

# CULTURED

## The Art Production Fund Brings Summer Camp to Manhattan

Last night the leading public art organization's highly-anticipated annual gala put a luxurious spin on the outdoors, thrilling the art world with a hypnotizing botanical installation, a summer camp-themed dinner, and a competitive auction.

WORDS

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All photography by Neil Rasmus and courtesy of the APF.

Last night, [Art Production Fund](#)'s 13th annual gala brought summer camp to the heart of urban Manhattan, uniting the art world for an evening as ambitious—and exciting—as the [public art projects](#) the beloved organization is known for. Presented in partnership with [Saks](#) for the [second year](#) in a row, the outdoor-themed festivities took place inside (as this is the city after all), at the decked-out The [Grill](#) and The [Pool](#) of the legendary [Seagram Building](#).

Camp APF's A-list attendees took the theme seriously, putting their creative minds and [fashion](#) sense to the test, arriving dressed to the nines for a "Hiked Up High Ropes Course." Adventure awaited them; an installation by the botanical artist [Luffi Janania](#) hypnotized party-goers the moment they arrived with its visual feast of lush plants and exotic materials.



Kathleen Lynch, Casey Fremont Crowe, Yvonne Force Villareal, Leo Villareal, and Cuatro Villareal.

[Lallier](#) champagne and hors d'oeuvres were served, followed by a decadent, camp-themed dinner curated by the multi-talented event consultant, gallerist, and writer [Sarah Hoover](#). Among the long list of stars gathered were artists [Anna Wayant](#) (an alum of *CULTURED*'s 2023 Young Artists), Amy Phelan, and Derrick Adams, who were seated among curators, celebrities, and gallerists such as [Solde Brielmaier](#), Nicky Hilton Rothschild, and [Nicola Vassell](#).

Guests were treated to performances by trumpet player Dave Guy and visual artist [Brendan Fernandes](#), followed by a live auction. Supported by [UOVO](#) and led by Sara Friedlander, head of the New York Evening Sale at Christie's, the auction included a painting by Pakistani artist [Hiba Schahbaz](#), a sculpture by [Kenny Scharf](#), and a trip

donated by Palm Heights. Meanwhile, many guests welcomed the opportunity for a new piercing by designer [Maria Tash](#), adding jewels to their already bedazzled outfits.



Performance by Brendan Fernandes.

The event raised \$760,000 in proceeds, all of which will support Art Production Fund's innovative programming, which continues to reach new heights under the leadership of Executive Director Casey Fremont. Founded by [Yvonne Force Villareal](#) and Doreen Remen, the leading organization has blurred the boundaries between art and life for over two decades, making artists' dreams a reality while ensuring contemporary art is accessible for New Yorkers of all backgrounds.

When the partying was done, the art world's finest parted with custom-printed gifts by [Leatherology](#) and Vista in their hands, exiting into the elevator to bring all things camp, art, and life into the chilly, big city night.