



2012-2013
ANNUAL REPORT

ArtsConnection



Steven Tennen Executive Director

Dear Friends,

For 34 years, ArtsConnection has been a bridge between the public schools and New York City's cultural community; between student learning in the arts and students' development of social, personal and academic skills; between living in a neighborhood and living in the cultural capital of the world.

We know arts programs are not a frill. They're a fundamental part of the curriculum young people must study if they are to develop the creative reasoning and critical thinking skills needed to thrive in the 21st century.

To ensure the arts are an essential part of education, ArtsConnection connects performing and visual artists with children, teens, families, and schools in creative partnerships for teaching and learning.

Through instruction in music, dance, theater and visual arts, nearly 50,000 students — in over 100 public schools throughout the five boroughs, and through our afterschool work with teenagers — are discovering talents they never knew they had; learning they can push themselves further to succeed; and finding they have something important to say about the world and their lives.

None of this would be possible without ArtsConnection.

On behalf of all of us at ArtsConnection, I thank all the public, private and individual supporters who make this work possible, as well as the principals, teachers and teaching artists who guide all that we do. You are the indispensable partners in our work.

Steven Tennen
Executive Director

ArtsConnection by the Numbers

34

Years of keeping the arts central to the lives of NYC's public school students, their schools and communities

46

Community-based organizations partnering in our High 5 Ticketing Program

103

Partner-schools with customized artist residency programs designed to complement each school's unique curriculum and student needs

600

Student artworks — from 56 NYC public middle and high schools — professionally exhibited in corporate offices throughout NYC

1,500

Hours of professional development for NYC public school educators

12,000

Hours of in-class instructional time for students

18,000

Free and discounted tickets, made available to teenagers through our High 5 Ticketing program, from major cultural and performing arts venues throughout NYC

30,000

NYC schoolchildren and teens participating in in-school and after-school arts residencies taught by practicing artists in media, theater, dance, visual arts, and music

WHAT IT IS	WHO IT SERVES	WHY IT MATTERS
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IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theater • Dance • Music • Visual Arts • Media 	Children preK-12	AC's programs impact the intellectual, social, and emotional development of 30,000 students in NYC's neediest schools and communities.
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SPECIAL INITIATIVES (IN-SCHOOL)

DELLTA	English language learners and their teachers	English language learners develop crucial vocabulary and communication skills while teachers learn to build curriculum across disciplines.
Special Needs Arts	Children (preK-12th grade) with significant physical and developmental challenges	Special Needs youngsters increase independence and confidence; strengthen communication skills and build social-emotional awareness.
Arts Achieve	Arts educators throughout NYC and students in 5th, 8th, and 12th grades	AC is one of 5 organizations city-wide developing groundbreaking assessments that will have national impact.
Artful Learning Communities	Arts Specialists in 180 schools throughout NYC	Led by AC, arts specialists collaborate with colleagues to assess learning, transform teaching, and promote student achievement.
Common Core and the Arts	1,300 NYC public school students and their teachers	Helps students become college- and career-ready by building critical thinking skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

TEEN PROGRAMS (OUT OF SCHOOL)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 5 Ticketing Program • TRaC • Student Art Program 	Young people 13 – 18 yrs	Teens develop independence and awareness of cultural opportunities throughout NYC; build critical thinking and writing skills.
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

	Classroom teachers and paraprofessionals, AC Teaching Artists and school-based Arts Specialists; arts educators and researchers nation-wide	Because teaching professionals need to keep skills current and expand their knowledge and practice, we engage with educators who reach over 45,000 students a year.
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“ArtsConnection’s model allows students to express themselves and gives them a chance to be brave, open, and work together.”
—Elementary teacher, Queens

Developing English Language Literacy Through the Arts

Over 150,000 children in New York City’s public schools don’t speak, read or write English well enough to keep pace with their native English-speaking peers. As English language learners (ELL’s), these students face multiple obstacles: newcomers to the U.S. may have interrupted periods of little or no education; some who are US-born come from families where English is rarely spoken, further marginalizing these youngsters. If ELL students reach middle school and haven’t achieved an adequate command of English, the risk of their dropping out of school altogether increases dramatically.

To level the playing field for these children, AC created DELLTA (Developing English Language Literacy Through the Arts), a unique program designed to strengthen children’s English language acquisition through participation in the performing arts. Working with AC teaching artists, ELL’s participate in theater and dance residencies that help them build understanding and express complex ideas, while increasing their motivation and focus.

In its eight years, DELLTA has worked with over 7,000 English language learners and their teachers, with profound effects: an independent evaluation of students participating in DELLTA showed “significantly higher” scores on New York State’s ESL Achievement test, as compared to those in the control group, with twice the retention of vocabulary and literacy skills.



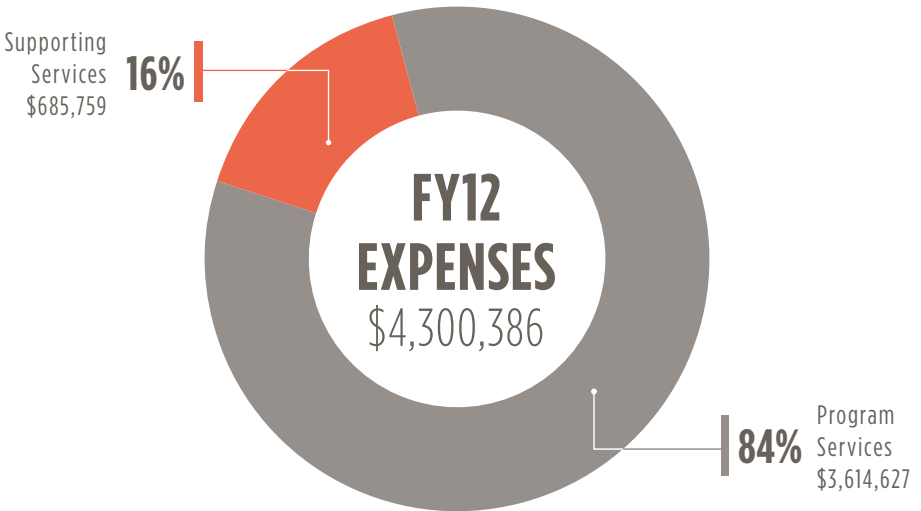
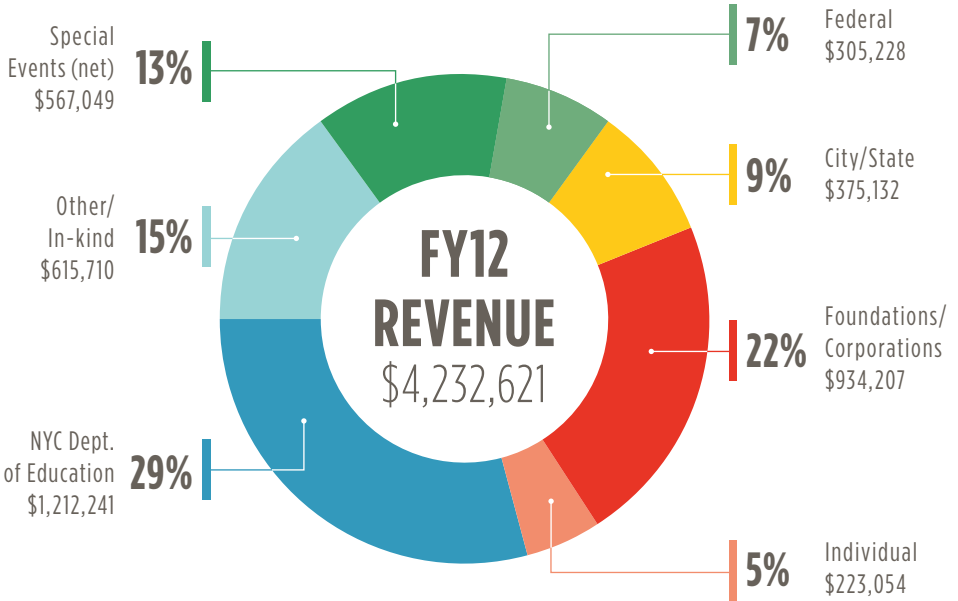
**“Bringing
ArtsConnection
into our classrooms
changes our
children’s lives.”
—Teacher, P94**

Special Needs Arts

Since our founding, ArtsConnection has always served Special Needs students along with their mainstream peers, providing theater, dance, visual art and music programs in mixed groups and in contained classrooms. Throughout the years, AC teaching artists have worked to bring a sense of creative achievement to a diverse mix of students and families.

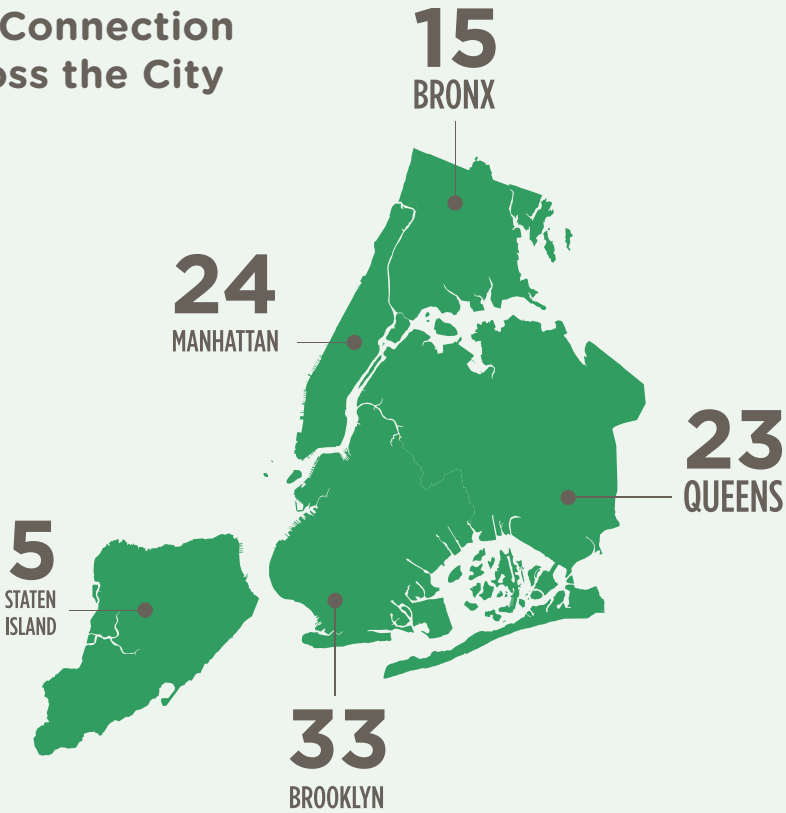
Having worked with P94 (a cluster of five elementary and middle schools teaching children on the Autism Spectrum) through the Broadway Junior program, AC was delighted with the school’s decision to extend the performing arts program to all its students — from kindergarten through 8th grade. Working with the school’s principal and faculty, AC designed a sequential theater curriculum — building in complexity each year — to support children’s developmental and academic growth. While younger children perform classic show tunes, 4th and 5th graders produce a fully-staged musical. Most remarkable is the effort of middle-schoolers: writing, producing, and starring in an *original* show — often with themes based on the personal challenges of living with autism. The joyous culminating performances at P94 allow youngsters to demonstrate new social and communication skills, emotional literacy, and determination, while parents and teachers see each child’s remarkable potential in a new light.

ArtsConnection Operating Budget FY12*



*A complete audited financial statement may be obtained by contacting us: info@artsconnection.org

ArtsConnection Across the City



MANHATTAN

P.S. 6 • P.S. 59 • P.S. 64 • P.S. 96 • P.S. 125 • P.S. 132 • P.S./M.S. 149 • P.S. 150 • P.S. 188 The Island School • P.S. 241 Central Park East II • Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School • High School of Economics & Finance • Murray Hill Academy • Quest to Learn • Satellite Academy High School • The Earth School • The High School of Fashion Industries • The Neighborhood School • The Spectrum School P94M at P.S. 15, P.S. 188, P.S. 276, P.S. 361, P.S. 397

BROOKLYN

P.S. 3 • P.S. 32 • P.S. 38 • P.S. 39 • M.S. 61 Gladstone H. Atwell • P.S. 69 • M.S. 88 • P.S./I.S. 109 • P.S. 113 • P.S. 114 • P.S. 119 • P.S. 130 • P.S. 133 • P.S. 154 • P.S. 160 • P.S./M.S. 161 • P.S. 167

• P.S./I.S. 206 • J.H.S. 220 • P.S. 230 • P.S. 233 • P.S. 244 • P.S. 261 • I.S. 364 Gateway • M.S. 584 Granville T. Woods School for Science & Technology • Brooklyn High School for the Arts • Brooklyn Theater Arts High School • General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science • PEACE Academy • Secondary School for Law • The Math & Science Exploratory School • West Brooklyn Community High School • Young Women's Leadership School of Brooklyn

QUEENS

P.S. 13 • P.S. 19 • P.S. 20 • P.S. 29 • P.S. 33 • P.S. 50 • P.S. 68 • P.S. 85 • P.S. 91 • P.S. 120 • P.S. 127 • P.S. 129 • P.S. 150 • P.S. 153 • P.S. 163 • I.S. 185 • I.S. 208 • P.S. 229 • P.S. 239 • P.S. 273 • Collaborative

Arts Middle School • Townsend Harris High School • Village Academy

BRONX

P.S. 14 • P.S. 30 • P.S. 38 • P.S. 65 • P.S. 92 • J.H.S. 123 • J.H.S. 145 Arturo Toscanini Community Junior High School • P.S. 176 • M.S. 215 Knowledge & Power Preparatory Academy • I.S. 219 New Venture Academy • Bronx Little School • Bronx Satellite Academy • College Avenue Academy • Morris Academy for Collaborative Studies • Soundview Academy for Culture & Scholarship

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ArtsConnection is the recipient of public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

ArtsConnection
520 Eighth Avenue
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