



2020
ANNUAL
REPORT



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning

Maryland



MISSION

Young Audiences transforms the lives and education of our youth through the arts by connecting educators, professional artists, and communities.

VISION

One day, every student in Maryland will have the opportunity to imagine, create, and realize their full potential through the arts.

OUR COMMITMENT TO RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

A Statement from Our Board of Directors

We at Young Audiences of Maryland believe that the pursuit and attainment of racial justice and equity are so vital to our success that, without their advancement, our mission cannot be achieved.

At its core, our mission is to transform the lives and education of young people through the arts, and envision a day when every student in Maryland will have the opportunity to imagine, create, and realize their full potential through education and the arts.

To reach that potential, schools must create environments of belonging where students feel loved, valued, affirmed, and included. A place where they can explore, express, take risks, and learn from both victories and mistakes. The uncomfortable truth is that the persistence of structural racism stifles Black and brown children, who make up the majority of the students we serve.

The opportunities we create for children, families, and schools must address the various forms of racism—including structural, interpersonal, and internalized—if we are going to succeed at realizing our mission.

We must work hard to intentionally create classrooms of belonging where every young person, especially Black and brown students, feels loved, valued, affirmed, and included. We must also use the lessons learned from the alternative models we build and the evidence we collect to influence systemic change.

The Board, staff, and artists of Young Audiences are closely examining and addressing racial inequities within our own organization so that our aspirations for public school classrooms are also reflected at our office, in the boardroom, and within the YA artist community. We are examining our own systems and biases, and understanding how racism shows up both operationally and programmatically. There is so much more to do to ground our organization in racial justice and equity. Please join us.

Dear Friends,

If Young Audiences is nothing else, it's passionate.

For over 70 years, Young Audiences (YA) artists have brought joyful, creative learning into the classroom, inspiring hundreds of thousands of students.

We are on the leading edge of innovative education, driven by our mission to one day ensure that every Maryland child has the opportunity to imagine, create, and realize their full potential through the arts.

In the last decade alone, YA launched an early learning partnership with the Wolf Trap Institute; expanded in-school services to reach every Maryland county; and grew our Summer Arts & Learning Academy eightfold to reach 2,000 students annually at eight school sites.

We live in the space of possibility—even during a pandemic.

When faced with COVID-19, we envisioned what could be. We fundraised for our artists, who initially lost over \$160,000 in expected income. We created a TV show to reach students who were suddenly learning from home and created lesson plans with academic and creative extensions to give teachers and students the tools they needed to truly engage with each episode. We distributed Arts & Learning Snacks—creative art kits for project-based learning at home—to over 20,000 Maryland students. We reached 16,895 students through our inaugural Blacktastic! celebration of Black history and YA teaching artists. We developed a library of over 50 Early Learning videos that provided young children and caregivers with joyful arts experiences. We transformed both the Bloomberg Arts Internship and the Summer Arts & Learning Academy into virtual experiences that maintained the same fun, excitement, and academic enrichment of the in-person programs.

YA's innovation and drive continue to bring joy, creativity, and connection to students and teachers across the state.

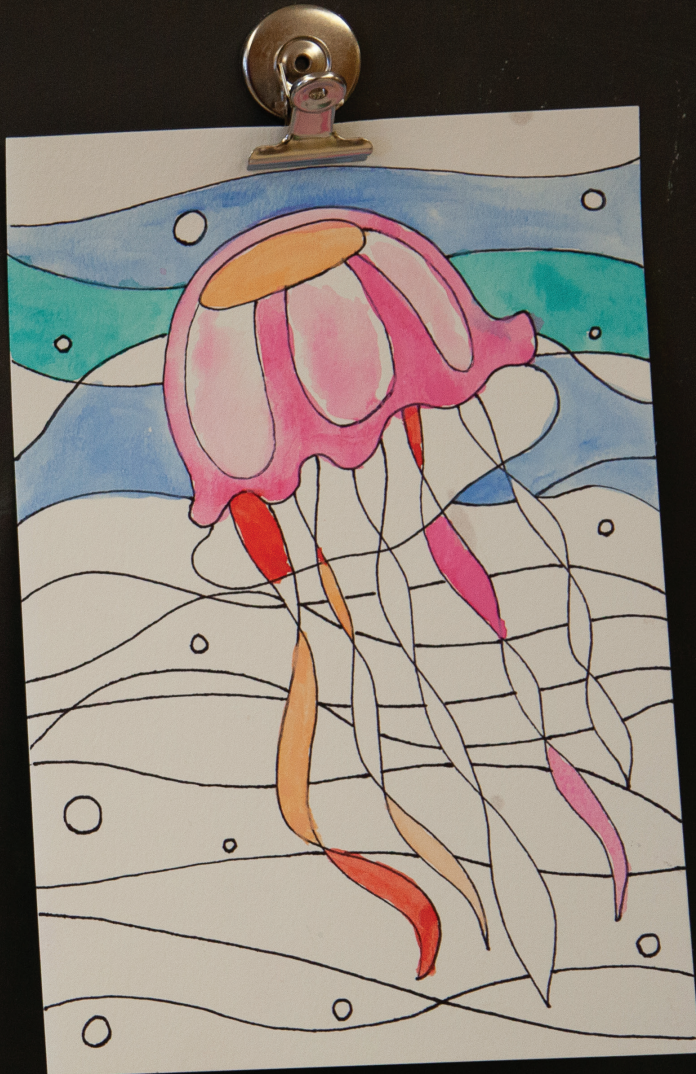
And with you—our friends and donors—we'll keep shaping the future together, no matter what it brings.



Stacie Sanders Evans
President & CEO



VIRTUAL LEARNING BY THE NUMBERS



28,923

Number of students and teachers who attended our live virtual events—from East Meets West and Blacktastic! to Early Learning Week



600+

Number of Maryland teachers and care providers who signed up to receive access to one of YA's online learning portals

278

Total number of online arts learning videos produced by YA and its artists

20,000+

Number of Arts & Learning Snacks distributed throughout Maryland

100

Number of Arts & Learning Kids TV show episodes produced





117,880

Number of students who took part in a YA program

313

Number of school and community partners

168

Artists and ensembles who worked with YA

\$3,438,539

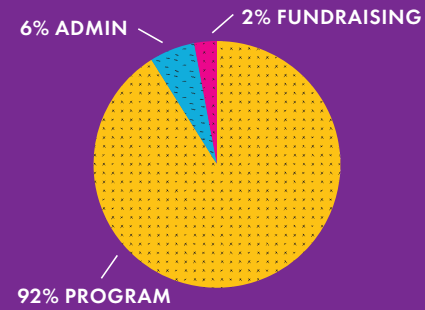
Collective earnings by YA artists

\$555,500

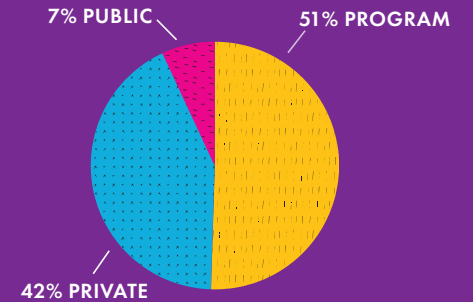
Dollars raised to underwrite programs for schools and communities



EXPENSES



INCOME



Data on pages 6–8 reflect services that took place between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020.

COVID-ERA INNOVATION

When schools closed last spring, we knew we had to rethink the ways in which teachers, students, and caregivers could access our artists' programs. We got to work, imagining and quickly implementing new ways of bringing transformative arts experiences to children and supporting YA teaching artists who had abruptly lost much of their in-person work. Take a look below at what we've been up to.

INNOVATION GRANTS

Our Board of Directors approved the use of \$18,500 from YA reserves to pay our teaching artists to share their work with the YA community, including young people, teachers, and their fellow artists.

TEACHING ARTIST EMERGENCY FUND

Together with the community, we raised \$71,425 to offset artists' sudden and significant loss of earnings. This effort included a collaboration with our roster of artists to hold the Superheroes Unite! Fundraiser, a series of live-streamed performances held in April 2020, resulting in \$5,000 dollars raised to support artists.

Thanks to our supporters, YA created entirely NEW programs, initiatives, and events to remotely engage students, educators, and communities while paying teaching artists for their work. Examples include:



ARTS & LEARNING SNACKS

Arts & Learning Snacks are take-home art kits created by YA artists. The kits include all the supplies needed for children and caregivers to take a break from the screen, use their hands and imaginations, and explore new art forms. More than 20,000 Arts & Learning Snacks were distributed to Baltimore City residents via City Schools meal sites during school closures, as well as to students in Wicomico County.

ARTS & LEARNING KIDS

Arts & Learning Kids is an arts-integrated TV show tailored to students in specific grades and the content they are studying. Each 30-minute episode features both a teaching artist and educator guiding children in fun, inventive, and active learning.



BLACKTASTIC!

Blacktastic! is a virtual celebration of the joy of Black history and culture. Nearly 16,895 students—the greatest attendance of any single event in the history of YA—attended the free, full-day program featuring eight enriching performances and workshops with YA teaching artists this past February.

EARLY LEARNING PORTAL

The Early Learning Portal features more than 50 videos in which Wolf Trap teaching artists engage young children and their care providers through the arts. Artists help young learners practice developmentally appropriate skills through fun, arts-based activities like keeping a steady beat and identifying patterns. And, caregivers see new and engaging activities that they can use with their early learners. To date, hundreds of educators and families have registered for access, and thanks to our partners at MSDE and Ready At Five, the Portal is entirely free for Maryland families and educators through June 2022.

EAST MEETS WEST

In celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, YA presented East Meets West from teaching artist and master puppeteer Hua Hua Zhang. The beautiful, compelling performance streamed live for free on YA's Facebook and YouTube pages, reaching 2,609 students.

These are just a few of the innovative programs that YA and its artists produced in 2020–21.

If you'd like to learn more about our additional early learning programming, the transformation of our workshops and residencies to a virtual world, the first-ever virtual Summer Arts & Learning Academy, and more, visit us at:

yamd.org/annualreport



THANK YOU, DONORS

We are deeply grateful to each and every donor who made a gift between July 1, 2019 and Aug 31, 2020. The full list of supporters—which is longer than space allows—can be found at yamd.org/annualreport. Thank you so much for your generosity!

We would like to recognize our ■ Sunburst Society ■ donors for making a five-year commitment to the organization, allowing us to create long-range plans beyond our current fiscal year and stay true to our vision. Thank you for your investment in our future. To learn more about making a donation, visit yamd.org/ways-to-donate or reach out to micaela@yamd.org.

\$100,000+

Bloomberg Philanthropies
Maryland State Arts Council
National Endowment for the Arts
Saul Zaentz Charitable Foundation
Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

\$50,000–99,999

Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
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\$25,000–49,999

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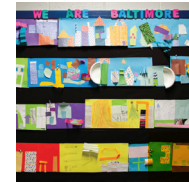
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\$500–999

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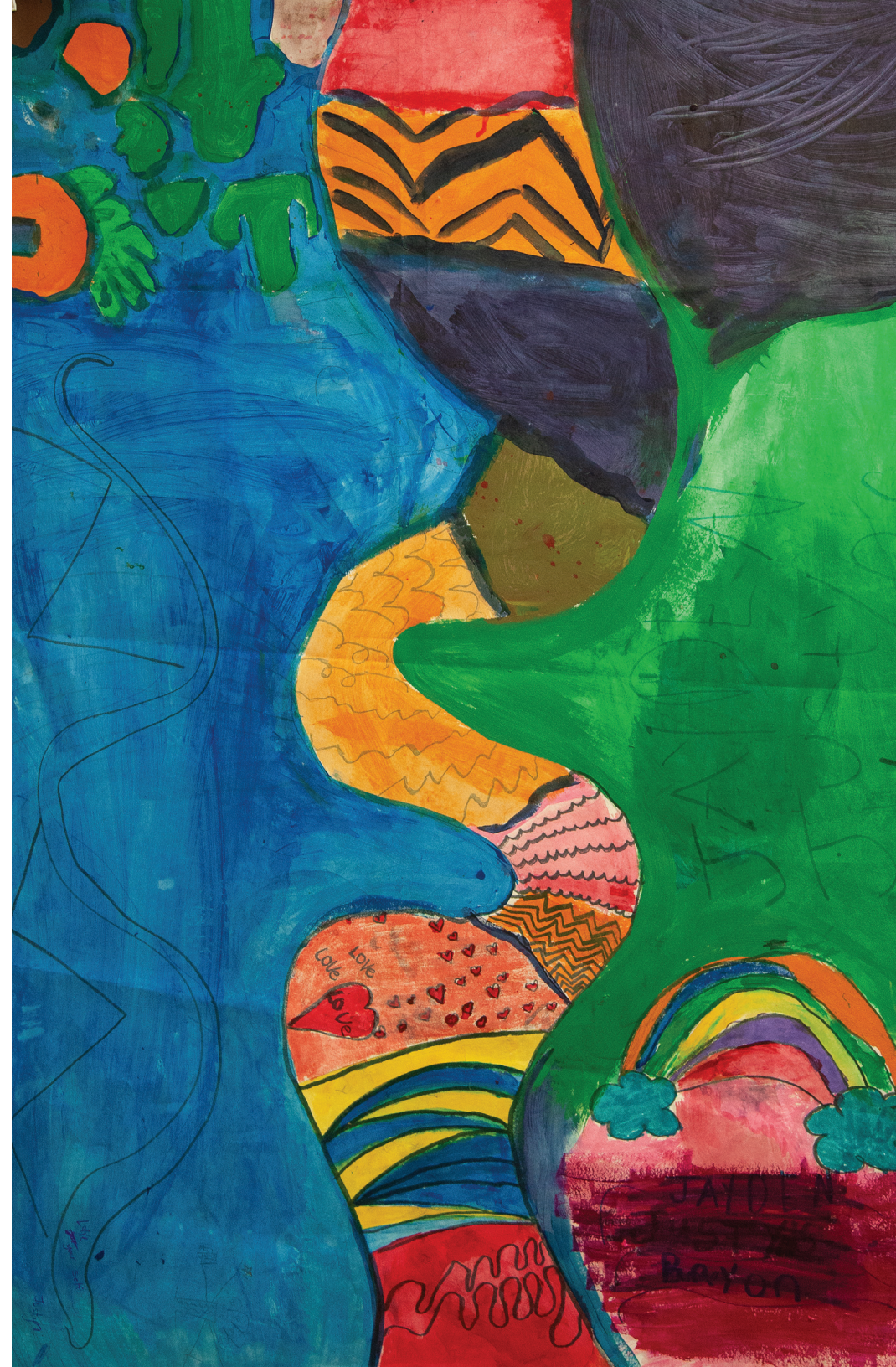
THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

We are deeply grateful to those who volunteered their time this past year. Your support—whether serving on a committee, preparing materials, or spreading the word about Young Audiences’ mission—helps ensure that more students have access to the joyful learning that they deserve.

A special thank you to those who hosted *Meet Young Audiences* events between July 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020. Learn more about this opportunity by emailing micaela@yamd.org.

Lydia Alcock
Elizabeth Alexander Morales
Lisa Allen
Matt Barinholtz
Julia Bazanos
Garrett Berberich
Devyn Blubaugh
Paige Boyer
Nancy Brennan *
Sarah Buonocore
Olivia Capolupo
Brian Cherinka
Asia Cole
Joseph Colon
Chris Cortright
Jada Davis
Lizzie Devereux
Bill Eberhart
Greg Faith
Brandon Farmer
Mary Fischer
Brian Frazier
Denise Frazier
Jamie Gansell
Carol Gartland
Jay Gilmer
Patty Gramelis
Gus Gramelis
Kendra Harris
Margaret Hart
Laura Hatcher

Jill Hecklinger
Steve Himmelrich
Lashanda Hughes
Monique Johnson
Irvin Johnson
Bradley Kelly
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Martha Landaw
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Mary McCartin
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Abby Rimback
Barbara Rosenberger *
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Emily Shumate
Jennifer St. Germain *
Marlee Steig
Kambria Stocks
Colleen Sullivan
Chaz Walters
Maria Weyant
Bethany Williams
Ernel Wint
Baylee Wong





LOOKING AHEAD

We want you to feel what we feel right now: hope and possibility!

As an organization, we have always lived in the space of possibility. And today, from this space, we see through the uncertainty of the last year towards a time of opportunity, hope, and imagination.

What this year presents is just that—opportunity. It's an opportunity to reconnect with students by providing the learning and joy that was missed during the pandemic—and to build on all the new, unexpected learning that did take place. And it's an opportunity to carry forward the innovations that worked during the time of COVID to better meet the needs of children and the adults who support them. Our incredible teaching artists are ready to lean into all of that.

Whether this work takes place in school or after school, for infants or high school seniors, through arts or arts-integrated learning, we can't wait to get started. Whether our impact is felt in Garrett County or Baltimore County, virtually or in person, through programs for children, their teachers, or their family members, we are ready. Ready to help children and the educational system that serves them realize their full potential through the arts.

As a part of this step forward, we are moving into a new home that can fit our expanding staff, artists, and partners. In November 2021, we will move into a new home on North Avenue (the former Odell's nightclub) and become part of the Station North Arts District in Baltimore City. Looking beyond 2021, we know that—to truly reach ALL children in Maryland—there is so much more we need to do. This includes significantly growing and investing in our teaching artist community, supporting more teachers to integrate the arts into their lessons, and helping principals to understand the role that the arts play in their schools' culture.

Young Audiences lives in the space of possibility. We are always asking ourselves what is possible. But it is your support and passion that makes those possibilities a reality. I am so grateful!

With love and gratitude,

Stacie Sanders Evans
President & CEO



PRESIDENT & CEO

Stacie Sanders Evans

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For more information, including lists of all of Young Audiences' 2019-21 donors and school and community partners, please visit yamd.org/annualreport