

# GUILD HALL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Press Inquiries: 631.324.0806  
Samantha Young, syoung@guildhall.org  
Approved Images (click "i" for captions/credits):  
<https://adobe.ly/3ldA3Hh>  
Interviews available on request

## GATHER Receives the MANY 2022 Engaging Communities Award of Merit



*GATHER: Conversations led by Black and Indigenous Change-Makers, Tuktu Paddle Tour of Shinnecock, 2021.  
Photo: Jessica Dalene Photography*

**February 23, 2022—East Hampton, NY** — Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton) announced today their ongoing collaboration with [MA's House & BIPOC Art Studio](#). ***GATHER: Conversations Led by Black & Indigenous Changemakers***, was chosen by the [Museum Association of New York's](#) review committee as the recipient of the **2022 Engaging Communities Award of Merit**. The committee was impressed by the project's strength in engaging the local community and forging long-standing relationships, and they further stated that it is a great project and a model for the field.

**GATHER** is a celebration of the East End's diversity, a recognition of fault and colonization, and, most importantly, an opportunity to build and implement new understandings. Devised specifically for community leaders, service workers, teachers, and developers, this series platforms the voices and experiences of various BIPOC scholars, artists, and leaders, providing both lessons on our past histories, and strategies and examples of how to progress forward together.

In 2021, Jeremy Dennis, photographer & lead artist of MA's House & BIPOC Art Studio, and Anthony Madonna, Guild Hall's Patti Kenner Senior Associate for Learning and Public Engagement, led dynamic events with a rotating panel of historians, artists, and cultural leaders of the Hamptons, including Roddy Smith, Andrina Wekontash Smith, Tecumseh Ceaser, Chief Harry Wallace, Tela Troge, Courtney Leonard, Skip Finley, Dr. Georgette Grier-Key, David Rattray, and Donnamarie Barnes.

"It has been an incredible opportunity to work alongside Jeremy Dennis and MA's House & BIPOC Art Studio on *GATHER*. From in-school workshops to communal dinners to paddle-tours, this program has both provoked the thinking of various community members - age, race, and socio-economic status - and has built a stronger relationship between Guild Hall and the Shinnecock Nation" said Anthony Madonna, Guild Hall's Patti Kenner Senior Associate for Learning and Public Engagement. "We are so appreciative of this recognition from MANY and look forward to bringing *GATHER* back in Fall 2022."

The MANY award specifically acknowledged four programs that took place in summer 2021, where *GATHER* was programmed in tandem with the Guild Hall exhibition, [Alexis Rockman: Shipwrecks](#), platforming BIPOC histories, traditions, and lived-experiences with our waterways and systems. Proceeds from this series aided the education initiatives at Guild Hall of East Hampton, the development of MA's House & BIPOC Art Studio, and the institutions and artists involved. A previous iteration of *GATHER* was offered as a virtual lecture series in tandem with the *2021 Student Art Festival: Past-Present-Future*.

In addition to receiving this prestigious award, Guild Hall has since been presented with a special NYSCA grant in support of Jeremy Dennis of MA's House & BIPOC Art Studio and Guild Hall's Anthony Madonna to attend the 2022 MANY conference. When informed of the MANY honor, NYSCA shared that they were impressed with the award, and more importantly, Guild Hall's commitment to and partnership with MA's House & BIPOC Art Studio.

Jeremy Dennis of MA's House & BIPOC Art Studio stated "It has been an honor to work with Guild Hall to elevate the voices and creativity of Long Island's BIPOC artists. As the lead artist of Ma's House, an up-and-coming communal art space, it is incredible to feel embraced and be offered this collaboration."

***GATHER: Conversations led by Black & Indigenous Changemakers*** will be awarded the **Engaging Communities Award of Merit** as part of the Museum Association of New York's 2022 conference "Envisioning Our Museums for the Seventh Generation." The Award Ceremony will take place on **Monday, April 11, 2022 at 12PM** at the Hilton Garden Inn Corning, NY. For further information on the conference, visit <https://nymuseums.org/annualconference>, email [info@nymuseums.org](mailto:info@nymuseums.org), or call 518-273-3400.

*GATHER is generously supported by Stephanie Joyce and Jim Vos. Additional support is provided by the Sciulli and Burwell Family, and Maureen McMahon and Josh Baratz.*

---

## **ABOUT GUILD HALL**

Guild Hall, one of the first multidisciplinary centers in the country to combine a museum, theater, and education space under one roof, was established in 1931 as a gathering place for community where an appreciation for the arts would serve to encourage greater civic participation. For nine decades, Guild Hall has embraced this open-minded vision and provided a welcoming environment for the public to engage with art exhibitions, performances, and educational offerings. Art and artists have long been the engine of Guild Hall's activities and the institution continues to find innovative ways to support creativity in everyone.

For more information about this and other programs, visit [www.guildhall.org](http://www.guildhall.org).