



Mexico Beyond Mariachi at the Secaucus Public Library
Photo by Werner Colman



Hua Hua Zhang teaches
Chinese Calligraphy

OUR MISSION

Inspire young people and
expand their learning
through the arts.

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244,521 children

395 schools

1,037 teachers

“Some things I discovered about myself was that I’m actually really good at photography and might pursue it in the future. I was inspired to explore my creativity. It made me see things in a different way.”
— *Harmony, 8th Grade Student, Broad Street School, Bridgeton, NJ, Cumberland County*

Creative Beginnings

We train teachers and work directly with our youngest learners to explore open-ended inquiry and hands-on art-making.



Bobby Beetcut performs at Anna Landoli Early Learning Center in Paterson
Photo by Michelle Marigliano



Freestyle Repertory
Theatre perform at
Borough Elementary
School in Morris Plains
Photo by Frank
Veronsky

Arts Impact Initiative

We partner with educators and funders to bring teaching artists to schools, giving many children their first chance to experience live performance and co-create art with a professional artist.

AIE

We partner with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to provide schools with 20 days of arts education programming including hands-on workshops, professional learning, and a school-wide culminating event.



Soul Steps performances at
Littlebrook Elementary School
in Princeton
Photo by Frank Veronsky

943 assembly programs

1,844 workshops & residencies

204 teacher professional learning sessions

“Making art is playing and laughing and are as vital to our survival as food, water, shelter.”
— *Anonymous APLI Feedback from the “Intentional Cultivation of Joy” workshop*

Arts Lab

We meet schools where they are willing and able to embrace arts learning by offering performances, workshops, multi-day residencies, teacher professional learning, and family arts events.



Laura Marchese teaches Dance to Learn at Silver Bay Elementary School in Toms River



Students at Seth Boyden Elementary School in Maplewood perform in a stepping show at a school-wide assembly

Arts United Highlights

Progress to further diversity, equity, inclusion, and access



Erik James Montgomery
teaches Light Painting at
Anna Landoli Early Learning
Center in Paterson
Photo by Michelle
Marigliano

Impact on Students

- **United We Discover** programming advanced Disability equity by providing 2,606 students with programs that promote positive perceptions of Disabled identities and modeled accessible arts-based teaching.
- **NEW OFFERINGS:** 12 teaching artists including 2 from the Narragansett Indian Tribe and 4 Spanish/English assemblies.

Organizational Accountability

- **Updated hiring practices** to improve accessibility for candidates. Initiated compensation practice for finalist candidates.

Communications

- At the **Creating Change 2023** conference, Michele Russo contributed to How We Got Started and How We Built Resilience: Initiating and Learning from DEI Work at Your Arts Organization.
- **YANJEP.org** analyzed for accessibility and received a 93% score.

Continuous Learning

- Our **Board/Staff/Artist retreat** included sessions on Universal Design for Learning and LGBTQ+ curriculum.



Learn more about our Arts United journey at <https://bit.ly/ArtsUnited-YA>

27% growth in giving

489 new donors

\$1,288,761 in wages to 185 artists

“Andres and Christina brought the most amazing performance to our students! In my 25 years teaching music, 123 Andres! is the best assembly my school has hosted! They were so energetic, engaging, and amazingly talented!”

— *Principal, Slackwood Elementary School,
Lawrence Township*

50th Anniversary Campaign

Grow Impact | Support Artists | Innovate Programs | 50 more years!

\$150,000 - \$500,000

The George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The Roll Family Foundation

\$50,000 - \$149,000

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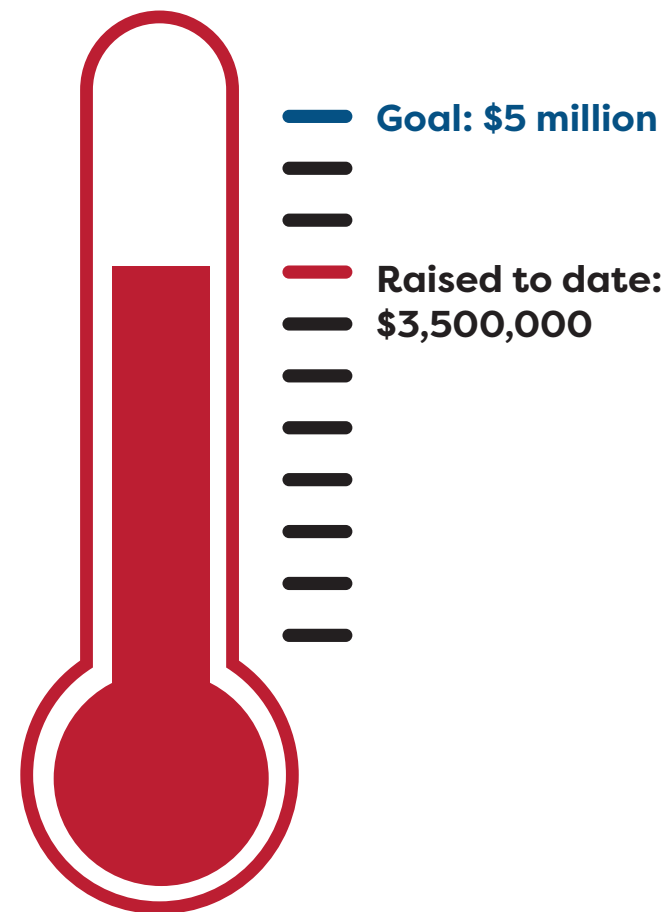
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“YA is serving young people who will be the next creators, thinkers, and leaders. Through the arts, they are seeing possibilities and dreaming big.”
-Belinda Roll, former trustee and campaign donor

Dazzle

Dazzle Mad Hot Ballroom returned in 2023! Thanks to courageous dancers Dr. Pam Pruitt, Cindy Carson, Porché Hardy, and disco ball trophy winner Joe Fruscione. It was a fabulous return and together we raised over \$200,000!



Irvin Zavala Verdugo, Porché Hardy, Alex Isaiev, Cindy Carson, Tara Fanzo, Joe Fruscione, Linda Kinsey, Barbara Coe, Dr. Pam Pruitt, and Will Britt
All photos by Erik James Montgomery

Arthur Factor Arts Champion Award recognized The Roll Family Foundation for their extraordinary support!



Ferrill and Belinda Roll with Michele Russo



Porché Hardy and Irvin Zavala Verdugo



Joe Fruscione and Tara Fanzo



Dr. Pam Pruitt and Will Britt



Cindy Carson and Alex Isaiev

Thank you to our donors

\$100,000 AND UP

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Established in 2009, in honor of Marilyn W. Grounds, founders and members are major donors to the Annual Fund.

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Recognizes those whose estate and life income gifts will provide future support.

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* we remember



Janice Gross, Michele Russo, Barbara Coe,
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Photo by Erik James Montgomery

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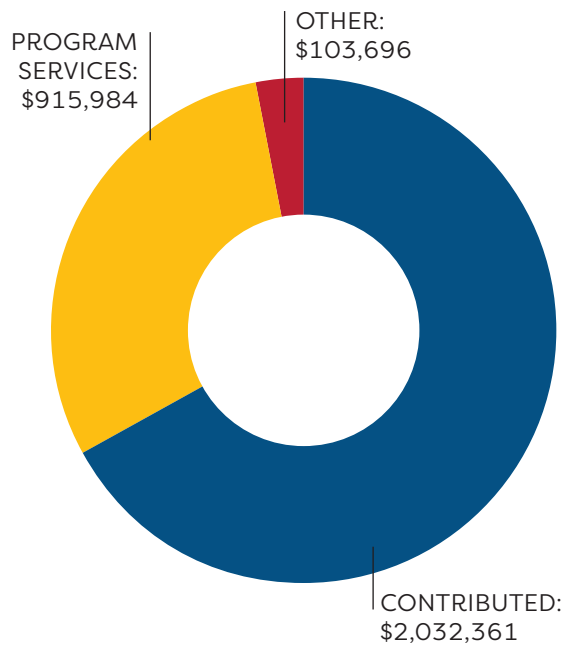
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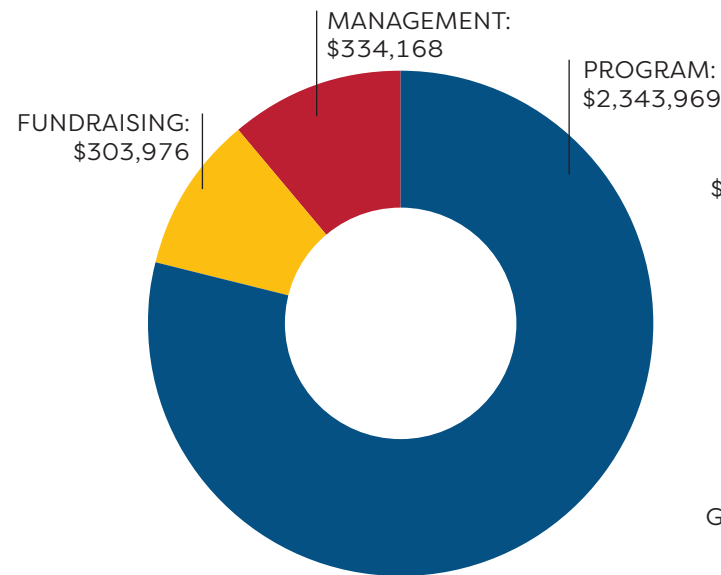
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INCOME



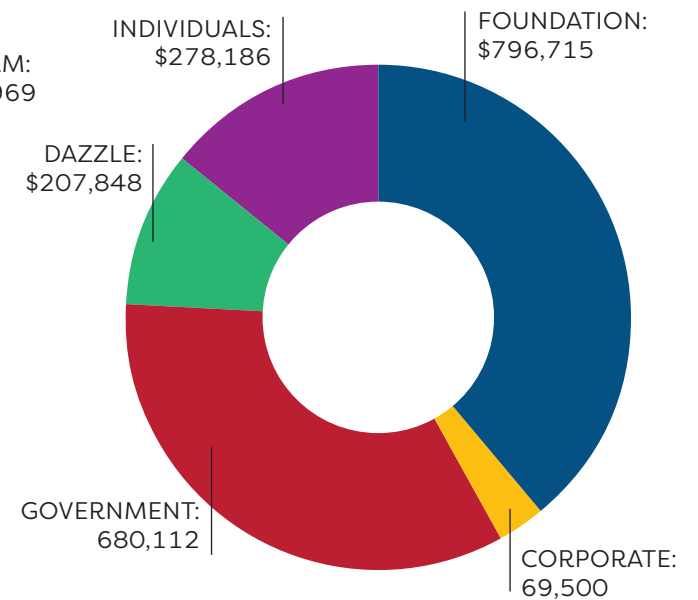
TOTAL: \$3,052,041

EXPENSE



TOTAL: \$2,982,113

CONTRIBUTED INCOME



TOTAL: \$2,032,361



Teacher participates in sculpting professional development workshop
Photo by Michelle Marigliano

Students from Hopewell Elementary School showcase their paintings inspired by poetry and nature
Photo courtesy Hopewell Elementary School



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