



A monthly newsletter highlighting and connecting initiatives/projects that transform society through the power of art

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## What is the Role of Art in Times of Crisis?

Insights with Monica Yunus and Camille Zamora, Co-Founders of Sing for Hope

Many people may not realize this, but The Juilliard School in New York City shares its city block at Lincoln Center with a firehouse. On that crisp September 11th morning in 2001, our Lincoln Center firefighters were among the first responders to the Twin Towers and the Financial District. Twelve of the thirteen men who left the firehouse that morning did not return.



For Juilliard soprano students, Monica Yunus and Camille Zamora, as for so many people on that day and in the weeks that followed, the world felt upside down. What had made sense before no longer did. We wanted to find a way to move beyond our practice room and the walls of Lincoln Center and bring something of value to the chaos outside of our school's doors.

That impulse led us to bring together a group of students and to sing in front of the firehouse during that first week. What astonished everyone was the effect that our simple songs had on the firefighters, and on the people gathered in front of the firehouse. The music cleared a pathway, allowing for the release of emotion. The firefighters cried, and they cried, and they realized there really is a role for artists in times of crisis.

When we experienced this emotional connectivity with the community through music, it gave us the inspiration to create a long-standing platform for these exchanges to continue to take place. That's when **Sing for Hope (SFH)** came to be.

Fast forward to today; what started as a couple of Juilliard sopranos with an idea is now a 20-plus-year old New York City-based organization serving millions of people worldwide. **SFH's** creative programs bring hope, healing, and connection to millions of people in hospitals, care facilities, schools, refugee camps, transit hubs, and community spaces globally.

**Sing for Hope** leverages the arts for Public Health and Wellbeing, reaching 10,000 patients and caregivers annually in healthcare settings. And **SFH** destresses millions of travelers in airports, and bus and train stations. They bring inspiration and help increase learning and attendance in over 400 partner schools, using our Global Goal Arts curriculum and **Sing for Hope Pianos**. **SFH** works with refugee youth in 11 countries, leveraging the power of creativity for migration integration. And, throughout it all, the **Sing for Hope Pianos** act as the hardware for the software of our programming.



**SFH** partners with hundreds of community-based organizations, mobilizes thousands of artists in creative service, and produces artist-created **Sing for Hope Pianos** across the United States and around the world. As the official Cultural Partner of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, **Sing for Hope** champions art for all because **SFH** believes the arts have an unmatched capacity to uplift, unite, and heal.



To learn more, visit:

- [FY23 Impact Overview](#)
- [FY23 Annual Report](#)
- [VIDEO: CBS Sunday Morning on Sing for Hope Pianos](#)
- [VIDEO: BR Abendshau on our Creative Hope for Refugees program](#)
- [VIDEO: CBS This Morning on Sing for Hope's Creative Public Health Work](#)
- [VIDEO: Organizational Overview](#)



*"Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change – it can not only move us, it makes us move."*  
Ossie Davis