



Arts for Learning 
The Indiana Affiliate of Young Audiences

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Arts for Learning empowers youth and expands their learning through creative arts experiences.

OUR VISION

Arts for Learning envisions a future where all youth have access to engage in creative arts experiences.

OUR VALUES

Arts for Learning values high-quality, participatory arts experiences that nurture creativity, build cultural understanding, and improve learning and life skills.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amandula Anderson
IFF

Kate Appel
Community Volunteer

H. Daphne Chiu
Citizens Water

Todd Clevenger
Hamilton County

Lawrence D. Hilton
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Tami Earnhart
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DKGR Architects

Bill Mahoney
Gregory & Appel

Allison Meta
Chubb Group of
Insurance Companies

Susan Gran Michal
Children’s Museum

Susan Oliver
Salesforce

Anne Surak
Art + Space

LaTonya M. Turner, PhD
Marian University

“While the world was knee-deep in the pandemic, Arts for Learning put together a month-long, outdoor multi-media exhibit at the East 10th Art Space titled “Cloud Vibrations”. This exhibit provided the Thomas Gregg School community and the residents of the near eastside an escape from the challenges brought on by the pandemic but more poignantly, it was an invitation to wonder.”

- Ploi Pagdalian
Senior Director of Programs

CLOUD VIBRATIONS

PP. 5-6

ARTISTS BUILDING COMMUNITY

PP. 7-8

“The ABC Fellowship empowered four artists to dig in and create programs for and with the places and space in which they are embedded, beginning to form the foundation for intentional relationships between Arts for Learning and the communities we serve.”

- Clockwork Janz
Director of Artist Programs

This year’s ArtForce exhibit at Kennedy King Visitor Center was a huge success. The students produced impressive and high quality artwork. You could tell they were incredibly passionate about this year’s theme of social justice and it showed in their work. Everyone involved including the Teaching Artists were proud of this group.

- Jennifer Collins
Director of Development

ARTFORCE

PP. 11-12



JOELLEN RETIRES

JoEllen Florio Rossebo announced her intention to retire as of June 30, 2021. In 1995, Rossebo began her journey with Arts for Learning, formerly Young Audiences of Indiana, as a Program Director. She took on the role of President & CEO in 2004. Throughout her 25 years of service to Arts for Learning, Rossebo expanded programming and community engagement reaching thousands of Indiana youth in 35 school districts and networks across 29 counties in the state. Under her leadership over 15 programs have been developed, some receiving national and local recognition.

Arts for Learning received Nuvo's 2000 Cultural Vision Award for our program *Arts Partner* and the 2008 Coming Up Taller Award from the President's Committee on Arts & Humanity for our program *Summer Arts for Youth*. *Summer Arts for Youth* later paved the way to establishing *Inspiring Scholars*, a summer program in partnership with Summer Advantage aimed at keeping youth academically engaged to reduce summer learning loss. Most recently, Rossebo led the implementation of Arts for Learning's most ambitious project to date, *third space*, an educational experience that temporarily disrupts the school environment through the installation of museum-quality works of art created by established local artists.

"During my tenure as President & CEO for Arts for Learning, I've been both proud and honored to serve for an organization that is steadfast in supporting its mission to empower youth through the arts...", said Rossebo. "Arts for Learning has weathered an ever-changing educational landscape, and the scars of long-term inequity but always rose to the occasion and persevered through these challenges. The foundation of our success is and always has been the strength and passion of our Board Members, Staff, and Teaching Artists."

The Arts for Learning board of directors have selected Anya Aslanova as the organization's next President. Aslanova brings over 20 years' experience working in arts administration and leadership, marketing, fundraising, and program development.



ALLISON VICTORIA



BEATRIZ VASQUEZ



SHERRY NORFOLK

NEW TEACHING ARTISTS

In March 2021, Arts for Learning welcomed three new teaching artists to our roster. These artists are the first to be virtually onboarded to our roster. Here is a look at their experience and artistry.

Allison Victoria is a singer, songwriter, emcee, and self-taught musician from Indianapolis. Her style ranges from soul, hip-hop, R&B, folk, gospel, pop, jazz, and more. She found her voice at a young age performing for her family before starting her professional career in 2016. Eventually, she found herself at the heart of her local music scene. Her mission is to be a voice for the people and spread love one song at a time.

Beatriz Vasquez is a visual ARTIVIST, whose work experiments with the conceptual use of Papel Picado, a Mexican Folk Art. With the manipulation of paper materials, she transforms layers of intricate cut paper into murals, wearable sculptures, and large scale installations. Her work focuses on her Mexican-American ancestry, cultural memory, border culture, and current social issues on immigration and human rights. In 2006, Vasquez received her BFA from Indiana University's Herron School of Art and Design. Beatriz is a recipient of the Arts Council of Indianapolis Creative Renewal Grant and the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award.

Sherry Norfolk is an award-winning storyteller, author and teaching artist from St. Louis, Missouri. As a performing artist, she is a dynamic storyteller, telling well-crafted and age-appropriate folktales from around the world. As a teaching artist, she uses storytelling as a strategy for teaching Pre-K and K-12 curriculum. Sherry is co-editor with Lyn Ford of *Storytelling Strategies for Reaching and Teaching Children with Special Needs*, and with Jane Stenson of *The Storytelling Classroom* series. A Kennedy Center Teaching Artist, a Wolf Trap Teaching Artist, and Adjunct Professor at Lesley University, Sherry is a recognized leader in integrating learning through storytelling.



Arts for Learning had the unique opportunity to reactivate its first Fresh StART project and a new community space through a grant received from the John Boner Neighborhood Center. Arts for Learning partnered with Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School to create Cloud Vibrations, a multi-sensory outdoor art exhibit at Re:Public, a Near Eastside Community Artspace. In the fall, Visual Artist Sofiya Inger and Musician Dianna Davis provided modified workshops to students at Thomas Gregg. Inger engaged youth with art kits and video instruction to create transparent windows (picture frames) decorated with images illustrating a family's positive, colorful view of the world during this pandemic. Davis provided an introduction video, followed by in-person recording sessions, compiling over 200 videos of individual students singing a note.

The collaborative art installation designed by Davis and Inger combined student artwork and sound recordings to create “vibrations” to build community and positive thoughts. Through the merging of real and virtual communication techniques, the artists composed a unique experience that captured the imaginative elements of clouds and vibrations. Cloud Vibrations was on display from December 19, 2020 to January 23, 2021. When Cloud Vibrations visitors approached the Re:Public building to view the collection of student artwork through the artspace windows, a motion sensor activated audio and video recordings from over 200 students singing individual notes on a video screen.



Close-up of windows created by the students.



Students singing music notes for the recording.



ABC FELLOWSHIP



This year, Arts for Learning partnered with 43 community organizations. Many of these opportunities emerged from our Artists Building Community (ABC) fellowship. ABC provided four teaching artists the opportunity to serve as arts ambassadors for the organization. The yearlong fellowship has a focus on a grassroots approach to foster sustainable, equitable, and interdependent relationships between Arts for Learning and new community partners.

The four fellows include Visual Artist Giselle Trujillo, Spoken Word Artist Manon Voice, Musician Mark Peay, and Storyteller Portia Jackson. The fellows are each focusing on a Marion County neighborhood based on their own community connections as well as communities where Arts for Learning is currently absent. These neighborhoods

include Haughville (Trujillo), Fountain Square (Voice), Riverside (Peay), and Center Township (Jackson). The artists completed the first half of their fellowships in June. Each one has started developing meaningful relationships, identifying new collaborations and ideas about ways in which programming can be implemented in their communities.

“This fellowship has energized me...I have a place where I can build out, helping to foster community conversations that we have had and will continue to have, building those relationships, and turning those into tangible connections with the community...the momentum is building.” - Mark Peay

The fellows are tasked with meeting monthly with the cohort to discuss their progress, sharing both successful and unsuccessful strategies. One highlighted outcome was Arts for Learning’s presence at Healthy Summer in Tarkington Park Kick-Off: Juneteenth Freedom Celebration. Fellow Portia Jackson collaborated on behalf of Arts for Learning as the sole entertainer for the celebration with Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association, Crown Hill Neighborhood Association, and seven other organizations. Teaching artists, Ronne Stone, Mark Peay, Portia Jackson, Manon Voice, and ensemble Sancocho performed at the event.



OUR IMPACT



76
School Partners



808
Programs



12,372
Youth Served



994
Virtual Participants

Individual Donors

\$2,500 and above

Anonymous
Kate and Dan Appel
Jim and Sara Lootens
Allision W. Meta
Bill and Carolyn Neale
N. Clay and Amy Robbins

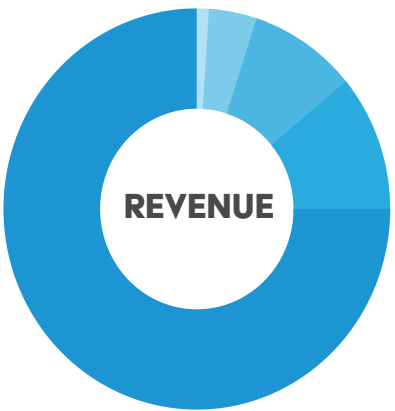
\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous
Sarah Barney
Tom and Dawn Bennett
Jim and Gwen Chesterfield
Todd E. Clevenger
Tami and Chris Earnhart
Earl Harris 15 Year Charitable Lead Annuity Trust
Leonard and Dorene Hoops
Dustin Mergott and Julia Clay
Don and Linda Neel
Susan and Jason Oliver
JoEllen Florio Rossebo
Cheryl and Jim Strain
Anne Surak
LaTonya M Turner
Jeff and Colleen Webster
James P. White

\$500 - \$999

Amandula Anderson
Bob and Tish Brafford
Audra Buckman
Lindsay Clark
David Chalfie and Mark Demerly
Denise Halford Holder
Jaclyn Head
Bill and Katie Mahoney
Kathy and John Sharpe
Mark and Kathie Swaim
Emily A. West
Lawrence Hilton
Thomas A. and Victoria Broadie
Michael and Susan Porter
Anson Keller

REVENUE & EXPENSES



- GRANTS - 75%
- PROGRAM REVENUE - 11%
- CORPORATE & INDIVIDUAL - 9%
- IN-KIND - 3%
- FUNDRAISING (EVENTS) - 1%



- PROGRAMS - 60%
- MARKETING & FUNDRAISING - 26%
- ADMINISTRATION - 14%

Roy and Mary Cage,
Young Audiences of
Indiana Endowment
Fund of Legacy Fund

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous
Bob and Pat Anker
Lisa and Larry Beiter
Suzanne B. Blakeman
James and Carol Campbell
Joan Fitzgibbon
Jim and Sally Friend
Kristi E. Helgen
Gretchen Kimball
Jackie and Jim Morris
Byron and Margaret Myers
Ralph G. Nowak
Jean Richcreek
Anne Scheele
Bill Scott

\$100-249

Donald and Carla Bennett
Dorothy Alig and Will Higgins
Thomas Benoist
Susan Berry
Don and Ginger Bievenour
Jane T. Bradford
Bryan Brenner
John and Catherine Bridge
Jeffrey and Deborah Christie
Melissa Churchwell
Bill Connor and Telene Edington
Ryan Crosbie
Fred and Joan Dennerline
Ella Eskenazi
Olivia Fiero
Paul W. Finnegan
Mary Ann and Morty Forseth
Joan and Bill Gardiner
Caress Garten
Erica Goldberg
Ed and Julie Goodman
Mary and Tom Grein
Joli and Matt Heavin
Linda Barb and David Hinshaw
David and Melli Hoppe



ARTFORCE

In June 2021, Arts for Learning held its 8th ArtForce summer apprenticeship program for teens. For this year's program, we teamed up with the Kennedy-King Memorial Initiative in developing community-focused projects around the theme of social justice. Teens drew inspiration from the goals of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights initiative, "Speak Truth to Power," and its desire to show students that art, words, and actions have intended and unintended power.

Lead instructor Mary Jo Bayliss guided the students in creating a series of cloth banner murals depicting silhouettes of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy inspired by the Greg R. Perry memorial sculpture "Landmarks for Peace" located in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

With Instructor Gary Gee, the students created two, four by eight-foot murals. The first mural features the images of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Daunte Wright, three faces of the racially motivated violence that occurred in early 2020. The mural was gifted to the MLK Center and will reside in their building concluding their renovations in January 2022. The second mural depicts a gathering of people as part of a peaceful protest. In addition to the murals, Gary led students in using spray paint to repurpose stadium light fixtures into their own individual artworks with impactful words and quotes.

With instructor Giselle Trujillo, the students created artworks from discarded materials. Students created a cityscape from recyclable plastic water jugs as well as "dream spaces" from discarded cigar boxes.

At the end of the 2-week program, teens exhibited their work to their family, friends, and community at the Kennedy-King Memorial Initiative visitor center, which is now home to several of the artworks and can be viewed by appointment only.

ArtForce was supported by Lilly Endowment, Inc, The Indianapolis Foundation, a Central Indiana Community Foundation, BMO Harris Bank, and Ivy Tech Community College.





RUN FOR THE SUN

This Spring, Arts for Learning held our first virtual 5K fundraiser, Run for the Sun. During the month of May, participants could run, walk or cycle to complete the 5K at any location of their choice or on a special 5K “Creative Course” mapped out by our staff. The Creative Course map began at the 16 Park Community Building and journeyed through Kennedy King Park, Fall Creek Place, and Herron-Morton neighborhoods. The course also featured sidewalk chalk art created by our staff and yard signs designed by teaching artists and members of our Teen Advisory Board. In addition to the Creative Course, participants could compete in a variety of challenges including the Social Media, Creative Costume, and the Stop-By Baby’s Restaurant Challenge for a chance to win prizes. Prizes included gift cards to BRICS, Baby’s Restaurant, and Guggman Haus Brewery. The event raised just over \$5,000 for the organization, making it a successful first-time event. Run for the Sun was sponsored by Glick Philanthropies, Lumina Foundation, Onyx + East, DkGr, Brainstorm Print, and Wormser legal.

Stephen and Susan Little, The Rose Incorporated
 Carole Longardner
 David and Carol Luhman
 Kelly Masoncup
 Kathleen McCain
 Mr. and Mrs. R.W. McCormick
 Steve and Deb McNear
 Justin Pearlman
 Christopher Petrelli
 Randy Rogers
 Mark and Nancy Ruschman
 Hans SerVaas
 Malcolm W. Smith and Heather McPherson
 Alan and Betty Stanford
 Anya Stucky
 AnneMarie Suarez-Davis
 Gary Thompson and Leigh Harris
 Mark and Ann Varnau
 Haley J. Wentzlof
 Mark and Sally Zelonis

Tribute Gifts

In Honor of JoEllen Florio Rossebo’s retirement from Arts for Learning

Mike and Claudia Alerding
 Anonymous
 Kate and Dan Appel
 Sarah Barney
 Amanda Belcher
 Thomas A. and Victoria Broadie
 Jim and Gwen Chesterfield
 Minette Cooper
 Mary Ann and Morty Forseth
 Dorothy Alig and Will Higgins
 Gretchen Kimball
 Carole Longardner
 Jim and Sara Lootens
 JoEllen Florio Rossebo
 Cheryl and Jim Strain
 Bret and Mary Lou Waller
 James P. White



REMIX



In April, Arts for Learning’s StART Young Professional’s Board hosted their third installment of ReMix at Black Circle Brewing. During this event, attendees received a reclaimed thrift store paint and access to art supplies to “remix” their painting into their own unique masterpiece. Attendees had 2 hours to transform their painting for a chance to win prizes in a host of categories including Creative, Most Transformed, and Crowd Favorite. The event sold out and helped raise over \$450 for the organization.

In Honor of Susan May

Jessie Dias

In Honor of Phil Golobish

Mary Fatout Proctor

In Honor of Tami Silverman of the Indiana Youth Institute

Jackie and Jim Morris

In Honor of Josh Pedde of the Indianapolis Children’s Choir

Jackie and Jim Morris

In Honor of Cheryl Strain

Anne Scheele

In Honor of Sara Clark Lootens

Lindsay Clark

Matching Gift Companies

Chubb & Son Insurance Company
 Eli Lilly and Company Foundation
 Jamie Merisotis Lumina Foundation for Education
 Strava Education Network

Corporate & Foundation Donors

\$50,000 to \$200,000

Allen Whitehill
 Clowes Charitable Foundation
 Arts Council of Indianapolis
 Lilly Endowment Inc.



START BOARD

StART, Arts for Learning’s young professional board, was formed in 2014. It is currently comprised of 10 young professionals from diverse professional backgrounds. Their mission is to raise funds and awareness for Arts for Learning by planning special events and serving as ambassadors of the organization in the community.

StART plans and hosts many events throughout the year, such as Indy Pies & Pints and ReMix. These events raise funds to support Arts for Learning’s programs and build connections within the community. Indy pies & Pints celebrated it’s fifth anniversary in 2020 and has grown to be Arts for Learning’s largest annual fundraiser.

StART promotes the mission of Arts for Learning by raising awareness about arts in education in the young professional community. Members share the importance of the arts and how Arts for Learning is improving education in Indiana.

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Christel DeHaan Family Foundation
Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency
Arts Council of Indianapolis

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Arts Council of Indianapolis
The Glick Fund
John H Boner Community Center

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation
Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc.

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Arthur Jordan Foundation
BIGS Venture Philanthropy
The Brave Heart Foundation
Carl Marshall Reeves and Mildred Almen Reeves Foundation
Downtown Optimist Foundation
The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Family Foundation
Glick Philanthropies
Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency
Jamie Merisotis Lumina Foundation for Education
Pacers Foundation, Inc.
Penrod Society

Up to \$999

Art Strategies LLC
DkGr Architects
The Indiana Youth Institute



TAAC

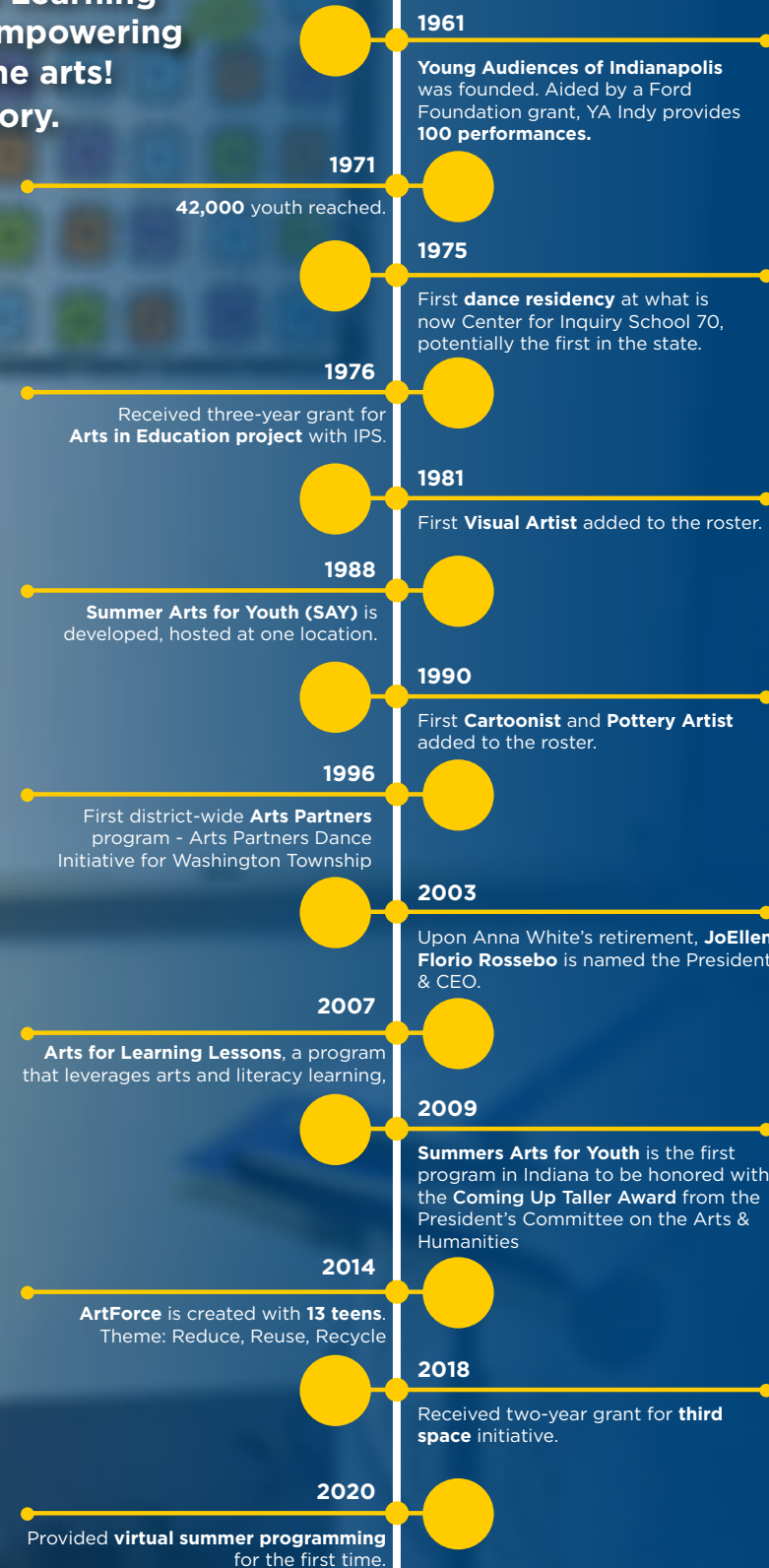
Arts for Learning’s Teaching Artist Advisory Committee (TAAC) was formed in 2018 to give teaching artists the opportunity to connect and tackle challenges they face as artists in the classroom. This year, TAAC met monthly to discuss ways to adapt their programs to work in the “new normal” caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, they helped organize our annual teaching artist gathering which took place at Garfield Park. The gathering provided an opportunity for many Teaching Artists to reconnect in-person since the first wave of the pandemic. Teaching Artists Melissa Gallant, Hank Fincken, and Giselle Trujilo led their peers in team-building activities.

“The intention was to share some work in a fun, low pressure environment, as a means of getting to know one another better,” said Director of Artist Programs Clockwork Janz.

In addition to planning the artist gathering, TAAC also helped to interview new Teaching Artists and offer feedback on new programs.

#AFLINTURNS60

Starting June 2021, Arts for Learning
will celebrate 60 years of empowering
youth in learning through the arts!
Take a look back at our history.





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