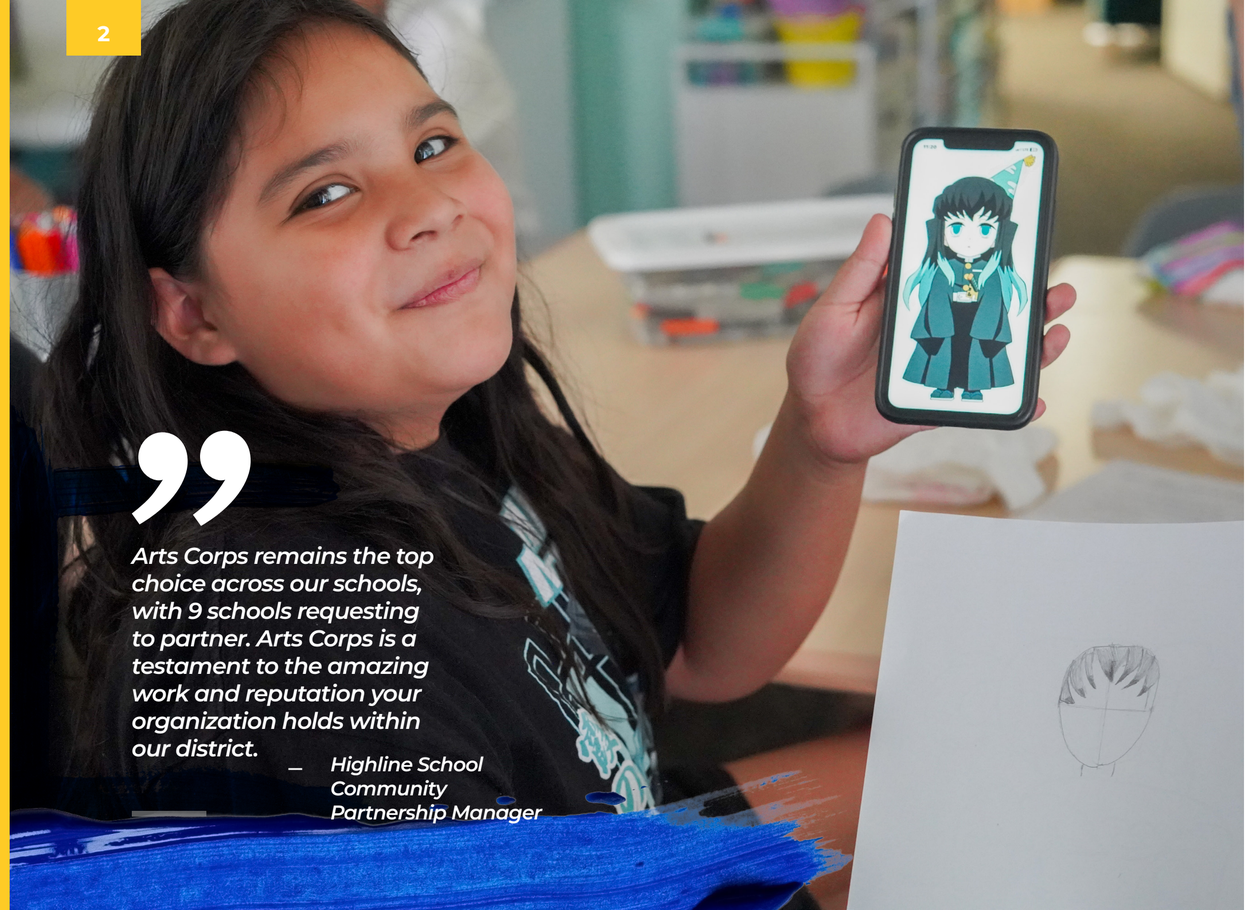
WHERE ART LEADS



PATHWAYS TO BELONGING, EXPRESSION AND OPPORTUNITY

arts CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026



Arts Corps remains the top choice across our schools, with 9 schools requesting to partner. Arts Corps is a testament to the amazing work and reputation your organization holds within our district.

— *Highline School Community Partnership Manager*

CREATING NEW PATHS

We find our way forward through what we create.

Looking back on this year, we keep thinking about what young people take with them when an Arts Corps class ends. There's the work they've made, and there's what making it has opened up: confidence in an idea and in themselves, a way to express something difficult, or a possibility for their future they hadn't considered before.

With your generous support this year, our teaching artists made room for experimentation, patience and joy, helping young people recognize and create new opportunities.

Max, an Art 4 Life intern, told us about finding renewed motivation to create during our summer zine-making program. Sharing their writing with teaching artists helped them recognize the strength of their own voice. They hope to become a therapist who uses art to help teenagers express difficult emotions. Their story connects what happens in an arts program with how a young person hopes to contribute to the world.

This is where new potential begins to open: in a young person's growing belief that they can shape what comes next. What they discover in an art class can travel with them into a science lab, a community meeting, a relationship or a decision about their future. The world becomes a place they can help create. That freedom to imagine and act is part of the complete education every young person deserves.

Making that possible means paying attention to who has access. We remain committed to **addressing inequities in arts education** and working with schools, families and community partners to remove barriers to participation. Every young person deserves the chance to discover what paths creativity can open in their life with adults who recognize their strengths and make room for them to find their own way.

To our donors, funders, families and community partners, thank you. Your contributions of time, resources and care help keep these pathways open. Your support sustains the creative spaces and relationships that help young people see a way forward and feel supported enough to take it. Alongside our staff, board and teaching artists, you make it possible for Arts Corps to sustain this work and reach toward new possibilities.

Together, we help young people find their footing, trust their direction and carry what they discover here into a world they will help shape.

With gratitude,



Shawn Roberts
Executive Director

ALONG THE WAY

Highlights across 2025 - 2026 Arts Corps programming.

A MURAL MADE TOGETHER: INTERAGENCY

This spring, students in our Interagency program created a mural at the University District Youth Center. Young artists worked together to imagine, design and paint a shared piece, making creative decisions as a group and contributing their work to a community space.

YOUTH ART ON THE MOVE

Our partnership with Sound Transit brought in 150 entries for the Youth Safety Poster Design Competition, all exhibited at Union Station on May 7. Three winning artists were compensated for designs selected for display on the 1 and 2 Lines, bringing young people's ideas about community safety to a public audience.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AT THRIVE

Our community came together on April 25 for Thrive, celebrating 25 years of Arts Corps and raising more than $145,000 to support arts education. Former student and current intern Amira shared her Arts Corps experience during an evening of performances, connection and celebration.

STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN SHOW

Students in Teaching Artist Gin's theater class wrote, designed and rehearsed a series of scenes, with everyone contributing as an actor or production crew member. They invited families to their final performance, taking responsibility for everything from costumes to cues and experiencing the excitement of bringing a show to life together.

ART LEARNING THAT EARNS SCHOOL CREDIT

Through Print 4 Life, students could receive Career and Technical Education credit for time spent learning and making art. Coordinating with school partners connects creative learning with students' progress toward graduation, giving them another way to move forward in their education.





MY FAVORITE PART OF THE [ARTS CORPS] CULTURE IS HOW CLOSE EVERYONE IS TO EACH OTHER.

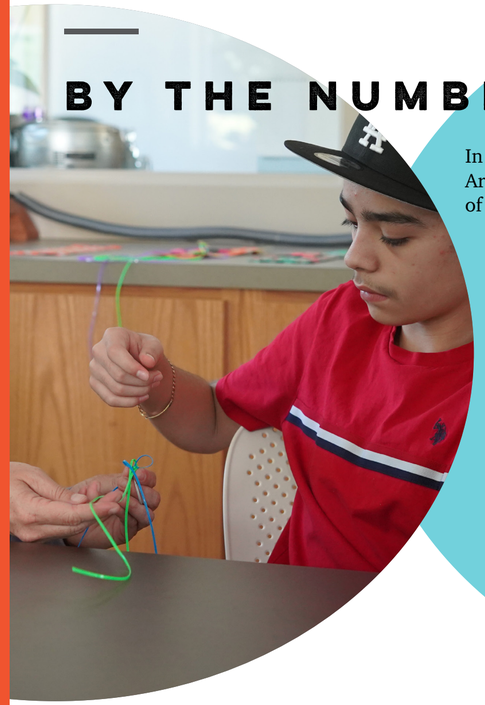
- AMIRA, ARTS CORPS INTERN











BY THE NUMBERS

In 2025–2026, young people created, learned and connected through Arts Corps programs across our region. These numbers reflect the reach of that work and the people who helped make it possible.

12,800
TEACHING ARTIST & STUDENT INTERACTION HOURS
Time spent learning, creating and connecting together.

1,819
STUDENT ENROLLMENTS
Total participation across Arts Corps programs.

1,569.5
PROGRAM HOURS
Time devoted to sustained arts learning.

102 QUARTER-LONG RESIDENCIES

27 PROGRAM SITES

19 PROGRAM PARTNERS

10 COMMUNITY EVENTS

82 THEATRE TICKETS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS FIVE SHOWS



ART 4 LIFE EXPANSION

WHEN THE PARTNERSHIP BECOMES THE STAGE

This summer, we expanded our partnership with Amara to bring a new experience to Art 4 Life. Together with Rain City Rock Camp, we welcomed youth into two weeks of music, printmaking and performance that took them from learning instruments to taking the stage with original songs of their own.

Our work with Amara, which supports children and families involved in foster care or at risk of becoming involved, continued from arts programming during the school year into this summer collaboration. Rain City Rock Camp brought music education and gender-responsive programming that helps youth explore identity and build community. By combining our areas of expertise, we could offer young people more ways to create and connect than any of us could provide alone.

FOR YOUTH NAVIGATING ATTACHMENT AND INSTABILITY, CONSISTENCY MATTERS. SHOWING UP IS PART OF THE PROGRAM.

Jéhan Òsanyin, Director of Arts Education, Arts Corps

Participants formed two bands, Killdeer and The Drift, and got to work learning instruments (some for the very first time), writing songs and rehearsing together. They were learning to play while creating the music they would perform. Every new skill became something they could contribute to the band, and each rehearsal brought their songs closer to the stage.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT THIS SCHOOL YEAR AND CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

Korrena Cooper-Poe, Youth Development Program Manager, Amara

The bands developed a *look* of their own too. Through printmaking, youth designed album covers and T-shirts, then stepped in front of the camera for a band photo shoot. They had a hand in how their bands would sound, look and introduce themselves to an audience. At the final showcase at The Vera Project, those choices came together as Deerkill and The Drift performed their original songs.

For us, this collaboration shows what partnership can make possible when we bring our resources, relationships and teaching together. Young people who had never played an instrument finished camp with a band, an original song and a public performance behind them. They gained something real to carry into their next unfamiliar experience: the belief they can create something worth sharing. That opens up a whole new way to imagine what comes next.



FINDING A CREATIVE PATH

Art 4 Life gives young people paid opportunities to develop their creative practice alongside working artists and other youth. This summer's two-week internship at Common Area Maintenance brought printmaking, writing and bookmaking together in a shared magazine. Interns Song and Max reflect on creating alongside others, expressing what matters to them and imagining where their interests. might lead.

SONG

For Song, writing and fashion are ways to explore identity. The summer internship offered new tools and time to keep creating.

What has your Art 4 Life experience been like?

We've just been working with a bunch of different art forms, some that I've done before and some that I haven't. It's been really nice to learn about all these new things. Coming here has been the highlight of my summer—honestly, the highlight of my year so far.

What draws you to writing?

Writing is something that I'm very passionate about. Whether it's poetry or short story writing or just journaling, I have always really loved doing that. It's a way for me to express the harder emotions when I'm sad or angry about something, or I feel like something's unfair. I just write about it.

How does fashion help you express yourself?

I've been wanting to be a fashion designer for a long time now and wanting to go to fashion school. I haven't really made a whole lot from scratch, but I am trying to get into that because I am very passionate about fashion. It's one of the biggest ways that I express myself through day-to-day life.

How do you see art in your future?

As long as I keep creating, I can get to a place that I want, even if I'm not super driven to do it right now. There's more time to continue discovering my passion and discovering the new things that I want to do with that.



AS LONG AS I KEEP CREATING, I CAN GET TO A PLACE THAT I WANT.



MAX

A recent graduate of The Center School, Max found renewed motivation to make art during the internship and described a future helping teenagers through creative expression.

What has your Art for Life experience been like?

It's been going really good for me. Really good to get back into art. I feel like there's a lot of times where I stopped doing it and feel unmotivated to sit down with a pencil and draw. I really liked making our little signature booklets and being able to decorate them. That's been my favorite thing.

What did you choose to make your magazine page about?

First it was going to be something related to a very heavy topic. Then I decided that I didn't want to do that and decided to focus it on my favorite animal: horses. My dream horse is a blue roan. His name is Cactus, and he's a good boy. I've had this dream for quite a long time.

How do you see art in your future?

I would like to write a memoir and get it published out into the world. Writing is a very, very huge part of me. I hope to make a lot of art related to mental health. I want to help teenagers. I want to be a therapist, incorporating art through therapy with teenagers because I feel like it's a really good way to express your emotions and get really tough topics through.

What would you say to someone who feels unsure about making art?

Just sitting down and doing whatever you want with no boundaries on anything and thinking, "I have the freedom to do this," is something that I find very powerful. It doesn't have to be anything spectacular. If you make it and you're happy with it, then that's what matters.



IF YOU MAKE IT AND YOU'RE HAPPY WITH IT, THEN THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.



SOMETHING BIGGER TOGETHER

A LOOK INSIDE NEW FUTURES WITH TEACHING ARTIST ALYZA DELPAN-MONLEY.

Old clothing took on new life in teaching artist Alyza DelPan-Monley's summer session at Woodridge. Students used recycled cardboard boxes as looms, drawing strips of fabric over and under one another until their weavings took shape. Soft floral prints nestled against bold stripes, with rich hues and varied textures running through. But when the weaving was finished, one student wasn't happy with what he had made.

With Alyza's help, the group then decided to begin connecting their individual pieces. They introduced a sewing stitch that built on the over-and-under movement they had already practiced. **Separate edges became places to join.**

Alyza had been working with the Woodridge group for a year through New Futures, which brings our arts programming into affordable housing communities alongside Southwest Youth & Family Services and Geeking Out Kids of Color. Their work with the youth ranged from theater, dance and movement to hands-on visual art.

Their teaching moved between small, precise actions and big, expansive thinking. Working with their fingers and hands, youth practiced detailed techniques. Through storytelling, performance and movement, they could bring their whole bodies into the creative process.

"They get to imagine, come up with stories," Alyza said. "They get to move their bodies and think."

For the weaving activities, Alyza began teaching with paper so students could learn the patterns. They moved to plastic lanyards and made keychains before turning strips from old garments into yarn. Each material gave students another way to explore the same idea and discover what their hands could do.

"That skill can translate and expand," they explained.

Alyza offered enough structure for students to begin, with room for the work to become something unexpected.

"So we give people containers and prompts, and then they get to think more imaginatively."

By the end, hands reached in from around the table to rest on the connected finished weaving. Each individual piece was still visible, but being visually contextualized in the group tapestry made them all feel different. Less vulnerable.

For the student who hadn't liked his piece, seeing it as part of their shared work brought a new excitement about what he had made. His work helped transform theirs, and theirs helped him see the value in his own.

What began as disappointment had become a reason to keep creating— together.



MOVING THE WORK: OUR TEAM

Our teaching artists, staff and board brought their experience and commitment to this work throughout the year. In classrooms, alongside community partners and behind the scenes, their care helped create the conditions for young people to explore what matters to them and take their ideas seriously.

STAFF

SHAWN ROBERTS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JÉHAN ÒSANYÌN – DIRECTOR OF ARTS EDUCATION
ADAM COLLET – PROGRAM MANAGER; STAFF TEACHING ARTIST
ADRIENNE PIERCE – DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
ANGELA MOORER – MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
CECELIA DELEON – PROGRAM MANAGER; STAFF TEACHING ARTIST
ERIS EATON – PROGRAM MANAGER
GREG THORNTON – BOARD MEMBER; STAFF TEACHING ARTIST
MARIA LUISA GUILLEN-VALDOVINOS – STAFF TEACHING ARTIST
SHREYA SINGH – FINANCE MANAGER
TAYLOR TINSLEY – GRANTS MANAGER, TEACHING ARTIST

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LAURA GARCIA
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TEACHING ARTISTS

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ADRI TAPIA-GOMEZ
AISHE KEITA
ALYZA DELPAN-MONLEY
ANA MARÍA CAMPOY
ARI WHIDBEY
ASH NIEVES
ATTICUS SWEAT
CAXAMBU
CHAYA KEEFE
CHLOE ROBLES
DALISHA PHILLIPS
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GIN HAMMOND
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ISABELLE BUSHUE
MARYEM WEINI
SHAKIAH DANIELSON
SOFIA LERCHER
TIANNA EDDY
VEGA SIMONE

SUSTAINING THE JOURNEY

Your support helps Arts Corps bring teaching artists and young people together, equip spaces for creative work and carry those opportunities into schools and communities. The financial overview below shows the resources entrusted to Arts Corps and how they supported our work this year.

REVENUE

GRANTS: (61%) $680,119.87
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS: (20%) $224,284.05
EARNED INCOME: (19%) $203,437.47

TOTAL REVENUE: $1,107,841.39

EXPENDITURES

PROGRAMS: (59%) $912,404.12
FUNDRAISING: (20%) $302,808.12
GENERAL/ADMINISTRATIVE: (21%) $318,994.61

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: $1,534,206.85

We didn't meet our projected grants revenue target this year and have taken steps to improve the quality and volume of our grant applications. This is also a period of intensifying competition, as many social service, arts, and cultural organizations are competing more aggressively for grant dollars because federal funding cuts have left many organizations scrambling to make up lost revenue.

The bright spot in all of this is that our focus on individual giving is producing real results, and that's where you have come in. Thank you!

Thanks to a sustaining grant from the McKenzie Scott Yield Giving in 2024, we have the flexibility to continue growing smartly into our future. Our enrollment numbers are up, and our programming continues to grow. We are working hard to meet increasing demand for our services. We know that with your help, we will continue to support thousands of children in igniting their power within through the arts.



Support Arts Corps and help more young people carry what they discover through art into the lives they want to build.

GIVE TODAY AT ARTSCORPS.ORG/DONATE



CULTURE CLUB



AT ARTS CORPS, WE REVOLUTIONIZE EDUCATION BY IGNITING THE CREATIVE POWER OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

KEEP THAT CREATIVE POWER ALIVE AND BECOME PART OF OUR MONTHLY DONORS, THE CULTURE CLUB.

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