

**2014-2015**  
ANNUAL REPORT



## Steven Tennen Executive Director

The 2015 program year was an exciting time for ArtsConnection. We were the recipient of two new four-year U.S. Department of Education grants for *Bridges*, an early childhood initiative linking the study of puppetry with literacy, and *Digital DELTA*, which takes our work with English Language Learners to middle schools where students extend their work in dance and theater to the creation of digital portfolios.

Our residencies took place in 106 public schools across the five boroughs. Our work in musical theater to educate and nurture children on the autism spectrum reached students, kindergarten through high school, at partner school P94M.

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**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.**

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Our afterschool teen programs saw an expansion of the *Teen Reviewers* and *Critics* program and the growth of our *Teen Advisory Council*, with its members serving as ambassadors at our benefit and at all ten of our Student Art Program exhibition openings.

The renewed commitment to arts education on the part of the Mayor and Chancellor Fariña resulted in new funding initiatives that benefited our programs and arts instruction throughout the City.

ArtsConnection's work would not have been possible without the support of the public, private and individual supporters listed at the end of this report. Their partnership makes everything that we do for the children of New York City achievable. Thank you all.

Steven Tennen  
Executive Director

## ArtsConnection by the Numbers

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

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**62** Youth serving organizations partnering in our High 5 Tickets to the Arts program

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

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**613** Student artworks — from 61 NYC public and middle and high schools — professionally framed and exhibited in corporate offices throughout NYC

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**1,330** NYC classrooms served

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**1,534** Participating NYC public school educators attending professional development sessions

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**8,640** Free and discounted tickets from major cultural and performing arts venues made available to teenagers through our High 5 Tickets to the Arts program

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**13,722** Hours of student instruction taught by practicing artists in theater, dance, visual arts, music and media

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**45,000** NYC students participating in-school and afterschool arts programming

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**WHAT IT IS****WHO IT SERVES****WHY IT MATTERS****SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theater</li> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Visual Arts</li> <li>• Media</li> </ul>	Children pre-k – 12	ArtsConnection (AC) programs impact the intellectual, social, and emotional development of students in NYC’s neediest schools and communities.
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**SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

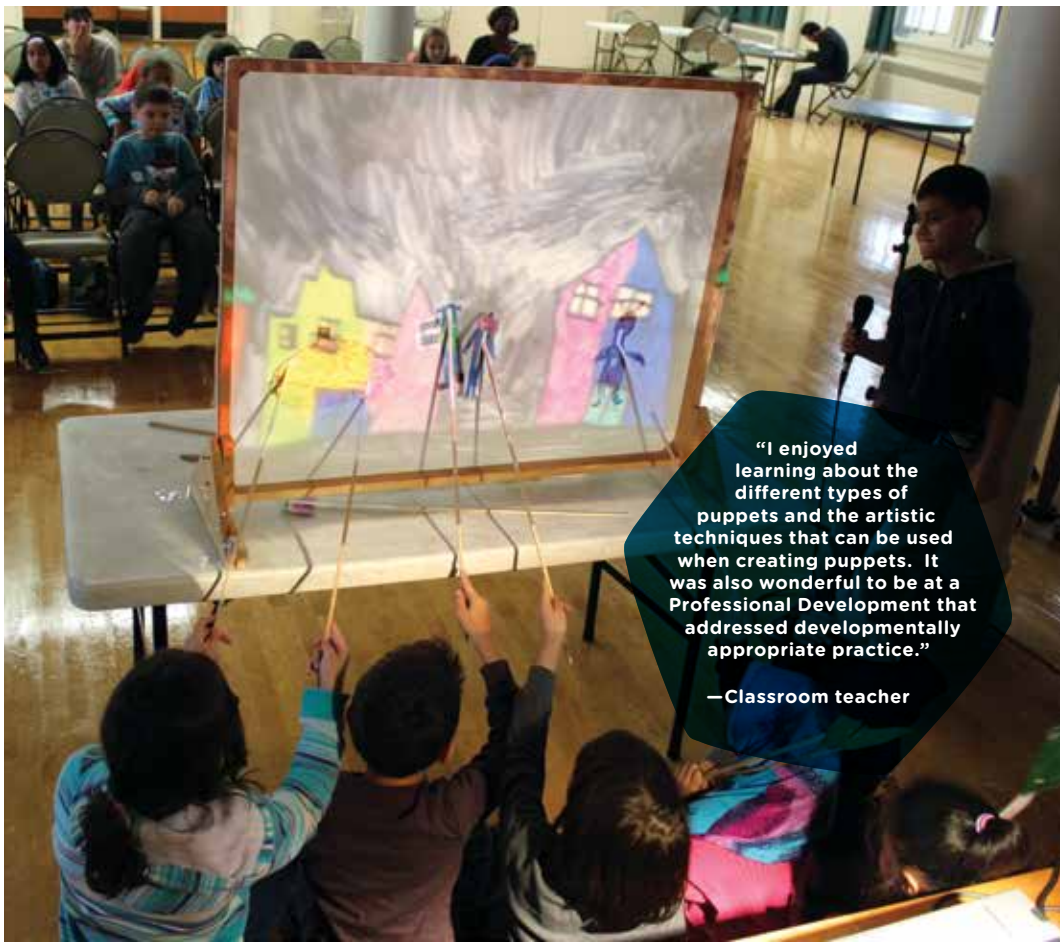
DELLTA	English language learners and their teachers	English language learners develop crucial vocabulary and communication skills while teachers build curriculum across disciplines.
Special Needs Arts	Children (pre-k – 12th grade) with significant physical and developmental challenges	Special needs students increase independence and confidence, strengthen communication skills and build social-emotional awareness.
Digital DELLTA	Middle school (6th – 8th grade) English language learners	Through theater and dance residencies, ELLs document their process through digital media portfolios while building English language and 21st-century skills.
Bridges	Kindergarten – 2nd grade classroom teachers, arts specialists, literacy coaches and ESL teachers	Through puppetry residencies and workshops, educators develop new teaching strategies to advance the literacy skills of their students.

**TEEN PROGRAMS**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High 5 Ticketing Program</li> <li>• Teen Reviewers and Critics</li> <li>• Student Art Program</li> </ul>	Young people 13 – 18 yrs	Teens develop independence and awareness of cultural opportunities throughout NYC, building and gaining critical thinking and writing skills.
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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

	Classroom teachers, arts specialists, teaching artists, paraprofessionals, and arts educators and researchers nationwide	AC engages with educators to keep their skills current and expand their knowledge and practice.
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“I enjoyed learning about the different types of puppets and the artistic techniques that can be used when creating puppets. It was also wonderful to be at a Professional Development that addressed developmentally appropriate practice.”

—Classroom teacher

## ***Bridges: Bridging the Achievement Gap through Puppetry***

*Bridges*, a research grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is a four-year professional development program for kindergarten — 2nd grade classroom teachers, arts specialists, literacy coaches and ESL teachers. Teaching artists collaborate with these educators, enriching the ELA curriculum with puppetry skills such as acting/vocal and physical expression, playmaking and adaptation, design/artistic choice, playwriting, directing and performance. As a result, classroom teachers identify and implement strategies to provide multiple entry points to literacy practices for their students. *Bridges* is based on the sequential puppetry curriculum at PS 130 in Brooklyn that has been developed through nine years of collaboration with their pre-k — 5th grade teachers.



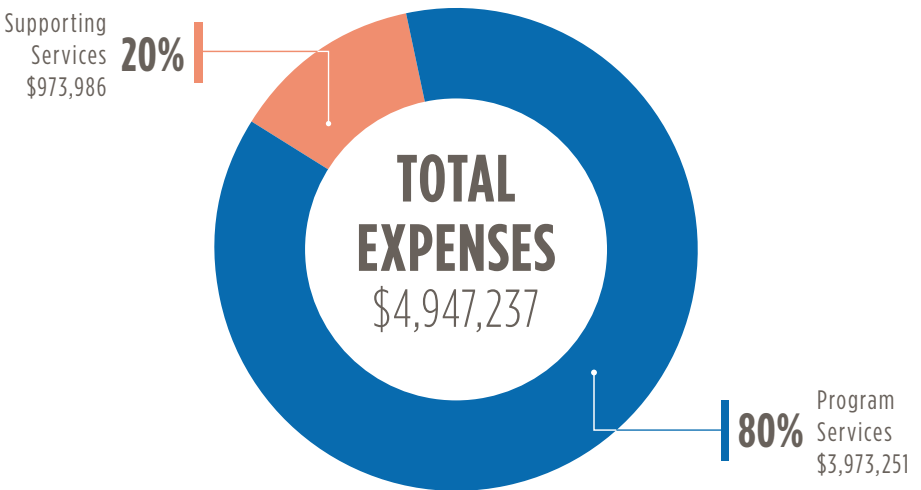
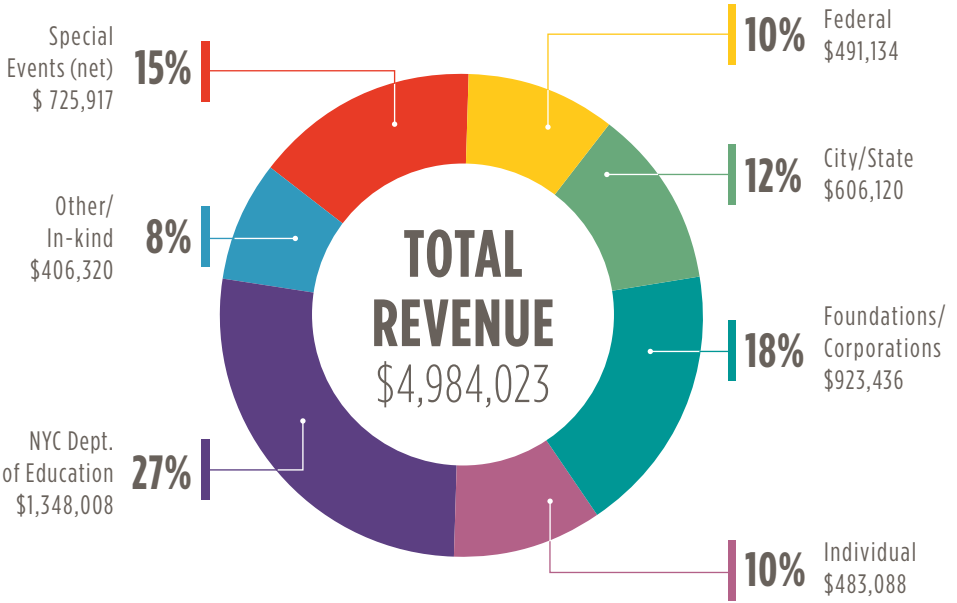
## MS 266/School's Out New York City (SONYC)

As part of a city-wide effort to increase access to afterschool programs for middle school students, ArtsConnection, with support from the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, partnered with MS 266 in Brooklyn to develop a rigorous program offering dance, music, theater and media. The program provides opportunities for youth to explore their interests and creativity, building skills that support academic achievement, and cultivating youth leadership and community engagement.

## Student Art Program

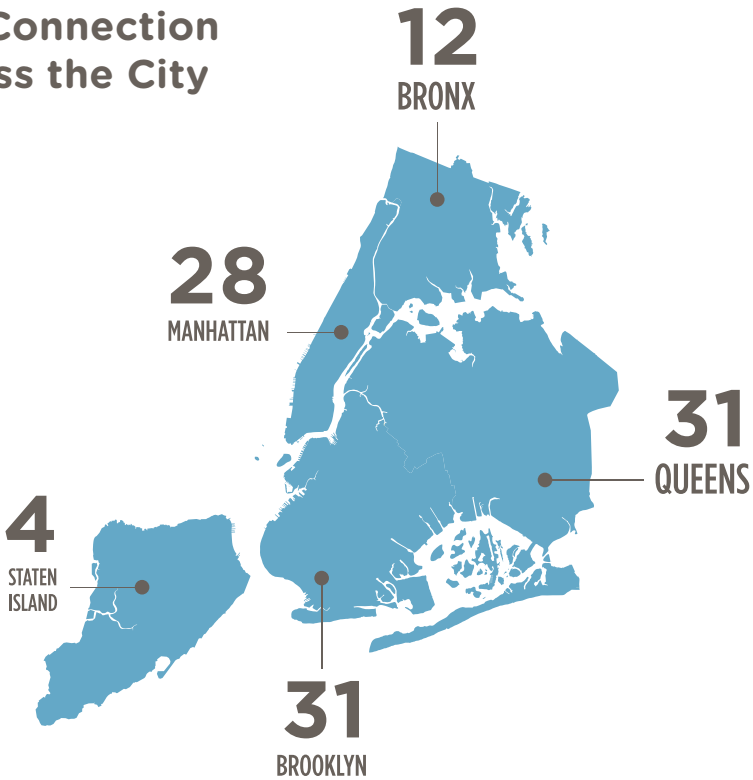
Participation in this exhibition program is a coveted honor for students in public schools across New York City. The teens exhibit their artwork in corporate office settings, hosted by our corporate sponsors, transforming art from a subject studied in school into a professional endeavor. For many SAP participants, the program is an entry point to our other teen programs. This year we showed over 600 artworks in 10 year-long exhibitions. Each exhibition has a reception and awards ceremony, enabling the artists, their families, teachers and corporate hosts to celebrate together. For the young artists, the sense of accomplishment gained from this experience opens up a world of possibilities, encouraging the pursuit of their artistic talents, as well as the discovery of their unique artistic voice.

# ArtsConnection Operating Budget FY15\*



\*Preliminary & unaudited. Complete audited financial statements may be obtained by contacting us: [info@artsconnection.org](mailto:info@artsconnection.org)

# ArtsConnection Across the City



## MANHATTAN

- P.S. 6 • P.S. 33 • P.S. 59 • P.S. 124
- P.S. 150 • P.S. 397 • Central Park East II
- City-As-School High School
- Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School
- Global Technology Preparatory
- Lower East Side Prep High School
- M.S. 324 • M.S. 514 • P 226
- Satellite Academy • The Children's Workshop School • The Earth School
- The Neighborhood School
- The High School of Fashion Industries
- The Spectrum School P94M at P.S. 15, P.S. 51, P.S. 188, P.S. 276, P.S. 340, P.S. 361, P.S. 397 • Thurgood Marshall Academy
- Tompkins Square Middle School

## BROOKLYN

- I.S. 30 • I.S. 96 • I.S. 171 • I.S. 220 • I.S. 562
- J.H.S. 14 • J.H.S. 240 • P.S. 15 • P.S. 32
- P.S. 38 • P.S. 69 • P.S. 130 • P.S. 160

- P.S. 167 • P.S. 193 • P.S. 197 • P.S. 206
- P.S. 222 • P.S. 230 • P.S. 233 • P.S. 261
- P.S. 325 • M.S. 88 • M.S. 266 • M.S. 422
- M.S. 598 • Brooklyn High School for the Arts • East New York Middle School of Excellence • Lyons Community High School • Mott Hall IV Middle School
- New Heights Middle School

## BRONX

- I.S. 219 • I.S. 181 • M.S. 5 • M.S. 228
- P 188 • P.S. 14 • P.S. 49 • P.S. 160 • P.S. 314
- Bronx High School for Visual Art
- In-Tech Academy • Morris Academy High School

## QUEENS

- I.S. 5 • I.S. 77 • I.S. 93 • I.S. 109 • I.S. 127
- I.S. 185 • I.S. 189 • I.S. 194 • I.S. 200
- I.S.208 • M.S./H.S. 309 • P 9 @ I.S. 5, P.S. 58, P.S. 209, P.S. 268, P.S. 882 • P.S. 13

- P.S. 19 • P.S. 50 • P.S. 68 • P.S. 91
- P.S. 111 • P.S. 153 • P.S. 215 • P.S. 229
- P.S. 239 • Corona Arts Academy
- Epic High School North
- Queens Children's Psychiatric Center
- Townsend Harris High School

## STATEN ISLAND

- P.S. 6 • P.S. 9 • P.S. 16 • P.S. 48



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Many thanks to all of our generous supporters. Due to space limitations, we cannot list all donor names here, but all of your contributions are deeply appreciated.

In-kind donations:

Tickets for our High 5 Tickets to the Arts Program provided by 110 arts & cultural partners. Subsidized studio space provided by A.R.T./New York Creative Space Grant, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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