

arts  
CORPS

## 2023 YEAR END REPORT



4408 DELRIDGE WAY SW # 110  
SEATTLE, WA 98106

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 1351

## arts·corps (ärts kôr)

noun. NONPROFIT

1. A body of people revolutionizing arts education by igniting the creative power of young people through culturally engaging learning experiences.

2. A team of inspired arts educators working toward a world where barriers to arts education no longer exist and all young people can creatively lead the transformation of schools, neighborhoods, and beyond.

See also: Totem Star, Youth Speaks, and The Residency

3. Benefits: Arts Corps gives students important tools to process ideas, emotions, and experiences. This improves their ability to cope with difficult circumstances. Arts education serves as a conduit for communication, developing social-emotional and interpersonal skills. It strengthens connections, improving school engagement and promoting a sense of belonging. It helps boost confidence and reduce stress. Overall, arts education is necessary for the holistic health of the student and the community

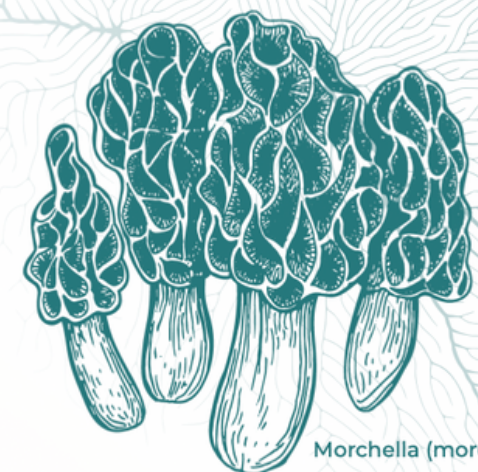
## my·ce·li·um (mī' sēlēəm)

noun. BOTANY

1. A network of fine white threads, or hyphae, composing the vegetative part of a fungus. It is formed as individual spores grow, branch, and (re)connect.

2. A key stage of the fungal life cycle. Often happening beneath the ground, cellular events in the mycelium stage are hidden from view and lead to the seemingly sudden appearance of their fruiting bodies, a mushroom.

3. Benefits: Mycelial networks break down raw materials in the soil, making their organic matter available for use in the ecosystem. These materials can include toxic substances, such as pesticides. It serves as a conduit for communication, allowing plants around it to send each other chemical messages and nutrients. It can connect entire forests, improving the odds of survival for trees that are part of the network. For humans, it is known to boost our immune system. Mycelium is necessary for the holistic health of the mushroom and the ecosystem.



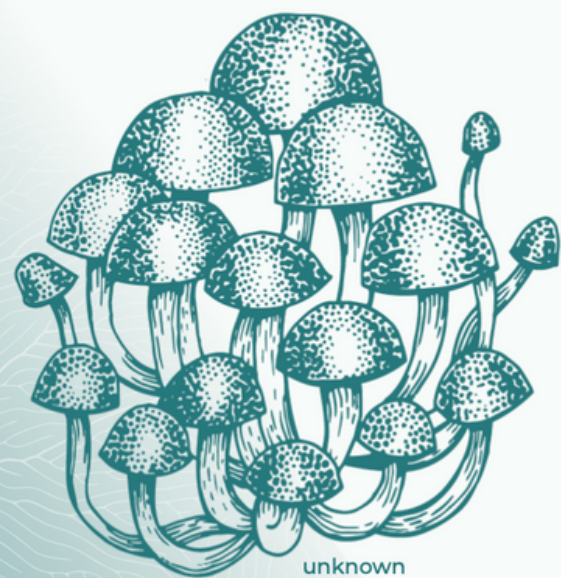
Morchella (morel)

*There are over 4,000 mushroom species in the Pacific Northwest. Best approximation of fungi genus in this report are provided as a starting point for further investigation. Fungi art by Lubov Illustrations.*



Can You Play With Me illustration by Samry.

# WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN



Just when we thought we were coming back strong after weathering the impact of the pandemic, Arts Corps faced one of the hardest years yet, along with many fellow arts and education organizations. Yet, we are still here. We're continuing to do what we do best—providing joy and upliftment to young people through the arts and leading the arts education revolution..

Our theme this year, *mycelium*, represents a captivating analogy for our work. Mycelium is the intricate, root-like structure of a fungal body. It comprises a rich network of hyphae that both nurtures and anchors a fruiting body, the mushroom.

Much like mycelium, Arts Corps is a vast network that includes teaching artists, colleagues, friends, families, and supporters spanning across our region and beyond. This expansive network serves as our anchor, reinforcing our mission and vision of igniting the creative power of young people through culturally engaging learning experiences and striving for a world where barriers to arts education no longer exist.

Together, we collectively act as the nurturing force that enables young artists to realize their full potential, ensuring a more vibrant and imaginative future for all. Our work is not accomplished in isolation; our community's support is evident at every level of Arts Corps. Just as mycelium sustains entire ecosystems, your contribution is an integral part of the life force that cultivates the artistic future and provides the fertile ground for young talents to flourish.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Tanisha Brandon-Felder, Board Chair 2022–2023

Shawn Roberts, Co-Executive Director of Education and Advocacy

Naho Shioya, Co-Executive Director



Tanisha Brandon-Felder



Shawn Roberts



Naho Shioya



**MAKE  
ART  
ANYWAY.**

Out of School interdisciplinary painting

# THE IMPACTS OF OUR PROGRAMS

We offer arts learning opportunities through our **OUT OF SCHOOL** program, placing teaching artists at partner sites for before- or after-school classes in specific art forms.

In our **CREATIVE SCHOOLS** program, we integrate arts into academic subjects during the school day through teaching artist residencies.



Students reported learning new art skills and techniques.



Students felt a sense of belonging in their Arts Corps class.



Students said they think of themselves as a more creative person.



Students felt they can express their ideas and feelings through art.



Students said they are more likely to try things, even if they might fail



Students felt they can unleash their imagination when creating art.

In our **TEEN PROGRAMS**, we focus on cultivating artistry, social justice analysis, and entrepreneurship. This includes Art 4 Life, a paid art internship aimed at providing equitable access to arts education career pathways. We also partner with Interagency Academy, a network of alternative high schools that cater to students needing different support than comprehensive schools offer. Arts Corps classes at Interagency help students develop social and emotional skills, resilience, and a sense of belonging through the arts.

“[The best thing was] that you showed us about the Philippines, because I’m Filipino, and I get happy when someone shows my culture!”

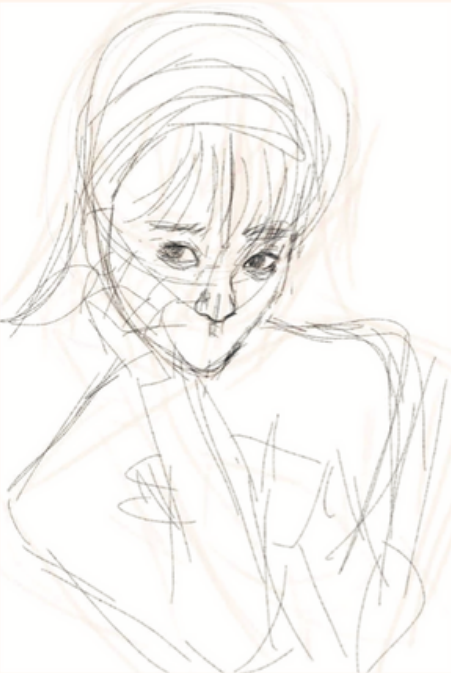
—CS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



Boletus (bolete)



unknown



Left to Right: *Outlaw* illustration by Kai; *Peffect Blue* by Cat; and Out of School end of quarter showcase, bamboo sticks photo by Grecia Leal.



**22**  
SCHOOL YEAR  
**23**

**2,153**  
Students  
Enrolled

**83%** Students of Color  
**69%** Participated in Free  
or Reduced Lunch Program

**22 Partner Sites**  
with 14 Schools; 6 Housing  
Communities; and Partnerships

**1,930 Hours**  
of Student and Teach-  
ing Artist Interaction

**116** Quarter-  
Long Classes

**67 Artists**  
Supported with  
Paid Internships

**21 Advocacy Activities**  
Including Participating in Legislative  
Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences

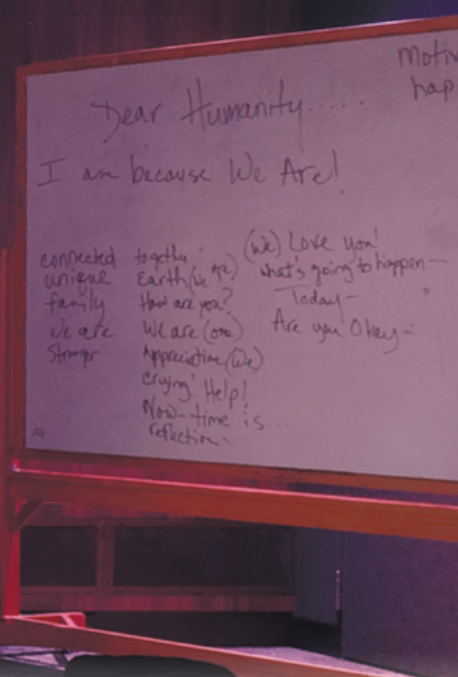
## NURTURING YOUTH TOWARDS A FLOURISHING FUTURE



Cantharellus (chanterelle)

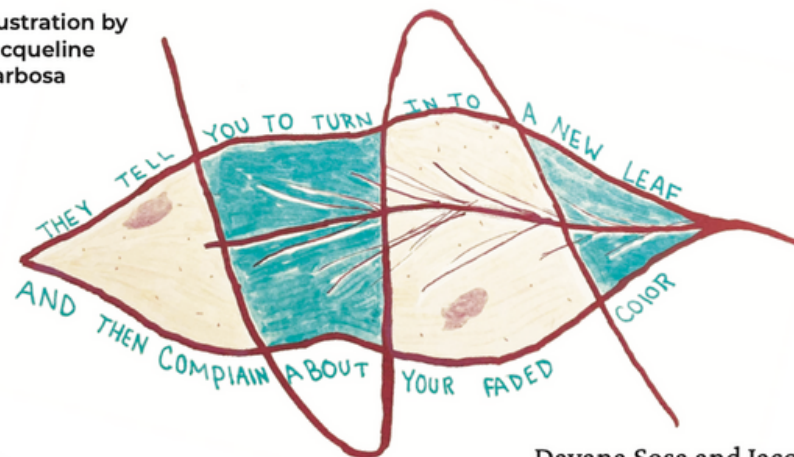


Art 4 Life interns during class at Octave 9.  
Photo by Adam Collet.



**STAFF LIST:** (\*Denotes a past position) Adam Collet, Staff Teaching Artist ♦ Alexa Strabuk, Communications Manager\* ♦ Carina A. del Rosario, Staff Teaching Artist ♦ Carrie Siahpush, Interim Executive Director\* ♦ Cecelia DeLeon, Program Manager\* ♦ Christa Mazzone Palmberg, Interim Development Director\* ♦ Courtney Elston, Database Manager\* ♦ Eris Eaton, Program Manager ♦ Grecia Leal Pardo, Development and Communications Coordinator ♦ Greg Thorton, Staff Teaching Artist ♦ Heleya de Barros, Co-Director of Arts Education\* ♦ Hillary Moore, Grants Manager\* ♦ Justin Yau-Luu, Program Operations Manager\* ♦ Maria Guillen-Valdovinos, Staff Teaching Artist ♦ Meredith Arena, Staff Teaching Artist\* ♦ Naho Shioya, Co-Executive Director of Operations and Development ♦ Olisa Enrico, Co-Director of Arts Education\* ♦ Patrick Kang, Program Manager\* ♦ Rowan Lenihan, Director of Finance & Operations\* ♦ Sabrina Chacon-Barajas, Associate Director of Arts Education\* ♦ Saeko Keller, Bookkeeper ♦ Shawn Roberts, Co-Executive Director of Education and Advocacy ♦ Sumayya E. Diop, Teaching Artist Coordinator\* **TEACHING FACULTY:** Adam Collet ♦ Aishé Keita ♦ Arielle A. Labra Campos ♦ Brian Dang ♦ Carina A. del Rosario ♦ Caxambu Silverman ♦ Cecelia DeLeon ♦ Divya Rajan ♦ Erica Merritt ♦ Eris Eaton ♦ Greg Thornton ♦ Heleya de Barros ♦ Julia Carp ♦ Jullian Rocha ♦ Maria Luisa Guillen-Valdovinos ♦ Maryem Weini ♦ Meredith Arena ♦ Monty Rozema ♦ Olisa Enrico ♦ Patrick Kang ♦ Sabrina Chacon-Barajas ♦ Silvio Dos Reis ♦ Sirichanh Sisavatdy ♦ Sorel Nica ♦ Sumayya E. Diop ♦ Taylor-Nicole Tinsley ♦ Vega Simone ♦ ZAG Awwad **BOARD LIST:** Adam Collet ♦ Donte Felder ♦ Erica Merritt ♦ Hilary Cherner ♦ Keenan Perry ♦ Kelly Rondou, Treasurer ♦ Kim Darcy ♦ Kris Evans Bien ♦ Mylen Huggins ♦ Sally Ketcham, Secretary ♦ Stone Gossard, Vice President ♦ Tanisha Brandon-Felder, President ♦

Illustration by  
Jacqueline  
Barbosa



## ART 4 LIFE: OUR SUMMER OF CREATIVITY

Dayana Sosa and Jacqueline Barbosa served as Art 4 Life interns last summer, where they delved into the world of professional art, experimenting with various mediums, collaborating on group and individual projects, and broadening their artistic horizons. Their internship concluded with a community showcase, where they presented the pieces reproduced here.

These two artworks not only showcased the talent and creativity of our young participants but also highlighted the power of connection. The nurturing environment during the internship, guided by Arts Corps teaching artists Adam Collet and Arielle Labra Campos, along with Timothy Firth, Robert Baxter, and Christine Tran from CAM, was instrumental in bringing these creations to life. This collaboration was made possible through our partnership with CAM, a gallery and generative studio founded by a group of artists.

Dayana and Jacqueline first learned about this program through our partnership with Interagency Academy, where they were both enrolled as students. Behind their artwork stands a network of connections, involving numerous individuals and organizations working in unison to bring the imagination of our youth to life. We are grateful to Dayana and Jacqueline for their participation in our program and for sharing their experiences with us.

**What made you take your first Arts Corps class at Interagency?**  
**What role did the arts have in your life before this?**

**DS:** I took the class because I wanted to create beautiful art and to better my skills. Before the class, I did art randomly whenever, just drawings and coloring, making models of stuff.

**JB:** My life has always involved art. I have a passion for painting. I took a leap into joining [the Interagency Arts Corps] class, to learn new ideas and meet other artists. Many people in my life aren't as interested in art as I am, so I'm very glad I got to collaborate with other students who have that same passion as me.

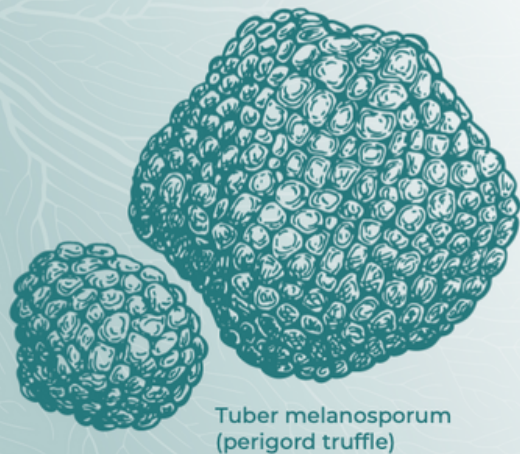
## Survey Says!

We asked the Arts 4 Life participants for feedback. Here's how our students responded:

**91%** are more likely to try new things after participating in the program

**91%** felt more connected to others in the class

**95%** learned new art skills and techniques



Tuber melanosporum  
(perigord truffle)

**Why did you decide to then participate in Art 4 Life?**

**DS:** It seemed fun!

**JB:** I signed up right away!! At school there weren't programs that I connected to, I was surprised that there was a program that I was very intrigued by.

**What has been a meaningful lesson in your journey as an artist?**

**DS:** I have learned that I can express myself in art.

**JB:** Never take anything seriously, have fun with what you're making.

**How has art connected to other parts of your life?**

**DS:** It has connected to my life by helping me express my feelings

and it has helped me appreciate life more.

**JB:** It has helped me understand my feelings, and [take] who I really am into what I make. I communicate this way!

**What is the impact of having art classes and an art teacher, as opposed to just doing art on your own?**

**DS:** Having an art teacher and an art class is really helpful because a teacher could hold us accountable and give us interesting projects to work on.

**JB:** Having an art teacher to guide you is inspiring—everyone needs a little push sometimes—and working together makes everything so much easier and fun.

**What has been one of your favorite projects or pieces that you have worked on?**

**DS:** Probably building stuff or trying to sculpt.

**JB:** In Arts Corps, we learned how to use machines to print color into our drawing. It was very fascinating to see the whole process while doing our masterpiece.

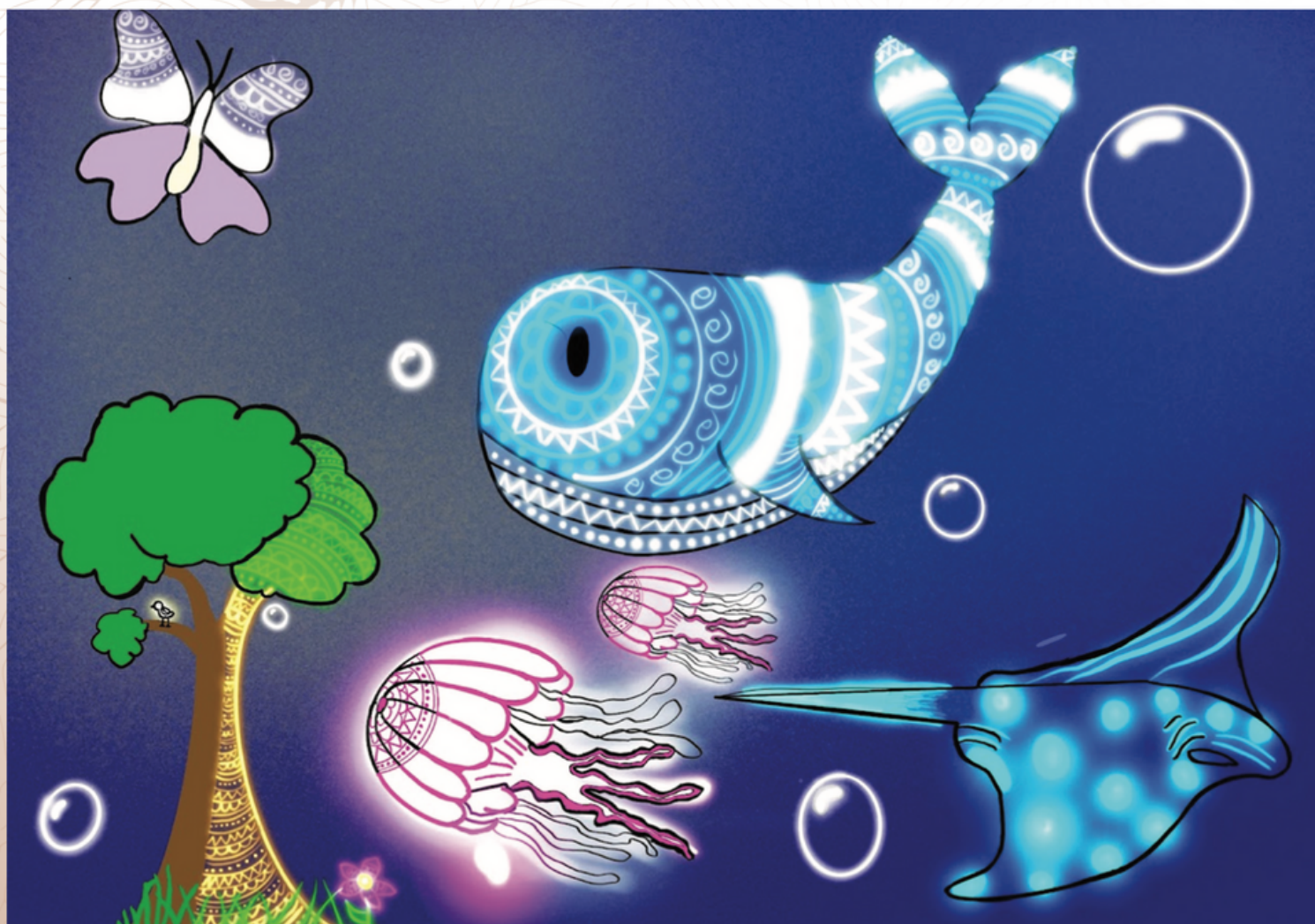
**What is a hope that you have for peer and future art students? Is there anything you would like to change or to continue?**

**DS:** I hope that students persevere and are creative.

**JB:** Never lose that spark you have for art, embrace it.



Illustration by  
Dayana Sosa



“There was a strong sense of community, everybody became closer and more comfortable with each other...The teachers facilitated a safe, fun, and helpful environment...”

—ART 4 LIFE STUDENT @OCTAVE 9

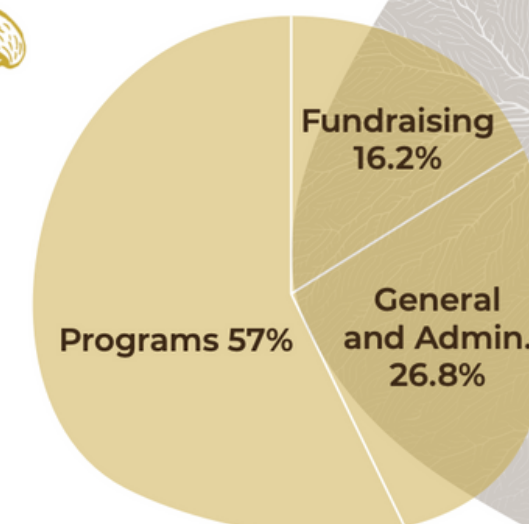
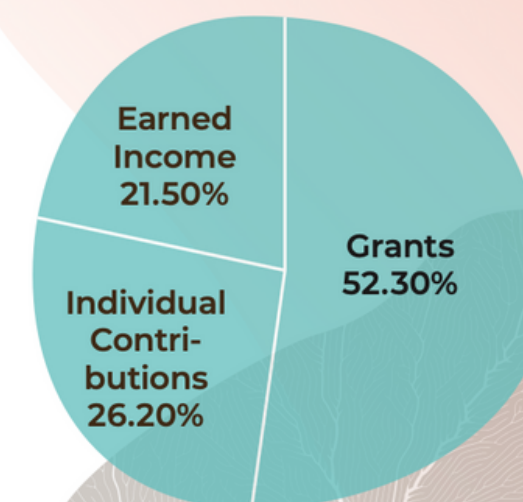
## FISCAL YEAR 2023

### REVENUE:

Grants 52%	\$705,410
Individual Contributions 26%	\$353,060
Earned Income 22%	\$289,866
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,348,336</b>

### EXPENDITURES:

Programs 57%	\$922,838
Fundraising 16%	\$261,291
General/Administrative 27%	\$433,652
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,617,781</b>



LEARN MORE

