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, 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 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 and joy, helping young people envision and unlock new opportunities to discover who they can become.

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 should have access to the chance to explore the paths creativity can open.

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

Together, we help young people find their footing, trust their direction and carry what they learn along the way into a world they will help shape.

With gratitude,



Shawn Roberts
Executive Director

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

1,819
STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

102
QUARTER-LONG RESIDENCIES

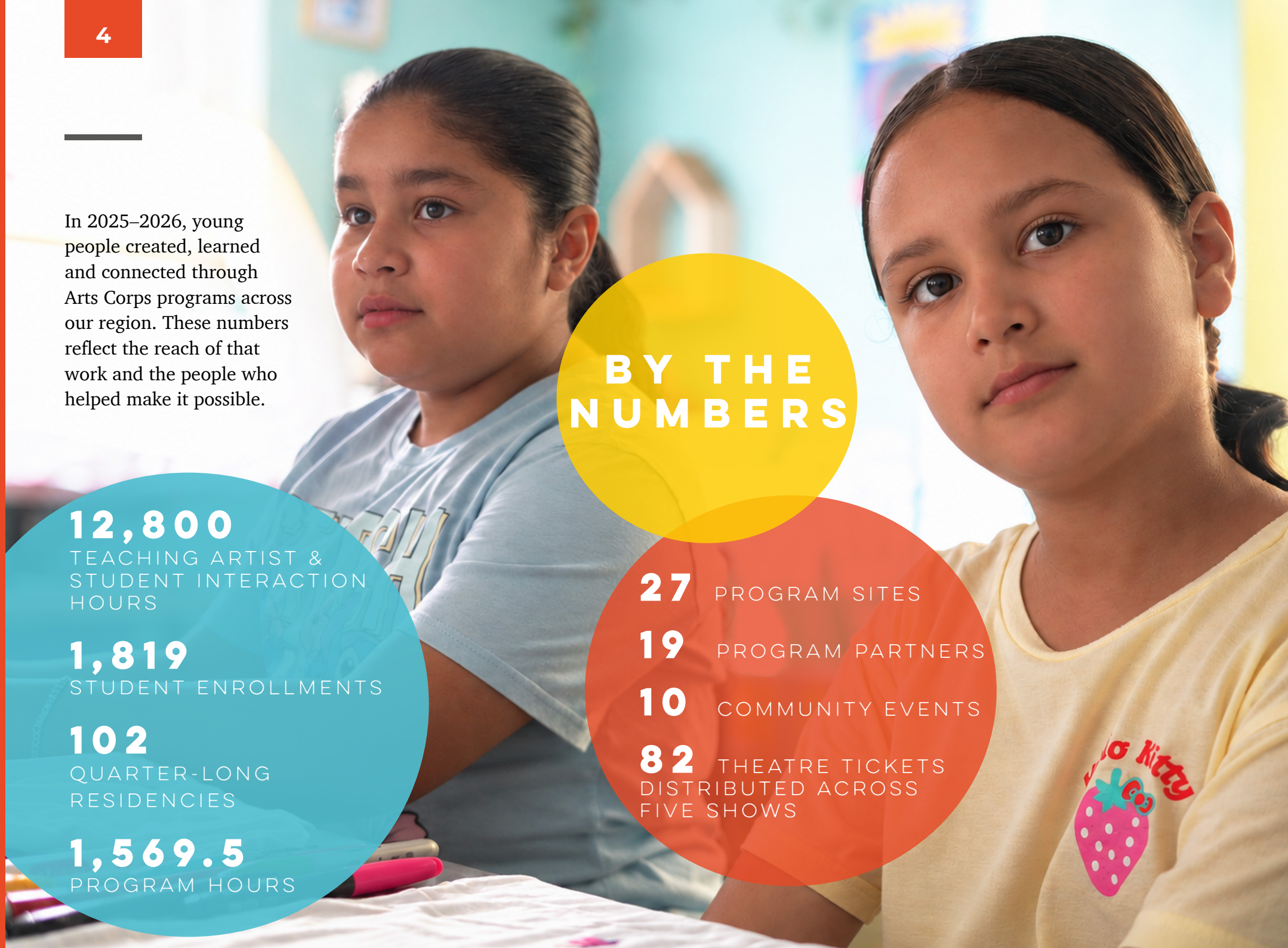
1,569.5
PROGRAM HOURS

27 PROGRAM SITES

19 PROGRAM PARTNERS

10 COMMUNITY EVENTS

82 THEATRE TICKETS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS FIVE SHOWS



FINDING A CREATIVE DIRECTION

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. Intern Song reflects 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 Art 4 Life summer internship offered her new tools and the freedom to keep shaping her artistic self.



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.

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

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.



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.

The collaboration built on arts programming we offered with Amara during the school year and on Amara's experience supporting children and families involved in foster care, or at risk of becoming involved. 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 gave the youth Amara serves access to skilled teaching artists and an accepting space to take creative risks.

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

— Jéhan Òsanyìn, 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). Over the next two weeks they wrote songs and rehearsed together, learning to play while creating the music they would later perform for family and friends.

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 not only developed a sound, they chose a *look* of their own too. Through printmaking, youth designed album covers and T-shirts, then stepped in front of the camera and directed their own band photo shoots. Their creative visions were unveiled during a final showcase at The Vera Project as the bands performed original songs and displayed their print work in a pop-up gallery.

For us at Arts Corps, 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 gaining something real to carry into their next unfamiliar experience: the confidence they can create something worth sharing. That opens up a whole new way to imagine what comes next.





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. 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 gathered on April 25 for Thrive, celebrating 25 years of Arts Corps and raising more than $145,000 to support arts education.

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 performance, experiencing the excitement of bringing a show to life together and taking responsibility for everything from costumes to cues.

ART LEARNING THAT EARNS SCHOOL CREDIT

Through Print 4 Life, students could receive Career & 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







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 Arts Corps summer session. Last July, youth learned to use recycled cardboard boxes as looms, drawing strips of reclaimed fabric over and under one another until their one-of-a-kind 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 decided to try connecting their individual weavings into one large group piece. They introduced a sewing stitch that built on the over-and-under movement the class had already practiced. Separate edges became places to join.

Alyza had been working with the Woodridge group for more than a year through New Futures, which brings Arts Corps programming into affordable housing communities alongside **Southwest Youth & Family Services** and **Geeking Out Kids of Color**.

Alyza's work with the youth ranged from theater, dance, and movement, to hands-on visual art. Throughout the year, their teaching explored small, precise actions contrasted with big, expansive thinking. Through both performance and tactile arts, youth were able to 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," Alyza explained. Their teaching offered enough structure for students to begin, with room for the work to become something unexpected.

By the end of the class, hands reached in from around the table to rest on the connected finished weaving.

For the student who hadn't liked his piece, seeing it as part of a 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 became 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 ignite their creative power.

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

BOARD

CHRISTIAN OLSON
GAIL SEHLHORST
GREG THORNTON
JARED MCCONNELL
JASON EHLENFELDT
MICHAEL HEPBURN
OLIVIA "LIV" THOMAS
SARA QUAN

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

ASHLEY SUAREZ
ELIZABETH RUIZ MARTINEZ
JACQUELINE BARBOSA
JEFFREY YOUNG
LAURA GARCIA
WEBB AKAMINE-ROGERS

TEACHING ARTISTS

ADELE LIM
ADRI TAPIA-GOMEZ
AISHE KEITA
ALYZA DELPAN-MONLEY
ANA MARÍA CAMPOY
ARI WHIDBEY
ASH NIEVES
ATTICUS SWEAT
CAXAMBU
CHAYA KEEFE
CHLOE ROBLES
DALISHA PHILLIPS
ERICA MERRITT
FILMON ADELEHEY
GIN HAMMOND
HEATHER HARRIS
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 pursuing grant dollars more aggressively in the wake of federal funding cuts.

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.

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE



MAKE ART
ANYWAY.

WWW.ARTSCORPS.ORG

@ARTSCORPS