

Stichting Bersama Collective

Jaarverslag 2023



Stichting Bersama Collective

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Preface

One year ago, we - Joardi Meyer, Sacha Verheij and Francesca Vincentie, founded Bersama Collective. Our first year as an active Foundation has been special, where we started to achieve our ideas, missions and visions with the foundation. We have hosted residencies for artists and friends from Indonesia, organized our first workshops and events and submitted applications for project ideas. 2023 left us with a 'taste for more' and 2024 started with full speed with granted applications, new partners and more planned collaborations with artists from Indonesia. The board is pleased with the first year as active, and we look forward to 2024 with great enthusiasm.

Chair woman: Ms. Francesca Vincentie

Secretary: Ms. Sacha Verheij

Treasurer: Mr. Joardi Meyer

The beginning

During the period of 2017-2019, musician Francesca Vincentie was traveling around exploring her family's diverse heritage from Sweden, Indonesia and The Netherlands.

Since then she has explored, through storytelling and music, and compared whether and how colonial history in these countries has influenced people's identity, artistic expression and sense of belonging. While seeking her own background, she met many people who shared their personal stories and knowledge.

The search resulted in an album which in first hand is a stage performance, which she created during her stay at the art residency Sanggar'O in Bogor, Indonesia 2018. The full performance and album is called '(Although) in pieces, yet one' and was born out of curiosity around identity and cultural heritage.

The album contains stories about her family members, composed music based on these stories, field recordings from different locations visited and interviews made with people she met on her journey.

In 2023 she took the next step and initiated artistic collaborations and discussed issues related to colonialism, belonging and identity, through co-creation and workshops. With the help of local coordinators in Indonesia, a collaboration between musicians and artists took place in Java in February 2023.

Her ambition is to tie bonds between artists from Indonesia, The Netherlands and Sweden, and as a group to reflect on questions regarding our own expressions, identities and belonging.

Coming back from this collaboration in February 2023, the Stichting Bersama Collective was founded by musician Francesca Vincentie, videographer Joardi Meyer and spoken word-artist Sacha Celine Verheij.

Vision, mission and goals

Stichting Bersama Collective is a non-profit organization that provides a platform for artists to engage in conversations around colonialism, identity and sense of belonging **through art**. In doing so, it seeks to create connections between artists from Indonesia and Europe, among others.

Through interdisciplinary exchanges, underexposed stories about the connected history between Indonesia and The Netherlands, as well as similar stories from other countries, are brought to light.

Vision

Our vision is to stimulate dialogue, create collaborations and provide exchanges between artists. Thereby starting conversations, sharing perspectives and shaping a collective future in places around the world where colonialism still persists and where people are fighting for equality and independence.

Still up to this day, many generations don't know the history behind important events during the colonial period in Indonesia. In The Netherlands, the Indonesian perspective on the colonial past still receives too little attention, according to among others - historian Fitria Jelyta.¹ Our foundation aims to create awareness in society regarding colonial history. Moreover, it seeks to highlight the continuing impact of colonialism on the present and together form a community-driven future of continuous artistic exchanges.

Mission

Stichting Bersama Collective's mission is to

- **create awareness** in society regarding the colonial history between Indonesia and The Netherlands;
- **highlight the continuing impact of colonialism** on the present and together form a shared future of continuous exchange between artists around these topics;

¹ Ewout Klei, "Nog steeds kolonialisme in geschiedenislessen over Indonesië", De Kanttekening, 16 februari 2023, te lezen via: <https://dekanttekening.nl/samenleving/nog-steeds-koloniaal-perspectief-in-geschiedenislessen-over-indonesie/>

- **educate people in The Netherlands** (and beyond), since the gap in the Dutch education system about the colonial era we find it important to focus on stories that go beyond the dominant perspectives.

Goals

1. Collective Growth Through Artistic Collaborations

We want to establish more connections and expand our network with possible artists, partners and grantors. Through carrying out more projects, we will grow our collective.

2. Reach Communities

We want to reach more communities, particularly connected to the Indonesian diaspora, this includes many communities: Dutch-Indo, Chinese-Indonesia, Moluccan, Papoea, Javaneese-Surinamese and Indonesian artists. Through our website, social media, events and workshops we aim to grow our audience.

3. Professionalisation of Bersama Collective

We want to professionalize our Stichting, through creating a branding identity, kicking off a new website, growing our social media following, showcasing our first short videos and launching a spoken word album. We strive to work inclusively, from an intersectional perspective with a mindset that seeks equality and broad representation.

Deliverables

- **Productions:** music, theater, dance, film, photography, spoken word and otherwise creating art;
- **Events and workshops:** through the organization of events and workshops we realize collaborations, conversations and dialogue between artists and people interested in the topics of Bersama Collective.

Bersama Collective in 2023

Collaborations

Sanggar'O, Unlogic Teater, Sunya x Francesca Vincentie Quartet x Sacha Verheij x Jo Moya

February 2023

From February 10th until 16th 2023, we had an exchange around Bogor and Jakarta working with artists connected to Sanggar'O, Unlogic Teater and Sunya. This resulted in a performance on 15th of February 2023 in Theater Kecil, Taman Ismail Marzuki in Jakarta.

Jatiwangi Art Factory, SUAR x Francesca Vincentie Quartet x Sacha Verheij x Jo Moya

February 2023

February 16th until February 21st 2023, we were at Jatiwangi Art Factory in Bandung working with Suar Nasution, Tisa Granicia, among others. On February 19th 2023, we performed together for the Jatiwangi Art Factory community in Majalengka. On February 21st 2023, we did the same performance at the University in Bandung.

Indisch Herinneringscentrum, Museum Sophiahof and Haags Historisch Museum

February 2023

We started out in February 2023, where we organized a pre-screening and panel discussion together with The Indisch Herinneringscentrum in Den Haag. In [this event](#) we talked about our first exchange in Indonesia. For an audience of approximately 100 people. A month later, we did the same at the opening of the exhibition 'Koloniaal Den Haag' at Haags Historisch Museum.

Get an impression of our February collaboration via [here](#).

Screening, Q&A & Performance at Haags Historisch Museum

March 2023

As part of the opening of the exposition 'Koloniaal Den Haag - Een onvoltooid verleden', we presented our trip to Java and our collaboration with Indonesian artists. Followed by a Q&A,

to answer any questions around Bersama Collective and our work. Spoken word-artist Sacha opened the presentation with a spoken word piece written in collaboration with Sanggar'O and Unlogic Theater back in February.

Jatiwangi x Sápmi

October 2023

We did a collaboration with Jatiwangi Art Factory in Den Bosch on the 14th of October 2023. Jatiwangi invited us to join their exhibition at 'Who Owns the Economy', which was part of a festival organized by Future of Work. The collaboration was in the shape of an exchange between artists from Indonesia, Netherlands and Sápmi. An idea initiated by the Jatiwangi Art factory in Majalengka. We noticed a lot of similarities between ongoing issues in Indonesia and in Sápmi - the land area which is home to the indigenous Sami people in the arctic circle - in how the land is being taken and exploited by the governments and big companies. It's used for mining, windparks, fabrics and other forms of exploitation. In October 2023 we as Bersama Collective brought an indigenous artist from Sápmi (Sweden) and a resident from Jatiwangi (Indonesia) together through a workshop. This event focused on discussing possible ways to decolonise the land, protect the forests and to create a sustainable economy. Read more about it via [here](#).

Music Collaboration SWE/NL/IND - One True Thing

October 2023

A co-written song between SUAR and Francesca Vincentie Quartet made possible by Jatiwangi Art Factory, recorded at Escape Studios Bandung. The process has been authentic, spontaneous and special. It started in The Hague and it continued in Indonesia at Jatiwangi Art Factory. The song 'One True Thing' was released on Monday 23rd of October 2023. See the music video [here](#).

Workshop by Liswati and Sacha Celine Verheij

November 2023

Dancer and theatermaker Liswati from Java had a short residency in The Hague to work on a workshop with spoken word-artist Sacha Celine Verheij. Inspired by the book 'Lebih Putih Dariku' ('Lichter dan ik') by Dido Michielsen, both created a workshop for Indonesian diaspora in The Netherlands. The aim was to connect

those who are searching for answers on their questions of belonging, which they might not find within their families due to trauma and pain. By coming together through dance and spoken word, we invited participants to research their identity and explore their sense of belonging. We asked everyone to bring a personal belonging that reminds them of their roots: it could be an object, a memory, a moment, anything. This workshop was given in Theater Dakota on 13th of November 2023.

Cafe Riboet x Bersama Collective

December 2023

Stichting Riboet Verhalenkunst invited Bersama Collective to take part in their '[Café Riboet: Retour Indonesië](#)' on Sunday 17th of December 2023. This event was focused on youth's 'roots travels': young people traveling back to the country where their roots lie. Spoken word-artist Sacha Celine Verheij and musician Francesca Vincentie both performed pieces around their experience of tracing back family histories.

Project Nyai Dasima

Ongoing

This project idea brings Indonesian, Indo-Dutch and Swedish artists together in the Netherlands to create an interdisciplinary performance. With the artistic performance, deriving from the lost film "Nyai Dasima," we aim to shed light on the complexity in the relationship between Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Democracy Fellowship Humanity in Action

April 2024 - April 2025

Sacha Celine Verheij has been accepted as one of [the fellows](#) of the Democracy Fellowship by Humanity in Action. Her focus will be on creating a spoken word album, launching photography exposition and improving the website of Bersama Collective. Through diving into her own Surinamese-Moluccan family's history, she will uncover new stories around the colonial history between The Netherlands and Indonesia.

Partners

Indisch Herinneringscentrum in The Hague

Is one of the four national remembrance centers of the Second World War. It's the place where you can find the shared history of the Netherlands and Indonesia from around 1900, with an emphasis on the Second World War and decolonization. Greater awareness of the history leads to a better understanding of current events, developments and people related to this history. And by remembering and commemorating stories will also be safeguarded in the future. This is how we shape the 'Indisch memory' for the future. The Foundation draws attention to this history through national programming, online campaigns, educational projects and exhibitions.

The Indonesian Embassy in The Hague

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in The Hague is the diplomatic mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the Netherlands. The embassy is located in Scheveningen in The Hague and is currently headed by Ambassador Mayerfas. One of the embassy's many tasks is to support and contribute to initiatives that strengthen the relationship between Indonesian and Dutch citizens, therefore the embassy's involvement in this event.

Theater Dakota in The Hague

“Dakota is one of the eight cultural anchors in The Hague. At Dakota we try to introduce various public groups - for whom it is not self-evident to come into contact with art and culture - with these cultural anchors in an accessible way. Dakota is located in the middle of the largest district of The Hague: Escamp. There is plenty to do in and around our theater and film house. Because the world around us is changing, we are increasingly trying to shape our theater and cinema together with our environment.

By entering into conversations with certain social or cultural population groups from Escamp in various ways and listening carefully to what is needed, we try to make the public part of what they want to see and experience in Dakota.”

Riboet Storytelling

“Riboet Verhalenkunst has been around since 2012 and was founded by the creative jacks-of-all-trades Martijn Grootendorst, Wendy Ripassa and Elsbeth Vernout. The collective is part of the cultural Castel Bianco Foundation. Riboet means commotion in Malay, and the name is a nod to the ‘Indische’ roots of the three founders. Riboet connects cultural institutions and the public. They do this by collecting and filming personal stories around a theme. Based on these stories, they put together stage programs that they present on location in a museum or theater. The live theatrical and interactive setting is important. In addition, the personal stories of the public end up in exhibitions and the archives of museums.

Riboet Verhalenkunst wants to reach the hearts of many with the personal story of the individual. Riboet thus contributes to the social connection between people, society and heritage institutions. Personal stories and performing arts in the form of theater, music, poetry and video are used to increase involvement and understanding of each other.

Everyone has a story. By sharing this, Riboet connects people with each other, fills gaps in knowledge, makes social themes visible and increases involvement with each other in the street, neighborhood, city and country.

Grantors

- [Cultuurparticipatie](#): subregel ‘Verkenning’ van Internationale Samenwerking 2023-2024

Overview collaborations in 2023

Jatiwangi
artFactory



indisch
herinnerings
centrum

FUTURE
OF WORK

VERTEL OOK
JE VERHAAL!
Riboet
verhalenkunst

Haags
Historisch
Museum

Finance

The financial state of Bersama Collective in 2023 can be described as steady. There has not been much traffic on the account of the organization. There has been an income of one big grant and furthermore there were monthly costs for keeping the bankaccount running.

The establishment of the organization was the first set of costs, which every board member has contributed to.

Bersama Collective is continuously looking for partners and grantors who can help the organization financially, so projects can be initiated and new plans can be made.

The annual statement of the account, written in Dutch, can be found later in this document.

Organisation

Code

The board of Stichting Bersama Collective applies the Cultural Governance code. We work inclusively and from an intersectional perspective, where we act with integrity and role awareness. The board strives for fair, sustainable and transparent management within the Stichting, and taking each other's interests into account with respect, solidarity and trust, in service of a strong cultural sector that fully utilizes the potential and possibilities of creative professionals and artists and makes them profitable. Two board members have studied Gender Studies and are continuously aware of new methods and knowledge in the work around diversity, fair practices and a healthy way of working within the cultural sector.

The board is therefore alert to the own positionalities of the board members, the roles that everyone fulfills and the reciprocal relationships with partners of the organization. From this awareness, Bersama Collective works towards its social objective, namely to create awareness in society regarding colonial history and to highlight the continuing influence of colonialism on the present and together form a shared future of continuous exchange. The Foundation tries to achieve its goal by, among other things, bringing music, theater, film, photography, spoken word through artistic collaborations and thereby opening conversations about colonialism, identity and the sense of belonging.

The board meets at least once every six months and is independent. The Foundation is UBO registered, whereby the Foundation is the only interested party. In view of the social objective written above - and also described in the articles of association - the board reports the functioning and results of the organization. The Foundation's resources (from funds to working methods to self-employed professionals and everything in between) are as transparent as possible.

Board

Name: Stichting Bersama Collective

Type: Non-profit organisatie

Date of founding: 20 april 2023

KVK number: 89984188

RSIN number: 865173904

BTW-ID: NL865173904B01

ANBI-status: In aanvraag

UBO registration: 20 april 2023

E-mail: info@bersamacollective.org

Post address: Elsenburgstraat 37
2548 SK DEN HAAG
Zuid-Holland, NEDERLAND

Website: www.bersamacollective.org

Chair woman: Ms. Francesca Vincentie

Secretary: Ms. Sacha Verheij

Treasurer: Mr. Joardi Meyer

Jaarrekening (NL)

Balans per 31 december 2023

Activa				31-12-2023 €
Liquide middelen				7.560,40
Totale activa				7.560,40
Passiva				31-12-2023 €
Eigen vermogen				6.065,12
Kortlopende schulden				1.495,28
Totale passiva				7.560,40

Toelichting op de balans

Activa				31-12-2023 €
Liquide middelen				
- Per 31 december bedroeg het saldo van de ABN Amro rekening				7.560,40
Totale activa				7.560,40
Passiva				31-12-2023 €
Eigen vermogen				
- Algemene reserve				6.065,12
Kortlopende schulden aan:				
- S.C. Verheij				527,82
- F.J. Vincentie				419,53
- J.A.E. Meyer				547,93
Totale passiva				7.560,40

Staat van baten en lasten

Baten				2023
Subsidies / bijdragen				
<i>Subsidies</i>				
- Fonds voor Cultuurparticipatie				€ 7.500,00
<i>Stortingen door bestuur (voorschot)</i>				
- F.J. Vincentie				€ 50,00
- J.A.E. Meyer				€ 50,00
Totale baten				€ 7.600,00
Lasten				2023
Beheerlasten				
- Notariskosten				€ 1.057,80
- Websitekosten				€ 209,08
- Bankkosten				€ 39,60
Projectlasten				
- Verblijfskosten				€ 128,40
Overschot				
- Winst (naar 2024)				€ 6.165,12
Totale lasten				€ 7.600,00

Future

The aim for the future is to be a leading platform for people all over the world to learn about colonialism, the search for identity by former enslaved communities and to raise a sense of belonging for those who feel lost in the world. By creating interdisciplinary content for different worldwide accessible platforms, we hope to bring more knowledge to the table to make the past a healing factor for present and future generations. We expand our perceptions about the present while learning from the past.

While doing so, different factors might influence the way we want to create these projects, resulting in a change of elaborating and continuing our exchanges with one another. While these factors can have either a small or big impact on our strategy, the goal is to always maintain the same plan to achieve the goals the foundation has created. The foundation needs to be flexible in the plans when encountering sudden changes during the run-up of a project. Having multiple options and backup-plans is a good way of handling uncertain situations. Sometimes positive developments will occur, so it will become easier to get the results the foundation aims for.

We want to create strong bonds with other foundations and people with similar goals as ours.

We want to create ways for the board and the foundation's members to work sustainably with the foundation's goals and visions. For example by finding long term financial fundings or donations to support our causes.

We intend to inspire people in researching their own identity and roots, finding ways to uncover the connections with the colonial period in a community-driven way and collecting underexposed narratives through art.