



ARTS PLUS

# 2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT





# IMPACT REPORT

The 2022-2023 year gave us the opportunity to broaden our community outreach and provide accessible arts education to the greater Charlotte community. This was made possible by supporters like you! Read on to find out more about our impact at Arts+.



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## A MESSAGE FROM PATTY FUNDERBURG AND EUGENE YOUNG

**Recovering from the past and building for the future** – that's how Arts+ spent FY23! We saw a full return to in-person programming and moved into a new home at Ascend Nonprofit Solutions in Uptown Charlotte. Our 7,000 square feet house our administrative offices and art studios. The space has welcomed high schoolers to Studio 345, adults to visual art classes including our Gestalt! program, students to our teacher workday camps, and all members of the community to events like our Candy Land workshop. Having a home again after Spirit Square closed has allowed us to serve more students while offering new and unique programming.

Arts+ hasn't stopped looking for a long-term, larger facility to meet the needs of our students and community. **We have identified a potential site for a new Arts+ hub to our hub and spoke model, the Plaza Presbyterian Church Campus.** Arts+ and The Charlotte Presbytery signed a memorandum of understanding in June and are in the due diligence phase, moving toward the negotiating and signing of a 50-year lease. In collaboration with architects at C Design and other professionals, Arts+ is working toward the goal of housing administrative offices, Studio 345, Charlotte Youth Choir, and summer camps as well as new programming at the property while also serving as a community center to the surrounding neighborhoods and the greater Charlotte area.

In addition to the focus on facilities, the board spent the year creating a new strategic plan. While the plan is still being finalized, six focus areas have emerged: branding, growth, community accessibility, programming, space, and equity. The plan will serve as a guide for the next three years and inform the future of Arts+.

**As you can see, there is a lot of excitement at Arts+, none of which would be possible without your support.** We are proud to be a part of Arts+ and are so grateful for your belief in our mission of providing quality and accessible arts education to all of Charlotte. Thank you for being part of the journey, and we invite you to join us for the next chapter at Arts+.

Patty Funderburg  
FY23 Board Chair

Eugene Young  
FY24 Board Chair



## WHO WE ARE

We are Arts+, and our mission is to unleash creativity, transform lives, and build community through outstanding and accessible arts education.

We offer instruction in music and art for both children and adults that is designed to provide access to outstanding arts education plus all the benefits it brings, including skills in teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving. We are committed to ensuring everyone in the community has access to high-quality arts education, no matter their financial circumstances.

We were founded in 1969 by Henry Bridges and have been bringing arts education to the Charlotte area for over 50 years.



## WHAT WE OFFER

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS

#### Group Classes & Workshops

Weekly series and one-day offerings exploring music and art for all ages

#### Camps

Kids, youth, and teen camps with varying music and art themes

#### Private Lessons

One-on-one music instruction for both children and adults

#### Charlotte Youth Choir

Four choirs for grades K-12 that practice weekly and perform throughout the year

#### Carolina Suzuki Strings

Violin, viola, cello, and harp instruction following the principles of language acquisition

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

#### Studio 345

Free, creative, out-of-school youth development program for Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school students

#### ArtsReach

Free visual arts and music programs at locations across Charlotte

#### Project Harmony

Community-based orchestra for students in Grades 2-5, in partnership with the Charlotte Symphony

#### PNC Preschools

Art and music instruction for at-risk preschools

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

#### Preschool Arts Lab

Art instruction at local schools and early education centers

#### Music Around

Music instruction at local schools and early education centers

#### Uptown Farmer's Market

Free family-friendly art activities and crafts

## NEW PROGRAMS

#### Birthday Parties

A celebration of a child's special day with a one-of-a-kind art project or music activity

#### Gestalt!

Adult group art experience where individual pieces assemble into a large artwork



To view all of our programming, visit our website at [artsplus.org](https://artsplus.org).



## ARTS+ BY THE NUMBERS

Each year, Arts+ is proud to reach thousands of students with high-quality music and visual art instruction. As a result of our extensive outreach programs, financial aid, community partnerships, and supporters, a majority of our students receive their education for free or at a reduced cost.



**218**

Group Class and  
Workshop Students



**244**

Summer Campers



**180**

Private Lesson  
Students



**56**

Charlotte Youth Choir  
Singers



**125**

Carolina Suzuki Strings  
Musicians



**194**

Studio 345  
Participants



**700+**

ArtsReach Students



**102**

Project Harmony  
Musicians



**220**

PNC Preschoolers



**25**

Preschool Arts Lab  
Students



**399**

Music Around Students



**240**

Uptown Farmers  
Market Interactions

## MEET EDEN PERRY



A student at Charlotte Teacher Early College, Eden joined Studio 345 in 2018. She participated in the program through 2022, taking classes in photography and singing/songwriting.

Through Studio 345, Eden found her passion for photography and was able to get an arts education *plus* all of the benefits it provides. “Studio helped me develop creative and critical thinking skills that helped me produce and solve problems in different, unconventional, and artistic ways. It also helped me and many others gain more self confidence when we shared and presented our works of art,” Eden said.

Studio 345 and its teachers provided Eden with opportunities her mother, Kristy, never could have dreamed of for her. Eden took an all expenses paid, week-long trip to Yellowstone National Park where she had the opportunity to photograph geysers, hot springs, wild bison, and elk and ignite creativity and friendship by unplugging in the outdoors. Additionally, Eden entered a contest hosted by National Geographic photographer and writer James Edward Mills with a photograph she took in Studio 345. Eden's photo won, and in addition to receiving a camera from James, James has served as a mentor to her. “Studio brought out Eden's best artistic intentions. The classes and teachers inspired her to form an artist's perspective and to see herself as an artist and all of the possibilities that allows,” Kristy said.

Now, Eden is attending Elon University. We are proud to say that, thanks to the high-quality, accessible arts education she received at Arts+, Eden is majoring in Cinema and Television Communications and minoring in Art History.



*Eden's winning photo from the contest hosted by National Geographic.*





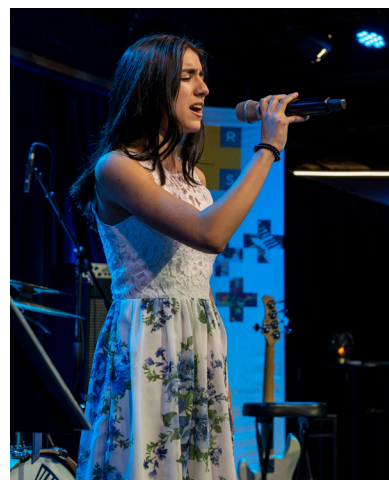
## A NIGHT OF JAZZ

Last March, Arts+ sponsored “A Night of Jazz with Arts+” presented by PNC Bank. It was an incredible evening kicked off by Carolina Suzuki Strings students and private lesson student Lucia Rojas Delgado.

Then it was time to really get down with renowned saxophonist Adrian Crutchfield. He brought down the house with a phenomenal set!



Thanks to the support of our sponsors and committed donors, Arts+ raised more than \$80,000 during what was surely a night to remember!







## MEET HEATHER RYAN

In 2009, Heather Heath Ryan was invited by her law firm, then Parker Poe, to attend a fashion event and fundraiser for Arts+ at Neiman Marcus. In 2023, **Heather is celebrating 14 years of support and dedication to Arts+.**

At the event, a raffle to name a scholarship for private music lessons at Arts+ caught Heather's eye, and she won! "I knew instantly that I would be naming the scholarship in honor of my father, David Heath, who had recently passed away from kidney cancer. The arts were and are an instrumental part of my life, and my father was a big part of that – it was a natural and perfect way to honor him and support our arts community in Charlotte," Heather said.

Thus, the David J. Heath Memorial Scholarship was born and is now in its 14th year. "My father was my biggest arts champion ... he was my constant cheerleader. I knew that I wanted to provide support for aspiring musicians in our community in honor of the unwavering support my father demonstrated for me and my sister. We are proud to provide this annual tuition scholarship to a student in the Arts+ community each year," Heather said.

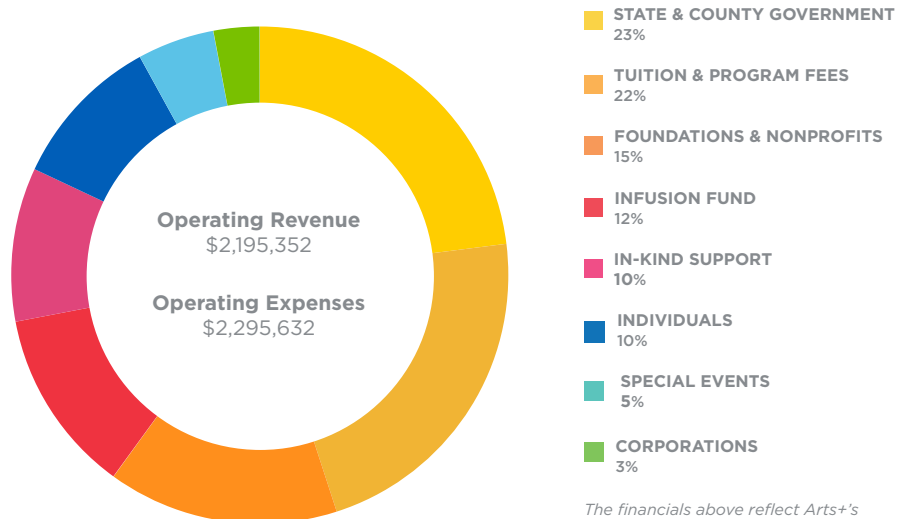
In addition to continuing the scholarship, Heather joined the Arts+ board of directors in 2022. She is instrumental in furthering the Arts+ mission of accessible arts education and encourages everyone to **"keep saying yes to music in your life. You are never too old to let music into your soul! It will transform you."**

If you are interested in learning more about naming a scholarship at Arts+, please email [development@artsplus.org](mailto:development@artsplus.org).



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Arts+ is committed to sustainable business practices that will allow more and more students to benefit from high-quality, accessible arts education in the future. Our revenue base was well diversified, including charitable contributions from individuals, government entities, and foundations as well as tuition. We ended with a deficit, but it was anticipated. We received funds in the prior year that we deferred to use in FY23, and those funds were released from net assets to cover the deficit.



*The financials above reflect Arts+'s fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.*



## CONTINUO

At Arts+, **Continuo** is our Leadership Giving circle that recognizes donors who give \$1,000 or more to support arts education programs. Continuo is a musical term ... it is a part given to a low-pitched instrument, such as a keyboard or cello that plays a bass line with the chords that accompany the melody. It provides continuous support in sustaining the full harmony of the musical piece. As in music, Continuo leadership gifts help us maintain our commitment to excellence, strengthen our programs across the board, and expand our impact in underserved communities.

We are honored to have 82 donors in Continuo this year based on their 2022-2023 giving. To find out how you can become a member, contact [development@artsplus.org](mailto:development@artsplus.org).

## BRIDGES SOCIETY

Arts+ is proud to honor the legacy of our founder, Henry Bridges, through the Bridges Society, which recognizes supporters who include Arts+ in their estate plans. Join him in making the arts accessible for generations to come, and leave your legacy through Arts+!

### Three Easy Ways to Make a Planned Gift:

1. **Bequest** – A gift indicated in a will allows you to make a future donation to Arts+ after passing.
2. **Retirement Plan Assets** – These are often considered an attractive option for making a planned gift since these are among the most tax-burdened assets in an estate. Simply name Arts+ as a beneficiary.
3. **Life Insurance** – To use a life insurance policy to make a gift, name Arts+ as a beneficiary of a new or existing policy.

**Arts+ Tax ID/EIN: 59-1356847**

*There are many vehicles to make a planned gift. This is not intended to provide tax or legal advice and should not be relied on as such. You should consult with your legal and tax counsel to understand the implications of a specific charitable gift. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Stenglein at [sstenglein@artsplus.org](mailto:ssstenglein@artsplus.org) or 704.887.0298.*





## 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Eugene Young, FY24 Chair**  
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**Patty Lambert**  
**Valecia McDowell**  
**Anne McPhail**

**David Page**  
**Scott Stevens**  
**Susan Shimp**  
**Patty Funderburg,**  
*Board Liaison*

*Our advisory council is made up of former board members who act as ambassadors of Arts+ in the community, as well as provide specialized expertise to the organization.*







A R T S **P L U S**

## OUR MISSION

Unleashing creativity,  
transforming lives, and building  
community through outstanding  
and accessible arts education.

[artsplus.org](https://artsplus.org) | PO Box 32757, Charlotte, NC 28232 | 704.377.4187 | [info@artsplus.org](mailto:info@artsplus.org)

*Arts+ is supported, in part, by the Infusion Fund and its generous donors.*



**Infusion Fund**  
A Partnership for Arts + Culture

