THE 52ND STREET PROJECT PRESENTS

# OOK WHO'S TALKINGS OOK WHO'S TALKINGS OLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU



FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 AT 7:30 P.M. SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 AT 3:00 P.M. SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 3:00 P.M.

THE FIVE ANGELS THEATER 789 10TH AVE. BETWEEN 52ND & 53RD ST.

# LOOK WHO'S TALKING! PLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU - ACT 1

All original music composed by Avi A. Amon "Look Who's Talking Theme Song," lyrics by John Sheehy

#### SCIENCE X FRIENDSHIP

by Kyle Cameron for Josiah Perez, age 10, and Kyle Cameron *Mode of communication: Singing Telegram* 

Marvin, a lion and an inventor	Josiah Perez
Jeremy, a ladybug and a singer	Kyle Cameron
Basketball players	The Crew
Announcer	Melanie Correa

"Next to Me" lyrics by Kyle Cameron

#### **HUMANS ARE TRICKY**

by Molly Carden for Jaelannie Rodriguez, age 11, and Molly Carden *Mode of communication: Messenger pigeon* 

"We Can't Always Do What They Say" lyrics by Molly Carden

#### **TIME DOG**

by Jiehae Park for Cataleya Bernardo, age 11, and Maryn Shaw *Mode of communication: Newspaper* 

"Animals are..." lyrics by Jiehae Park

#### **MORE THAN L4**

by Sean Kenealy for Oliver Tanner, age 12, and Kim Jinhyoung *Mode of communication: Message in a bottle* 

"Message ON a bottle" lyrics by Sean Kenealy









# LOOK WHO'S TALKING! PLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU - ACT 2

#### RUFFLY SPEAKING

by Cynthia Kaplan for Atif Dowidar, age 10, and Christian DeMarais *Mode of communication: Phone booth* 

"We Were Already Friends" lyrics by Cynthia Kaplan

## GO TO SLEEP, or, THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL

by Marchánt Davis for Mamadou Diaw, age 10, and Marchánt Davis *Mode of communication: Hieroglyphs* 

"Gotta Run" lyrics by Marchánt Davis

#### **BEST FRIENDS...FOREVER?**

Written and directed by Betsy Hogg for Samaria Alkandi, age 11, and Evan Schultz

Mode of communication: Cups on a string

"Today is the Day" lyrics by Betsy Hogg

#### THE CALL

by Kaaron Briscoe for Shaddai Blake-Soden, age 11, and Mirirai *Mode of communication: Ransom Note* 

"What Does It Mean to Love You?" lyrics by Kaaron Briscoe









# LOOK WHO'S TALKING! PLAYS THAT SPEAK TO YOU

The 2024 One-on-Ones - August 16-18, Five Angels Theater

#### "LOOK WHO'S TALKING" Production Staff

Composer/Music Director

Avi A. Amon

Set Designer

Burke Brown

**Lighting Designer** 

Greg MacPherson

**Costume Designer** 

**Taylor Barnett** 

Sound Designer

Harrison Walsh

Stage Manager

Marty Gleberman

**Projection Designs** 

George Babiak and The Project

**Projection Archive** 

**Prop Design and Construction** 

George Babiak and Diego Caoili

**Backstage Crew** 

Melanie Correa, Abby Dziura,

Manny Jacobson, Rhys Luke,

Kass Sinchi

**House Management** 

Carol Ochs, John Sheehy

Flyer/Program Art

Lee Rosen

**Color and Layout** 

George Babiak

**Livestream Team** 

Director:

George Kielty

Camera Ops:

Nikolai Alvarez, Christian Santoni

Chef

John Sheehy

# See the rest of the program!

Scan the QR code at right to see the full program, which includes biographies and photos of the directors, the performers, and the designers!













The One-on-One Program is made possible with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and funds from Con Edison. The 52nd Street Project is a member of Art/NY and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

> Want to make a donation to The 52nd Street Project? Just visit www.52project.org and click "You Can Help."



# The 52nd Street Project Board of Directors

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Cathy Dantchik, co-chair
Carolyn DeSena
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Wendy vanden Heuvel
Alexandra Vassilaros
Mark Whatley

# What's Going On Here?

The 52nd Street Project is a non-profit organization that brings children from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional theater artists to create original theater. **LOOK WHO'S TALKING** is a production of our One-on-One program, which is designed to give children the opportunity to enjoy the undivided attention of a professional theater artist who serves as friend, mentor, and collaborator.

This year, we brought 8 young members and their adult acting partners to **Rumson**, **New Jersey** for a week of rehearsing, swimming, tubing, great food, and all sorts of fun!

We have to thank Carolyn DeSena for being our primary host during this week. We're also grateful to Victoria Bowley, Kris and Don Bunnell, Sarah Rossbach and Doug Fleming, and Kim Walsh for housing some of our adult staff members and volunteers. We also want to express our gratitude to Lisa and Stephen Becker, Lauren and Tony Cesario, Bob and Clare Gray, and Irene and Tom Hall for being kind and generous host families to our young members.

Additional thanks must be handed out to **Sandy Mulheren** and the **Chapel Beach Club**, **Melissa Lowry**, **Danny Martins**, and **Maddy**, **Neil**, **Jack and Charlie DeSena**. Also, hundreds of thanks to staffer **John Sheehy** for preparing hundreds of meals.

#### In-Kind Contributions

Avi & Richard Anthony; Ardesia; Kate & Andy Bellin; Lewis Black; Iris A. Brown Design; William Curran, A Curran Affair; Sean Feeney, MISI; Celia Keenan-Bolger; Karen Kowgios of Withum, Smith, & Brown; Pamela Liebman, The Corcoran Group; Charlie Marshall; Stella McCartney; LLC Noël Mihalow & Prime Films; Winston Rodney Photography; SHOWTIME; The Surrey; Merritt Tilney & Doug Kaden; Vassilaros & Sons Coffee Company; Alex Vassilaros & The Vassilaros Family; Vicki & Mark Whatley and Paul, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison LLP.

COOL STUFF ON SALE IN	THE LOBBY!
Fabulous Flyer Bars	\$2.50
and featuring Shel Silverstein's "Fivey	and Twoey" logo:
Two-tone Project Hoodie	\$40.00
Monotone Project Hoodie	\$30.00
Crew-neck sweatshirts	\$20.00
Project Caps	\$20.00
Project T-shirts	\$12.00/\$20.00
Project Mugs	\$5.00
Project Notebook	\$5.00
Project Pencil 3-pack	\$1.00

Thank you for coming to **LOOK WHO'S TALKING!** If you are not on our mailing list, join on-line at www.52project.org. If you're interested in being a volunteer, fill out the form below and hand it to one of our staffers in the lobby.

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## **BIOGRAPHIES**



Samaria Alkandi (Belinda the Bunny in BEST FRIENDS... FOREVER? with Evan Isabella) joined the Project in the fall of 2022. Her first play was JOURNEY TO THE DEATH POTION, dramaturgy & direction by Monica LaBadia, and starring Tina Chilip & Neil D'Astolfo, as part of the production OFF THE WALL, The Zany Plays. She made her performing debut in a piece she improvised "The Two Big Tournaments" with Kendall Cafaro as a

part of our first Place Play, NOW WE'RE HERE!, in August 2023. She was a Dancemaker in 2024, creating and performing the piece "Friends Going Through Life," with Aishling Pembroke, for the WITH THE FLOW Dancemaking concert. Samaria can be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 41, "Zany Playmakers."



**Avi Amon**, (Composer, Music Director) is a Turkish-American composer and sound artist. He has written hundreds of songs with the young people at The 52nd St. Project over the years and continues to be inspired each time he sets foot in the building. Outside of the Project, Avi is a sought-after collaborator in theater, film, dance, and experiential art. Theater work includes music, songs, & sound design for projects with: Ars Nova, Bushwick Starr,

Danspace, NYTW, OSF, Page73, The Public, Spoleto, Target Margin, and Waterwell. Avi's film scores have been featured at Cannes, Disney, HBO, Hulu, Slamdance, Tribeca Film Festival & more. Recent: music & sound design for THE FOLLOWING EVENING w/600 Highwaymen (PAC NYC); a musical, THROUGH THE SUNKEN LANDS w/Tim Lord (Kennedy Center); music for the feature film, THE FISHERMAN, dir. Zoey Martinson (2024 Venice Film Festival); and a multimedia performance piece, MOTHER/ROAD. Avi is a MacDowell Fellow and has received artistic support from the Jonathan Larson Grant, Reel Change Film Fund, Berkeley Rep, Dramatists Guild, Goodspeed, Mercury Store, New Dramatists, The O'Neill, Rhinebeck, and others. Avi teaches at NYU Tisch, where he received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing, www.aviamon.com



**Taylor Barnett** (Costume Designer) is excited to return to the Clubhouse! She is a costume designer of stage and screen, you can see her work on Hulu, Amazon, and other streaming platforms. When not making soda bottles, griffins, dogs, and pigeons she enjoys hanging out with her friends and reading outdoors. She lives in Brooklyn with her cat, Doug. You can follow her on Instagram @ chaoticwheelbarrow.



Cataleya Bernardo (*Purple* in *TIME DOG* with Maryn Shaw) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with her playwriting debut, *GETTING CLOSER*, dramaturgy & direction by Kaaron Briscoe, starring Roma Maffia & Sophie von Haselberg, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. This marks her performing debut with the Project. Cataleya can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48, "Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT."



**Shaddai Blake-Soden** (*Ella* in *THE CALL* with Mirirai), joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with her playwriting debut, *THE TWIST*, dramaturgy & direction by Krystal Lucas, starring Jasminn Johnson & Margaret Odette, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. This marks her performing debut with the Project. Shaddai can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48, "Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT."



**Kaaron Briscoe** (*Playwright*, *THE CALL* for Shaddai & Mirirai) is a Brooklyn based writer, performer, director and creative admin. As a playwright her work has been featured by Project Y, Classical Theater of Harlem, InViolet Theater, and others. She is a former member of Project Y's Playwriting Group. Her play, "*Tallahassee*" was a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwright's Conference. Recently, "*How Can I Help You?*", a 2021 semi-finalist for Seven Devils

Playwright's Conference, was workshopped at Pioneer Theater in Salt Lake City, Utah. Kaaron is also an accomplished actor, having performed on stages in London and Moscow, as well as on screen. She often works with Little Lord and the Working Theater. She has directed for various organizations around New York, as well as the Playwright's Center in Minnesota. During the day, Kaaron is the Associate Artistic Director of LCT3. A member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and the Dramatists Guild, she is also a proud member of The 52nd Street Project community. Kaaron is a New Orleans native with an MFA from ART/MXAT/IATT at Harvard University.



**Kyle Cameron** (*Playwright/Director*, *Jeremy* in *SCIENCE X FRIENDSHIP* with Josiah) has performed over a dozen times on the Five Angels stage, playing everything from a singing worm to a magic wolf, a scheming ping pong player, a few rappers and a whole lot of mechanics. This is his first time acting in a One-on-One show, and he's proud to be part of this exceptional group. This year marks his 10th anniversary working with the Project, and he couldn't

be happier to call the Clubhouse home.



Molly Carden (Playwright/Director, Agnes in HUMANS ARE TRICKY with Jaelannie) New York credits include: Emotional Creature (Signature Theatre), Please Continue (Ensemble Studio Theater), How To Live On Earth (Colt Coeur), Cherry Smoke (Working Theater), Downtown Race Riot (NYSF/Powerhouse Theater). Regional: Midwives (George Street Playhouse), Indecent (Weston Playhouse), The Carpenter (Alley Theatre), Translations

(Studio Theatre), Frankenstein (Denver Center), On Clover Road (CATF), Emotional Creature (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), The Great Immensity, (The Civilians at Kansas City Repertory Theatre). Molly is currently developing her solo show I Came Back For Molly, which she has performed at NYSAF, the TANK and Durango Playfest. Film: Untitled Marvel Movie (Upcoming), Motherland (MPI Original Films). Proud member of Colt Coeur, EST, and The 52nd Street Project. B.F.A. from UNCSA.



Marchánt Davis (*Playwright/Director*, *Brandon* in *GO TO SLEEP*, or, *THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL* with Mamadou) is a Brooklyn based actor, writer and producer originally from Philadelphia, PA. He can recently be seen in Tina Satter's HBO feature film, *REALITY*. He also starred in Chris Morris's long awaited sophomore feature *THE DAY SHALL COME* (IFC Release). Other film credits: *A JOURNAL FOR JORDAN* (dir. Denzel Washington), *TUSCALOOSA*,

and *INCOMPLETE*. He received Lucille Lortel and Audelco Award nominations for his 2019 performance in *AIN'T NO' MO'* at The Public Theater. Broadway credits: *Ain't No Mo'*, *The Great Society*, and *Good Night Oscar*. He holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch Graduate Acting Program.



Christian DeMarais (*Director*, *Paul* in *RUFFLY SPEAKING* with Atif) is ecstatic to be back at the Project working with Certified Cool Guy Atif (and all the other Project Members and Volunteers). You may recognize Christian from his most recent stint getting his neck snapped by Angel or as the super-hero Stamps in *CHOICES*, where he directed and performed alongside Project Legend Aiden. Perhaps you may even remember Christian as a Tree who just

wants to get a job so he can move out of his parents house in Queen Katty's play *FURNITURE & TREES*. Regardless, Christian is super grateful to be here (as always) and to have the opportunity to learn from all these brilliant, imaginative, inspiring kiddos!



**Mamadou Diaw** (*CJ* in *GO TO SLEEP, or, THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL* with Marchánt Davis) joined the Project in the fall of 2023 with his playwriting debut, *ESCAPE*, dramaturgy & direction by Don Nguyen, starring Grace Rex & Michael Braun, as a part of FOOD FOR THOUGHT, *The Scrumptious Plays*. This marks his performing debut with the Project. Mamdou can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #48, "Playmakers of FOOD FOR THOUGHT."



Atif Dowidar (Franklin in RUFFLY SPEAKING with Christian DeMarais) joined the Project in January, 2024 with his playwriting debut, MELLOW AND HIS ENCOURAGING KYAN, dramaturgy & direction by Tim J. Lord, starring Armando Riesco & Meredith Garretson as a part of A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, The Breezy Plays. This marks his performing debut with the Project. Atif can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode #50, "Playmakers Provide

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR."



Marty Gleberman (Stage Manager): is a naturally-occurring fungus that puts out its mushrooms in a variety of seasons. It can be found in the Five Angels Theater and similar biomes. While not harmful if ingested, extreme caution should be taken not to accidentally track Marty spores into your own home. Please check your shoes carefully upon leaving the theater.



Betsy Hogg (Playwright/Director, BEST FRIENDS...FOREVER? for Samaria & Evan Isabella) has been an enthusiastic volunteer at The 52nd Street Project since 2019. She's been in class with Playmaking, Dancemaking, Artmaking, and Stage Combat; in production as a crew member and stage manager; and on stage as a dancer, a fighter, a harried assistant, and an ancient/formerly magical snowy owl, among other juicy roles. Outside of the Project,

she is a professional actor who's been seen on Broadway, TV, Film, and at regional theaters across the country. Betsy's very proud to work with this awesome ensemble & to be Samaria's Smart Partner. This is her first One-on-One, and it's been a wilder adventure than she could have imagined. Seriously. Ask anyone who was in Rumson.



**Evan Isabella** (*Gloriana the Guinea Pig* in *BEST FRIENDS... FOREVER?* with Samaria) is so excited to be part of LOOK WHO'S TALKING! She has volunteered with the Project since 2019 as Intern, Sound Designer, Stage Crew, Dramaturg/Director, and has treasured every second of it! Evan is currently pursuing a professional performance career, most recently fulfilling a dream, performing "*Let It Go*" onstage with Idina Menzel in support of her

charity. Evan is Assistant Director for Pivot Theatre Company's youth performing arts in NJ, just finishing a production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She is a recent graduate of Muhlenberg College, with a major in Theatre. Evan is so grateful for her time with the Project!



**Kim Jinhyoung** (*Director*, *L5* in *MORE THAN L4* with Oliver) has volunteered at the Project since 2018. Since then Kim has contributed as a composer on many projects including Songmaking, Filmmaking, Playmaking, Dancemaking, Flying Solo, Playback, and this is his first time coming in as an actor!



Cynthia Kaplan (*Playwright*, *RUFFLY SPEAKING* for Atif & Christian DeMarais) has been writing plays for the Project since 1902 (okay, not that long, but it's been a while), and she loves everything about it, the kids, the actors, the writers, the directors, the staff, the foam core sets, and the animal costumes she always needs. She feels very lucky to have been asked to write a play for Atif and Christian.



Sean Kenealy (*Playwright*, *MORE THAN L4* for Oliver & Kim Jinhyoung) started as an intern with The 52nd Street Project back in 2006! Since then, he's been lucky enough to be a Smart Partner for two Project graduates. He's also volunteered as a writer and/or director for ten shows, covering topics such as NYC coffee carts, weightlifting poets, cities made of cheese, and now vending machines.



**Greg MacPherson** (*Lighting Designer*) is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre where he designed the annual Marathon of One-Act Plays from 1985 through 2003 and again in 2010, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. Other designs include *Killer Joe* at Soho Rep, *The Hotel Play* at LaMama ETC, *The Pitchfork Disney* at Here and *Easter* for Naked Angels. He recently designed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Cinderella* for Ballet Memphis, *The Cradle Will Rock* as a benefit for

The Acting Company, *Meet Me at the Plaza* for Shuffles, and *Halcyon Days* at ART NY. Greg has designed for The 52nd Street Project since 1986 and taught lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College from 1990 through 2022.



**Mirirai** (*Director*, *Rosa* in *THE CALL* with Shaddai) is pumped to be back at 52P! Time flies; she's been an In-class volunteer since fall 2014; as well as *THE PLANE PROBLEM*, by Rebecca, as a part of RAISE THE ROOF, *Plays to Celebrate*. Director/Performer, *THE TEST OF FRIENDSHIP*, with Imani, as a part of Stage Combat, 2015. Performer, *BEST FRIENDS FOREVER*, by Gianna, as a part of ALL TOGETHER NOW, *The United Plays*, spring 2017

Playmaking. Most recently: In-Class volunteer supporting Emily with *A FACE IN THE CROWD*, Character Workshop 2023. WOWEE! Love it here:)



Jiehae Park (*Playwright*, *TIME DOG* for Cataleya & Maryn Shaw) Jiehae's plays for the Project have included *Ghost Stoppers* (2014 Two-on-Twos), *The Amazing Bullseye Carnival Skydiving Sharktank Apprentice Makes a Deal* (2014 Wareham One-on-Ones), *Signs* (2015 Block Island One-on-Ones), & *The Undercovers* (2018 Teen Ensemble One-Act Festival). Some other plays she wrote have been produced at Primary Stages, Yale Rep, Oregon Shakespeare

Festival, and Berkeley Rep, among others. Recent tv includes *The Morning Show* (S4) and *Command Z* (dir. Steven Soderbergh, WGA nom). She lives in Brooklyn with her partner Artie, son Jaemin, and Suri The Dog.



Josiah Perez (Marvin in SCIENCE X FRIENDSHIP with Kyle Cameron) joined the Project in the spring of 2023. His first play was LION AND BEAR FRIEND PROBLEMS; dramaturgy & direction by Michael Propster; with Daiva Deupree & Carl Hendrick Louis; as part of the production A WHALE OF A TALE, Plays That Make a Splash, in March/April 2023. Josiah was a Songmaker in the fall of 2023, collaborating with composer Jonja Merck on the songs "New

Things," performed by Mitchell Winter; "The Feeling Lonely to Exciting" performed by Yonatan Gebeyehu; and "King of the Help," performed by Michael Potts; all as a part of the TUNE IN Songmaking concert. This marks Josiah's performing debut with the Project. He can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, "Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil," and Episode 47, "Tuning in the Songmakers."



Jaelannie Rodriguez (Vella in HUMANS ARE TRICKY with Molly Carden) joined the Project in the spring of 2023. Her first play was ENCOURAGE; dramaturged by Ana Gonzalez-Soto and directed by Alex O'Daly; starring Jake Pino & Lynne Marie Rosenberg, as part of the production A WHALE OF A TALE, Plays That Make a Splash. Jaelannie was a Songmaker in the fall of 2023, collaborating with composer Paige Menneci on the songs "Hi, I'm Rosie,"

performed by Angel DeSai; "Is It My Time Yet?" performed by Ali Ewoldt; and "Jumping Frogs," performed by Mallory Portnoy; all as a part of the TUNE IN Songmaking concert. This marks her performing debut with the Project. She can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 42, "Splish Splash Playmakers - Behind the Pencil," and Episode 47, "Tuning in the Songmakers."



Maryn Shaw (*Director*, *Whipper Snappy* in *TIME DOG*, with Cataleya) is thrilled to be returning to The Project where she last participated in Stage Combat this spring, as well as Dance Making! She is an actor, director and writer who recently graduated with her MFA from NYU Grad Acting. Theater: *The Skin of our Teeth* (TFANA), Studio Theatre DC, Arena Stage, Baltimore Centerstage, Kansas CityRep, The Acting Company, Hudson Valley Shakespeare

Festival. TV/ Film: *Friends from College* and various shorts. Training: Interlochen Arts Academy, Fordham Theater Program, NYU Grad Acting. She has had an absolute blast acting, singing, tubing, and swinging with Cataleya in Rumson and can't wait to share the stage together in NYC!



**Oliver Tanner** (*L4* in *MORE THAN L4* with Kim Jinhyoung) joined the Project in the spring of 2022 with his Playmaking debut *AN UNLIKELY PERFORMANCE*, dramaturgy & direction by Gaven Trinidad, with Jimmy Kenna & Helen Cespedes, as part of the production PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, *The Priceless Plays*. This marks Oliver's performing debut with the Project. Oliver was an Artmaker in the Spring of 2023. He was a runner-up in the 2023

Ping Pong Tournament, and became champion in 2024. He can also be heard on the PROJcast, Episode 40, "Spring 2022 Playmakers."



Harrison Walsh (Sound Designer, he/him) – The 52nd Street Project debut! He is part of the class of 2025 at Marymount Manhattan College pursuing a B.F.A. in Film and Media Production and doubling minoring in Photography and Interactive Media. Theatre: Into The Woods, Spring Awakening (A1-Kidz Theater); A Chorus Line (MMC Musical Theater Association-Associate Sound Designer/A1). Film/Video: Sensory Stimuli, A Worthy Performance

(Stop Light Productions) On The Spot!, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "An Average British Evening," Roll GriLins, Season Sketch (Mount Studios). @sir.h.walsh + @stoplightproductions

The 52nd Street Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following foundations & corporations: AllianceBernstein, Bank of America, Bulls Head Foundation, Inc., Cantor Fitzgerald, Carol M. & Stephen E. Canter Family Foundation, Consolidated Edison, Corcoran Group Cares, Flagstar Bank, Frederick Loewe Foundation, Howard Ashman Trust for Theater Arts, Jeffrey Seller Family Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Maxine and Irving Castle Foundation, Morgan Stanley, P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs, Ruth Nelson Family Foundation, Susquehanna Foundation, The Feldstein Foundation, The Henlopen Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, West Side Community Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Walt Disney Company, Tiger Baron Foundation. We also acknowledge the following individual donors (over \$200) to The 52nd Street Project:

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