



# THE ART EFFECT

Celia Drury, *Family Tree*

2022 Annual Report





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Kai Roper, *Self Portrait with Halo*

**THE ART EFFECT** **EMPOWERS**  
YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR CREATIVE  
VOICE TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURES AND BRING  
ABOUT POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE.



# MISSION AND IMPACT

The Art Effect helps youth explore, experience, and excel in the arts by introducing them to visual arts and media, giving them the opportunity to develop real skills in these fields, and guiding them towards achieving their academic and career goals.

## 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

- **6,534** individuals served through The Art Effect's programs and events.
- **100%** of high school seniors participating in Arts-Bridge were accepted to college.
- The Art Effect's students were awarded **\$1,361,754** in college scholarships.
- **261** youth and adults participated in Arts for Healing workshops.
- **40** MADLab youth created **9** public art projects.
- **164** youth and adults served across **4** Hudson Valley schools through professional development and in-school residencies.
- **102** portfolios created by Art Institute and workforce youth.



# WE ARE THE ART EFFECT

After three successful mergers in the last five years, The Art Effect is now the largest arts education organization in the mid-Hudson region. We are proud to help over 3,000 Hudson Valley youth explore, experience, and excel in the arts through high-quality visual arts, media, and curatorial education programs. For the young people we work with in Poughkeepsie especially — many of whom come from low-income and historically marginalized neighborhoods — we place an emphasis on paid workforce opportunities in the arts, media, and community development. For those who want to go on to higher education, our college preparatory programs mentor youth from all backgrounds to succeed. And for thousands more who want to take part in the arts, we produce free exhibitions and events for the community each year.



Yet there is a piece of our mission that doesn't always get the same focus. At its heart, it is about social mobility, civic engagement, and youth leadership. In a culture that still far too frequently tells youth they should be seen and not heard, The Art Effect empowers them to find their voice — and to use that voice for change. It's why we are helping to establish the Youth Arts Empowerment Zone, or YAEZ, along Middle Main Street in downtown Poughkeepsie — so that youth can play an active role in shaping the future of their community. Our first annual PKX Festival, held in September 2022, is just the beginning of what YAEZ can do.

Some other notable achievements in 2022 include awarding 109 scholarships to families for our summer camps, creating nine youth-led public art projects, and welcoming two youth members to our board of directors — bringing our core values into our leadership structure. For every large, visible accomplishment, there were many smaller successes along the way. In this annual report, you'll get a snapshot of some of those stories, as well as a glimpse of where we're headed.

The Art Effect thank you for your partnership and support. The investment in our futures and our community can only be enriched by developing and including the voices of the young people who will inherit this world. We truly could not do this work without you.

In community,

Nicole Fenichel-Hewitt  
Executive Director

## 2022 GOALS ACHIEVED

- 24 students gained industry connections** and externships in over **45** work placements.
- 16 youth have been mentored** in our growing curatorial workforce program.
- 90% of participants** of The Art Effect's programming reported feeling more empowered.
- 700 people, 20 partners, 3 new sponsors and 10 artists** participated in our first PKX Festival.





## 2022 EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

*Double Take International Juried Exhibition & Talk*  
January 21 - February 24

*High Contrast International Juried Exhibition & Talk*  
March 11 - April 14

*Reel Exposure International Youth Photography Exhibition*  
May 4 - June 19

*Tlazotl, Weaver's Wings Exhibition*  
July 29 - August 5

*Wonderland International Juried Exhibition*  
September 15 - October 20

*The Member Show: Teen Visions & Barrett Art Center*  
November 18 - December 9

*Senior Project Exhibition*  
December 16, 2022 - January 13, 2023

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

## BY THE NUMBERS

**244** artists exhibited at **7** exhibitions.

**2,379** submissions from **9** countries.

**2,879** individuals engaged at Trolley Barn events.

**TROLLEY  
BARN  
GALLERY**





# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Art Effect provides youth with a comprehensive program sequence in visual and media arts education. Programs range from introductory courses 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.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The Art Effect held **122 programs** including classes, workshops, trainings, intensives, lessons, and residencies.

## YOUTH WORKFORCE, MEDIA ARTS & CURATORIAL PROGRAMS

- **61 Spark Studios** youth created **55** videos & **98** photographs. **3** films & **5** photos were selected for festivals and competitions.
- **40 Media/Art/Design Lab** students created **9** public art projects within the community.
- The **Trolley Barn Curatorial Team and PKX Youth Committee** hosted **9** exhibitions and events.

## PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT & VISUAL ARTS

- **The Art Institute** offered **262** youth ages 5-19 the opportunity to explore, experience and excel.
- **17** high school students participated in **ArtsBridge**.

## ARTS IN SCHOOLS

- **33 residencies, professional development, and after-school enrichment programs** served **540** individuals.

## ARTS FOR HEALING

- The Art Effect partnered with **10** organizations including **7** libraries to offer **Arts for Healing** workshops.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

- **34%** of **Arts Camp** youth were Poughkeepsie residents. **109** summer camp scholarships were awarded.
- **34 artworks** from **Summer and Junior Art Institute** were selected for the *Teen Visions* exhibition.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Media/Art/Design Lab** youth and staff spent **80 hours** working on the Castella building mural with Scenic Hudson.
- **20 National Art Honor Society** members created a mural titled *Connection* at the Walkway Over the Hudson State Park. They also raised \$400 for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA).

## 2022 AWARDS

**Associate director of media programs, Paul Thompson** was awarded a "40 Under 40 Mover & Shaker Award" from the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

**Student, Emma Trezza** was recognized by the National Art Education Association as a 2022 Rising Star.

**Executive Director, Nicole Fenichel-Hewitt** was presented with an award for service to the community from the president of Marist College.

**Youth employee, Jae Jones** was posthumously presented with the Youth With Exceptional Promise in the Arts award by Arts Mid-Hudson.

**Student, Olivia Barker-Duncan** won the "Above and Beyond Award" from the Black Excellence Community.

*"Your work at The Art Effect is beautiful, mystical, and imaginative. I am only honored to have Kalecia, Olivia, and Leila's work in a historic show."*  
— Scheherazade Tillet, Curator, *Picturing Black Girlhood*



# STUDENT STORIES

## JASON UMANZOR

MADLab, 2018 - 2020  
Art Institute, 2021 - 2022  
ArtsBridge, 2021 - 2022

When Jason first joined MADLab in 2018 he was only 14 years old and, although talented, didn't fully embrace the program until the following fall. Since then, Jason has emerged as a leader in both MADLab and ArtsBridge helping his peers with tech, equipment, and more. Jason was lead on a Celebration of The African Spirit client project, and has received recognition for his work with clients, engineers, and designers in the community. Recently, Jason has begun to plan his future, applying to Upward Bound at Marist College.



## AVA MAEGERLE

Dutchess Arts Camp, 2013  
MADLab, 2018  
Art Institute, 2019 - 2022  
ArtsBridge, 2021 - 2022  
NAHS, 2019 - 2022

Ava grew up attending many of The Art Effect's programs, from Dutchess Arts Camp when she was a child, to MADLab, to our most rigorous Art Institute course, Senior Project, where she truly excelled in developing her talent and voice. The Art Effect has supported Ava throughout her journey as an emerging young artist with scholarships for classes. She was accepted to Alfred University for the fall of 2022, where Ava received a college scholarship to major in art.



Ava Maegerle, *Perfect Boy*

## ADEL ROGERS

Spark Studios 2022

Adel is a passionate and ambitious learner who completed five sessions of Spark Studios this year. The training he received enabled him to build a portfolio and pursue external work opportunities including being hired as a camera operator at a two-day live-streaming event, and working for community partner, Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Adel has grown to be a leader among his peers and is Vice President of The Art Effect's chapter of the National Art Honor Society. His participation in The Art Effect's Youth Workforce Development in Arts & Media Program empowered him to achieve his professional goals and set new goals while also providing him with the opportunity to serve as a mentor to other students and establish positive relationships within his community.



## HARRISON BRISBON-MCKINNON

Youth Board Member, 2022

Spark Studios, 2020  
National Art Honor Society, 2021  
Art Institute, 2021  
Trolley Barn Curatorial Committee, 2021  
YAEZ Liaisons, 2021 - 2022

Over the years, Harrison has taken on a strong leadership role for the Trolley Barn Gallery. They have participated in several public presentations, met with city officials, and organized community events, serving as a point person and advocate for the PKX Festival and emerging Youth Arts Empowerment Zone (YAEZ).

Harrison has stepped into their power as an advocate for youth and members of the community. Now in their freshman year at Vassar College, they have become a point of connectivity between the college campus and the Poughkeepsie community. Additionally, Harrison currently serves as a member of the Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission.



Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon  
*Keep Your Eyes On Me*





**"The Art Effect has helped me to advance my technical skills and my ability to think conceptually. Because of The Art Effect, I have been able to connect with a supportive, creative community that I never would have otherwise been a part of."**

**— Juliana Woods**

Juliana Woods, *Buy 1, Get 1 Free*  
"American Visions" Gold Award winner  
Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.



# FORGE MEDIA

In Forge Media, The Art Effect's youth apprenticeship program, youth gain client-based work experience, further develop their filmmaking skills, and build both their portfolios and professional relationships. In 2022, they worked with community organizations including Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, Dorsky Museum, NYS Minorities in Criminal Justice, Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, Day One Early Learning Community, and Dutchess Outreach.

*"I have gained valuable video and film production knowledge at The Art Effect that has been instrumental in persuing my dreams as a professional and business owner in the industry. Forge Media allows me to work with the community and continue teaching. I want to empower others to pursue their dreams too."*

— Aleria Gonzalez

## FORGE BY THE NUMBERS

- **\$3,807.70** paid to 19 youth apprentices.
- **93 hours** worked on set.
- **7 films** produced in 2022.

## ALERIA GONZALEZ

### Youth Board Member, 2022

Spark Studios, 2017 - 2018

Forge Media, 2018 - 2022

Aleria joined Spark Studios predecessor, Drop TV in 2017 with no experience in filmmaking, and later the inagural cohort of Spark Studios. She quickly became a proficient boom operator and enthusiastic student gaining invaluable experience in film production techniques. She was hired in 2018 as a youth producer for Forge Media where she worked on numerous client projects. By the end of her first year, Aleria was working independantly at various film shoots. In 2020, she was awarded "Exemplary" status from the New York State Media Art Teachers Association for her directing and editing. In addition to her work with Forge Media, Aleria is an assistant teaching artist at The Art Effect and has worked on more than 70 films, including as a production assistant on the set of an independent film. Recently, Aleria completed her screenwriting certification from the New York Film Acedemy and is working on her own feature film.





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JOHN OLSON



Even as a young person growing up in Poughkeepsie, John Olson knew he was an image-maker and artist. He just didn't know yet that it could be a career or how to make that happen. Then he found The Art Effect.

From taking part in Dutchess Arts Camps and even working as a counselor there for a couple of years, he segued into more advanced art classes at Mill Street Loft, now part of The Art Effect. It was the first time John realized art could be something more.

"The high school/college prep program at The Art Effect was so formative for me," he says. "I knew I needed to make things, I knew I was an artist — but understanding how that fit into the broader world — The Art Effect helped me focus, it provided options and pathways, and it was by far the most important education for me at that stage in my life."

With an undergraduate degree from the Columbus College of Art and Design and a master's from the Pratt Institute, John now lives in Harlem, where he works as graphic designer, creative director, and illustrator. He is currently design lead at Lyft and has created work for clients such as Adobe, Converse, and Google.

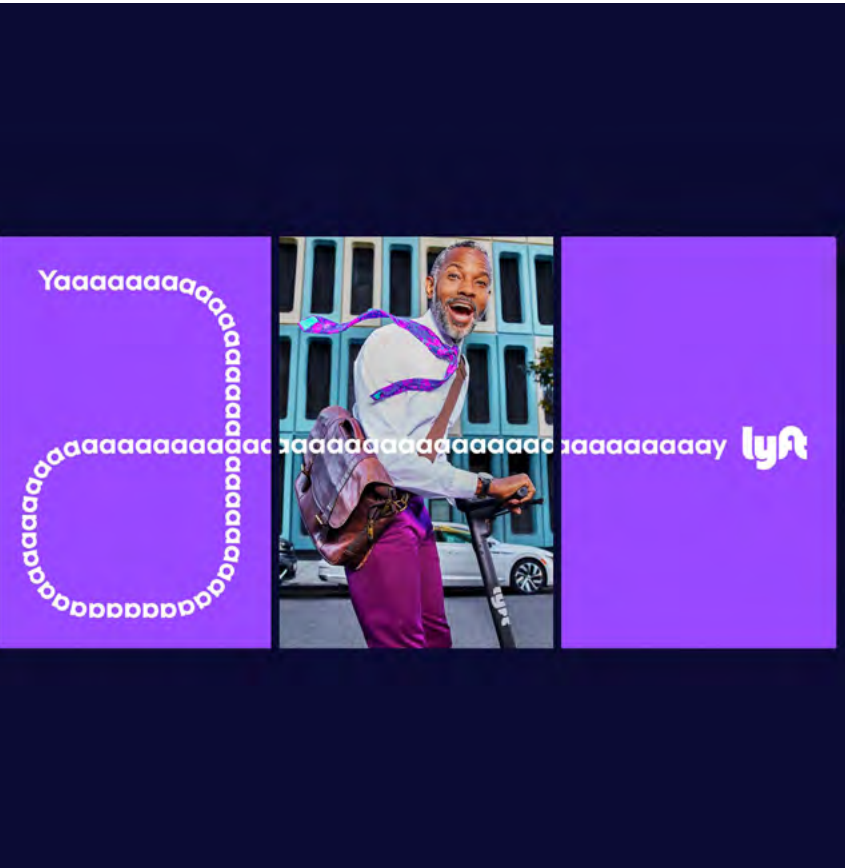
For one of his most recent projects, John collaborated with Haruka Aoki, his friend and colleague from Pratt, to co-author and co-illustrate his first children's book, *Fitting In*. Published in 2022, it tells the story of a square trying to fit into a world of circles, ultimately celebrating what makes everyone unique and special. It's a lesson that still resonates in his own life.

"In my career, I just call myself a visual artist. I'm a graphic designer, an illustrator, a performance artist — so many different things — and for years, I worried I had to fit in a box," he says. "The older I get, the looser I am about defining myself. You don't need to follow a set path or make work that looks like somebody else's. I've learned to just be authentic."

Left: Samples from John's creative portfolio, including *Fitting In*, project work for Adobe, and ads for Lyft.

## ALUMNI BY THE NUMBERS

- 48 alumni hired by The Art Effect.
- 22 active members in The Art Effect's online alumni community.





# DONOR SPOTLIGHT: THE LAYBOURNES



Kit and Gerry Laybourne have been advocates for children throughout their careers and lives. As an independent television producer, Kit created educational and entertainment shows for children, including *Braingames* and *Gullah Gullah Island*. Gerry worked at Nickelodeon for 15 years, eventually becoming president and CEO, and co-founded Day One Early Learning Community in Poughkeepsie.

Getting involved with The Art Effect was a natural fit. Kit joined the board of directors in 2018, working on curriculum development, and Gerry has been an advisor and partner through her work at Day One. They are steadfast supporters and advocates for the power of the arts to transform lives and communities, and have a strong belief in the need to invest in youth.

"I have always believed there is one reason we are on this planet — to bring up this next generation. The hope for youth that The Art Effect has, that is art changing attitudes," says Gerry.

In 2021, they took their giving to a new level by leaving a planned gift to The Art Effect. Working with his attorney, Kit designated The Art Effect as a beneficiary in his will. "It tells the world what you believe in in the strongest terms," Kit says. "I saw it as a really good way to leave a legacy gift for the youth of Poughkeepsie."

We deeply appreciate Kit and Gerry for having the foresight to consider how to extend their support for The Art Effect well into the future. As our ambitions grow to place youth in Poughkeepsie at the center of art and civic engagement, we rely on generous donors to help us create a lasting impact.

## DONORS BY THE NUMBERS

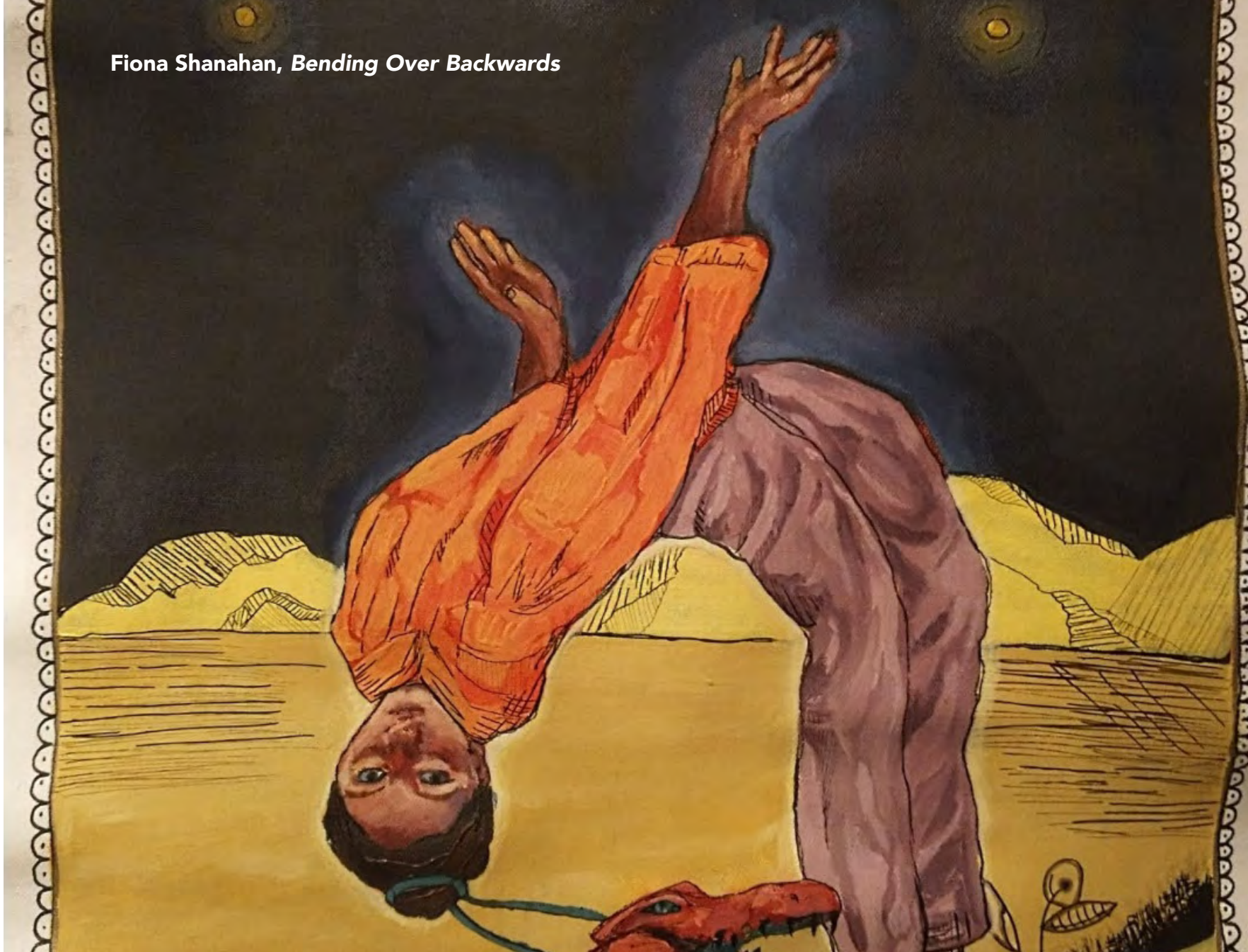
244 individuals donated to The Art Effect.

\$88,290 raised by donations.

To learn more about how to make your own planned gift, please contact Daniel Nev-ers, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 845.471.7477 or [danieln@thearteffect.org](mailto:danieln@thearteffect.org).



Fiona Shanahan, *Bending Over Backwards*



**"Investing in kids as creative thinkers and embracing their diversity is so important. The arts give them skills for lateral thinking, self-expression, showing your work — so many things come together when kids get involved in art."**

**— Kit Laybourne**



## 2022 EVENTS

The Art Effect hosted or participated in 16 events through program showcases, exhibitions, community events, festivals, and galas!

### REEL EXPOSURE FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

**May 4 - 6**

The annual festival featured 62 youth photographs and 11 short films from six countries including France, Germany, China, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

### BARRETT ART CENTER MERGER MIXER

**May 26**

Celebrating the merger of The Art Effect and Barrett Art Center, members were invited to attend a membership mixer at the Trolley Barn Gallery with more than 50 members in attendance.

### TLAZOTL, WEAVER'S WINGS: OAXACA WEEK EXHIBITION

**July 29**

Oaxaca Week in Poughkeepsie celebrated our city's connection with traditions from this diverse Mexican region. The Art Effect hosted one of two visual art exhibitions city-wide, with a show and a curator's talk on Oaxacan textiles.

### PKX WONDERLAND FESTIVAL

**September 15 - 17**

The first annual PKX Festival welcomed 629 individuals to a gallery exhibition, teen dance party, musical performances, food vendors, entertainment, and a wide variety of art-making activities from many community partners.

### ART AFTER DARK: GARDEN OF WONDER

**October 28**

Our annual fundraising gala invited guests for immersive arts experiences, culinary delights, and signature cocktails with an artistic twist. The event honored three prominent community and arts leaders; G. Angela Henry, Shakur Peterson, and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

### HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL PORTFOLIO WEEK

**November 1 - 4**

Hudson Valley Regional Portfolio Week gave students the opportunity to have 236 portfolios reviewed by 33 attending colleges virtually.

### 2022 TROLLEY BARN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

**Double Take International Juried Exhibition & Talk**  
January 21 - February 24

**High Contrast International Juried Exhibition & Talk**  
March 11 - April 14

**The Member Show: Teen Visions & Barrett Art Center**  
November 18 - December 9

**Senior Project Exhibition**  
December 16, 2022 - January 13, 2023

**Meet The Art Effect**  
January 20

**YAEZ Presentation**  
January 26

**Art Institute Showcase**  
July - August

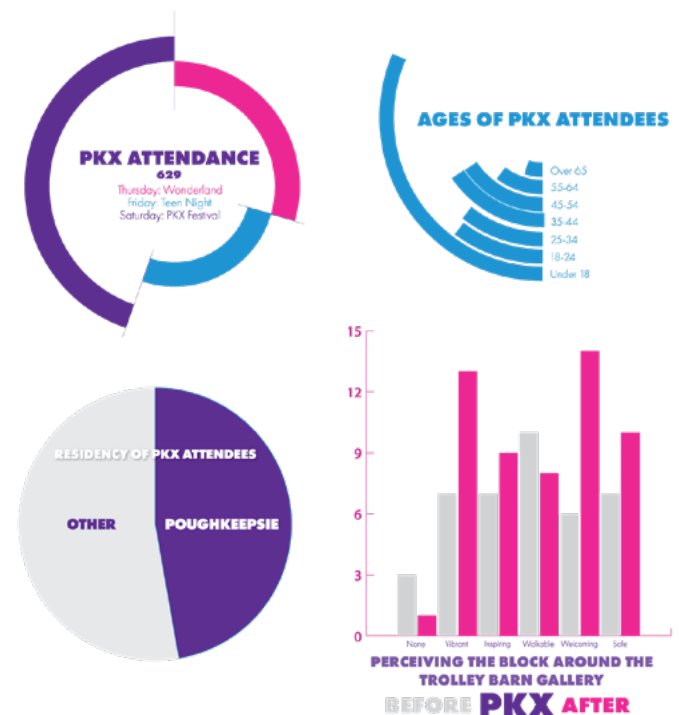
**Youth Employee Holiday Party**  
December 20



# PKX FESTIVAL AND YAEZ

The streets of Poughkeepsie now show signs of the exciting beginnings of the new Youth Arts Empowerment Zone, thanks in part to the “Paint the Pavement” artists from the PKX Festival. The PKX festival featured a gorgeous sidewalk painting designed by students, Jaden Sampson and Keli Faircloth, and local artist Nestor Madalengoitia. A gallery exhibition, teen dance party, musical performances, food vendors, and a wide variety of art-making activities from community partners and our youth rounded out three days of fun.

**100% OF ATTENDEES SAID PKX INCREASED THEIR CREATIVITY AND ARE INSPIRED TO ENGAGE WITH THE ARTS**



## LATIANA BELTON

MADLab, 2021 - 2022

YAEZ Liaisons, 2022

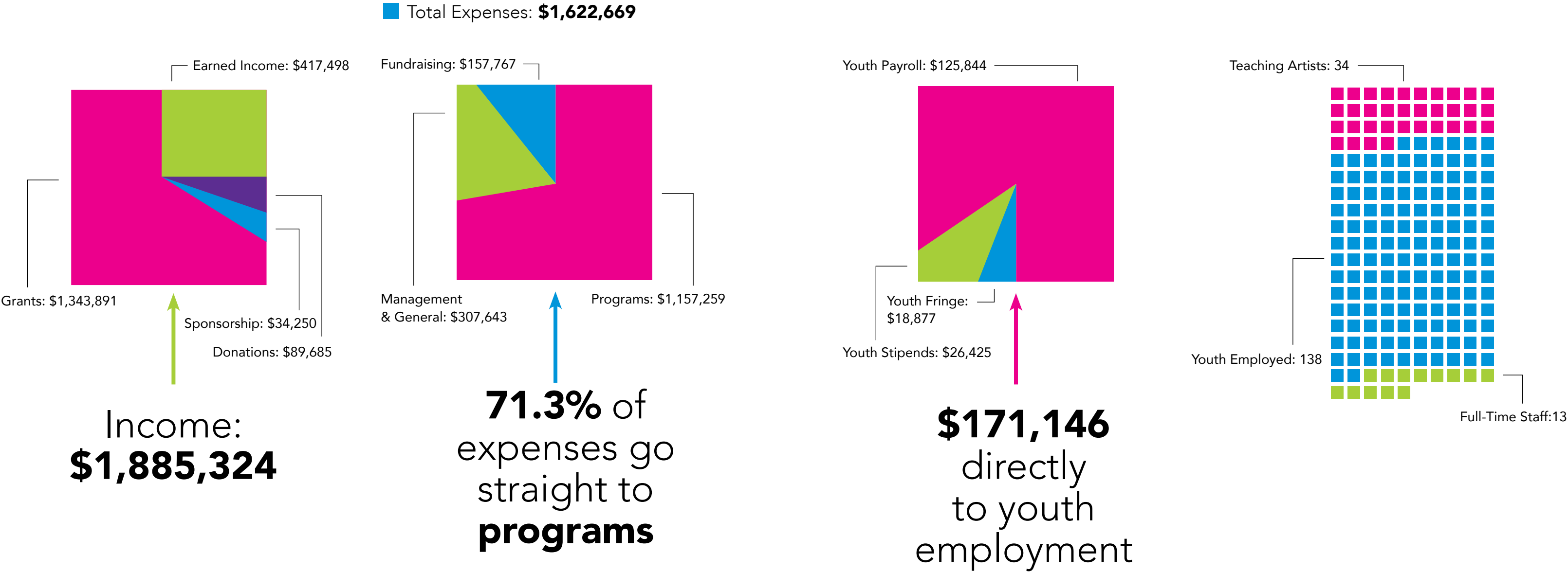
Art Institute, 2022

Latiana is one of The Art Effect’s youngest work-force students and the talent behind the PKX Festival logo. Latiana is passionate about creating an experience for Poughkeepsie teens throughout the Youth Arts Empowerment Zone and our PKX Festivals. Her leadership and impact on the community has been inspiring to her peers and mentors. Latiana worked tirelessly on pulling together both the vision and implementation of this year’s PKX Festival. She has embraced what she has learned in creative place-making, marketing, and event planning, civic engagement, and has worked with her team to lead community outreach and art-making workshops.





FINANCIALS





# TEAM

## Board of Directors\*

**Gaye Mallet**, *Board Chair*

Human Resources Director, Adams Fairacre Farms

**Dean Temple**, *President*

Creative Director, Drake Creative Collaborative LLC

**Shailee Johnson**, *Vice-Chair*

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

**\*Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon**

Youth Board Member

**Diane Cicatello, MD**

Pediatrician, CareMount Medical

**Michael DeCiutiis**

Information Technology Director, Adams Fairacre Farms

**Sybil DelGaudio**

Professor Emerita of Radio, Television, Film, Hofstra University

**Dwayne Douglas**

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**Judy Elkin, LMSW**

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Youth Board Member

**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

**Robert C. Watson Jr.**

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

\* New Members 2022

**Morgan Suter**, *Studio Manager & Teaching Artist*

**Sarah Timberlake Taylor**, *Media/IT Coordinator & Teaching Artist*

**Paul Thompson**, *Associate Director of Media Programs*

**Jet To**, *Programs Assistant*

**Mirabai Trent**, *Trolley Barn Gallery & Communications Assistant*

**Phoenix Trent**, *Director of External Affairs*

**Daniel Weintraub**, *Director of Forge Media*

**David Wong**, *Community Art & Design Program Manager*

\* As of December 31, 2022

## Interns

**Lauren Andrews**, Vassar College

**Aaron Bonita**, Smart Staffing

**Sydney Boyum**, Vassar College

**Lindsey Buckley**, SUNY New Paltz

**Maelia Chanu**, Vassar College

**Leo DiGregorio**, Smart Staffing

**Dillon Finch**, SUNY New Paltz

**Christina Georgiou**, Marist College

**Sarah Graves**, Vassar College

**Brianna Heinz**, Marist College

**Amelia Liu**, Vassar College

**Christian Lopez**, Leadership Dutchess

**Caroline McCormack**, Dutchess Community College

**Daniela Mossos**, Dutchess County Chamber Foundation

**Eric Murphy**, Vassar College

**Grace Padgett**, Savannah College of Art and Design

**Shivani Pandey**, Vassar College

**Imad Shell**, Smart Staffing

**Natalia Velez-Rios**, Vassar College



Vanessa Murphy, *A Light That Doesn't Go Out*

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[www.thearteffect.org](http://www.thearteffect.org)

845.471.7477

45 Pershing Ave, Poughkeepsie NY

Trolley Barn Gallery:

489 Main St., Poughkeepsie NY

Jordan Dixon, *Untitled*