



THE ART EFFECT

Emily Dooley, *Llama Hands*

2021 Annual Report

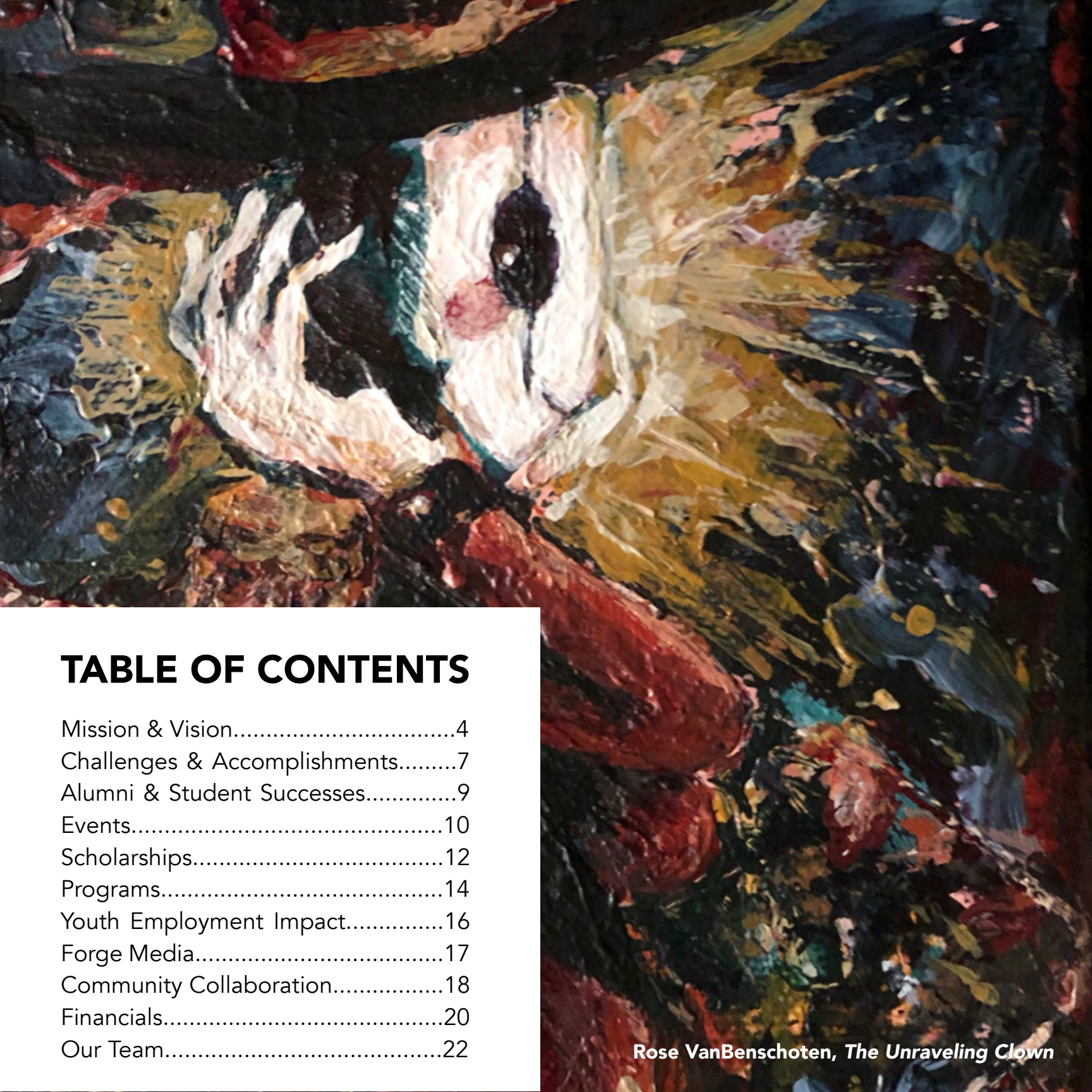


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Rose VanBenschoten, *The Unraveling Clown*

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the past year, The Art Effect community has shown its incredible ability to bounce back, stay strong, and move forward and we are overwhelmed by your generosity in support of our work. Because of you, we have continued to offer programs that inspire youth to 'explore, experience, and excel' in their learning and lives. Despite all the ups and downs, The Art Effect remains a place where youth can express their fears and hopes for the future. Your support has driven our efforts to empower young people to be creative thinkers and leaders building bright futures for themselves. Your partnership has helped strengthen the fabric of our community and together we are reaching more young people than ever before—opening up new opportunities for success through workforce training, college guidance, mentorship, and hands-on experiences in the arts.

In this report, you will see that our determination and our outcomes have been unwavering and impactful. In March of 2021, the voting members of Barrett Art Center unanimously approved an affiliation with The Art Effect. This affiliation was the first step towards a full merger of the two arts organizations, opening doors of new opportunities at the Trolley Barn Gallery, creating a space that captures the energy of the combined mission. We are proud to say that we have developed two new workforce programs, expanded our administrative team, begun planning the first stages of the Youth Arts Empowerment Zone (including the PKX art festival), and curated six youth-led exhibitions at the Trolley Barn Gallery. We have also produced ten projects with Forge Media, and launched a new database and website!

We are so grateful to work alongside you, our new and lifelong donors, our new friends from Barrett Art Center, and our more than 145 community partners. Despite having to scale back programming and events again this year, it is because of your compassion and passion that we offer inspiration, relief, and hope to youth throughout the Hudson Valley—supporting their creative expression through art!

Sincerely,



Nicole Fenichel-Hewitt
Executive Director



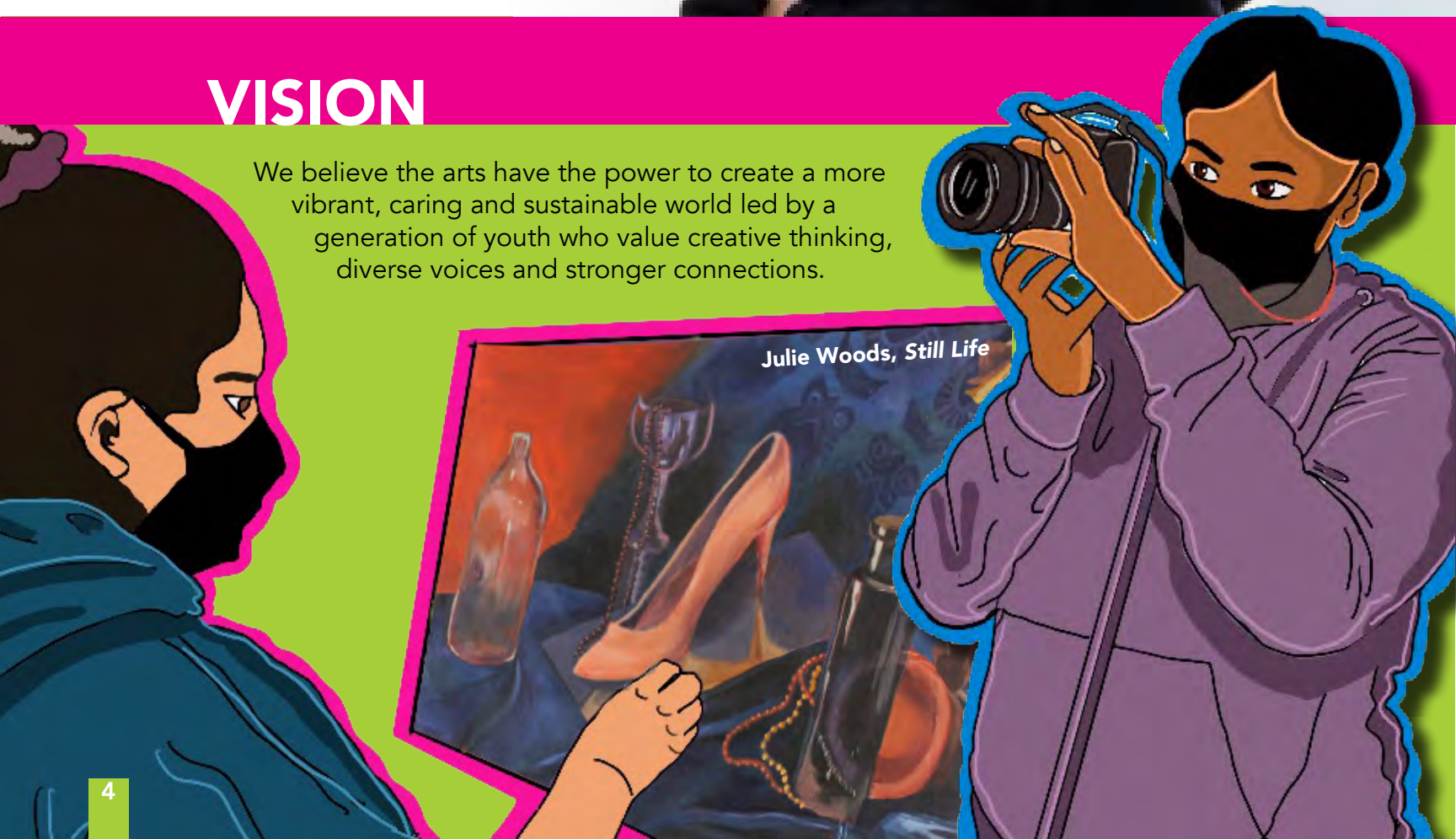
MISSION

The Art Effect empowers youth to develop their creative voice to shape their futures and bring about positive social change. Programs provide introductions to visual arts and media, giving participants the opportunity to develop real skills in these fields and guiding them towards achieving their academic and career goals.



VISION

We believe the arts have the power to create a more vibrant, caring and sustainable world led by a generation of youth who value creative thinking, diverse voices and stronger connections.





2524

**ARTIST
SUBMISSIONS**

385

**ARTWORKS
EXHIBITED**

19

**COUNTRIES
SUBMITTED
ARTWORK**

The Art Effect at the Trolley Barn trains youth as leaders who catalyze the community through the arts and re-energize downtown Poughkeepsie. The Poughkeepsie Trolley Barn Gallery empowers youth to engage in transformative arts experiences that they curate.

**TROLLEY
BARN
GALLERY**



CHALLENGES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"I'm in awe of what you do for the community. The depth of the outreach with students, allowing them to express themselves, opening them to a world beyond their previous one is absolutely wonderful." — *Harriet Forman Barrett, Artist, Home Sick Exhibition*

CHALLENGES

- Many teens reported having to choose between a summer job and continuing their art education. **30%** of teens in the US reported having a summer job.
- **12.9%** of youth in New York State report major depressive episodes.
- According to the Mid-Hudson Valley Community Profiles, **64%** of local residents report lack of community involvement.
- Poughkeepsie's graduation rate is the lowest in the region at **58%** with a **20%** dropout rate.
- **26%** of youth in the city of Poughkeepsie live below the poverty line vs. the Dutchess County average of **12%**.
- **43.8%** of youth in Poughkeepsie feel unsafe due to gun violence.
- The Average SAT score in Poughkeepsie is **902** vs. the New York State average of **1052**.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Art Effect reached **5,586** individuals in 2021 through programming and events.
- **11** students participated in ArtsBridge, our college readiness program for first generation students. **100%** of students received college advising and **90%** completed portfolios.
- Arts for Healing served **134** youth and adults.
- **100%** of Art Institute students reported feeling prepared for attending college, or on a path towards a career in the arts.
- **100%** of MADLab youth felt prepared to enter the workforce. MADLab served a total of **51** students in 2021—the largest number of students ever served.
- **100%** of Spark Studios students reported an improvement in their filmmaking skills.
- The Trolley Barn Gallery Youth Curatorial Team curated **7** exhibitions, selecting **240** artists for exhibitions. **117** artists were under the age of 18.
- The Art Effect's Big Read programs served **132** children, youth, and adults.



LOOKING BACK AT LAST YEAR...



ALUMNI & STUDENT SUCCESSES

AJ OPUIYO was hired as Rochester Institute of Technology's college e-sports editor.

AMYA WEST participated in Chronogram Magazine's "Taking it to the Streets" Conversation about public art and also worked with Dutchess Pride to create a virtual art gallery during Pride Month.

AREN ANTREASYAN is working full time now for J6 MediaWorks, an award winning video production company in the Hudson Valley.

BREANNA NUSSBICKEL was featured by Hudson Valley Magazine in an article highlighting Coppersea Distilling where she works in New Paltz.

CHLOE MOSBACHER opened an art gallery, Studio89 in Highland, NY. Her opening show featured artwork from alumna Morgan Suter and teaching artist Rick Price.

HARRISON BRISBON-MCKINNON became the student liaison to the board of education for Poughkeepsie City School District, and was also awarded the Dutchess County Arts Award, "Youth with Exceptional Promise" from Arts Mid-Hudson.

IMANI JONES exhibited artwork at Clinton Street Studio in Poughkeepsie, NY and was featured in a local newsletter titled "The Sculpted Scoop."

JASE REEDER'S artwork was selected for the "Double Take" exhibition at the Trolley Barn Gallery.

JASMINE GARVIN is one of 10 young actors selected for the Warner Brothers Television "Actors in Training" virtual casting initiative.

LENA CHIN is teaching ceramics classes at Fill Kill Creative Works in Poughkeepsie, NY.

LOUISE BARTOLOTTA received a community filmmaking grant from Hudsytv.

NICK JACKSON opened his own dance studio, Rhythm of Water Dance, in Poughkeepsie, NY.

QUINN DIPALO was hired by A Home Within (a group of therapists who work with children in foster care), to produce a promotional video series.

SAM BRINKLEY was awarded second place at Barrett Art Center's 34th annual *Photoworks* exhibition.

SHEMAR JOHNSON was hired as General Office Assistant at Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

TYRESE MCLEAN was sponsored by Mobile Gaming Corps and Pyre for his professional live-streaming and content creation for his TikTok channel of over 60,000 followers.

408

PARTICIPATED
IN THE
ALUMNI
NETWORK

55

ALUMNI HIRED
BY THE
ART EFFECT

2021 COMMUNITY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Trolley Barn Ribbon Cutting and HomeSick Opening

The official launch of the Trolley Barn Gallery kicked off with the first youth-led juried exhibition *HomeSick* and ribbon cutting with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and community members, including Mayor Rolison, and Assemblyman Jacobson.



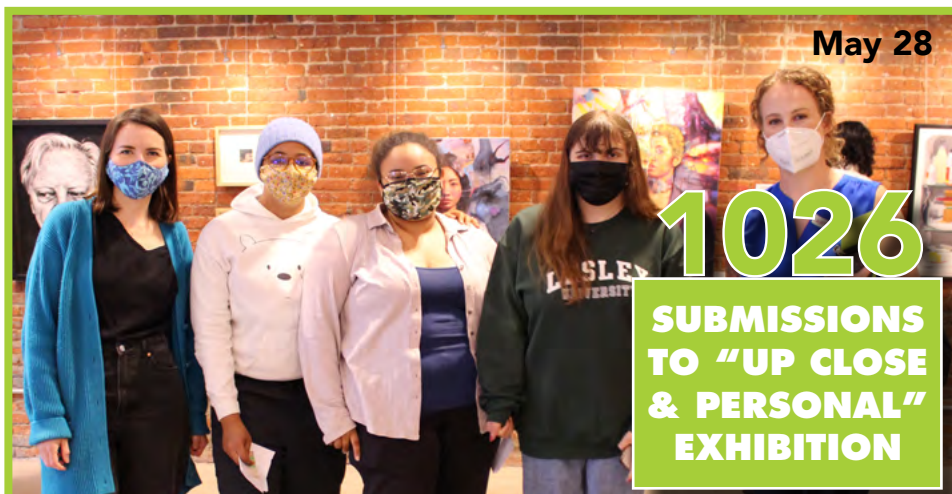
Reel Exposure International Youth Film & Photo Festival

Reel Exposure Film & Photo Festival featured 55 youth photographs and 12 short films from nine countries including Singapore, Italy, Iran, United Kingdom, Spain, Poland, Mexico, China, and the United States.



Up Close and Personal Gallery Opening

Curator Anna Conlan, Neil C. Trager Director of the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz, worked with the youth curatorial program to select 63 artworks from 1,026 submissions from around the world for the second international juried exhibition, *Up Close & Personal*.



Teen Visions Opening

Teen Visions celebrates the incredible work of young artists in The Art Effect's dynamic programming who created an impressive collection of over 117 works of art, including drawings, painting, photography, digital animation, and mixed media.



Indigenous Peoples' Day workshop

The Art Effect hosted its second Indigenous Peoples' Day workshop with students, guest artist Vernon M. Byron and the local community. Activist art-making workshops included painting, poster making, and collages and an inspiring artist talk with Vernon about his recent art installation.



Virtual Portfolio Week

Over the last two years, The Art Effect's traditional Portfolio Day has pivoted to a virtual event in response to the pandemic allowing for a wider reach. This year, more than 40 colleges were represented from across the United States and Canada.



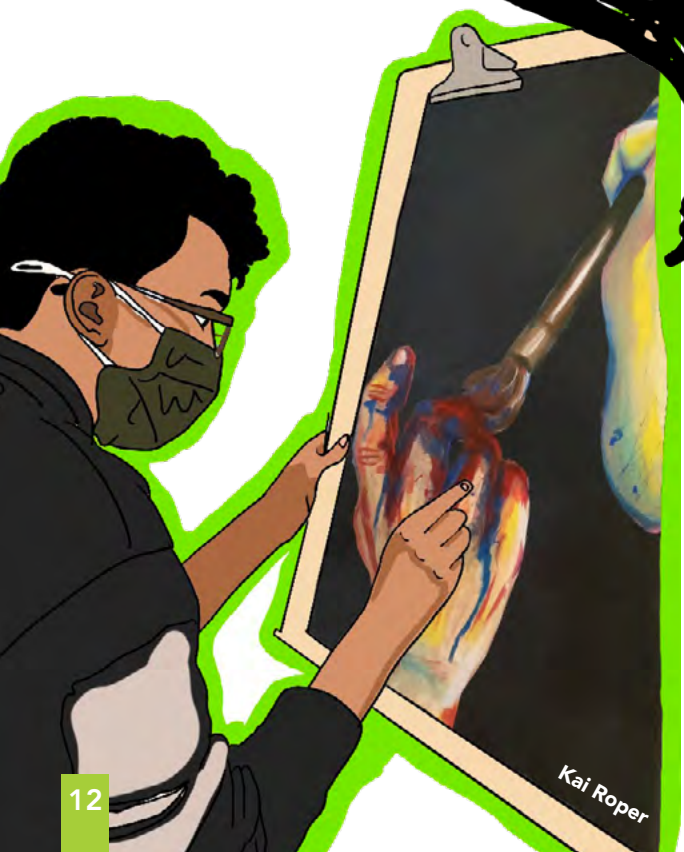
SCHOLARSHIPS

The Art Effect believes in pulling down the barriers to high-quality arts programming and helping students reach their college and career goals. Research shows that students from low socioeconomic backgrounds who have arts-rich experiences are more likely to achieve positive outcomes, both academically and socially.

Art has always been important to me. Taking classes at The Art Effect and having access to different styles of art, mediums, and professionals has given me an inner confidence that I don't think I could have gotten anywhere else. That confidence spills into other areas of my life such as my love for reading, language and even my style. I am learning how to express myself at school, home and in my life. I took my first class at The Art Effect in 4th grade! Since then I have taken digital art, drawing and painting and portfolio classes learning how to do a lot of cool things! Having access to scholarships makes me feel supported. I can continue to learn and explore artistically in a way I wouldn't have been able to do without the scholarships.

**"I always feel like I am being heard
and encouraged"**

— Kai, Art Institute Student



\$26k

**IN PROGRAM
SCHOLARSHIPS
GIVEN TO
STUDENTS**

41

**STUDENTS
SUPPORTED
THROUGH
SCHOLARSHIPS**

24

**CLASSES
ATTENDED BY
SCHOLARSHIP
STUDENTS**



"We are beyond excited to be able to collaborate with The Art Effect. It is the highlight for students and staff alike! To be able to share with teachers our combined passion of our students and reading with a common goal, creating art using multimedia technology = DREAM!"

— Andrea French, Poughkeepsie High School English Teacher



MADLab



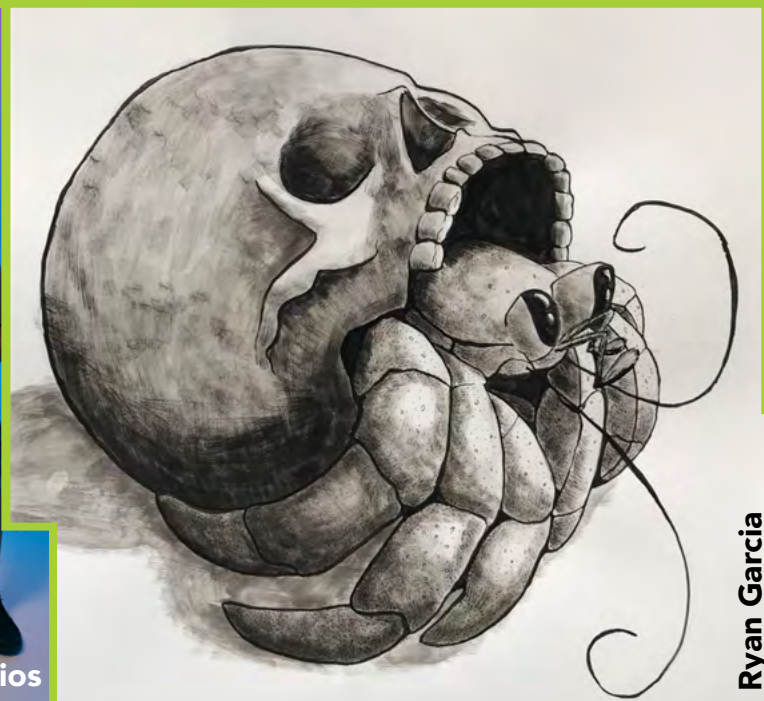
Arts For Healing



Fiona Shanahan

PROGRAMS

The Art Effect provides youth with a comprehensive program sequence in visual and media arts education. Programs range from introductory programs that provide immersive experiences, to intermediate programs that use art as a hands-on tool for self-discovery and life skills development, to advanced art programs that prepare youth for entrance into higher education or careers. The Art Effect currently offers nine different program categories: visual arts, media arts, youth workforce, college and portfolio development, arts in schools, curatorial programs, arts for healing, community development, and summer programs. **In 2021, The Art Effect held 101 programs including classes, workshops, trainings, intensives, lessons, and residencies.**



Ryan Garcia





Forge Media



Jack Powers



ArtsBridge

\$2.1M

**COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS
OFFERS TO
SENIORS**

2,818

**INDIVIDUALS
DIRECTLY
SERVED
THROUGH
PROGRAMS**

153

**STUDENT
PORTFOLIOS
CREATED**

24

**SHORT FILMS
PRODUCED
BY SPARK
STUDIOS**



Benjamin Solliday




Art Institute



Youth Curatorial Team

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

The Art Effect is committed to advancing the journey of our youth from learning to leadership by engaging them in experiences through arts and media. In 2021, The Art Effect continued its successful Spark Studios and MADLab programs, and added two new workforce programs providing opportunities to develop real skills, and guidance towards achieving academic and career goals.



I came to Spark Studios and immediately fell in love with photography and filmmaking. I have since participated in eight programs at The Art Effect in under two years! In my workforce programs I have created a photography portfolio, edited mini-docs for Vassar College, produced an original short-film, and worked on a professional film set. I also joined the National Art Honor Society as vice-president and the PKX Committee planning the upcoming community arts festival in Poughkeepsie. With the help of my mentors at The Art Effect, I have secured various freelance projects including photographic portraits for the City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County Historical Society. I plan to get a job in photography and film after college.

"I want to keep coming here as long as they let me."

— Phyenix, Youth Employee

145

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERS
WORKING
WITH YOUTH**

105

**WORKFORCE
YOUTH
EMPLOYED**

\$134k

**IN YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
WAGES**

FORGE MEDIA

Forge Media, The Art Effect's youth apprenticeship program, gained client-based work experience, further developed their filmmaking skills and built both their portfolios and professional relationships while working with community organizations including Mental Health of America, Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Sustainable Hudson Valley's Regional Symposium on Climate Change, Dutchess County Pedestrian Safety, The Carrot Project, The Fall Kill Watershed Coalition, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, Hudson Valley CSA Coalition, Day One Learning Center, and The Chamber Foundation, Inc.



\$8k

**PAID TO FORGE
MEDIA YOUTH
APPRENTICES**

585

**HOURS
WORKED
ON SET**

10

**YOUTH
PRODUCED
FILMS**

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

For more than 30 years, The Art Effect has partnered with many wonderful community-based organizations in the Hudson Valley to build vibrant, creative communities. In 2021, The Art Effect launched its newest and boldest endeavor: the Youth Arts Empowerment Zone, centered around the Trolley Barn in the Middle Main neighborhood in Poughkeepsie. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts' Our Town Grant, this long-term initiative will partner with the City of Poughkeepsie, the Poughkeepsie City School District, MASS Design and Hudson River Housing to engage youth, community and tourism in high quality visual and performing arts experiences in this part of the city. The first step of this initiative will be the PKX Festival, scheduled for September 2022. PKX will engage the community with creative placekeeping centered around artworks created by local youth and professional artists.

Latiana first joined MADLab where she shined creatively, taking the lead on designing the PKX Festival logo. The following semester, she joined the PKX Festival Committee where she participated in sharing ideas and envisioning what this festival could become. Her excitement and passion for creating an impactful experience for youth in her community has been empowering to everyone around her.



100

**YOUTH
PLANNING
HOURS FOR
PKX FESTIVAL**

82

**INDIVIDUALS
PARTICIPATING
IN PKX EVENTS**

13

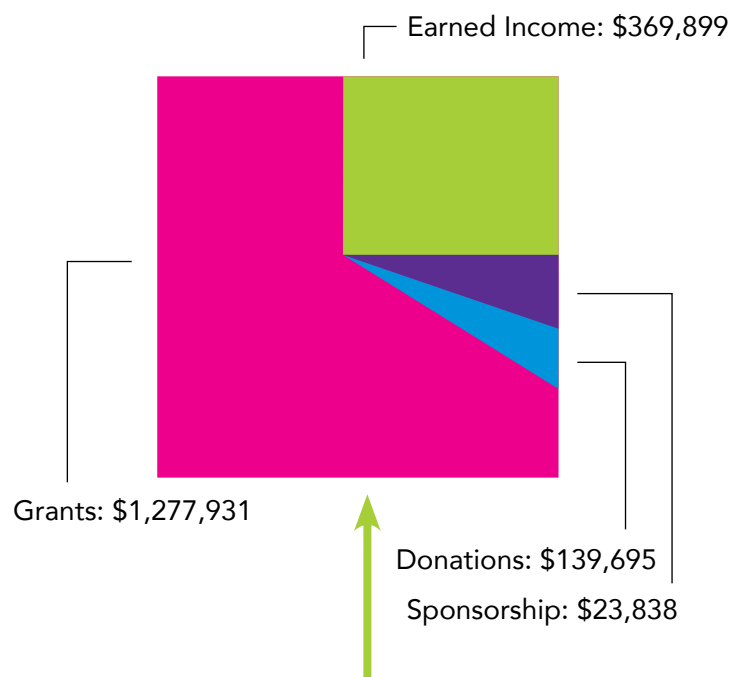
**COMMUNITY
PARTNERS**



"The Art Effect inspires me to work harder. The atmosphere helps with creating an inspired individual. They're very understanding as well as helpful with growing my skills."

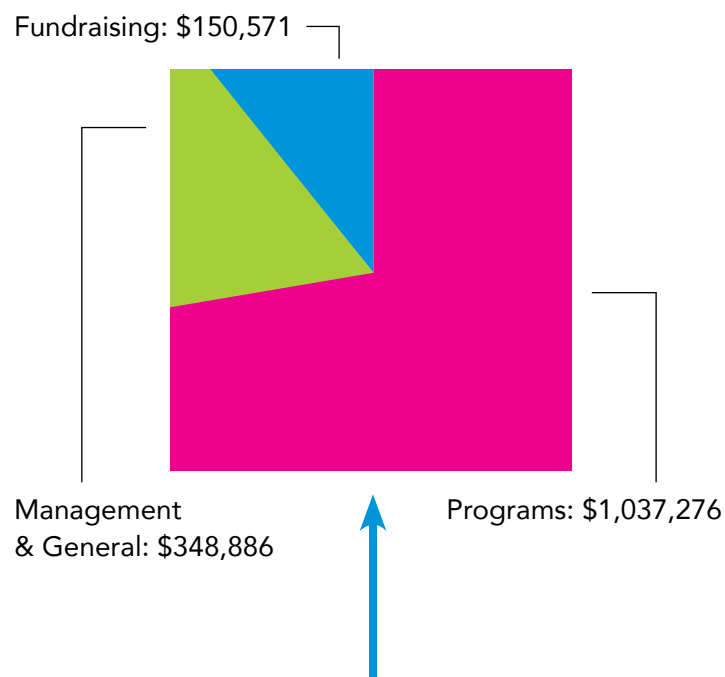
— MADLab Student, Summer 2021

FINANCIALS

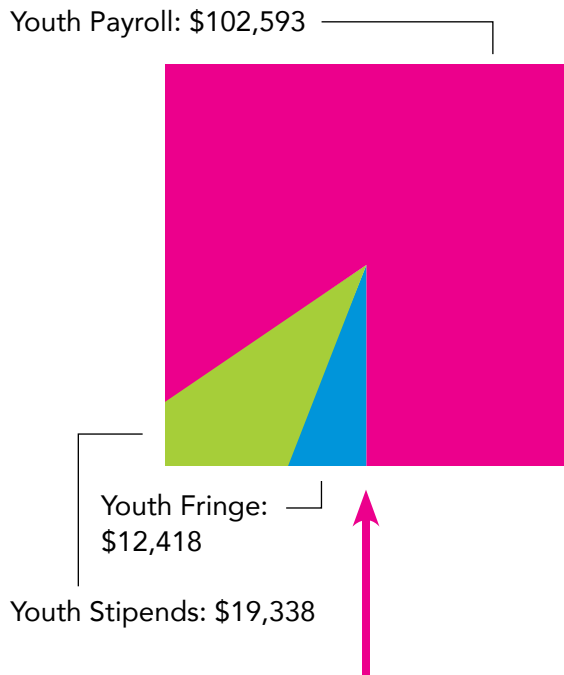


Income:
\$1,811,362

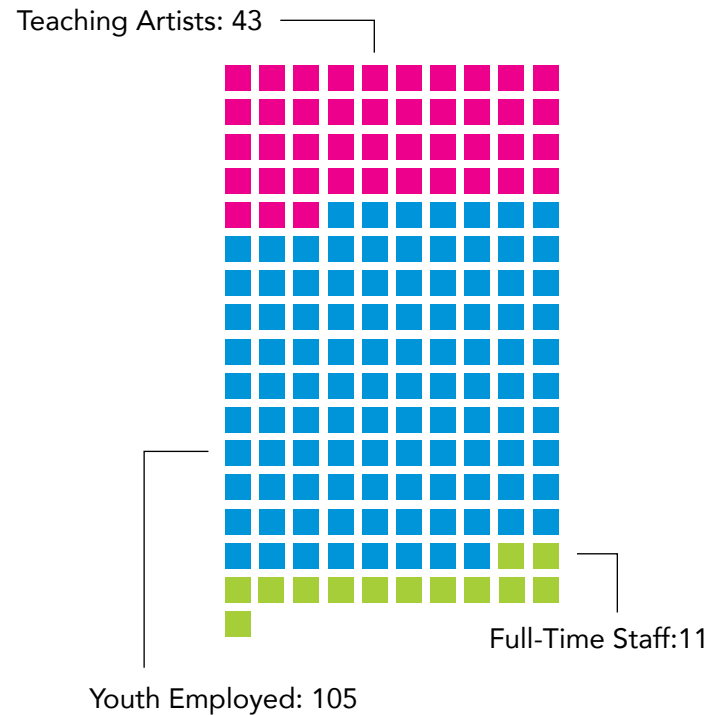
■ Total Expenses: **\$1,536,733**



67% of
expenses go
straight to
programs



\$134,349
directly
to youth
employment



TEAM

Board of Directors*

Gaye Mallet, Board Chair

Human Resources Director, Adams Fairacre Farms

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Creative Director, Drake Creative Collaborative LLC

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Director of Development Research, Marist College

Richard DuVall, Esq., Treasurer

Attorney, McCabe & Mack LLP

Lorenzo L. Angelino, Esq., Secretary

Attorney, Law Offices of Lorenzo L. Angelino

David Bloom

Retired Teacher, Special Education

Diane Cicatello, MD

Pediatrician, CareMount Medical

Sybil DelGaudio

Professor Emerita of Radio, Television, Film, Hofstra University

***Michael DeCiutiis**

Information Technology Director, Adams Fairacre Farms

***Dwayne Douglas**

Middle School Site Coordinator, Marist College Liberty Partnership Program

Judy Elkin, LMSW

Grief Counselor

Paul Hesse

Community Development Coordinator, City of Poughkeepsie

Christopher Kroner

Principal, MASS Design Group

Kit Laybourne

Media Educator and Advocate

Sharley McIver, MSW

Associate Director of Family Programs, Dutchess County Healthy Families, The Institute of Family Health

Karen Michel

Independent Producer, NPR

Teresa Quinn

Retired Associate Dean of the College for Campus Activities, Vassar College

***Loretta Spence**

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

Dr. Beth A. Thomas

Art Department Chair, SUNY New Paltz

***Robert C. Watson Jr.**

Director of Partnership and Community Impact at Harvard Graduate School of Education

* New Members 2021

Staff*

Nicole Fenichel-Hewitt, Executive Director

Nicole Carroll, Director of Development

Joanna Frang, Trolley Barn Gallery Director

Lauren Hollick, Artistic Advancement Director

Mary Ellen Iatropoulos, Director of Programs

Destiny Kearney, Trolley Barn Fellow

Victoria Majarali, Grants Manager

Pamela Perry, Director of Marketing & Communications

Cory Spraker, Operations Manager

Sarah Taylor, Media/IT Coordinator & Teaching Artist

Paul Thompson, Media Workforce Associate Director

Daniel Weintraub, Director of Forge Media

David Wong, Community Art & Design Program Manager

* As of December 31, 2021

Interns

Valeria Cervello, Marist College

Joe Garcia, Marist College

Gypsy Medina, John Jay Senior High School

Sam Vaught, Marist College

Stephanie Mallen, SUNY Oneonta

Amirah Miller, Bard College

Jordana Judd, Vassar College

Elinor Krichmar, Vassar College

Danielle Read, SUNY New Paltz

Taara Ram Mohan, Vassar College

Kyazia West, Hudson River Housing



Emily Dooley, *I'm Not Them*

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Art World Sign

THE **ART** EFFECT



www.thearteffect.org

845.471.7477

45 Pershing Ave, Poughkeepsie NY

Trolley Barn Gallery:

489 Main St., Poughkeepsie NY

Special thank you to Jadeen Sampson who was commissioned as part of the youth workforce program to create the beautiful illustrations throughout this annual report.

