers, designers, devisers, and more.

- » We're **seeding the American theatre** with powerful new stories: six Flux Lab writers are under commission for full length plays, in various stages of development.
- » We're supporting artists in **using their voices for social change**: annually, our Surge Lab writers are commissioned for short-term projects, written in response to pressing issues in Boston's neighborhoods and in partnership with on-the-ground community organizers.
- » We're nurturing a growing community of local, **civically-engaged artists**: through our mentored Volt Lab, early-career dramaturgs and playwrights work together over the course of a season in collaborative teams, and port their skillsets back in the Boston theatre ecology.
- » We're providing **no-cost creative and professional development**, open to all: our monthly, digital PlayLab Open Circuit programs let attendees connect directly with nationally-acclaimed guest artists who share expertise and resources, open to all.



C1's PlayLab Circuit has supported the development of...

COMPANY  
**ONE** THEATRE  
» what's next.

**1800+**

ATTENDEES AT **FREE** OPEN CIRCUIT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING FIELD WORK AND VIRTUAL OPEN-WRITES

**90+**

PLAYWRIGHTS THROUGH OUR WRITING LABS

**22**

PLAYS COMMISSIONED AND PRODUCED

**64**

COMMISSIONS OF DIGITAL SHORT PLAYS

LEFT: ATTENDEES AT FEB 2021 VIRTUAL OPEN-WRITE  
RIGHT: MICA ROSE PERFORMING AN EXCERPT FROM *WE AND OTHER QUEER GODDEXXES* AT 2022 C1 FALL KICK BACK. PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN RUIZ.

# BOSTON'S HOME FOR ARTISTS

**“I’m currently starring as Aaron Burr in *Hamilton* on Broadway, but there’s no way I could’ve gotten anywhere near these boards without the guidance and mentorship of the artists and innovators at Company One Theatre.**

**C1 changed my life—not only did they teach me about the type of theatre I wanted to make, but what it took to make that theatre. I can’t imagine a Boston without C1 — its commitment to broadening the theatrical landscape for our community has proved invaluable time and again.”**

**— ACTOR NIK WALKER,  
BROADWAY’S *HAMILTON*,  
SEASON 10’S *ARTICULATION* AT C1**



**INSET: NIK WALKER IN *ARTICULATION*. LEFT: NIK WALKER IN *HAMILTON*.  
RIGHT: STUDENTS AT JOSIAH QUINCY UPPER SCHOOL**





COMPANY  
**ONE** THEATRE  
» what's next.

////////////////////////////////////

# **BOSTON'S LAUNCHPAD FOR STUDENTS + CHANGEMAKERS**

////////////////////////////////////

Company One Theatre's **Stage One** education programs use theatre in the classroom to support young people in the process of becoming changemakers who practice active and responsible citizenship: a skill set that will serve the student, their communities, and ultimately, all of us.

- » We focus on **developing authentic relationships with, and among, young people and early career artists**, fostering a sense of belonging where they are encouraged to access their voices and express themselves.
- » Since 1999, we've facilitated in-school residencies with 18 Boston Public Schools, serving 97% students of color. We offer theatre electives and theatre integration into English Language Learners curricula: English as a Second Language; English Language Arts; Humanities classes; and workforce development opportunities. **Often, our classes are the only performing arts opportunity in our partner schools.**
- » Our Professional Development for Actors program for adults provides a low-cost alternative to expensive theatre courses, aiming to prepare performers for auditions, and **bridge the wealth gap often associated with training in the arts.**
- » Our new Professional Development for Educators program has grown out of C1's history of providing robust professional development for our teaching artists. Now, we've expanded that work **to help more teachers build activism-centered lesson plans.**



LEFT: STUDENTS AT BOSTON ADULT TECHNICAL ACADEMY. RIGHT: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ACTORS ALUMS QUENTIN NGUYEN-DUY AND ROB CHEN IN VIETGONE. PHOTO BY PAUL FOX.



C1'S STAGE ONE HAS HELD  
LONG-TERM RESIDENCIES IN

**50%**

OF BOSTON'S PUBLIC  
MIDDLE AND HIGH  
SCHOOLS

IN THE PAST 2 YEARS, OUR  
IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCIES  
HAVE SERVED

**70%**

STUDENTS WHO ARE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
LEARNERS

**400+**

PERFORMERS TRAINED  
THROUGH PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FOR ACTORS  
CLASSES

# BOSTON'S LAUNCHPAD FOR STUDENTS AND CHANGEMAKERS

“C1 helped me believe in myself  
and give me confidence.

Because of C1, I'm not afraid  
anymore to speak and make my  
voice my strongest weapon.

You gave me a purpose to go  
back to school and shine.”

— LUCY, AGE 17  
C1 SUMMER 2022 INTERN



LEFT: C1 SUMMER 2022 INTERNS SHEENA AND LUCY.  
RIGHT: AFRIKAH SELAH, KURT FAUSTIN, JUDY CAZEAU  
AT CAN I TOUCH IT? POST-SHOW CONVERSATION  
PHOTO BY BOBBY SHAKES.





COMPANY  
**ONE**  
THEATRE  
» what's next.

////////////////////////////////////

# **BOSTON'S HUB FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTION**

////////////////////////////////////



**C1's work is rooted in reciprocal relationships with local organizations working toward social change across Boston.**

Our Connectivity Team are **community connectors**, building our audiences and event participants into a core of people willing to **take direct action** that will benefit the City of Boston and beyond.

- » We prioritize **community benefit**, developed through deep listening, collaboration, and intentionality. We work across Boston neighborhoods as a cultural connector and prioritize serving communities of color.
- » Building off the robust, community-driven success of *can i touch it?*, we're **deepening our work with Season 23 partner organizations** on key issues like reproductive and body justice, voting rights, neighborhood development, community healing, and more.

**RECENT PARTNERS INCLUDE**

Action for Boston Community Development  
Agencia Alpha  
Asian American Resource Workshop  
Asian Community Development Corporation  
BAMS Fest  
BAGLY  
Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA)  
Boston Arts Academy  
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center  
Boston's Dept of Youth Employment & Engagement  
Boston GLOW  
Boston GLASS  
Boston Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture  
Boston Public Library  
Boston Ujima Project  
Comics in Color  
Design Studio for Social Intervention  
Disability & Intersectionality Summit  
Disability Policy Consortium  
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation  
Dudley Cafe  
Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative  
Fairmount Cultural Corridor  
Fenway Health  
The Flavor Continues  
Humphreys Street Studios  
Hyde Square Task Force  
Justice Resource Institute  
Leela Yoga + Wellness  
Louis D. Brown Peace Institute  
Madison Park Development Corp.  
Massachusetts Senior Action Council  
Massachusetts Trans Political Coalition  
Mothers for Justice and Equality  
Now + There  
Pao Arts Center  
Planned Parenthood  
Reclaim Roxbury  
Reflective Spaces / Material Places  
ReRooted / The HairStory Project  
The Theatre Offensive  
Transgender Emergency Fund  
Trans Resistance MA  
Urbano Project  
Upham's Corner Main Street  
Wee the People  
Zumix



In Season 23...

COMPANY  
**ONE** THEATRE  
» what's next.

WE COLLABORATED WITH

**25+**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND  
SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS

**60%**

OF AUDIENCES PLANNED TO  
UTILIZE LOBBY RESOURCES  
OR TAKE ACTION WITH A  
NONPROFIT AFTER  
ATTENDING

**70%**

SAID C1 PROGRAMS  
OFFERED A NEW POINT OF  
VIEW ABOUT SOCIAL  
ISSUES FACING  
US TODAY

**LEFT:** C1 FALL KICK BACK 2022. PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN RUIZ.  
**RIGHT:** AUDIENCE MEMBER ENGAGING WITH REROOTED /  
HAIRSTORY PROJECT STATION IN CAN I TOUCH IT? LOBBY

# BOSTON'S HUB FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

“As a former undocumented immigrant,  
I understand the importance of having  
my voice heard, and Company One has  
shared our stories through their plays,  
by their support, by helping us to pass  
legislation that can prove that immigrants  
are welcome in the United States.

Thank you Company One.”

— DAMARIS VELÁSQUEZ,  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND CO-FOUNDER  
OF C1 COMMUNITY PARTNER AGENCIA ALPHA





LEFT: AGENCIA ALPHA'S DAMARIS VELÁSQUEZ.

RIGHT: MEMBERS OF C1'S BOARD AND LEADERSHIP TEAM AT THE 2022 C1 FALL KICK BACK



COMPANY  
**ONE**  
THEATRE  
» what's next.

////////////////////

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR COMPANY ONE THEATRE?

////////////////////

# Here's what your support will help us make possible in the years to come:

- » We are committed to accessible Pay-What-You-Want ticket pricing for all of our productions. Studies show that cost is one of the biggest factors that excludes audiences of color from attending live theatre. Removing financial barriers to attendance will allow us to enshrine affordable, accessible theatre as a public good for all future Bostonians.
- » We are investing in local artists of color. Over the next three years we'll nearly double what we pay our artists and administrators. Boston's artist exodus has been a major sector challenge, caused in part by cost of living and a lack of opportunities, but with steady investment from established and emerging organizations, we can make a difference in who calls Boston their artistic home.
- » We plan to expand our Connectivity department, creating a permanent link between artistic development and community organizing. Connectivity is C1's signature method of authentically building relationships to bring about social change, not only by inspiring political action, but also by breaking down cultural norms that keep Boston's diverse communities segregated.
- » We plan to launch a youth social justice theater festival that builds upon our community-engaged producing model. This festival will create a major new civic event in Boston, build community among students who were isolated during the pandemic, and create pathways for youth civic and community engagement through collaboration with community partners.
- » We are generating sustainable programs that amplify our innovative practices locally, regionally, and nationally. After 24 years, we are eager to share our learnings with others in the arts and culture sector and beyond.



# Active Strategic Goals

- » **EQUITY GOAL:** For C1 to be a fiercely anti-racist, intentionally multi-racial organization, with an understanding that the process of countering systems of white supremacy and oppression is necessary equity work that has no endpoint, and will always be a core value as long as the company is in operation.
- » **IMPACT GOAL:** To create innovative, dynamic, and responsive theatrical events that amplify action steps and urgent issues impacting systemically and historically marginalized people in Boston.
- » **FINANCIAL HEALTH GOAL:** To create sustainable positions for staff and artists by diversifying revenue drivers and identifying change/risk/operating capital.



JUDE TORRES PERFORMING AT VIETGONE AT THE GATE. PHOTO BY ANDREW WANG.  
BACK COVER: SCHANAYA BARROWS, CHRIS EVERETT, JADA SAINTLOUIS, AND  
MARK W. SOUCY IN 'CAN I TOUCH IT?' PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN RUIZ.



HELP US BUILD A  
**BOSTON**  
DEFINED BY  
**JUSTICE,  
EQUITY,**  
AND  
**ARTISTIC  
INNOVATION**

**COMPANYONE.ORG**

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
539 TREMONT STREET  
STUDIO 211  
BOSTON, MA 02116

 /CompanyOne  
 @Company\_One  
 @CompanyOneBoston