

**RAISING
EXPECTATIONS**





Our mission is to inspire young people and expand their learning through the arts.

We believe an education steeped in the arts is vital to the complete development and mental health of all students.

Through the arts, we ignite a passion for learning and unlock the greatness within each child, creating generations of lifelong learners.

By providing advocacy, communications, professional learning, fundraising, technology, and other support, the Young Audiences Arts for Learning National Office guides the Young Audiences Arts for Learning national network and strives to advance quality and equity in arts education for all students.



Raising Expectations

From our first days in Baltimore in 1950, Young Audiences Arts for Learning has fueled the imagination of countless students. Today, we uplift this legacy, embracing the transformative power of arts in the educational journey of our nation's young people.

With the RAISE (Responsive Arts in School Education) program, we ask: Can innovative arts partnerships enhance the resilience and adaptability of students amid unprecedented challenges? Can the collaboration of teaching artists, social workers, and educators forge a new frontier in trauma-informed and culturally responsive education? Are we setting a new benchmark for excellence?

The answer is unfolding before us: We are Raising Expectations.

RAISE: A New Paradigm in Arts Education

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the RAISE initiative is a bold step into a future where education is not just responsive but anticipatory of the needs of students navigating a complex world. Through the synergy of teaching artists (TAs) and school social workers (SSWs), RAISE delivers customized, in-depth arts education residencies, grounded in the understanding of trauma and cultural diversity. Our action-oriented training, coaching, and shared learning networks across 14 affiliates forge a community committed to excellence, reaching over 17,000 students and 800 educators.

The impact of RAISE is not just local but national, with best practices and learnings radiating out to influence over five million students. Our vision is supported by robust research, evidence-based practices, and a rich online library, ensuring our insights serve as a beacon for educators everywhere.

Proving Our Impact: Arts Integration in Action

RAISE is not just an idea; it's a proven strategy in motion. By integrating arts into the fabric of education, we see students becoming not just learners but thinkers, creators, and leaders. They're developing the 21st-century skills of critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation. They're becoming the protagonists of their educational stories, engaged, present, and accounted for in every sense.

Within these pages, we share the stories that matter, the data that supports, and the outcomes that inspire. RAISE is more than a program—it's a promise that every student can exceed expectations when given the opportunity to blend the vibrancy of the arts with the rigor of education.

Join us as we celebrate the progress, acknowledge the journey, and look forward to the horizons we have yet to explore.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Dik".

David A. Dik
National Executive Director



The Young Audiences Arts for Learning National Network



Partners

Public Schools	72%
Independent Schools	9%
Charter Schools	2%
Post Secondary	1%
Community Based	20%



Community Setting

36%
Suburban

53%
Urban

11%
Rural

Program Components

Residencies	78%
Performances	6%
Workshops	13%
Professional Development	3%



Program Content

Music	22%
Theater	18%
Dance	20%
Visual & Design Arts	22%
Literary Arts	7%
Digital Media/Technology	4%



Program Integration

32% Literacy	18% History	18% STEM	20% Character Education	8% Nutrition	6% Environment
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5.1 million
Students Reached

69,208
Number of Programs

4,151
Participating
Institutions

60,448
Educators

2,198
Teaching Artists



57%
Title 1 Schools

Attending a Title 1 school offers the primary benefit of access to extra resources and support to foster academic success and well-being—particularly for students from low-income families—such as eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches.

**A Year of Impact
by the
Numbers**

**Unlocking the
Transformative
Power of the Arts**



Affiliate Highlights



2023

- Arkansas Learning Through the Arts
- Arts and Learning Conservatory, Costa Mesa, CA
- Arts Education Collaborative, Pittsburgh, PA
- Arts for Learning Connecticut
- Arts for Learning Indiana
- Arts for Learning Maryland
- Arts for Learning Massachusetts
- Arts for Learning/Miami
- Arts for Learning Northwest
- Arts for Learning Santa Cruz County, AZ
- Arts for Learning Virginia
- Arts for Learning Western New York
- Arts Partners, Wichita, KS
- ArtsNOW Learning, Atlanta, GA
- Big Thought, Dallas, TX
- Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, Cleveland, OH
- Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education
- Kansas City Young Audiences
- Springboard to Learning, St. Louis, MO
- Think 360 Arts for Learning, Denver, CO
- Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania
- Young Audiences New York
- Young Audiences of Abilene
- Young Audiences of Houston
- Young Audiences of Louisiana
- Young Audiences of Lubbock
- Young Audiences of Northeast Texas
- Young Audiences of Northern California
- Young Audiences of Southeast Texas
- Young Audiences of Southwest Florida

Arkansas Learning Through the Arts Hot Springs Village, AR

Arkansas Learning Through the Arts presented 84 one-hour sessions and workshops involving 225 teachers in Central Arkansas, reaching approximately 6,000 students. These residencies focus on enhancing student outcomes in literacy and content areas and provide opportunities to students in communities with little or no access to cultural offerings. ALTTA also continued its partnership with the local symphony guild, helping to develop curricular support to prepare students for the Hot Springs Children's Concert, presented by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra to over 2,500 students.

Arts & Learning Conservatory • Costa Mesa, CA

In 2023, Arts & Learning Conservatory reached over 3700 students through after-school arts programs, workshops, conservatory classes, and signature performances. ALC's dedicated team of 45 teaching artists and administrative staff delivered over 800 hours of instruction covering a diverse range of artistic disciplines, including music and theatre. This year, ALC introduced a signature production, Music of the March: A Tribute to MLK and the Motown Sound, to a sold-out crowd of 700 attendees. Arts & Learning Conservatory continues to provide educational experiences and opportunities for students to learn about career pathways in the arts.

Arts Education Collaborative • Pittsburgh, PA

2023 was a year of evolution and celebration for Arts Education Collaborative (AEC), marked by a move from downtown to the vibrant Carnegie Museum of Art, enriching its mission with fresh resources and collaborators. artlook® SWPA expanded, now partnering with 176 schools and 74 partners, and AEC joined forces with CMU's Heinz College to enhance arts education data reporting. The affiliate provided evaluation consulting with vital cultural institutions and initiated new ventures with The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and the Maxo Vanka Murals. AEC's Leadership Academy turned 20, celebrating with current members and alums, with more alum activities planned for 2024. AEC's presence was felt nationally, with Bradley Hill showcasing the affiliate's work at key conferences. AEC's 25th anniversary was commemorated at the ACTIVATE Arts Learning Conference, convening over 100 arts educators for a day of insight and exchange. Strategic planning and evaluations by Common Cause Consulting and Denmark Sussex are shaping the future of the Creative Learning Network alongside local arts organizations. AEC's team grew stronger with Bradley Hill's promotion to Program Manager and Gen Pietrusinski's arrival as the new Program Coordinator.

Arts for Learning Connecticut • Hamden, CT

"I always tell people, if you really care about how kids learn, if you believe that kids should have fun and yet be informed to the fullest, then this is the only way to do it." These words from the principal of one of Arts for Learning Connecticut's (AFLCT) Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Schools encapsulate the essence of AFLCT's impact: inspiring young people to think deeper, think differently, see connections, and find joy. This is what AFLCT and its Teaching Artists offered tens of thousands of students, educators, and community members across Connecticut throughout the year. FY23 saw exciting developments for AFLCT, from the launch of EMERGE—a training and mentorship program for emerging Teaching Artists from underrepresented communities—to the publication of an extensive Developmental Evaluation for HOT Schools. With a growing team across staff, board, and teaching artists, AFLCT is poised for an even greater impact in the coming years.

Arts for Learning Indiana • Indianapolis, IN

Arts for Learning Indiana received more than \$1.2 million in 2023 grants to help fund growth in crucial new programs and operational support. The new funding complements the affiliate's focus on longer-term programs to maximize impact on student populations. The programs include Artists Building Community, a three-year grassroots residency program in which a teaching artist works with a school and its community to create programming responsive to that community's needs. YA's Indiana affiliate is scheduled to double the number of schools served, resulting in eight high-need schools. This work also complements an organizational core value, fighting systemic racism using a community-led approach. Arts for Learning Indiana is expanding its work as a WolfTrap affiliate to include teaching infants and their caregivers in addition to the preschoolers served.

Arts for Learning Maryland • Baltimore, MD

Arts for Learning Maryland (AFLMD) reached 157,247 students, providing 584,516 arts-learning hours in FY23 through in-school assemblies, residencies, and workshops; after-school and summer programming; and early childhood programs. AFLMD expanded its Summer Academy (SALA), reaching 2,586 students in Baltimore City and Washington DC. The program mitigated summer learning loss: 78% of students maintained or improved math, and 77% maintained or improved literacy. AFLMD's Afterschool Academy continued, serving 485 children, while its Early Childhood Initiative served 11,026 children ages 0-6, fostering kindergarten readiness. Blacktastic, AFLMD's signature virtual festival of Maryland Black history and

culture, broke attendance records: 42,473 participants joined the event, representing 139 schools and twelve Maryland counties. AFLMD also provided training for adults who work with children, including Start with the Art, professional development funded by the U.S. Department of Education; the Principal Fellowship, an intensive, supportive program for principals; and training in arts integration and inclusion for teaching artists.

Arts for Learning Massachusetts • Boston, MA

In FY23, Young Audiences of Massachusetts celebrated its 60th anniversary, rebranded as Arts for Learning Massachusetts (AFLMA), and added new program staff. This year, AFLMA launched Expanded Arts Access (EAA) semester-long residencies with eight new schools, building partnerships with administrators and new teaching artists. In total, 562 young scholars experiencing houselessness and extreme poverty participated in AFLMA's EHTM early literacy through music program; 17 classrooms of differently abled students experienced the joy of AFLMA's Healing Arts programs, and 31 under-resourced schools offered AFLMA EAA residency programs for their students. Summer campers experienced the power and beauty of Native American history, music, art, and literature through movement and story in the new Shapeshifter Residency and in the Street Art residency, campers custom-designed footwear and clothing. AFLMA was also proud to develop an after-school musical program culminating in the school's first-ever full-length theater production.

Arts for Learning Miami • Miami, FL

Arts for Learning/Miami (A4L/Miami) proudly continued its work providing a continuum of arts care for Miami's children from preschool through high school, serving more than 4,700 students. A4L/Miami expanded its partnership with Miami-Dade County Head Start and Early Head Start, welcomed new partnerships with Hope for Miami, the Children's Bereavement Center, The Arc, and The Children's Village, and grew its summer high school internships program providing internships for 85 students in theater, dance, visual art, music production, film, architecture, creative writing, and animation. A4L/Miami also expanded its Lewis Arts Studio and All Kids Included programming. Most exciting is that A4L/Miami is a leader in Arts Access Miami, a strategic collaboration making it possible for ALL students in Miami to have access to a high-quality education in the arts.

Arts for Learning Northwest • Portland, OR

In March 2023, Young Audiences of Oregon and SW Washington became Arts for Learning Northwest

(AFLNW), continuing a 65-year legacy of providing art access and education to the region's young people. AFLNW's Right Brain Initiative program provided arts integration services and support for 18,000 students in Hillsboro, Gresham-Barlow, and four other Portland Metro school districts committed to a long-term cultural shift toward creative, arts-integrated education for all students. AFLNW's roster of 70+ arts programs served 40,000 students across the region with visual and performing arts, including three rural counties in Central Oregon.

Arts for Learning Santa Cruz County • Nogales, AZ

In addition to serving as the fiscal agent to all school districts in the county and as the liaison to the State Department of Education, Arts for Learning Santa Cruz County is the proponent of several initiatives that promote the overall health and well-being of students: programming focuses on social-emotional learning, college and career readiness, early childhood education, literacy, as well as the support and encouragement of arts and culture in education. This year, the affiliate welcomed several exciting performances, after-school and summer arts programs such as Archeology Workshops for High School Students with Dr. Hunter Claypatch; the Murals on Morley Summer Camp; Dream Out Loud Poetry Workshop with Dutchess County Poet Laureate, Poet Gold; an International Border Fashion Week Show; a performance by the State of Sonora Philharmonic Orchestra; a visit from Little Amal, a 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, as she Walks Across America, along with many community festivals celebrating heritage and culture.

Arts for Learning Virginia • Norfolk, VA

For nearly 70 years, Arts for Learning Virginia (AFLVA) has reached generations of students, families, and educators. The Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission honored AFLVA recently with a Human Rights Award for programming that promotes the understanding of cultural diversity, social awareness, and human rights. In 2023, by partnering with the Wolf Trap Foundation for Performing Arts, AFLVA is now known as the Coastal Virginia Wolf Trap affiliate, enabling us to bring new programs to young learners. The YA affiliate also debuted two innovative after-school residency programs. Intentional Designs of Expression in Artistic Languages featured upper-elementary students from Title I schools in three school districts who explored self-identity using visual arts, spoken word, and dance. The highlight was a public art exhibit at the Chrysler Museum. Community Creators in STEAM focused on helping underserved fifth graders develop workplace skills as they designed and built a 3D artwork on display to the public.

Arts for Learning Western New York - Buffalo, NY

Arts for Learning remains at the forefront of arts instruction in Western New York. This past year, more than 48,000 families and students received access to arts-integrated programming. 90% of the affiliate's residencies served students attending Title 1 schools, more than 88% of youth impacted came from historically underrepresented communities, and over 65% of work was in rural communities. Arts for Learning WNY also continued to deepen its commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion practices. The organization launched the Master Teaching Artist Training Program, an initiative focused on advancing the skills of Arts for Learning teaching artists and any artist in the Western New York community. This training series empowers artists to use the tools learned from local and national experts to increase equitable practices in facilitation, including lesson plan modification for neurodivergent learners, classroom behavior modification, infusing social justice practices, and more.

Arts Partners Wichita - Wichita, KS

Arts Partners has experienced operational growth: doubling the teaching artist roster, expanding to two rural school districts, investing in professional development, and nearly tripling the organization's operating budget. It was the first organization in Kansas to receive the Department of Education Artists in Education grant. This funding, aimed at enhancing literacy and social-emotional skills by incorporating the arts into education, has sparked the creation of instructional content that is culturally pertinent and promotes practices that support and uphold cultural identities and heritage. Arts Partners' Artists to Authors Fellowship has published a series of children's books authored by 22 Kansas artists and educators (11 of whom are BIPOC). In July, Arts Partners will host its 3rd Just Add Arts Symposium with local and national experts in arts integration. The Generation STEAM program continues to empower students to be community problem solvers by guiding and investing in student-driven design solutions that address a social determinant of health.

ArtsNOW Learning - Atlanta, GA

For more than 20 years, ArtsNOW has transformed education through integrated learning and arts in education. By integrating visual, digital, and performing arts into all core subjects, ArtsNOW empowered teachers to be more confident and effective in their teaching, leading to deeper student engagement for greater academic and personal success. ArtsNOW has served over 400,000 students and 500+ schools by providing professional learning to more than 60,000 educators. With a focus on growing its service footprint, ArtsNOW serves Georgia and has expanded its presence

significantly into South Carolina and, most recently, Alabama. ArtsNOW is on its way to making great strides in advancing arts integration and integrated learning.

Big Thought - Dallas, TX

Big Thought believes that all young people should be equipped to imagine and create their best lives and world. As part of this work, the organization engaged more than 73,000 students in creative learning opportunities throughout its ecosystem, leveraging its nationally recognized Creator Archetype framework. This framework builds a whole learner by bolstering youth social-emotional foundation, academics and artistry, design thinking, digital fluency, and civics and service. In 2023, Big Thought students published the Create Great magazine to share their perspectives on learning and creativity in the world today.

Center for Arts-Inspired Learning (CAL) Cleveland, OH

In 2023, CAL actively engaged over 140,000 participants through its diverse arts-integrated programming across Northeast Ohio. Through collaborating with influential partners like the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Cleveland Orchestra, Assembly for the Arts, and other local organizations, CAL successfully organized the Play It Forward!® Cleveland instrument drive. During the drive, CAL collected 55+ instruments and vital funds to repair and refurbish damaged instruments. The drive provided gently used instruments to Cleveland youth and showcased the profound results of community collaboration. CAL also introduced the ArtWorks Youth Leadership Council, an extension of the affiliate's ArtWorks program dedicated to nurturing emerging leaders. Council members, spanning grades 10 through 12, serve as co-op leads, engage in community projects, participate in professional development, and act as program ambassadors. This initiative emphasizes CAL's commitment to empowering youth.

Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education (CAPE) Chicago, IL

Four thousand five hundred students had the opportunity to collaborate with a CAPE teaching artist in their classroom during the school day and after. At 50 schools, CAPE teaching artists inspired the creativity of students who challenged the boundaries of art-making by sharing their new ideas through artistic expression. Whether using copper tape and circuitry to create musical notations, songwriting to express ideas about identity and personal hopes, or dance to share personal and cultural narratives, all CAPE students were engaged in thoughtful, reflective art-making practices to develop their intellect, creativity, and knowledge. At the newly established CAPE Gallery space on Chicago's

near South Side, CAPE teachers and artists have a home for professional development and collaboration, developing regular exhibitions and events serving CAPE students and families and the broader arts education community.

Kansas City Young Audiences - Kansas City, MO

Gifts from individual supporters and foundation grants from private, corporate, and government sources made it possible for KCYA to work with 77 professional teaching artists and 13 partner arts organizations representing nearly every fine arts discipline to deliver 67 performances, 883 workshops, and 107 artist residencies. KCYA's School and Community Programs and Arts Partners programming took place at 150 schools in 16 school districts and served 75,000 primarily Title I students from the Greater Kansas City region. In total, KCYA programs reached 15,000 more underserved children and youth than in the previous school year. KCYA also provided innovative professional development opportunities for classroom teachers. One of the most popular and well-attended workshops was the dynamic series BARS: Learning the Writing Process Through Rap. Fifteen-year teaching artist veteran Bomani Armah taught educators how to use aspects of hip-hop art and culture to teach writing.

Springboard to Learning - St. Louis, MO

Springboard made waves in arts education, hosting the Poetry Out Loud Regional Competition with the winner advancing nationally. Its Baby Artsplay!™ initiative launched with programs for young children and their caregivers, and the WiseWrite one-act play festival returned to the Sun Theater. They also enriched St. Louis students' summers with 154 programs. At Busch Stadium, Springboard was recognized nationwide in the Pitching In Program. Additionally, Springboard supported the Hazelwood School District with 60 residencies and provided year-long educational programming to St. Louis Catholic Academy. A partnership with BoardBridge aimed to diversify their board, while 155 volunteers assembled 6,000 Arts & Learning Packs, reflecting Springboard's commitment to arts access for all.

Think 360 Arts for Learning - Denver, CO

Think 360 Arts celebrated its 60th anniversary with pivotal initiatives, emphasizing its commitment to arts learning across the lifespan from early childhood to older adults and professional development in arts integration across Colorado. A new Executive Director took the lead in January, growing the organization with new hires in marketing and grants administration. A significant highlight of the year was launching the Equity in Arts Learning for Colorado Youth Grant in collaboration

with the Bonfils Stanton Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, and other funders statewide. This initiative is poised to regrant nearly \$500,000 to schools and nonprofits in Colorado for year-long teaching artist residencies next year. The anniversary year concluded with the Diamond Jubilee Historical Deep Dive Panel Discussion Event at the University of Denver's Newman Center for the Arts. This event featured past leaders and experienced teaching artists sharing the organization's impactful stories and milestones.

Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania Princeton, NJ

Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania (YANJEP) artists delivered 2,991 programs to 245,558 students and educators in 395 schools. Five schools experienced United We Discover, a new program funded by the NJ Department of Human Services that provides inclusive arts experiences for Disabled and non-Disabled students while promoting positive perceptions of Disabled identities. Newly launched Arts for Learning residencies provided effective interventions for Title 1 goals through music, storytelling, creative writing, and visual art. YANJEP developed new Creative Classroom Toolkits to strengthen student engagement in artistic experiences through resources, including pre-performance "trailers" to introduce the artist, "commercials" to encourage attendance on the day of the program, videos and newsletters to families, activity videos to extend learning, and post-program reflection and review videos. Twelve new artists joined the roster, including two from the Narragansett Indian Tribe and four new bilingual program offerings.

Young Audiences New York - New York, NY

Young Audiences New York (YANY) partnered with 23 schools and community-based organizations to serve over 5,500 students in 2023. This includes YANY's Community School program, where the affiliate serves as the Lead CBO at three sites, working closely with school administrators to build community partnerships and help solve school issues through the arts. At PS 205X, YANY's arts-focused after-school program, designed to encourage regular attendance, helped reduce the school's chronic absenteeism rate by 9%. PS 205X Glee Club students were also featured performers at the affiliate's annual Gala. At PS 165M, almost 200 students enrolled in the YANY after-school program, which is 50% of the school population and 125% of the target set by the state. YANY's Community School program expanded this year with a new partner site—the High School of Arts & Technology.

Young Audiences of Abilene - Abilene, TX

Young Audiences of Abilene (YAA) served over 11,500

students through its Performance Demonstrations, educational performances at the Paramount Theatre, and a Middle School experience with Abilene Christian University's Opera. In the fall and spring semesters, YAA hosted 17 Arts After-School programs in Abilene ISD elementary schools in dance, visual arts, and theatre. The Abilene affiliate also provided six free children's performances in collaboration with the Abilene Public Library, serving over 850 individuals. Young Audiences played an integral part in the Children's Art and Literacy Festival in Abilene, the Storybook Capital of America, providing training and support for the 22 individuals participating in 129 dramatic readings over the 4-day event. Young Audiences of Abilene also celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 2023 and continues to grow the programs each year.

Young Audiences of Houston • Houston, TX

Over the past year, Young Audiences of Houston (YAH) delivered arts-in-education programs that boosted academic outcomes and fostered a love for learning through creative expression. YAH achieved this goal by implementing 3,918 tailored programs alongside comprehensive Curriculum Connection Extension Lesson guides in partnership with 168 local teaching artists and arts partner organizations. These efforts have impacted over a quarter-million PK-12 students and engaged 82,544 adults and community members through in-person and virtual activities. Young Audiences of Houston's footprint includes 208 schools and youth service centers encompassing 14 counties across Southeast Texas.

Young Audiences of Louisiana • New Orleans, LA

It was a year of growth and motion for Young Audiences of Louisiana (YALA), marked by a move downtown to 400 Magazine Street, steps from the Arts District. The four-story historic location is perfect for consolidating YALA's program personnel and making space for innovative arts integration programming and community engagement. YALA exceeded a budget of \$5 million and employed 20 full-time teaching artists who worked in schools across Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. YALA expanded its Wolf Trap programming, supported by grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Hearst Foundations, and a \$300,000 Reimagine Grant from the Louisiana Department of Education. Furthermore, YALA deepened its commitment to inclusivity by actively involving previously underrepresented voices in meaningful discussions, and launched new initiatives for family and community engagement, along with events to show appreciation for its teaching artists.

Young Audiences of Lubbock • Lubbock, TX

Young Audiences of Lubbock (YAL) is honored to serve the students and communities of the West Texas region. YAL's Teaching Artists program has expanded to

14 elementary schools, reaching over 1,000 students weekly. YAL is committed to unlocking pathways for learning and utilizing music to enhance education. In partnership with Lubbock Symphony, YAL presented an elementary education concert and a family concert, serving over 3,600 students and families. Additionally, the affiliate is proud to share performances in various areas of the community, such as Covenant Children's Hospital, Heartland House, and Children's Home of Lubbock. Other partnerships include the Science Spectrum and Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts (LHUCA), which help YAL create more arts integration opportunities for students across the community. YAL looks forward to celebrating its 2nd anniversary in October 2024.

Young Audiences of Northeast Texas • Tyler, TX

During the 2022-2023 school year Young Audiences of Northeast Texas (YANETX) saw a 70% surge in engaging art opportunities, notably its Creating Balance Through Dance program, driving long-term district changes. YANETX lead dance programs in Winona ISD and Tyler ISD, prompting the latter to hire a full-time dance teacher. Expanding its reach, a Dance Program Coordinator was appointed to spread the program to other districts. Additionally, YANETX instructors choreographed musical theatre dances in middle schools. After-school programs flourished, including percussionist-led music classes and a six-week theatre workshop laying the groundwork for a new theatre department. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, YANETX awarded exceptional educators and honored Dr. Cheryl and Michael Rogers as Lifetime Achievement recipients. YANETX's Northeast Texas Poetry in Schools contest received over a thousand entries, with winners featured in an anthology. YANETX reached 93 schools and impacted over 40,000 students and 1,300 educators.

Young Audiences of Northern California San Francisco, CA

To expand teacher practice and strengthen arts education, 15 San Francisco Bay Area Teaching Artists joined 14 Classroom Teachers at South San Francisco Unified School District for a 20-day STEAM—Arts Integrated Summer School for grades 4-8. This year, the focus was on ENERGY and integrating the arts, science, and engineering curriculum. Participating Teachers and Teaching Artists participated in a 5-day intensive focusing on the practices and tools to strengthen teaching practices. Last year, over 28,000 students from 36 school districts engaged in over 57,000 learning hours.



RAISE (Responsive Arts in School Education),

YA's bold, multi-state initiative, continues to promote student well-being by increasing access to the arts, healing, and social-emotional learning. Launched in 2021, the pioneering five-year project presents a vibrant educational model that can be widely replicated. RAISE is supported by a grant of \$9.3 million from the U.S. Department of Education, and by 2026, it will have served more than 17,000 students and 800 teachers and school social workers from underfunded areas across the country.

During a time when mental health continues to be a national concern, RAISE is designed to meet pressing needs. It taps into the power of art and communication to help students process and creatively manage negative emotions like depression and anxiety.

The program brings teaching artists, school social workers, and classroom teachers into partnership to develop healing-centered and culturally responsive-sustaining arts-in-education residency programs. Covering diverse arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, visual arts, media arts), RAISE residency modules range in subjects from movement to storytelling. In addition to school-based residencies in low-income communities nationwide, RAISE provides YA network teaching artists with over 50 hours of in-depth professional learning. Participants convene regularly as a learning community to share action research strategies and findings.

Innovation *and* Inspiration



“We look forward to connecting our collective practice to support the social-emotional learning and wellbeing of students across the country,” says **David Dik, National Executive Director of Young Audiences Arts for Learning**. “The Responsive Arts in School Education program brings to light the opportunity to further position the Young Audiences Arts for Learning network as a national research laboratory steeped in differentiated practice nationwide.”

Healing Through the Arts

YA’s national network is dedicated to playing a decisive role in young people’s personal, artistic, and educational development. RAISE was conceived upon a robust existing practice of arts integration with a deep dive into social-emotional learning and student empowerment. Through RAISE, students are becoming not only learners but also thinkers, creators, and leaders equipped with 21st-century skills.

Developed in the wake of the pandemic, which profoundly affected children’s wellbeing, RAISE offers healing-centered arts in education while helping young people heal and thrive. The program’s tenets aim to strengthen critical abilities like empathy, adaptability, and resilience.

“Most of our families are recent immigrants or first generation in this country,” said **Amanda Rodgers**,



It’s amazing. This program is going to give me so many tools that I can use with the kids and make me feel more sure with my practice. I’m so, so happy.

—**RAISE participant Cindy Ventura, Teaching Artist, Young Audiences of Houston**

Principal of Braeburn Elementary in Houston, Texas. She stressed the value of providing a safe place for students to share their emotions and “to process some of the trauma that they’ve been through.” “When you come from a place of poverty,” she observed, “so often you lose those enrichment opportunities.”

“Sometimes the biggest thing our kids need is the ability to express themselves or be able to speak up,” said **Iveth Reyes, Wraparound Resource Specialist at Braeburn**. “Students that are struggling with depression, anxiety, come to me and tell me that they’re practicing meditation at home, or that they’re using some of the skills that they’re learning and that they’re implementing them in their daily life.”

Building Collective Capacity to Thrive

As a national initiative, RAISE was piloted with Young Audiences of Louisiana, YA’s New Orleans-based affiliate. Over its five-year project period, RAISE is on track to launch at 18 YA affiliates. Through 2023, RAISE has been implemented at 11 YA affiliate sites, with seven additional sites joining in 2024 and 2025. Now in its third of five years of programming, RAISE has positioned school staff and educators to share

This is groundbreaking stuff—on the leading edge of a paradigm shift. I move forward in confidence that I have a huge community supporting me.



—**YA Teaching Artist, RAISE participant**

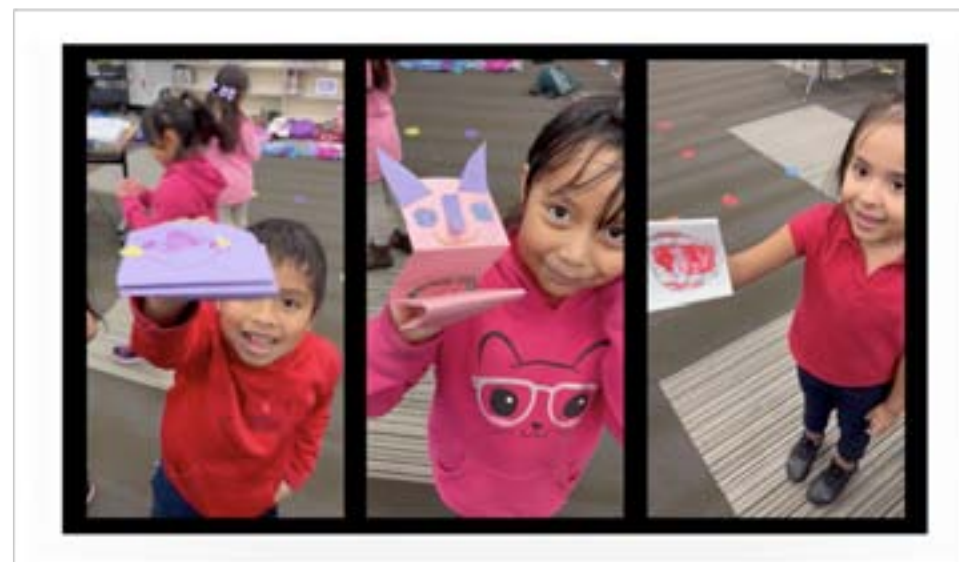
best practices with colleagues from a cross-section of disciplines, cities, and states.

The program bridges boundaries and operates collectively by connecting artists to school support staff. “We’re looking to transform the ways artists work with students in schools,” explains **Melissa Gawlowski Pratt, YA’s Director of Strategic Partnerships and Network Relations**. “We are intentionally fostering relationships between school social workers, teachers, and teaching artists as an essential team that can collaborate and learn from each other.” Collaboration is a cornerstone of RAISE, so families are invited to a culminating community arts celebration at each school.

Teaching artists within the network entering their third year of RAISE residency work are delving into action research, actively testing new ideas and strategies while meticulously documenting their outcomes. Additionally, they serve as mentors for teaching artists who are in their first year of RAISE training.

More than 200 YA teaching artists have completed RAISE training courses; all told, RAISE will provide professional coaching to 500 artists. Sessions are recorded so that Young Audiences can disseminate a library of digital resources on arts-integrated, trauma-informed instructional practices.

“Students truly are at the center of RAISE,” explains David Dik. “Orbiting around them are teaching artists, classroom educators, school support staff, and communities, with the national YA network serving as the connective tissue that transforms a groundbreaking vision into groundbreaking practice.”





ENDOWMENT FUND

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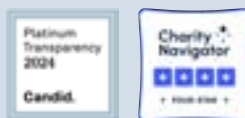
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Young Audiences Arts for Learning is recognized as one of the nation's most fiscally responsible nonprofits, earning a Platinum Rating from Candid (GuideStar and Foundation Center) and a Four-Star rating and charity score of 96% from Charity Navigator. As the nation's leading provider of arts-integrated education programs and services, we are committed to the highest degree of accountability, transparency, and efficiency. In FY2023, 84% of funds were directed toward student, educator, and community support, and national advocacy and communications, while administrative and fundraising expenses were 10% and 6%, respectively. With your support, we continue to inspire countless millions to believe in the power of their own education.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the full value of multiyear grants be included as revenue in the fiscal year that the grant notifications are made. However, substantial expenses for carrying out these grants may not be recorded in Young Audiences' financial statements until the year in which they are expended.

If you would like additional information about Young Audiences' financial condition or the accounting rules that determine how multi-year revenues and expenses are recorded and verified, please contact the Young Audiences Arts for Learning National Office in New York City or visit our website at youngaudiences.org.



Young Audiences, Inc. Combined Statement of Revenue and Expenses

June 30, 2023 (with comparative amounts for 2022)

	Total National 2022-2023	Total Affiliates 2022-2023	Total Combined 2022-2023	% Rev/Exp 2022-2023	Total Combined 2021-2022	% Rev/Exp 2021-2022
SUPPORT AND REVENUES						
Earned Revenue						
School Sources & Contracted Income	86,380	26,670,343	26,756,723	51%	20,711,292	44%
Interest & Dividends	80,252	612,741	692,993	1%	268,474	1%
Affiliate Cooperative Funding Fees	323,128	—	\$323,128	1%	277,770	1%
Other Earned Revenue	43,579	650,537	\$694,116	1%	922,918	2%
Total Earned Revenue	533,339	27,933,621	28,466,960	54%	22,180,454	47%
Contributed Revenue						
Individuals & Board Members	81,317	3,442,141	3,523,458	7%	2,219,450	5%
Corporate & Foundations	47,115	10,385,119	10,432,234	20%	9,760,688	21%
Government (Federal, State, County)	1,388,496	5,777,614	7,166,110	14%	10,111,930	22%
Special Events (net of costs)	260,147	960,650	1,220,797	2%	1,026,001	2%
Grants from Young Audiences, Inc.	—	413,108	413,108	1%	150,491	0%
Other Contributed Revenue	—	1,145,188	1,145,188	2%	416,564	1%
In-Kind Contributions	—	339,819	339,819	1%	906,771	2%
Total Contributed Revenue	1,777,075	22,463,640	24,240,715	46%	24,591,895	53%
Total Revenue	2,310,414	50,397,261	52,707,675	100%	46,772,348	100%
COST AND EXPENSES						
Affiliate Program Services	2,259,795	41,190,079	43,449,874	88%	39,734,663	81%
Management and Fundraising	435,898	5,246,594	5,682,492	12%	4,773,685	10%
Total Costs and Expenditures	2,695,693	46,436,673	49,132,366	100%	49,132,367	100%
Excess of Support and Revenues over costs and expenses (under)	(385,279)	3,960,588	3,575,309		(2,360,018)	

¹ The total Affiliate Support & Revenues, Costs & Expenses are combined from reports submitted to National from the individual affiliates and have not been audited.

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Our Giving Promise

At Young Audiences Arts for Learning, We Believe...

Giving is Personal.

Contributions don't come from the wallet—they come from the heart. We honor the deep connection our donors feel to what we do and why we do it.

Giving is Community.

A collective passion for the arts and education brings us together. Regardless of our backgrounds or locations, we unite for a common purpose: to enrich the lives of children through the arts.

Giving is Good.

Our donors share their resources willingly to benefit all children, fostering creativity and joy in learning that extends beyond individual gain.

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We are transparent about how, why, where, and when we use your contributions. Your trust is paramount, and we are committed to maintaining it through open communication and accountability.

Giving is Impact.

We aim to make a profound difference in the lives of children and their communities. Your support enables us to bring transformative arts-integrated education to those who need it most.

Thank you for giving.

**Your generosity fuels our mission,
we promise to uphold your trust in us.**







Young Audiences Arts for Learning is dedicated to transforming the lives of children and young people through the power of the arts. We engage more than 5 million students across the nation every year, integrating the arts into their education to foster creativity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning. Our extensive network of affiliates, teaching artists, and educators delivers high-quality arts programs in schools, community centers, and beyond, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of the arts.

We invest in professional development for educators, advocate for policies that support arts education, and create innovative programs that address diverse educational needs. By partnering with schools, communities, policymakers, and supporters, we work together to ignite curiosity, joy, and a passion for learning in every student.

**Join the movement to inspire and educate through the arts.
Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate.**

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