



**CHARITABLE  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

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**TulalipCares.org**

# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**

**Arts Corps**

**Address:**

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Seattle, WA 98106

**Contact:**

(206) 722-5440  
<https://www.artscorps.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**

Arts Corps revolutionizes arts education by igniting the creative power of young people through culturally engaging learning experiences.

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**Date of Award:**

2020 Q4

**Level:**

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Arts Corps.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



"I value my voice more because I know people will want to listen now."  
-Arts Corps Student

## Final Report to Tulalip Cares - June 2022

Re. General Operating Support- March 23, 2021  
[www.artscorps.org](http://www.artscorps.org)

### Organizational Overview

Arts Corps' purpose is to cultivate the creativity and social emotional development of young people, while narrowing the race and income-based arts education opportunity gap that exists in our region. Through participation in our arts integration, out-of-school arts and teen artist programs, youth experience the transformative power of creativity and gain a deepened belief in their own capacity to learn, take risks, persist, and achieve.

Art Corps' programs have been nationally recognized for their quality and impact. In 2012, we were awarded the highest national honor in community-based arts education by the White House, The National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. In 2014, our arts integration model, the Creative Schools Initiative, was recognized by the Department of Education with a \$1.75 million grant to research the impact of arts-integrated learning on students' academic success.

### Overall Progress & Results

In 2021-2022 Arts Corps provided **2,266 K-12 youth** with transformative arts learning opportunities that develop artistic skills and foster creative capacities (also known as 21<sup>st</sup> century skills). Through our programs we worked with a total of 16 partner sites who share our aim to close race and income-based opportunity gaps. Approximately 78% of the youth who participated in Arts Corps programs come from families living on low-incomes and 85% are youth of color.

Our program model invests in community-based teaching artists and staff so that they can invest in youth. **The majority of our providers are reflective of student identities, with over ¾ identifying as people of color.** They also have shared lived experience and many have been former program participants. This allows us to connect with youth more authentically and is a powerful aspect of our programming.

In interviews over the past year, our community partners have reflected on the value of our programs and the unique ability of our teaching artists to connect with youth:

- The current teaching artist has been emotionally vulnerable in their work with the youth, which has helped build a sense of trust with the youth.
- Classes [were] taught almost entirely in Spanish, a teaching artist that is cognizant of our client population, that can speak to shared experience, casually and positively talk about mental health issues, and [teach] the power of art as a healthy coping skill is healing.

- The way that the teaching artist took care to create a diverse curriculum, speak to a variety of topics, and choose content that is relevant and engaging for our clients was WONDERFUL.

### Out-of-School Time (OST) Programs

Through our 2021-22 OST Programs, Arts Corps engaged youth ages 5- 19 in high-quality after school arts enrichment classes, arts showcases and performances, and leadership activities. In total, **we provided 38 OST classes for 626 youth in Seattle and South King County**. Classes included music, drumming, visual arts, Capoeira, Lao Dance & Movement, and theatre. We partnered with 11 service providers, including Parks and Recreation in Seattle, Burien, and Tukwila, three elementary schools in Highline, one middle school in Seattle, and four residential sites for families living with low incomes.

These programs are shown to have a strong impact on students' social emotional capacities. 94% of OST program partners observed students building values, identity and mindsets through the arts always or sometimes, and 95% reported that the Arts Corps class led to greater community engagement. One partner commented, "it created an opportunity to share stories and be empathetic towards each other."

### Teen Artist Programs

Through Arts Corps' 2021-22 Teen Artist Program, **434 young people participated in culturally relevant arts classes, intensive workshops, and internships** that explored the intersections of artistry, social justice, and leadership in the creative economy.

In the winter of 2021-2022, our teen leadership intensives underwent rebranding and reimagining to become Art 4 Life Teen Internships. Through this process we have aligned our intensive programs to offer youth ages 13-20 with hands-on experiences in arts skill building, leadership development, creative entrepreneurship, and career exploration. Classes follow an intensive model of meeting daily for 1 to 3 weeks at a time. Teens receive mentorship from the teaching artists and classroom assistants who lead the classes, while also building strong connections to a cohort of peers. For the 2022 spring break intensives, we had **over 540 applications from middle and high schoolers, for 63 internship openings**, demonstrating the need for relevant teen programming in digital arts.

### **Leadership Pathways for Students**

Arts Corps is committed to providing pathways for alumni to become classroom assistants and staff. **Of our seven classroom assistants this year, half are former students**. Many will also go on to become teaching artists in the future.

In March 2022, Arts Corps produced a film for our fundraiser, Festa, that includes a powerful testimonial from Maryem, a former Interagency and Print 4 Life student who now works as an Arts Corps Program Assistant. We invite you to view the film here:

<https://vimeo.com/689504516/44b61d270f>



*"Being in Greg's class, I had the best opportunity ever. He, like, took time with me... to show me that there's a person out here who loves you. There's a reason why you are here and there's a reason why you're right here by my side. Now that I have people by my side helping me, I want to be that person who's helping other people too."*



As part of our teen artist program, we also continued our collaboration with Seattle's Interagency Academy. This network of small alternative high schools is designed to provide extra support for students who have not found success at traditional schools due to systemic oppression and trauma. We held twice weekly year-long classes at 7 interagency sites, providing up to 72 hours of arts learning for 371 students, helping students fulfill mandatory arts credits.

### Creative Schools Arts Integration

Through our 2021-2022 Creative Schools Program, Arts Corps successfully delivered school-day arts classes to a total of **1221 students at 6 elementary and middle schools**.

Teaching artists partnered with 30 classroom teachers to develop and implement hands-on, culturally-relevant arts projects that integrate with core subject areas. This approach has been shown to deepen academic engagement and build social emotional learning. In addition, when classroom teachers and teaching artists collaborate, it strengthens the learning environment and expands the teacher's ability to engage students creatively. Arts Corps brought this program to 4 Highline Public Schools and 2 Seattle Public Schools, all of which have critical gaps in access to arts education.

One highlight from the past year was the development of a middle school curriculum that integrates theatre and literature for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. This curriculum was developed and taught by a multidisciplinary teaching artist who utilizes personal self-reflection, improvisational skills, ensemble skills, and spoken word poetry to explore aspects of literacy such as character motivation and story elements. After visiting one of these classes, the school principal wrote to the teaching artist,

"You are an engaging educator. I have been in several classrooms this week and have seen the quality of instruction of some of our best educators and what you executed was beyond what I expected... Our staff needs to see how you engage students in the learning. To hear so many students amplify their voice, contribute to a shared task, and meet the learning target collectively, was inspiring."

### Sharing our success with others

Arts Corps' efforts expand beyond delivering programs directly to youth to include participation in regional and national efforts to foster equity, program quality, teaching artist advocacy, and arts access for youth. Advocacy and collective impact efforts in 2021-22 have included:

- Delivering 6 conference presentations and teacher professional development workshops attended by approximately 440 professionals.
- Participating in 37 different advocacy efforts including a variety of legislative meetings, roundtables and presentations at conferences advocating for youth development through the arts, TA pay equity and art funding.

### In Conclusion

**Through our 2021-2022 programs, Arts Corps bridged opportunity gaps by providing over 1,772 hours of arts learning for students who otherwise have limited access to the arts.** We successfully met our overall goals related to student learning and development, including offering artistic means for youth to process what is going on in the world around them, to cultivate their unique voice, and to experience creative joy.



We are deeply grateful to Tulalip for your support of Arts Corps' programs. Thank you for partnering with us as we work to cultivate a generation of youth with the creative skills and courage necessary to bring about a more just and vibrant world.