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

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

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.
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
(SHE/HER)
Board President

Shawn LaCount
(HE/HIM)
Artistic Director

Karthik Subramanian
(HE/HIM)
Managing Director

Summer L. Williams
(SHE/HER)
Associate Artistic Director

Mark Abby VanDerzee
(HE/HIM)
Director of Education

Ilana M. Brownstein
(SHE/HER)
Director of New Work

(SHE/HER)
“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
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— JARED BOWEN, WGBH

BOSTON’S THEATRE FOR THE PEOPLE

COMPANY ONE THEATRE

» what’s next.
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 artivists who push social justice movements forward.

50% of C1’s staff and board identify as people of color.
OF C1’S AUDIENCES IDENTIFIED AS PEOPLE OF COLOR compared to 11% of all arts attendees in Boston, according to ArtsBoston’s Audience Initiative.
“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?*
COMPANY ONE
THEATRE
» what’s next.

BOSTON'S HOME FOR ARTISTS
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...

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.
“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
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.**
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
“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
BOSTON'S HUB FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTION
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...

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

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