

2023-2024

Impact Report



EVERY CHILD DESERVES THE
TRANSFORMATIONAL SPARK THE ARTS IGNITE



An Affiliate of Young Audiences Arts for Learning

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA). Joining this incredible organization fills me with a deep sense of purpose and excitement as we continue our mission to empower young people through the arts. At KCYA, we believe in the transformative power of creativity, expression, and learning. Each day, I am inspired by the resilience, imagination, and potential of the young people we serve, and I am excited to lead an organization that champions their growth and development.

As I step into this role, I am acutely aware of the strong foundation laid by those who came before me, from our passionate staff and dedicated board members to our generous donors and community partners. It is because of your steadfast support that KCYA has flourished as a beacon of hope and opportunity for so many young people, especially those from underserved communities. You have helped us create a nurturing environment where students can explore their talents, gain confidence, and envision brighter futures.

This past year, thanks to your generosity, we have made remarkable strides. We expanded our programs, reaching more young people through arts education and creative workshops. Our initiatives spanned a wide range of disciplines, from visual arts and theater to dance and music. We've seen firsthand how these programs not only develop artistic skills but also foster critical life skills, including resilience, collaboration, and self-expression. For many of our young participants, the arts provide a safe and empowering outlet, helping them navigate life's challenges and build a strong sense of identity.

In this year's annual report, you'll not only read about the impact of your support, you'll see it in the joy on the faces of the students you helped impact. You'll hear from teachers who felt the impact in their classrooms. Countless lives have been touched through your commitment to our work.

Looking ahead, I am committed to building on these successes and exploring new ways to broaden our impact. With your help, we will continue to advocate for arts education as a vital component of youth development. We know that the arts are not a luxury—they are essential. They inspire curiosity, build empathy, and equip young people with the tools to face the world with confidence and creativity. In the coming year, we will focus on expanding access, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing the quality of our programs to ensure that every young person who walks through our doors feels seen, supported, and empowered.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity and dedication of donors like you. Your support has been the driving force behind our ability to bring the arts to life for so many young people. In a time when many communities are facing challenges and resources for youth programs are scarce, your belief in our mission is more important than ever. On behalf of our entire organization, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for standing with us and believing in the transformative power of the arts.

As we move forward, I invite you to join us in this journey, whether by attending an event, volunteering, or simply sharing our story with others. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people and inspire the next generation of artists, thinkers, and leaders.

Thank you for your trust, your generosity, and your commitment to our mission. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and working together to shape a future filled with creativity, opportunity, and hope.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Montgomery
Executive Director
Kansas City Young Audiences



OUR MISSION



The mission of Kansas City Young Audiences is to engage all youth in the arts, promote creativity, and inspire success in education.

KCYA is dedicated to providing high-quality arts education for youth in Kansas City, Western Missouri, and Eastern Kansas. Our arts programs allow students to express themselves artistically, foster creativity and innovation, and build essential problem-solving skills that enhance their overall learning. We believe in the power of arts-integrated education and that all children deserve equal access to these transformative experiences.

For over 60 years, KCYA arts programs have helped more than 6 million children cultivate artistic expression – unleashing ideas, creativity, and individual problem-solving skills that enhance learning in the Arts, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Language Arts and Social Studies.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

We believe in the power of arts-integrated education and that all children deserve equal access to these transformative experiences.

55,590

Pre-K – 12 youth
served

1,235

Students attended the Community School of
the Arts for classes and summer camps

76%

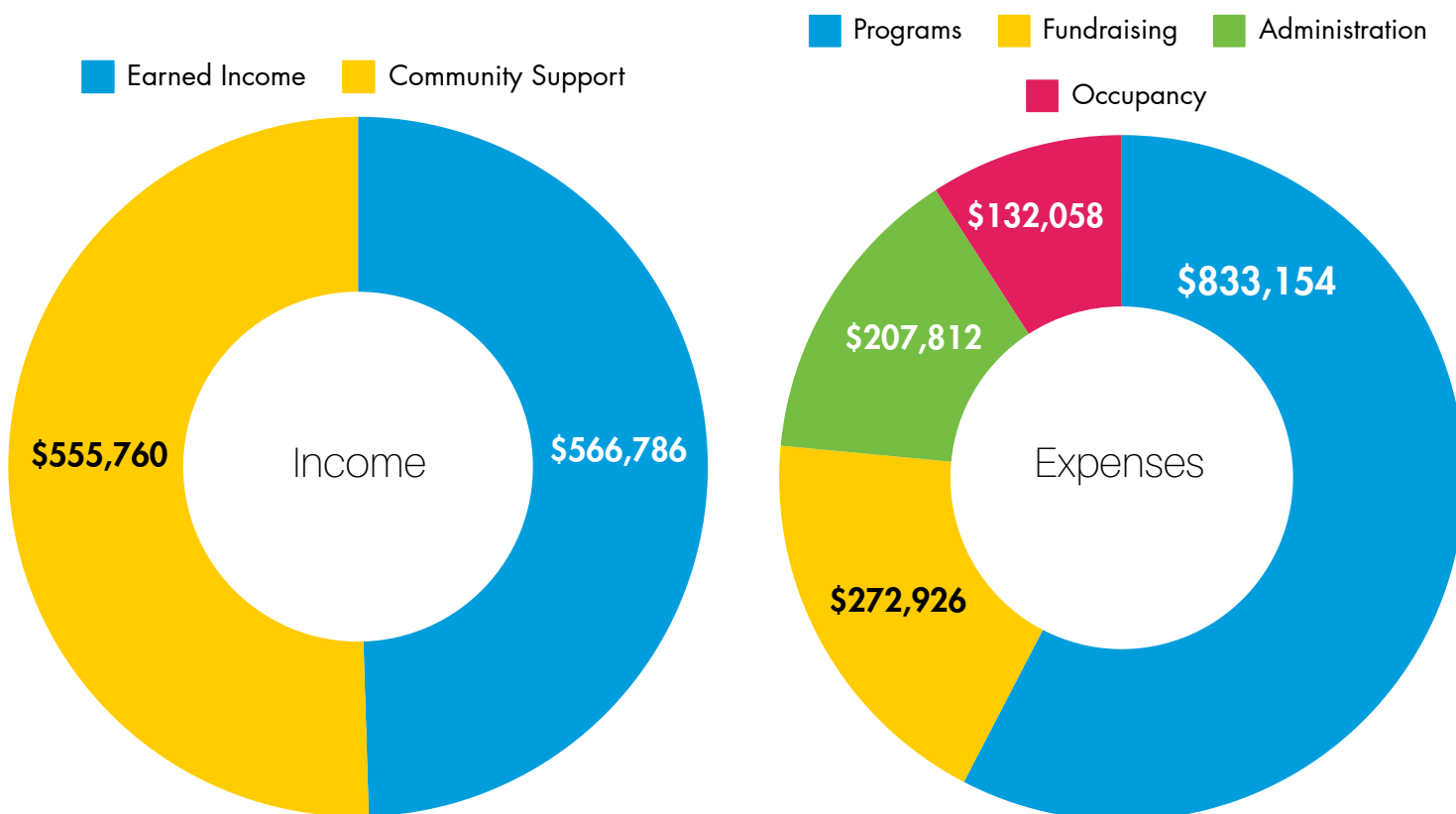
of students served attended a
Title I school

70+

Teaching Artists with diverse
programs and backgrounds



2023-2024 FINANCIAL IMPACT



Your support makes it possible!

During the 2023-2024 academic year, **School and Community Programs** offered **981 arts-integrated** performances, workshops, and residencies to students in schools across Kansas and Missouri.

Here is what teachers are saying about KCYA in the classroom...

"The SEL connection to our curriculum was a direct correlation! So engaging! Appreciate the high expectations of our students!"

"The most student engagement I have ever seen from a KCYA presentation. He absolutely made it look easy and kept the full attention of the class the entire time... Everything about it was great and I would absolutely love to have him back!" - *Middle School Band Teacher*

FY24 EVENTS



Spirits of Folly: Broadway veteran and Kansas City native Bryonha Marie, along with local bands Gullywasher and Hudspeth & Taylor.

Spirits of Folly



KCYA supporters came together at the Spirits of Folly, raising over \$125,000 to support arts education.

Disney • PIXAR FINDING NEMO JR.



A KCYA & HASF
Collaboration

WINTER THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Shakespeare's comedy classic *As You Like It* was presented through the cultural lens of the tumultuous and free-wheeling sixties. This co-production brought Shakespeare's play to life with the music, fashion, and zeitgeist of one of our most iconic decades.





**GOOD VIBES
ONLY**





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We couldn't have
done it without your
generous *support.*

Thank you

to all our donors
and supporters.



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