

# RAW ART WORKS

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\* We are thrilled to have alumni on our staff and Board!

## OUR PROGRAMS ARE SUPPORTED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM:



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# SUPPORT RAW 12 MONTHS A YEAR

Visit our website and learn more about becoming a monthly donor. Funds support free programming for all RAW's youth.



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Members of Boyz Lync in action during an outing to beautify the community

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# RAW NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

## MEET ROSARIO UBIERA-MINAYA

### RAW'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

Rosario is no stranger to RAW, the Lynn community, or the importance of art making! She grew up around the corner in Salem, MA, after moving to the US from the Dominican Republic at age 15. As a child, Rosario remembers her mother encouraging her to make art. Now she does the same with her two creative teenage children.

Rosario understands the importance of the arts and is driven to make them accessible to RAW's youth. Art and creativity have been outlets that Rosario has turned to throughout the different stages of her life.

Art has been present in her journey as a professional, a woman of color, a life-long learner, an immigrant, and a mother. It's a tool she has used to make sense of the world and to find connections that resonate with her experiences. It has supported her in finding ways to express and see herself. It has accompanied her on the road to becoming an activist and educator, and has empowered her to find her voice.



"Rosario brings such great energy, warmth, and smarts gained from years of experience as a leader in the cultural sector in our region. Her passion for RAW's mission and the entire RAW community is palpable, and I am confident in her ability, along with our Leadership Team and the entire RAW staff, to make even greater impact on our community and the lives of the young people with whom we are so fortunate to work."

-Kit Jenkins, former Executive Director

"I am so excited to have Rosario as RAW's new leader. Her energy, vision, and connection to the community will allow RAW to continue to increase the impact that we have on the children of Lynn."

-Bruce Herring, RAW's Board Chair



# RAW'S FOCUS AREAS THIS YEAR: PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

## #1 MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

We know transitions can be difficult. Especially the transitions into and out of middle school. They are critical periods in a young person's life, which is why RAW is focused on expanding and strengthening our middle school programming. In our 34-year history we have seen that the challenges, particularly socially and emotionally, our middle schoolers face have only increased. Our goal is to support our kids as they navigate through their middle school years. This past year we added three new middle school groups to support more kids in these pivotal years of development.

*Loud + Proud*, is a group for LGBTQIA+ youth and allies, which focuses on community engagement. *Camino*, which translates into "road," is a group that focuses on the topics of change, creativity, connection and confidence. *Salud\_Arte*, which is a play on the word *saludarte* (which means to greet or say hello to), was a summer group exploring cultures and what intersectionality means through art making.



## #2 GREATER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Earlier this year we hired our first ever Community Engagement Manager, RAW alum and former Project Launch Coordinator, Kaitlyn Farmer. *Artists in Action*, facilitated by Kaitlyn, is a civic engagement group focused on creating social change and positively impacting the local community through the arts. This group was first piloted this summer and is a leadership and workforce development group, meaning the teens will be paid like our public art muralist groups! We are excited to be partnering with other downtown organizations to expand access and heighten visibility for the artistic voices of Lynn residents. There is a powerful synergy that results from expanded access to collaborative programming.

*"The Artists in Action team learned about Kayak and Sail Lynn firsthand from its founding members, became inspired by the mission, and absorbed the true importance of why equitable access to Lynn's waterfront matters for our community."*  
— Kaitlyn Farmer, Community Engagement Manager

This summer youth in *Artists in Action* partnered with *Kayak and Sail Lynn* to create water-proof decals that will be used to decorate a new batch of kayaks. *Kayak and Sail Lynn* is an organization that aims to provide greater access to the Lynn waterfront and water activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding, and sailing to the Lynn community. To come up with the inspiration and designs, RAW youth interviewed community members and asked them what they admired about the city.



*"The partnership between Lynn Community Health Center and RAW has started off successfully and continues to grow as we learn more about what works best for our children. One of the most challenging barriers to accessing mental health services can be the stigma attached to seeking help. RAW approached this partnership as an opportunity to reduce that stigma by providing individual counseling within an already established program deeply rooted in Art Therapy."*

—Cassidy Freed, LMHC

## #3 IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

In March of this year RAW began a two-year pilot program in collaboration with our neighbor, the *Lynn Community Health Center* (LCHC), to offer one-on-one therapeutic services for youth at RAW. Since the program began, RAW+LCHC has facilitated nearly 100, 1:1 sessions in the first 90 days! Cassidy Freed, a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC) will continue working with youth at RAW three days a week. In addition to removing barriers to access, RAW hopes this partnership provides the additional support our youth are needing in the wake of the pandemic.

*"Often caregivers are already seeing the benefits of RAW's therapeutic art approach and therefore have developed some buy-in to the efficacy. LCHC has been able to build on the existing momentum between RAW staff and families to support engagement and to help individuals find relief from overwhelming situations and emotions."*

— Cassidy Freed, LMHC

## A NOTE FROM ROSARIO

Hello! I am excited to join RAW and the incredible team who have been essential to the growth of RAW for 34 years. RAW is an organization I have admired from afar throughout my work with communities and the arts. It is an honor to be taking the helm. I look forward to learning from you, our supportive community, the dedicated staff, and the thousands of alums who have come through these doors and have been the heart and soul of the organization. Hats off to Kit and Mary for bringing a remarkable vision to reality, along with the many individuals who joined them in building this impactful organization. RAW has become a critical resource for our community, primarily our youth, which is a testament to their unrelenting dedication to our mission. I look forward to connecting with all of you, seeing RAW through your eyes, and engaging in the work ahead. I am enthusiastic about entering this new and exciting chapter and guiding RAW through this next phase.

  
Rosario Ubiera-Minaya, Executive Director