

# ARTS @ LARGE

making the arts accessible for all



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25  
artsatlargeinc.org

## Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends of Arts @ Large,

In 2025, Arts @ Large continued to deepen its impact and strengthen its foundation as a leader in arts education throughout Milwaukee. It was a year defined by forward momentum — one in which we expanded our capacity, clarified our long-term vision, and invested intentionally in the systems that support meaningful, measurable growth.

Across all of our primary programs, we introduced enhancements that respond directly to the shifting needs of the students, educators, and neighborhoods we serve. These improvements didn't just broaden access; they elevated the quality and reach of our work in ways that will shape our programs for years to come.

A major milestone of the year was the completion of our next three-year strategic plan. This plan positions Arts @ Large for sustained growth by prioritizing organizational stability, innovative partnerships, and community-driven expansion of arts education access across the city. At the same time, we partnered with Reinders Research to redesign our program evaluation framework from the ground up. Through that collaboration, we developed new logic models for each core program and identified eight primary outcome areas aligned with our mission. You'll see some of this data reflected for the first time in this year's annual report — a significant step toward measuring, understanding, and strengthening our impact.

All of this progress occurred during a time when arts funding — nationally and locally — faced significant uncertainty. Yet we remained unwavering in our commitment to ensure arts experiences remain free and accessible. We know that creative expression helps people (especially our youth) make sense of their world, build community, and strengthen their sense of self. This conviction fuels our work, and we are grateful to the donors and partners who share this belief. Notably, for the second consecutive year, more than half of our donors were new to Arts @ Large — a powerful indicator of growing support for our mission.

As we look toward 2026, we prepare to celebrate a major milestone: our 25th anniversary. This moment invites us to honor the history that brought us here, celebrate the partnerships that sustain us, and imagine what the next era of Arts @ Large will look like. With your continued support, we are poised to expand access to high-quality, inclusive, and imaginative arts education for learners of all ages throughout Milwaukee.

Thank you for believing in this work and for standing alongside us.

With appreciation,



Joel Cencius, CFRE  
Executive Director



## Message from our Board Chair

Dear Friends, Partners, & Community Members,

It is an honor to share the Arts @ Large Annual Report with you. As I reflect on this past year, one word rises above the rest: *amazed*. I am continually amazed by the creativity of our artists (of all ages), the dedication of our staff and program leaders, and the unwavering support of our community.

This has truly been a remarkable year:

- Our Artists in Residency brought new energy to our first floor—infusing the space with light, music, vibrancy, and joy.
- We advanced our evaluation efforts, allowing us to better measure and share the impact our programs have on participants' lives.
- Our Board of Directors continued to grow and strengthen its governance partnership with this incredible organization.
- And our donors—especially our neighbors and community members — showed tremendous generosity, ensuring that the arts remain **FREE** for **ALL**.

I'm often asked about my "why." Why do I give my time, talent, and treasure to support Arts @ Large? The answer is simple: *You*. The members of this community, across all ages, who come to enjoy creative learning, artistic exploration, and the welcoming spaces we offer. Supporting Arts @ Large — and the people whose lives it enriches — brings me immense joy.

Finally, thank you for your incredible support. Whether you stopped into the café for a coffee or a scone, attended an Artist in Residence event, or hosted a meeting in our building, please know how much we appreciate you. When you visit Arts @ Large, you're stepping into a place that feels like home to me, and I hope your experience has been nothing short of inspiring.

With gratitude,



Ursula Flores  
Board Chair



# Arts @ Large Mission

Arts @ Large activates Milwaukee's communities to build environments that support arts-rich, lifelong learning.



## Four Cornerstones of Arts @ Large

Our work at Arts @ Large is grounded in four core cornerstones that guide everything we do. These cornerstones are central to our mission and inform how we engage with people of all ages through creative learning and artistic practice. We ask all Artist Educators and Artists in Residence who work with us to intentionally incorporate these principles into their work, ensuring a consistent, values-driven approach across all of our programs and learning environments.

### PEACEMAKING

01



Photo credit: Tricia Shinnars

The arts are an incredible vehicle to model and promote peacemaking. These skills include recognizing and managing emotions, setting and achieving goals, demonstrating empathy for others, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and making responsible decisions.

*Summer interns developed teaching skills to lead activities for our summer camp and provide one-on-one support to resolve conflict through social-emotional learning.*

### ECO-LITERACY

03



Photo credit: Phillip Salat

Arts @ Large programs promote eco-literacy by engaging participants in creative community development projects that encourage environmental stewardship.

*We partnered with Milwaukee Freshwater Science to teach Acosta middle schoolers about freshwater conservation as they prepared to paint a 130-foot Great Lakes ground mural and a 10-foot tall cistern as part of the new Creative Commons.*

### CIVIL RIGHTS

02



Photo credit: Sam Kacala

Arts @ Large programs challenge participants to see themselves as an integral part of our community and be active in making Milwaukee the best place to play, learn, work and live. The stories that make up Milwaukee's history in the civil rights movement resonate with today's youth and serve as a catalyst for students to join to build a better Milwaukee.

*Art provides a powerful vehicle for exploring difficult but essential subjects — such as civil rights — within the classroom.*

### TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

04



Photo credit: Phillip Salat

Arts @ Large programs highlight the power of technology to create empathy and understanding of the complex world around us, and our individual and collaborative ability to create change.

*Summer campers used Procreate to explore digital illustration and design their own custom emojis.*

# Proving the Power of the Arts

This year marked a major milestone for Arts @ Large. For the first time, we launched a comprehensive, organization-wide evaluation to understand how we measure program success. In partnership with Reinders Research, we developed a unified framework spanning all programs, participants, and artist educators.

Over eighteen months, we examined all aspects of Arts @ Large's work — collecting both qualitative feedback and robust quantitative data from youth, teachers, and artist educators. This process streamlined our tools, strengthened data collection, and clarified how our programs foster growth across ages and experience levels. From this evaluation, we identified eight core areas that define the outcomes of Arts @ Large programming:



**1. Creative Thinking & Expression:** Participants demonstrate the ability to explore ideas, see opportunities, and approach challenges from new perspectives. This includes self-discovery, positive risk-taking, healthy emotional expression, and the use of creative practices for reflection and self-soothing.



**2. Technical Art Skills:** Participants grow their artistic abilities through experimentation, practice, and refinement of techniques, mediums, and forms. They apply problem-solving skills within the creative process and demonstrate increasing technical proficiency.



**3. Confidence:** Participants demonstrate growing confidence in their abilities by trying new things, taking creative risks, and sharing their work with peers and the broader community.



**4. Perseverance & Motivation:** Participants build resilience by staying engaged in the creative process from start to finish. They demonstrate focus, self-management, and an ability to work through challenges and emotional complexity within their artistic practice.



**5. Teamwork & Collaboration:** Participants learn to co-create through cooperative planning, shared problem-solving, and meaningful collaboration. They participate in constructive critique—both giving and receiving feedback respectfully.



**6. Art Career Exposure & Readiness:** Participants develop an understanding of artistic and creative career pathways, engage in ongoing career exploration, and practice applying creative skills to other classes, work opportunities, and internships.



**7. Creative Community Building:** Participants gain access to and participate in a supportive artistic community. They engage in networking, contribute to shared creative spaces, and connect their work to the broader community. They also learn how their art can influence, uplift, and impact the people and places around them.



**8. Leadership:** Participants take initiative in planning, decision-making, and problem-solving. They practice leading projects or portions of the curriculum, offer guidance to peers, and build confidence in public speaking and facilitating critique.

These focus areas now guide a consistent, organization-wide evaluation, allowing us to measure growth for both participants and artist educators in clear, comparable ways.

Photo credit: Summer Camp Intern



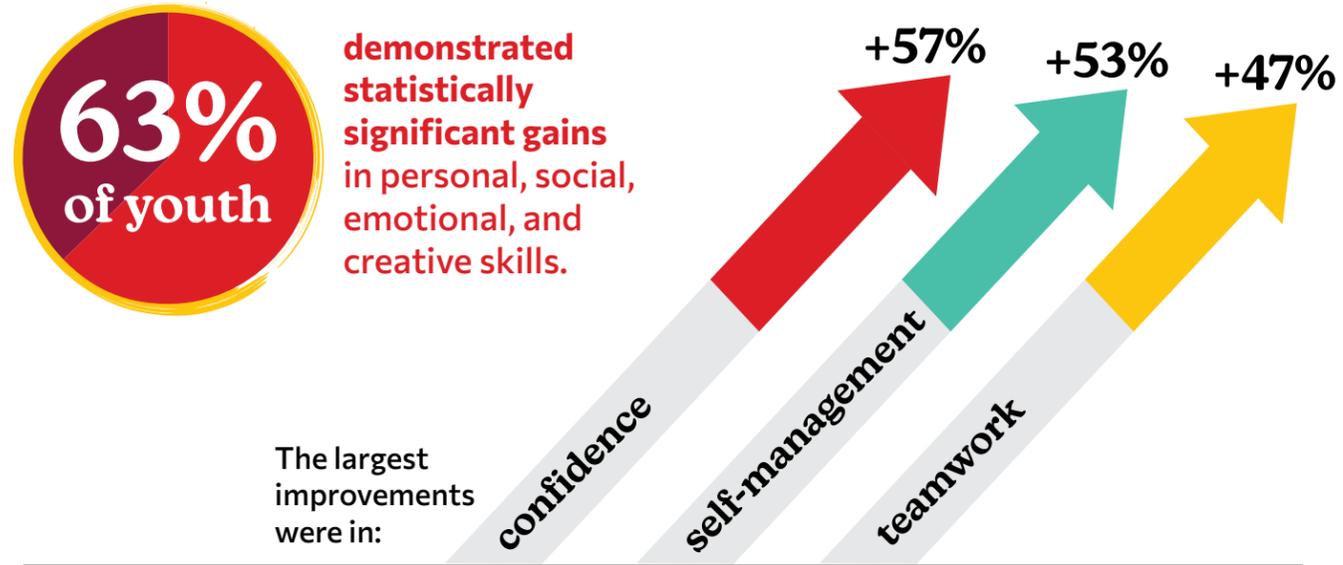
“ Arts @ Large has taught me so much as both an artist and an educator. I've become more confident in my skills and encouraged to explore new projects and mediums I hadn't thought of before. ”

- A@L Artist Educator

## WHAT WE LEARNED

### Overall Growth

Our findings show **measurable growth across all programs** — from short-term residencies to long-term experiences and professional opportunities for artist educators.



## ARTIST EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT

Our framework also measures professional growth for the artist educators who lead and co-create with us.



The findings show:

- **Significant gains** across nearly every program
- Increases in **confidence, leadership, and collaborative practice**
- Strengthened community connections, networking, and professional readiness

This confirms that Arts @ Large not only supports the development of young people but also strengthens the creative workforce that serves our community.

Most importantly, the evaluations confirmed what we have long believed:

**Every Arts @ Large program delivers a positive impact.**

## LOOKING AHEAD

With a unified and reliable evaluation system now in place, Arts @ Large is equipped to:



- Consistently measure impact across all programs
- Track both student and artist educator growth
- Strengthen program design through data-informed insights
- Demonstrate the long-term value of arts education with clarity and confidence

By building a unified evaluation process, we've opened a new chapter — clarifying our impact, directing intentional growth, and positioning us to lead with confidence and accountability.

**78%**

of participants reported they would engage again, citing increased motivation, skill development, and support for their artistic identities.

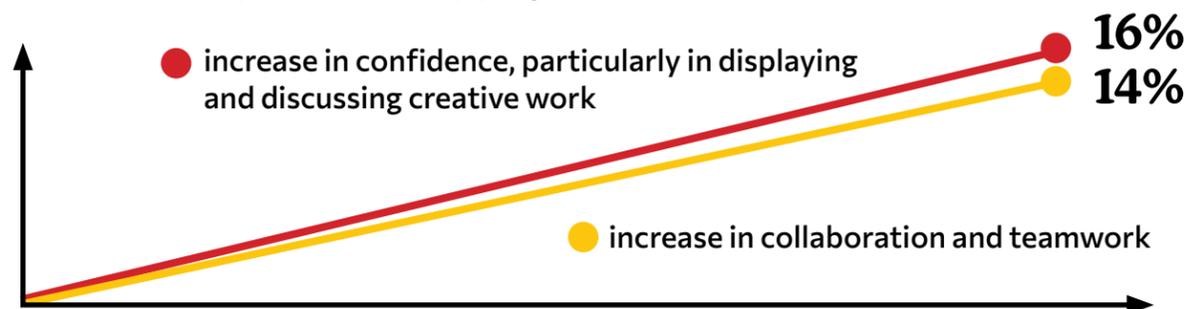
Academic and creative growth was notable, with an average gain of

**+3 points**

( $p \geq .001$ ) between evaluation periods

### Growth Over Time

Deeper gains appeared in sustained programming, such as school residencies and the Career Development internship program:



These results highlight the cumulative benefits of ladder programming, which builds skills progressively across age groups and grade levels.

## CREATIVE COMMONS

Our mission of equitable access to the arts came to life at the corner of 5th and Washington Streets through a unique partnership with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District, the Department of Transportation, community allies, and local artists from all walks of life. Engaging students from Milwaukee County, and A@L Summer Campers, we transformed a public space into a vibrant work of art that also serves a meaningful purpose in promoting water conservation. Supported by both public and private funding, this collaborative effort — uniting artists, community members, and youth — physically manifests our commitment to making the arts accessible to all.



## UWM SERVICE LEARNERS

This spring, our Artist in Residence program hosted two University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) service learning students from the Peck School of the Arts. Each Friday, Bella Vecellio and Reese Kendall joined residency curator, Jeff Zimpel, in the gallery to work on “cultivating a curatorial voice.” Bella and Reese analyzed legacy images, recorded their observations about the changing exhibitions, and expressed themselves through a variety of mediums to help tell stories about our artist residents. They attended masterclasses, public events, and served as ambassadors for our mission.

In their short time engaging with our work, Reese and Bella amplified the impact of our artist educators, and we greatly appreciate their time and contributions. We look forward to an ongoing partnership with UWM, specifically with Professor Nicolas Lampert and the Community Arts program.

## AUTONOMOUS YOUTH COUNCIL

This past year, our Education Manager, Sam Kacala, engaged with three students via the Autonomous Youth Council (AYC). AYC leaders Eva, Lola, and Max created our first youth-designed Career Development internship track for 2025–26: “*Streets With A Story*,” a short-film project. They also shaped a collaborative studio with returning Career Development interns to imagine Milwaukee’s future—an initiative influenced by their leadership and the trust we place in youth decision-making through this partnership. This focus on truly “youth-led” work revealed new opportunities within our mission, showing how art experiences can elevate youth voice and how powerfully art and youth leadership reinforce one another.





Photo credit: Summer Camp Intern

## MOBILE MEDIA LAB

The Mobile Media Lab came to life this year with the acquisition of a van, a custom interior build-out, and the purchase of new media equipment, including iPads, Apple pencils, headphones, microphones, and recording devices. The Mobile Media Lab's proof-of-concept was realized through Summer Camp and Career Development sessions: teen interns used the Mobile Media Lab iPads to build their own websites, and summer campers explored digital illustration and podcasting. The van hit the road in Fall 2025 for off-site programming, expanding access to digital art-making for youth across Milwaukee.



Photo credit: Tricia Shiners



Photo credit: Jackie Moreno

## ART VS. FOOD

On June 12, 2025, Arts @ Large held its second annual Art vs. Food fundraiser – an unforgettable evening where food and creativity collided in a vibrant celebration at the stunning Ivy House. The night began with a VIP experience, including a Painted Paloma. This signature cocktail transformed before guests' eyes as they added their own creative touches to the larger-than-life canvas, led by Artist in Residence Curator Jeff Zimpel. Career Development interns shared personal reflections on their artistic journeys and proudly showcased their work from the past year.

Once seated for dinner, the evening unfolded with a vibrant and interactive performance by Karlies Kelley and Panadanza Dance Company, which inspired Chef Kyle Knall's refreshing chilled appetizer. Artist Nehemiah "Nemo" Edwards transported guests to "Planet Heart," setting the stage for a thought-provoking discussion during the entrée by Chef Dane Baldwin. As dessert arrived – a stunning collaboration between sculptor Ava Hager and Chef Adam Siegel came to life as Ava invited guests to fold her handmade paper, while her elegant wooden masterpieces floated above them.

Artist Educator Melissa Dorn closed the evening by sharing powerful stories about the transformative impact of the arts on Milwaukee youth. Inspired by her words, guests raised their paddles high. The evening surpassed fundraising expectations and raised a record-breaking \$110,000 to support Arts @ Large's youth arts education programming.

A special thank you to the Brewers Community Foundation, Catalyst Construction, Michael Best, and Thomas Roepsch Certified Public Accountants for serving as our lead sponsors.

**Save the date for the 2026 Art vs. Food taking place on June 11, as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary!**



Photo credit: Lily Shea



Photo credit: Lily Shea

# PARTNERSHIPS



## Collaboration Spotlight:

For the past three years, we've partnered with the Milwaukee County Executive to adorn the County Courthouse holiday tree with student-made ornaments. Each year, more than 1,000 students from across Milwaukee create handmade pieces that our team proudly hangs on the tree. We also collaborate with Seon Joo – a local artist and master of traditional Korean paper craft – whose work transforms simple paper into intricate expressions of Korean heritage. Together, these contributions show that student art and professional art belong side by side, amplifying youth voice in a meaningful way.

## 2024-25 Partners:

- |                                |                                       |                             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1000 Beans                     | Girls Rock MKE                        | Panadanza Dance Company     |
| Acosta Middle School           | I Have A Dream Foundation             | PEARLS for Teen Girls       |
| Assata High School             | La Causa                              | So Cool Crafts              |
| Beginning Dreams Forever       | La Familia de Arte                    | Souljah the Dancing Chef    |
| Boys and Girls Club            | Maryland Montessori School            | Suzuki Strings              |
| Broadscope Disability Services | Milwaukee County Executive Office     | Vanguard Sculpture Services |
| Catalyst Construction          | Milwaukee Rec Creative Allies Program | VIBEZ Create Art Space      |
| Deer District                  | Milwaukee Youth Arts Center           | West Allis Downtown         |
| Flutes at Dawn                 |                                       |                             |

# INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Our **Creative Business Incubator program** supports local creative entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations by offering affordable studio, office, and workspaces designed to spark innovation and sustain long-term growth. By lowering barriers to access, our Incubator cultivates a thriving, collaborative environment where creative ideas and community impact can flourish. Our inspiring lineup of tenants includes: Flutes at Dawn, Green Baked Goods, Joy Engine, Panadanza Dance Company, and Milwaukee Preservation Alliance.

We have office space and a fully equipped Woodworking Studio available for rent. Join our creative program community! Email [brighid@artsatlargeinc.org](mailto:brighid@artsatlargeinc.org) for a tour and more information.

# Impact Numbers



**7,794**  
Total People Served



**5,950**  
Total Youth Served



**2,215**

Paid internship hours for high school and first-year college students

**3,664**

Community Center Attendees (adults and youth)

**25**

Number of artists that applied for the Artist in Residence program

**28**

Total number of Milwaukee Public Schools served



**\$424,044**

paid to local artists, strengthening Milwaukee's creative economy

Contracted with more than

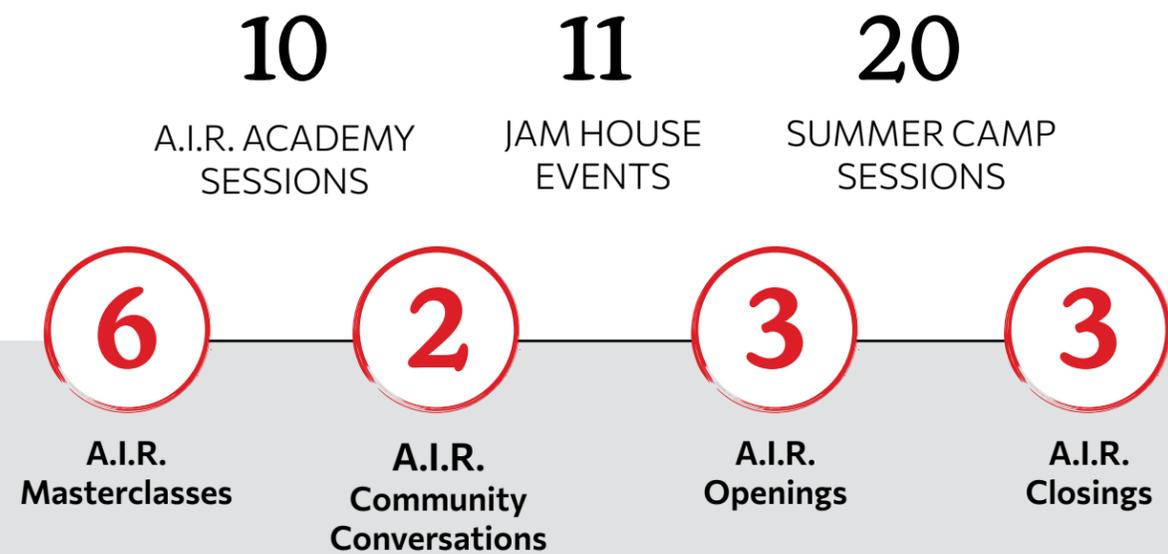
**75 artists**

(over 50% of the 75 artists we worked with are BIPOC)

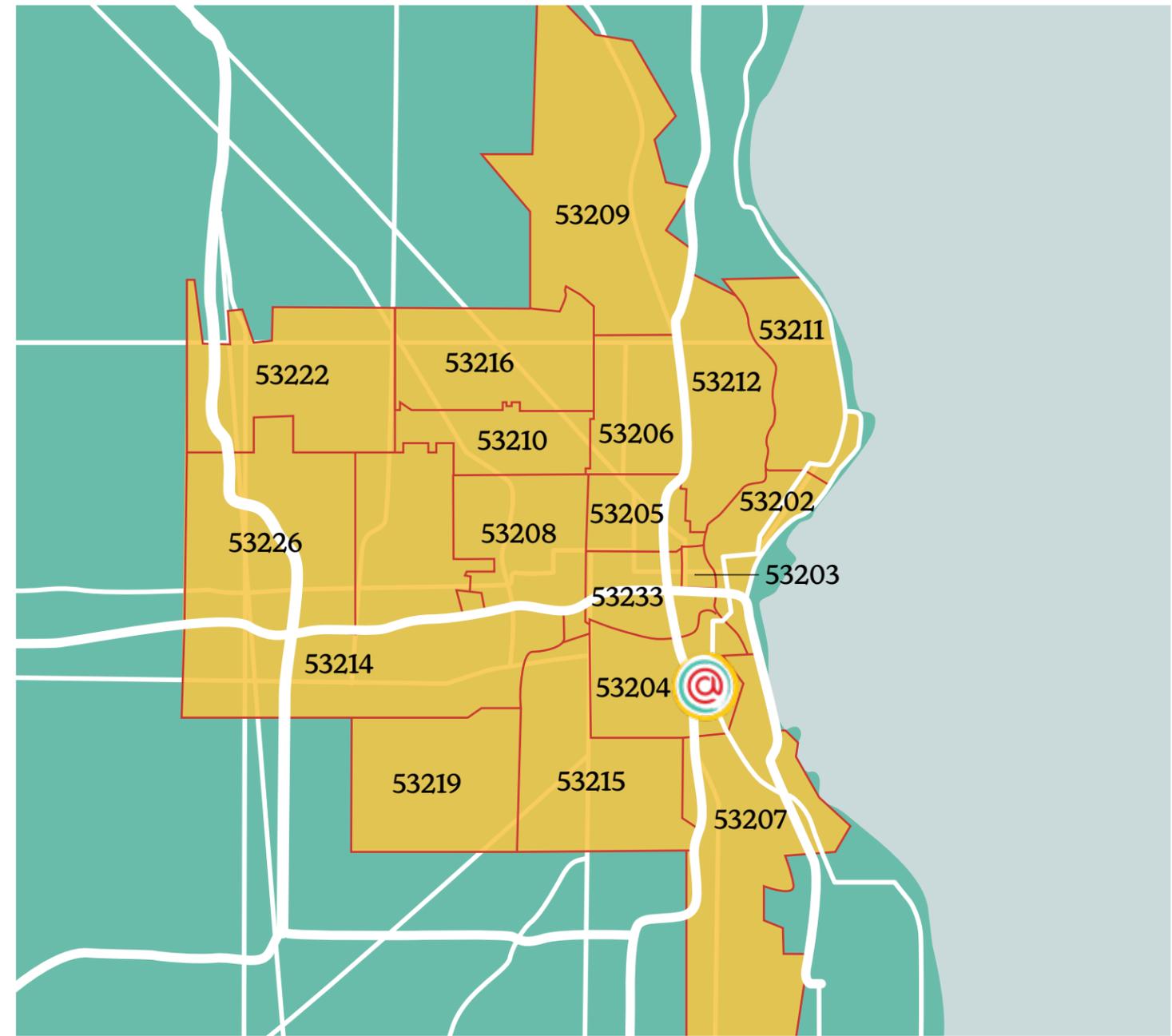
“ Viewing art formally or exhibiting in a gallery is one thing, but working with someone for months...and seeing them grow with the tools you provide them is another thing entirely. - Career Development Artist Educator ”

# FY2024-25 Events

## HOSTED MORE THAN 55 ON-SITE EVENTS



# Geography Served



“ What started as just a class has turned into a full immersive community experience. I have always felt like something was missing from my college experience, and now I know that it was community. It was this feeling I get when I walk into a space and am greeted like I belong. A feeling that I’m in the presence of creativity and life. Arts @ Large has given me this feeling. It’s because of them that I feel like I DO belong. ”

- Reese, UWM Service Learner

# Program Highlights

Arts @ Large's primary programs reflect our commitment to youth-centered, arts-based learning, while fostering community connection and lifelong creativity. This past year, we engaged youth and community members of all ages alongside local artists and artist educators in shared creative spaces that support growth, collaboration, and leadership. Enjoy these highlights and in-depth features of how these programs evolved this past year, responding to the voices, ideas, and needs of those we serve.

## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

### Meet DeMar

DeMar Walker is a multidisciplinary Milwaukee artist and educator whose work blends dance, performance, film, photography, and text to explore Black life in the Midwest. During the winter of 2025, he used the A@L Artist in Residency to deepen his interdisciplinary practice and to position himself for stable, full-time work as an artist-educator, support that would give him greater creative freedom. Following his residency, DeMar pursued opportunities in arts administration.

**“This was my first solo art exhibition. JUNIOR has gifted me a newness as a person and a practicing artist. I have a lifetime of memories from such a transformative experience.”**

— DeMar Walker, Artist in Residence Winter 2025



Our 2024–25 Artist in Residence cohort included three residents: Rozalia Singh, DeMar Walker, and Nohemí Chávez-Contreras, who also engaged with numerous collaborators. Each immersive, three-month residency provided participating artists with a project budget and dedicated support from Arts @ Large staff. With these resources, artists transformed the Arts @ Large Community Center gallery into dynamic, interactive exhibitions that reflected and advanced their creative practice.



Photo credit: Phillip Salat

Community engagement was a central focus of each residency. Artists facilitated six public masterclasses, two community conversations, and hosted four educational field trips for local students. In total, more than 786 individuals engaged with residency programming.

These residencies exemplify our commitment to artist development, arts access, and community-driven programming — and continue to position Arts @ Large as a hub for creative learning and collaboration.

## NURTURE

Our Artist in Residence program piloted a new structure of support, called Nurture. As the Nurture Documentation Lead, artist-educator Nick Schilz was responsible for paying attention to resident artists while helping to preserve and share the story of the program. His role combines conversation, individualized support, and creative documentation.



Photo credits: Tricia Shinnors

**“ Naming the support aspect of this residency “Nurture” is a perfect description. That’s genuinely what it feels like to be poured into emotionally, intellectually, or even philosophically. Since engaging more with Jeff and Nick, it’s helped me be a better spectator, teacher, mentor, and role model.**

— Nohemí Chávez-Contreras, Artist in Residence Spring 2025



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### Meet Iona

Iona has been an intern with our Career Development program for the past year and a half. Through her participation, she has gained confidence and learned to use her voice. As she reflects, “Instead of a side character role, I know that I can be a leader.” Her growth through the program led her to take on a leadership role as a Summer Camp intern, supporting an Artist Educator, and inspired her to pursue higher education to become a teacher. Iona shares:

**“It motivated me more to become a teacher. Seeing the kids smile, laugh, and enjoy what I had planned. They were ready and excited that I was going to teach them.”**

The Arts @ Large Career Development Program offers paid internships to Milwaukee Public Schools high school students each school year. Rooted in the arts, this program prepares young people for success in creative fields and beyond by building essential skills such as communication, leadership, collaboration, and self-confidence. Interns gain real-world experience through youth-led projects and artist assistantships, while developing professional portfolios that reflect their artistic growth and personal development. In 2024–25, our interns worked closely with Nohemí Chávez-Contreras in Fashion Design, Mikal Floyd-Pruitt in film, and Whitney Salgado in digital illustration.



Photo credit: Phillip Salat

## A.I.R. ACADEMY

### Meet Nyla

When Nyla first joined Arts @ Large in third grade, she was shy about performing and sharing her work. Now, as a confident sixth grader, she proudly calls herself an artist. Through each A.I.R. Academy and Summer Camp session, her creativity and confidence have grown through the exploration of multiple artistic mediums, each helping her find her voice as an artist and person. Nyla shares:

**“Arts @ Large is a fun, free space to learn new skills, make friends, and feel more confident in your art and yourself.”**

That confidence now shines beyond our programs. Nyla raises her hand more in class, takes on new learning opportunities like *Battle of the Books* and playing the violin. She credits the focus and creativity she’s developed through art with helping her succeed in school.

Held in the spring and fall each year, Arts @ Large’s Artist in Residence (A.I.R.) Academy is a free, six-week program that empowers young creators in grades third through eighth to explore multiple artistic mediums under the guidance of local, professional artists. Through hands-on mentorship and exposure to diverse creative practices, A.I.R. Academy inspires participants to recognize their own artistic potential and expand their understanding of what creativity can be. The program fosters a deeper appreciation for artistic expression in all its forms and builds confidence through the showcase of student work in a closing celebration. This past year, 58 students had the opportunity to learn from Milwaukee-based artists Nina Avis, Jamaï Fisher, Darcy Fox, Whitney Salgado, Ethan Sorge, and Maria Zamudio, exploring mediums including 3-D art, poetry, textiles, sculpture, photography, and painting.



19 Photo credit: Sam Kacala

## SUMMER CAMP

**“Summer Camp challenged me in the best ways and pushed me beyond what I’d experienced in a long time. I learned how to structure a curriculum to allow larger projects to develop over time. I also valued the opportunity to work directly with children again. Through this experience, I developed new curriculum, translating mediums I practice into tools for teaching. I’m inspired to continue building on this work and to facilitate these practices with more students.”**

- Paula, Summer Camp Artist Educator

Summer Camp is a free, six-week creative adventure that invites young artists entering grades third through eighth to explore a wide variety of art forms in a safe, supportive, and hands-on environment. Designed to spark imagination and uncover new passions, the camp empowers youth to express themselves, build confidence, and deepen their connection to the arts. In addition, high school interns play a key role in supporting daily camp activities while developing skills and experience in art education and mentorship.

This past summer, students explored Digital Illustration with Peyton Woelffer, Music Production & Podcasting with Paula Lovo, Visual Art with Symphony Swan-Zawadi and Brit Nicole, and Creative Music Lab with Madeline Stadel and Xy-Sophia Conn from Girls Rock MKE. Campers also participated in a collaborative ceramic tile project with La Familia de Arte, creating a mosaic installed on the bioswale at the corner of 5th and Washington, part of the new Arts @ Large Creative Commons. At the end of camp, campers celebrated their work through an interactive gallery exhibition. Students displayed their visual and digital art pieces alongside artist statements and performed original songs and live DJ sets, which family, friends, and the community enjoyed.



### Summer Camp Emerging Artist 2 - Original Song

*When I grow up  
I want freedom  
Free to be me  
Free to choose  
Who I want to be  
To choose my own path  
To speak my voice  
When I grow up  
I want to be  
An artist, an astronaut, a vet,  
An athlete or streamer or on stage  
To be anything I want to be  
Life is short  
But choices are endless  
Life is short  
But choices are endless  
No one can choose but you  
No one can choose but you*

## SCHOOL RESIDENCIES

### Meet Melissa

Melissa Dorn, a founding Arts @ Large board member, past Artist in Residence, MIAD professor, and professional Milwaukee-based artist, has been creating for over 20 years. Driven by a passion to mentor the next generation, Melissa has spent recent years as an artist educator in our VAES program, sharing her expertise and dedication in the classroom setting while advancing Arts @ Large’s mission to expand equitable access to the arts.

**“I always love going in and working with a classroom teacher in a different discipline than I am in. I learn new things and then find ways to incorporate them into an art project we can all work on together. As a result of my work with A@L, I am more experimental in the mediums that I use, and I’m not afraid to go outside the lines.”**

- Melissa Dorn, Artist Educator



Photo credit: Sadie McVey



Photo credit: Lily Shea

We are proud to be a partner of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and of their Fill the Gaps/Visual Arts Expansion Support (VAES) program. This collaboration allows Arts @ Large Artist Educators to provide arts instruction to thousands of MPS students in schools without a dedicated art teacher.

During the 2024–25 school year, we broke new ground by hiring the VAES Artist Educators as official Arts @ Large staff members, offering them a robust array of professional development opportunities and benefits. Our Artist Educators reached students from kindergarten through eighth grades, providing exposure to a wide variety of artistic mediums and diverse arts experiences. Principal Zollicoffer, from Thurston Woods School reflected, “The activities captivated the students and [our Artist Educator] beautified our school with student work. She went above and beyond to ensure students connected to the art projects and built community among the students.”

# JAM HOUSE

## Meet Mary Joy

For Girls Rock MKE, hosting Jam House served as a springboard to engage with Arts @ Large's Summer Camp programming. Artists Madeline Stadel and Xy-Sophia Conn led a songwriting track, where students played drums, guitar, piano, and composed original songs. Arts @ Large now owns these instruments for future programming.

“The Jam House experience has expanded possibilities for how our organization might approach engaging youth and adults in musical experiences. On a personal level, I am much more of a “studied” musician that learns parts and shows up and executes. Participating as a Jam House performer allowed me to tap more into my intuition, connecting to and evolving with the other musicians.”

- Mary Joy Hickey, Girls Rock MKE

Jam House offers local musicians of all ages a stage to perform, collaborate, and connect with fellow artists. Open to all ages and free to the public, these evenings create a welcoming space where people from all backgrounds can come together and celebrate the power of music. Last year, over 124 community members took the stage at Jam House.



### HOSTS

#### Your Move MKE

August–October 2024  
Youth Focused, Improv

#### Gig Simulator

November 2024–January 2025  
Youth Focused, Jazz, Improv

#### Girls Rock MKE & Ladies Rock MKE

February–April 2025  
Youth Focused, Rock

#### Jeanne Marie Farinelli

May–August 2025  
Jazz

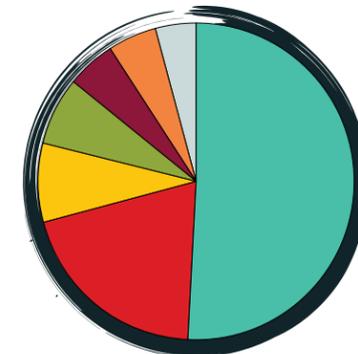


Photo credit: Jackie Moreno

## Financial Overview

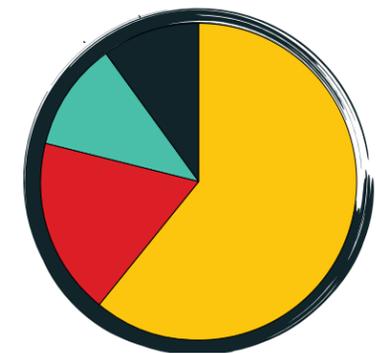
### 2024–25 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Represents all activity from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Financials reported are unaudited totals.



**TOTAL INCOME: \$1,339,526**

- Contracted Services – 51%
- Foundation Support – 20%
- Special Events – 8%
- Investment Income – 7%
- Corporate Support – 5%
- Government Support – 5%
- Individual Support – 4%



**\*TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,564,286**

- Programming Expenses – 61%
- Administration Expenses – 18%
- Fundraising Expenses – 11%
- Building Expenses – 10%

\*Board approved using surplus funds from 2023 for capacity-building needs this fiscal year.

# Donor Recognition

Thank you to the corporations, individuals, foundations, and generous community partners who gave gifts or made in-kind contributions to Arts @ Large from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

## \$100,000 – \$249,999

Impact100 Greater Milwaukee  
Ruth Foundation for the Arts

## \$20,000 – \$49,999

Bader Philanthropies  
City of Milwaukee, Department of City Development  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Herzfeld Foundation  
Kohl's Cares Hometown Giving  
Komatsu Mining Corp. Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Dr. Lucy Rosenberg

## \$10,000 – \$19,999

Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation  
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation  
Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation  
Joy Engine  
Melitta Pick Charitable Trust  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Frank and Lucille Puncer Foundation  
Ros Foundation  
Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust  
U.S. Bank Foundation

## \$1,000 – \$9,999

Kim and Tim Ablar  
Rachel and Adam Arndt  
Arts @ Large Supporter  
Associated Bank  
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation  
Brewers Community Foundation  
CAMPAC  
Catalyst Construction  
Joel Cencius  
Carla Cummings  
Rania and Pat Dempsey  
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Becky and Carl Fischer  
Ursula Flores  
Maria Frederick  
Susan and Michael Goldstone  
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Green Bay Packers Foundation  
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Tammy Belton Davis

Luke Bennett  
Sue Berce  
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Vickie Brown-Gurley  
Carolyn Butler  
Marie Therese Campos  
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Matao Casarez  
Lynn Cohen  
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Paula Dehart  
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Kerry and Josh Dorf  
Julia Dorf  
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Percy Dorsey  
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Judy Levin  
Kevin Lindsey  
Renee Lindsey  
Roberta Lindsey  
Natalie Longworth  
Lori Lorenz  
Loss/McCarthy Charitable Fund  
Carolyn MacIver  
Jaylen Man  
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Arlisia McHenry  
McNamara McCarthy School of Irish Dance  
Barbara and Michael Levin  
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Michelle Moore  
Nick Motley  
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Stephanie Nook  
Anne Noyes  
Grace and Pat O'Brien  
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SeonJoo So Oh  
Jennifer Ondrejka  
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Maria Peralta-Arellano  
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Sarah Platt  
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## In-Kind

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Antigua Catering and Events  
Ava Hager  
Babboni Photography  
Bars and Recreation  
Bayview Printing  
Belle Fiori  
Best Place Pabst Brewing  
Betty Brinn Children's Museum  
Birch Creek Music Performance Center  
Birch Restaurant  
Black Shoe Hospitality  
Boundless Adventures  
Wisconsin  
Brewers Community Foundation  
Cafe 1505  
Chicago Food and City Tours  
DanDan MKE  
Daniela Vaca  
Destination Kohler  
Discovery World  
Door County Maritime Museum  
Melissa Dorn  
EsterEv  
Farm Girl Art and Antiques  
Float Milwaukee  
Florentine Opera  
German Fest Milwaukee, Inc.  
Glaze Pottery  
Glorios's Italian Market  
Green Baked Goods  
Green Bay Packers Foundation  
Harry's Bar and Grill  
Honeypie Cafe  
Judy Hurley  
Timothy Keane  
Megan Lynn Kott

Lake Geneva Cruise Line, Gage Marine  
Lake Geneva Ziplines & Adventures  
Lakefront Brewery  
Lupi & Iris  
Marcus Performing Arts Center  
Milwaukee Art Museum  
Milwaukee Ballet  
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre  
Milwaukee County Parks  
Milwaukee Food and City Tours  
Milwaukee Irish Fest  
Milwaukee Public Museum  
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra  
Morningstar Golfers Club  
Mt. Olympus Water & Theme Park and Top Secret  
Next Act Theatre  
Northern Sky Theater  
Outpost Co-op  
Panadanza Dance Company  
Pickleball Kingdom  
Polish Fest  
PRP Wines  
Racine Art Museum  
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
She Slangs Wood  
The Chocolate Factory  
The Diplomat MKE  
The Soup Market  
The Waxwing  
Transfer Pizza  
Union House  
Urban Ecology Center  
Wy'east Pizza  
Jeff Zimpel  
Zoological Society of Milwaukee

*All efforts were made to ensure accuracy. We apologize to any individual or organization who was inadvertently omitted from this list or is incorrectly listed.*

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7/1/24–6/30/25

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Photo credit: Jackie Moreno



**“Arts @ Large  
has helped me  
because I love  
art and I don’t  
do this at school.”**

- A.I.R. Academy young artist