

CREATING BRIGHT FUTURES TODAY



ArtsConnection

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS,

This annual report features three key concepts that I hope will give you insight to ArtsConnection's work in the 2017 program year. Stories and images share the vibrancy of our programming, both in classrooms and through connecting teens to the arts of NYC during the after-school hours. Our work in 126 public schools across the five boroughs and in Teen Programs gave 45,000 students the joy and delight of learning in and through the arts last year.

In turbulent times young people need to feel safe. In uncertain times, they need constancy in their lives. ArtsConnection programs help provide a safe and nurturing environment for students, who are confident that our teaching artists will be present throughout the year to introduce and guide their learning in music, theater, dance, visual arts and media.

I want to thank all of you who make this work possible. You have helped provide the children and young people in our city with the well-being and achievement that comes with good arts instruction.

Best always,



Steven Tennen
Executive Director

By acquiring new skills in literacy, communication, and critical thinking, students gain confidence and empathy. Ownership of the learning process creates enthusiasm. Such engagement also supports students in maintaining and developing abilities outside the classroom.

Digital DELLTA (Developing English Language Literacy Through the Arts) demonstrates how ArtsConnection programs help students discover and develop a wide range of abilities.

ABILITY

Middle school English language learners are immersed in the performing arts where they acquire the language skills necessary to communicate and perform in either dance or theater. Working in small groups, participants design choreography or create and perform a theatrical scene, based on personal experience. Students use tablets to film their ensemble work as it develops.

The program teaches students to identify their artistic choices and criteria. The ensembles view their videos, share feedback, and revise their work. Throughout the process, students consider the original inspiration and the evolution of their work to create a digital portfolio presented at the program's conclusion.

Digital DELLTA helps children build reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills as they use the English language in a context they care about.

DELLTA students at PS 185q work on their digital dance portfolio





A strong sense of identity serves students both personally and academically as they discover their unique contributions as individuals and as a part of a group. This heightened sense of self boosts confidence, independence, and interpersonal skills.

The Steel Pan Orchestra Program shows one of the many ways that ArtsConnection helps students uncover their unique identities.

The program affirms the musical heritage of many students in New York City's ethnically diverse schools. The experience also offers all students a hands-on introduction to the vibrant Caribbean culture. Using chromatically pitched steel pans fabricated in Trinidad, participants study both musical technique and theory, while learning to work together and to listen to one another. Students become aware of their individual strengths and how they function as a group.



P94m Spectrum Musical Theater students in a performance of *Sleeping Beauty*



Steel pan performance at PS 38k

“My students are more interactive with their classmates. They know how to collaborate and be supportive of each other now, thanks to the program’s structured small group work.” —Classroom Teacher

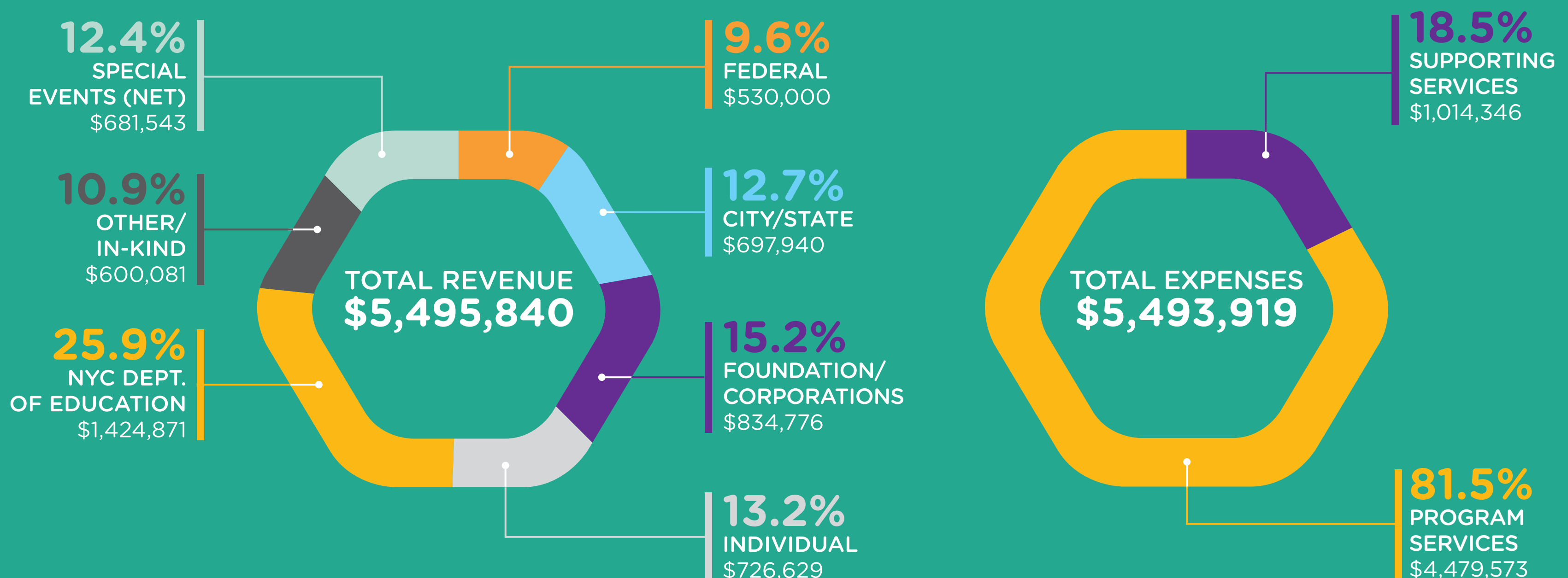
Because the pans respond to varied skill levels, every child experiences accomplishment and authentic musical expression. Each child gains confidence and a positive sense of self as a vital member of a steel pan ensemble—valuable, talented, and capable.



Mastering cello at PS 325k

Financials

Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2017*



*Preliminary and unaudited. Complete financial statement may be obtained by contacting us: info@artsconnection.org

PERSPECTIVE



Summer TRaC's Map Free City students visit the Studio Museum in Harlem's *Regarding the Figure* exhibition



Teen Reviews and Critics students visit *A Bronx Tale*



Student artists and teaching artist at *Teens Curate Teens* exhibition

Exposure to multiple viewpoints helps students cultivate a well-rounded perspective that prepares them for success in and out of the classroom. Experiencing different cultures, varied art forms, and diverse environments encourages young people to learn to adapt to new challenges.

Art2Art offers one example of how ArtsConnection programs help students create a broad, balanced perspective.

High school students participate in visual arts and theater workshops led by ArtsConnection teaching artists and cast members of a professional theater production. Students attend the show and meet with cast and crew. Then, the teens explore themes from the production and create original artwork, which is exhibited at the theater and online.

“Meeting the cast helped me understand the actors’ perspectives, which helped shape my artwork.” —Student

The Art2Art journey—from workshops through exhibition—challenges teens to contemplate the story, its themes, and their emotional responses. Students express their own perspectives through art, and peer discussions help them appreciate other viewpoints.

The 2017 program featured the Tony award-winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.

“I really connected to *Dear Evan Hansen*...it made many of us emotional and enabled us to communicate about important subjects, like family matters.” —Student



ARTSCONNECTION SUPPORTERS (Donor List September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017)

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 were provided by 110 arts & cultural partners. Space for Teen Programs workshops is provided by the Museum of Art and Design, New York Live Arts, HBO, the New York Public Library, and A.R.T./New York Creative Space Grant supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Support for Teens Curate Teens provided by the Dedalus Foundation.

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ArtsConnection

LINKING LEARNING AND THE ARTS
FOR BRIGHT FUTURES



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PS 14, PS 49, MS 80, JHS 125, PS 176, P 188, MS 228, PS 311, PS 314, MS 327, PS 382, MS 529, P 168 @ P 203, The Castle Hill School, Celia Cruz High School of Music, East Fordham Academy for the Arts, Laboratory School of Finance and Technology, Morris Academy for Collaborative Studies, Urban Academy Bronx Academy of Letters

BROOKLYN
PS 13, PS 24, PS 32, PS 38, PS 39, PS/IS 41, PS 69, PS 124, PS 130, PS 160, PS 165, PS/IS 184, PS 199, PS 226, PS 230, PS 233, PS 261, MS 266, PS/IS 284, PS 289, PS 299, PS 325, PS/IS 327, MS 352, IS 392, PS 396, MS 442, MS 581, PS 676, MS 839, Academy for Young Writers, Brooklyn Environmental Exploration School, Brooklyn High School

for the Arts, Franklin Roosevelt High School, Frederick Douglass Academy VIII, John Dewey High School, Kappa V, Park Slope Collegiate, Ronald Edmonds Learning Center II, STAR Academy, William H. Maxwell High School
MANHATTAN
PS 4, PS 15, PS 33, PS 59, PS 64, PS 124, PS 133, PS 148, PS 150, PS 155,

MS 291, P 94 @ PS 188, P 94 @ PS 276, P 94 @ PS 281, P 94 @ PS 340, P 94 @ PS 361, P 94 @ PS 397, P 94 @ PS 51, Central Park East 2, Earth School, Fashion Industries High School, Frederick Douglass Academy, High School for Art, Imagination and Inquiry, Lab School of Collaborative Studies, Manhattan Business Academy, Neighborhood School,

NYC Museum School, Satellite Academy Manhattan, Urban Assembly Academy for Future Leaders
QUEENS
MS 5, PS 13, PS 19, PS 20, PS 22, P 23, PS 33, PS 50, MS 53, PS 68, IS 77, PS 91, IS 93, PS 153, JHS 185, IS 189, IS 208, PS 229, IS 237, PS 239, PS/MS 270, PS 256 @ Gateway Academy HS, PS 256 @ St. John's Residence

for Boys, Bayside High School, Flushing High School, John Bowne High School, Martin Van Buren High School, Queens School of Inquiry, Thomas Edison High School
STATEN ISLAND
PS 1, PS 6, PS 16, PS 42, PS 48, IS 49, PS 78, P 721 The Hungerford School

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