



**CAN ART
CHANGE
THE WORLD?**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR MISSION

Inspired by the work and legacy of **artist JR**, *Can Art Change the World?* harnesses the **power of art to unite and support** communities worldwide. We fund and create educational and artistic programs that **nurture personal growth, promote community healing, and incite social change** through art.



2025 IN REVIEW

In 2025, *Can Art Change the World?* focused on deepening its impact and strengthening the foundations of its mission.

Across the globe, the Inside Out Project continued to amplify underrepresented voices. From **Indigenous leaders** in Brazil defending their rights to **climate activists** in Tuvalu raising awareness of rising seas, each action highlighted resilience and collective power. In Minnesota, students celebrated **belonging and inclusion**; in Italy, participants promoted **circular economy** solutions; and in Mexico, women gathered to **denounce femicides** and affirm their strength and unity.

In Rio de Janeiro, Casa Amarela built a **new community space** brick by brick while expanding education, culture, and health initiatives in Morro da Providência. At the same time, the organization underwent a restructuring process to strengthen its **long-term sustainability and future growth**.

Meanwhile, the Prison Art Program entered a new phase of growth, gaining official recognition, expanding internationally, and reaching over **one million incarcerated individuals** through digital learning.

Thank you for turning belief into action. With your support, we're proving that art doesn't just change walls — it changes lives, communities, and systems.



INSIDE OUT

PROJECT

New York, NY, United States, August 2025

2025 IN NUMBERS

In 2025, the Inside Out Project continued to grow as a **global platform for collective expression**.

Through Photobooth activations and Group Actions, people from Colombia to Thailand used portraits to **share their stories, advocate for their communities, and highlight the issues** that matter most to them.

From major cities to rural gatherings, Inside Out reaffirmed its mission: to make the invisible visible, one face at a time.

110

Actions

13,781

Printed Posters

56

Education
Actions

19

Countries



Boston, MA, United States, September 2025

2025 PHOTOBOTH ACTIONS

This year, our Photobooths brought communities together across the **Americas** and **Europe**, celebrating diverse voices and shared experiences. In **New York City**, installations at **Youth Pride** and **Times Square** invited participants to reflect on identity, community, and social priorities.

The truck honored **farmers** and field workers at **South Dakota's** Corn Palace and celebrated **student diversity** at Boston schools, including the Newcomers Academy and Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Across **Europe**, Photobooths visited cities in **Portugal, Germany, France, and Switzerland**, culminating in a moving Paris installation where **1,300 portraits** commemorated families of road accident victims, with the inauguration attended by First Lady Brigitte Macron.

In **Brazil**, Photobooths at Acampamento Terra Livre highlighted **Indigenous identity**, resilience, and collective strength, creating powerful visual tributes to local communities.

2025 PHOTOBOOTH ACTIONS



GROUP ACTIONS

In 2025, communities in 19 countries led 80 Group Actions, engaging over 8,000 participants. Most took place in **schools**, highlighting the Project's impact in **fostering learning, dialogue, and creative expression in the classroom**. Each Group Action reflected local concerns, demonstrating how communities worldwide use art to claim visibility and spark change.

In **Paris**, three Group Leaders created an Action with 167 portraits and audio stories of children collected in **Rogbanet, Guinea**. The installation and multimedia exhibition helped raise funds for the children's school and cultural center.

In **Galle, Sri Lanka**, and **Oldenburg, Germany**, Actions celebrated youth with disabilities, promoting inclusion and accessibility.

In **Zitácuaro, Mexico**, 29 Mazahua community members honored guardians of their traditions through portraits celebrating cultural pride and heritage.

Tuvalu became the **154th country to participate**, with 40 portraits displayed in Nice, France, during the United Nations Ocean Conference, raising awareness of the island's vulnerability to rising sea levels.





Paris, France

“Across every border, I’ve seen the same truth: we are far more similar than different. We all seek to be valued, to be recognized, to be loved. Inside Out reveals this shared humanity — one face at a time. I’ve witnessed how portraits can move people to act: how visibility creates empathy, how empathy opens dialogue, and how dialogue leads to change.”

-Luis German Gomez, Group Leader



Lubumbashi, DRC

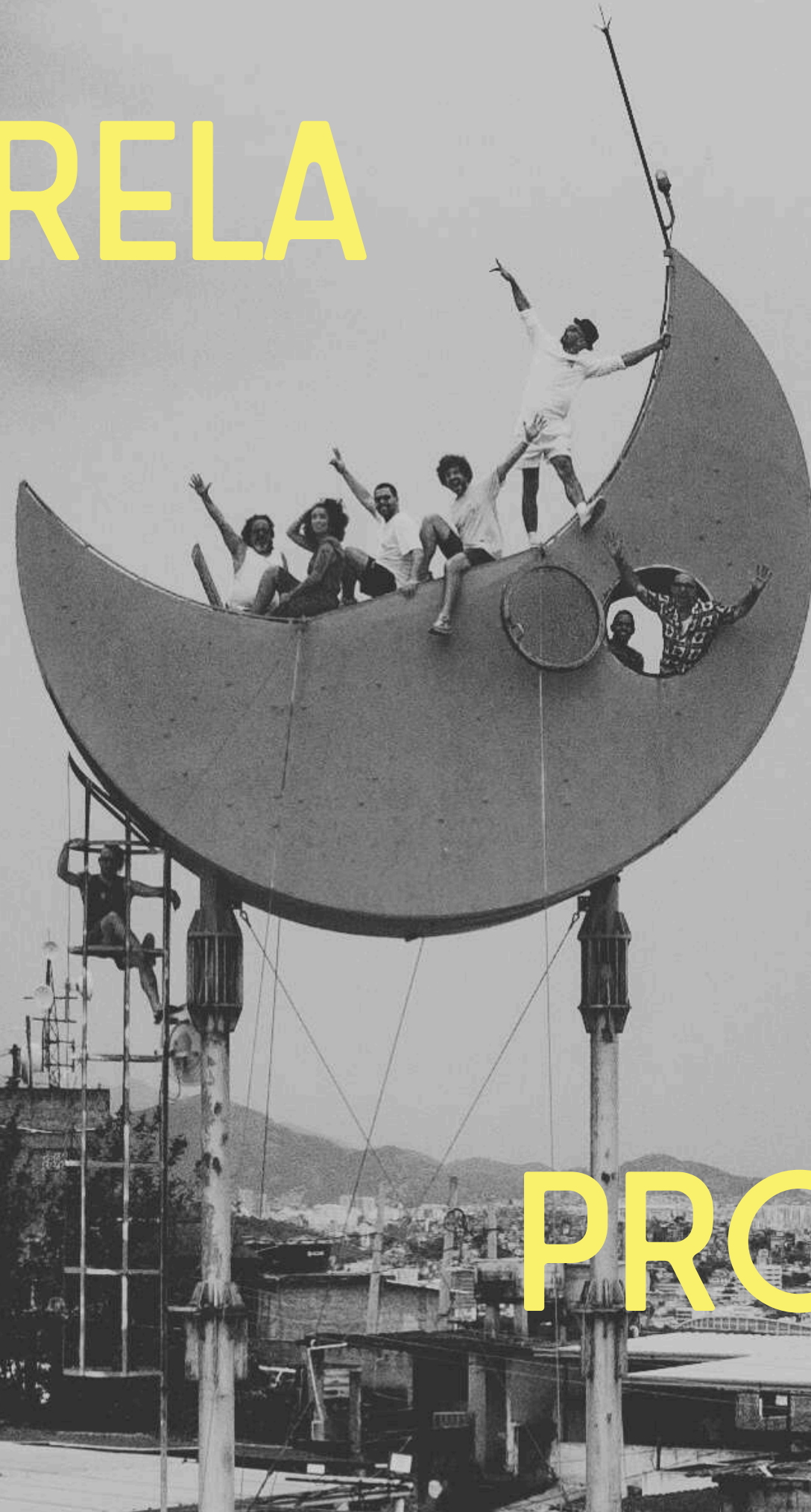


Mendim de Basto, Portugal



Galle, Sri Lanka

CASA AMARELA



PROVIDÊNCIA

RESTRUCTURING & EXPANDING

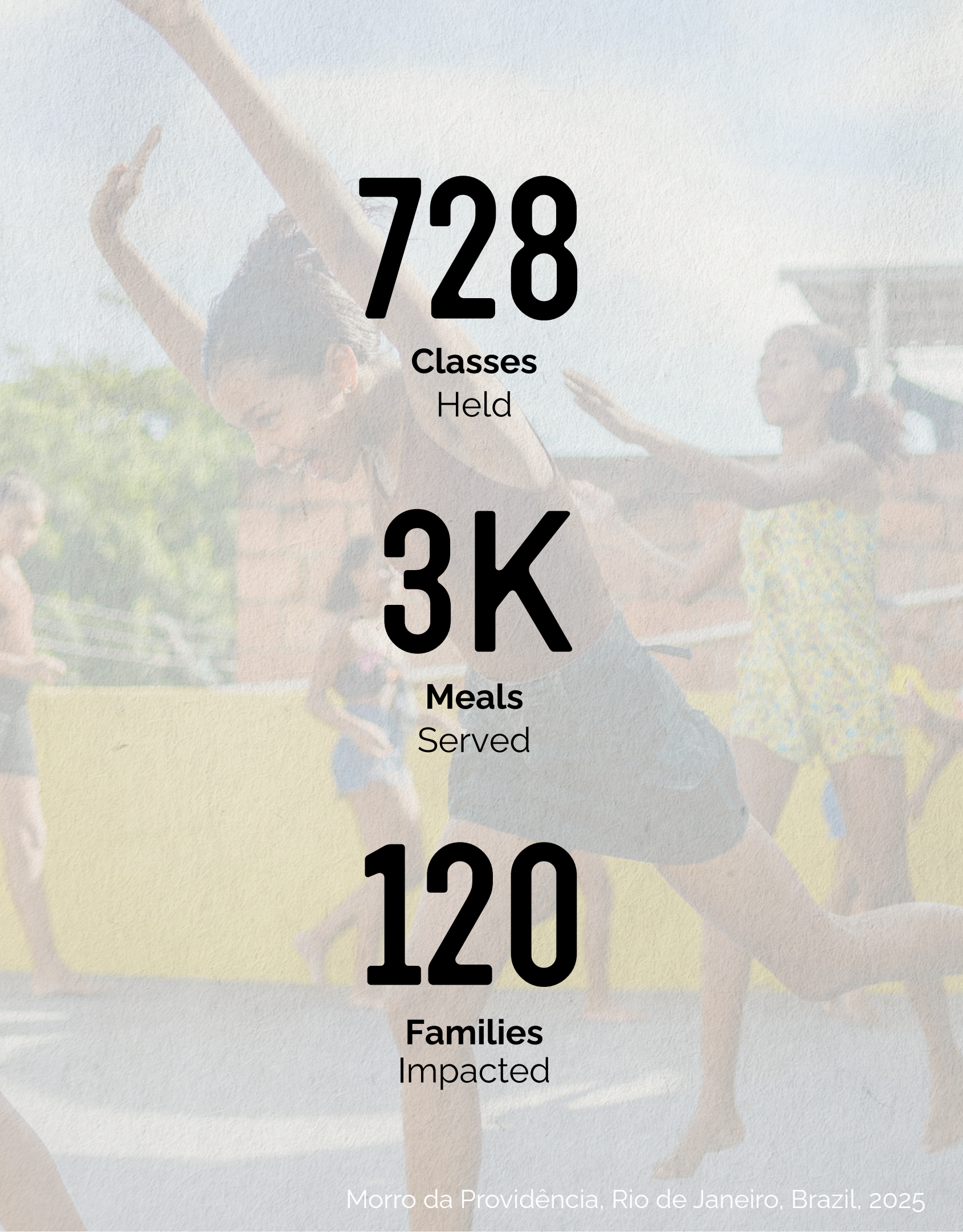
In 2025, Casa Amarela Providência undertook a significant **restructuring process** to **strengthen its foundations** and clarify priorities, ensuring the **long-term sustainability** of its educational, cultural, and social impact in Morro da Providência. This period of reflection and realignment allowed the organization to rebuild internal systems, renew its team, and prepare for 2026 from a stronger, more resilient base, guided by the belief that art has the power to transform lives and communities.

A major milestone this year was the **construction of a new building**, developed through a **community-led model**. Residents created a small brick factory to produce sustainable materials and participated in every stage of the process, from fabrication to transport. Local engineers and builders were hired throughout, ensuring that both **knowledge and economic benefits remained within the favela**. The expansion increases Casa Amarela's capacity for children's arts programming while providing professional training and sustaining local income.

In mid-2025, we began actively engaging with Brazil's incentive law mechanisms and public tax incentive tools to build a more stable and sustainable local funding model for the project. As a result, our operational budget is the highest it has ever been, and **82% of it is projected to come from Brazilian sources** for 2026, **compared to just 5–10% in previous years**, marking a major step toward stronger financial stability, greater local support, and long-term autonomy.



Morro da Providência, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2025

A group of women are dancing in a courtyard in Morro da Providência, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2025. The women are wearing colorful, patterned dresses and are captured in various dynamic poses, with arms raised and legs in motion. The background shows a bright, sunny outdoor setting with a clear blue sky and some greenery.

728

Classes
Held

3K

Meals
Served

120

Families
Impacted

Morro da Providência, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2025

PROGRAMMING

Sixty-eight women from the *Mulheres Independentes de Providência* (MIP) program completed professional training in culinary arts, hairdressing, sewing, and entrepreneurship, with many securing internships and beginning to generate income through partnerships with local businesses. Casa Amarela also hosted **its first vaccination campaign** in partnership with the local health clinic, providing essential immunizations to more than **50 residents** — many receiving medical care for the first time in years.

Throughout the year, Casa Amarela's cultural programming gained important visibility. The **dance collective** performed at Festival Galeria Providência and at the opening of "*Corpos Humanos–Não Humanos*" by French artist Alice Anderson. The center also participated in the **Rio Book Biennial**, celebrating the release of *Morro da Favela*, illustrated by co-founder Maurício Hora. Meanwhile, **Santo Skate Park** continued to serve as a vital educational space, fostering discipline, teamwork, and self-expression among local youth.

The year concluded with the 2025 edition of **Festival Novembro Negro**, Morro da Providência's leading cultural event, celebrating **Afro-Brazilian art, music, and education** while strengthening intergenerational connection, representation, and collective memory.

LUCAS' STORY

From Participant to Team Member

“Casa Amarela did so much for me and for our community. And now, I work at Casa Amarela Providência. It’s one of the things I love most, not just as a job, but as a way to give back to the community. Casa Amarela has completely changed how people see our neighborhood.”

– Lucas Pereira
Operations Manager





PRISON ART

PROGRAM

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, the Prison Art Program deepened its impact and expanded its reach. We returned to Tehachapi prison for the first screening of the *Tehachapi* documentary for the incarcerated people who participated in the projects featured in the film. An emotional moment that brought the project full circle. (See impact report from the screening [here](#).)

In the **U.S.**, we launched a **12-hour tablet curriculum** in partnership with Lunarsol, bringing arts-based education to over **one million incarcerated individuals** nationwide. We also formalized collaboration with the **California Department of Corrections**, earning approval for **Rehabilitation Achievement Credit (RAC)**, with workshops led by former participants returning as a facilitators.

Our team traveled to **Maine** to conduct creative workshops across three correctional facilities and held a public screening and Q&A of *Tehachapi*, bridging incarcerated participants with the broader community.

Internationally, a new partnership with the **French Ministry of Justice** introduced screenings and workshops to prisons in France, marking the program's first expansion beyond the U.S.

The program also gained recognition in health and arts circles: ***The Lancet*** published a Photo Essay featuring JR's *The Yard*, and JR presented it at the **Guggenheim Museum**, highlighting art's transformative role in rehabilitation.

1 MILLION

Incarcerated People

Have Access to Curriculum

4,000

**Facilities in the
Unites States**

3

Partnerships Formed

*(French Ministry of Justice,
California DOC, Maine DOC)*

CORY & BARRETT'S STORIES

Sentenced to life in prison, Cory and Barrett were among the first participants in JR's art projects at Tehachapi State Prison in California (2019-2022). Over three years, they built deep relationships with JR and the team, remaining in close contact and witnessing firsthand the transformative power of art in their own lives.

Released in 2022 and 2023, they carried with them a shared commitment to create meaningful change—both inside and beyond prison walls. **In 2024, they joined *Can Art Change the World?* to help shape the Global Prison Art Program**, an ambitious initiative developed in collaboration with leading prison arts practitioners.

In December 2025, Cory and Barrett returned to Tehachapi to co-launch and facilitate a 12-week course, guiding participants through a journey they know intimately.

We are thankful for their leadership and proud to expand opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals to lead, create, and give back.





Brasilia, Brazil, 2025

THANK YOU.

We are **deeply grateful** to our **donors, partners, and friends**. Your support makes this work possible, creating spaces where art sparks connection, healing, and hope. **Thank you for believing in the power of art and for being part of this community.**

As we move into 2026, we are **expanding the global reach and impact** of our programs. The Inside Out Project continues to grow through education and partnerships, creating space for people everywhere to say: ***We matter. We belong. We are seen.*** In Rio de Janeiro, Casa Amarela is moving toward **long-term sustainability** with strong **local leadership, new partnerships, expanded programs, and a new building**. At the same time, our Prison Art Program is **expanding rapidly**, bringing art education to over **one million incarcerated individuals** in the U.S. and France.

GET IN TOUCH

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