



(R)EVOLVE

REACH BACK TO MOVE FORWARD





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FAMILY,

What if we thought about art — making it, witnessing it, embodying it — as **our collective right**?

Since the beginning of civilization, artists have helped us to make sense of the circumstances in which we live. From photographer Paz Errázuriz's exposé of queer and trans suffering under Pinochet's rule, to Ai Wei Wei's "Laundromat" installation that denounced the refugee crisis in Greece, to Kendrick Lamar's "Alright" as an anthem of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Art has long served to mirror the cultural beauty and political injustice of our times by helping us reimagine the possibilities of tomorrow.

That is the power of art; as liberation, as resistance, as creative freedom.

Per usual, the youth know what's up. They are our contemporary revolutionaries.

Right now, young people are using their voices and their platforms to enact real change. This past October, young artists from Arts Corps' teen programs presented to an audience of 500+ Amazon designers, calling on them to put more resources toward addressing educational inequities, sustainable design, and job training for young people of color.

Students in our Learning Immersive Technology (LIT) program are getting trained on XR, 360 film production, and audio production, giving them the ability to shape a constantly changing emerging tech field. Elementary students in our expanded arts integration programs are building stronger communities through art-based events.

We need to support young artists. We need to believe in them. **We need to provide as much stomping ground as possible for their creativity.** That's why Arts Corps' vision is a world where barriers to arts education no longer exist and all young people can creatively lead the transformation of schools, neighborhoods, and beyond.

Our work remains as important as ever. In 2019, we saw children separated from their parents at our border. We saw some of those children die. We watched our education system continue to serve students based on their zip codes. We saw an uptick of hate crimes. We are watching the dissolution of democracy around the globe.

While it has been a challenging season of organizational transition for Arts Corps, it has also provided us with a fresh opportunity to reflect on where we are, where we'd like to go, and how we'd like to do it. I am confident that we will be a stronger community for taking time to both celebrate what we do right and to assess what we can improve upon moving forward.

Art is liberation.

Art is resistance.

Art is freedom.

As we head into our 20th year as an organization, we gonna **Make Art Anyway.**

Where will it take us? What can we build together? Are you with us? ■

Stay Gold,



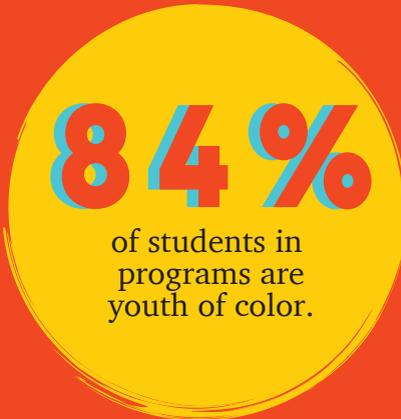
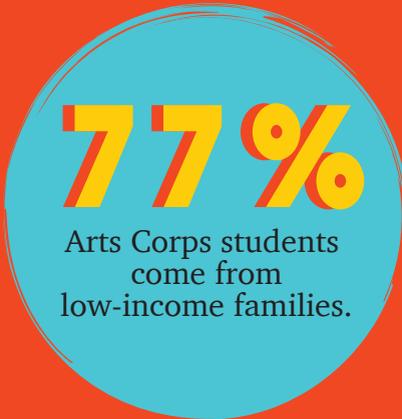
James Miles
Executive Director

ARTS CORPS REACHED OVER

2,600

SOUTH SEATTLE & SOUTH KING COUNTY YOUTH

"I've definitely grown as a person doing this program the last 2 years. Besides all the music stuff, I'm just proud and happy to be who I am as a person now. The program literally saved my life." ~ 2019 Residency participant. ■



9 OUT OF 10 elementary students in out-of school programs reported growth in their artistic skills. ■

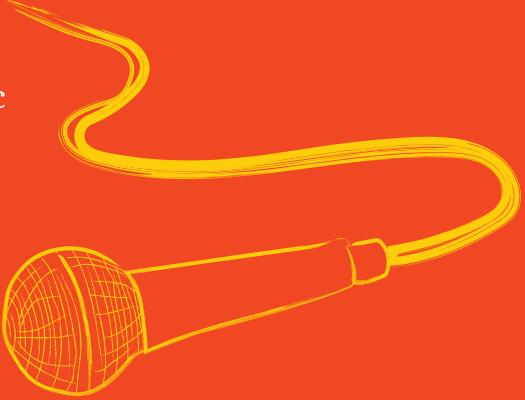


97% of participants agree that they are more prepared to enter the professional music industry as a result of The Residency. ■

STUDENTS IN THE LIT PROGRAM REPORT:

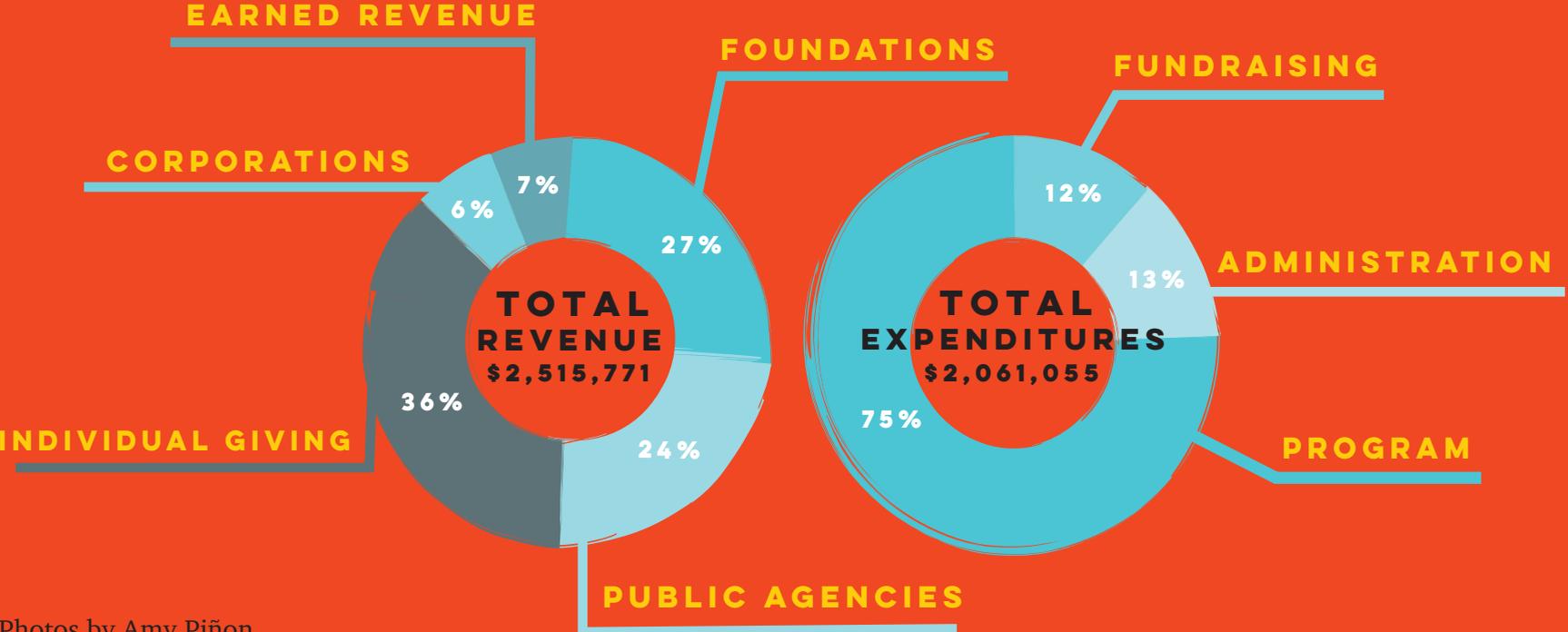
I learned new skills and techniques. 86%

I am more prepared to enter a media or technology-based profession. 80%



2018-2019 FINANCIALS

NET INCOME OF \$454,716 *INCLUDES A BEQUEST OF \$307,487.73



Photos by Amy Piñon

DID YOU KNOW THAT ARTS CORPS WORKS WITH STUDENTS DURING THEIR SCHOOL DAY?

Arts Corps' Creative Schools programming places community-based teaching artists in residence at schools to integrate the arts with core subjects, using arts-based activities designed to bolster climate and family engagement in the school community. Arts Corps teaching artists represent an array of art forms including music, visual arts, movement & dance, and theatre. Our teaching artists are trained in culturally responsive pedagogy to ensure that students are able to see themselves and their home culture reflected in the classroom.

Creative Schools Learning Arts Belonging (CS LAB) is the next phase of our Highline Creative Schools Initiative, our successful U.S. Department of Education-funded research project. Over the course of 3 years, researchers examined the impact that partnerships between classroom teachers and Arts Corps teaching artists had on 5th and 6th grade students' academic mindsets and behaviors, school climate, and sense of belonging. Building on our model's success of building school climate and sense of belonging, Creative Schools LAB includes family art nights, art backpacks that families are able to check out and bring home, and other schoolwide activities.

“It was so valuable to have a queer working artist of color in the classroom willing to be open and authentic about their identities. This benefited our community in huge ways because it provided opportunities for students to learn, grow, and heal as a community, and to work to be more inclusive.” ~ Classroom Teacher



Photos by Nidaa Audah

79%

OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS REPORTED STUDENTS HAVING A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL IN THEIR TEACHING ARTIST.



One popular CS LAB family engagement activity is the Sankofa Bird backpack activity, created by teaching artist Carina A. del Rosario. The activity centers on Sankofa, a mythological bird originating from Ghana that many African American groups have adopted for its cultural significance.

With its feet firmly planted forward and its head turned backwards, the Sankofa bird symbolizes the concept of going back for important things, including history and heritage, in order to move forward. Parents at Hazel Valley Elementary pick up the art backpacks at school and borrow them for the weekend to work on the activity with their families. Students and parents alike report enjoying the opportunity to spend time together making the birds using the instructions, beautiful fabric, colored wire, and bottle caps provided. ■