



ARTS EDUCATION
CONNECTION
— SAN DIEGO —

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



“Now more than ever, our students need to find their voice through the arts!”

–2nd grade teacher, Ibarra Elementary

A MESSAGE FROM our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

The 2020-21 academic year brought many changes to Arts Education Connection San Diego (formerly known as Arts for Learning San Diego). Where 2019-20 was about resilience, flexibility, and strength, this year was about transformation and renewal. Sparked by the events of 2020, we knew it was time to do some soul searching and gritty evaluation. We embarked on a renaming and rebranding project. We solicited feedback from our constituents—some of you were a part of that process—which gave us a greater understanding of our place in the San Diego arts education community. In the end, our original values were validated -- it's the human connection that will always give our work its meaning.

For those of you who have supported us over the years, rest assured that our core mission has not changed. We'll continue to provide high-quality arts education programs to students in schools and community venues throughout San Diego County and beyond!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and amazing Teaching Artists, thank you for continuing to support of our work. We are excited about this next phase in our history!



Adrienne Valencia
Executive Director



“Students who are very shy in the classroom blossomed and shined in the dance class.”
-4th grade teacher, Ibarra Elementary

Fourth and fifth grade students at **Ibarra Elementary** received an in-depth dance program* in the spring of 2021. The impact of this program was farther reaching than just the students—it had an impact on their classroom teachers, as well. “I love how the arts allow me to see a different side of students. Students who are very shy in the classroom blossomed and shined in the dance class. I saw a level of creativity and confidence from some students that I had not seen at all during the school year. I've had some of these students for two years, and never before saw that side of them. It inspires me.”



*Generously funded by the Downtown San Diego Lion's Club and the Carrie Anne Fipps Memorial Scholarship Fund.

OUR TRANSFORMATION

Arts Education Connection San Diego is an organization with a long history of serving students in San Diego County with high-quality arts education programs. We are the oldest arts organization in San Diego whose sole focus is arts education.

Over the summer of 2020, we determined we need to make some significant changes in our organization. We gave up our office space in October and the administrative staff began working remotely. In December, we launched our line of holiday cards, featuring nativity scenes hand-made by Mexican artisans. In January, we began our separation from Young Audiences, Inc., and started the process of renaming and rebranding the organization.

By June, 2021, we had completed our transformation with a new name—Arts Education Connection San Diego—and to further demonstrate this update, we had a fantastic new logo and website designed (www.artsedsd.org). This strategy reflects both the evolution of our organization as well as our vision for the future. Our new logo is bright, bold, colorful and modern. The concentric circles represent the “ripple effect” that **Arts Education Connection San Diego** programs have on students, classrooms, schools, and communities. We hope you love it as much as we do!



Connecting
Students
Classrooms
Schools
Communities

Watch this brief promotional video that we created for schools!

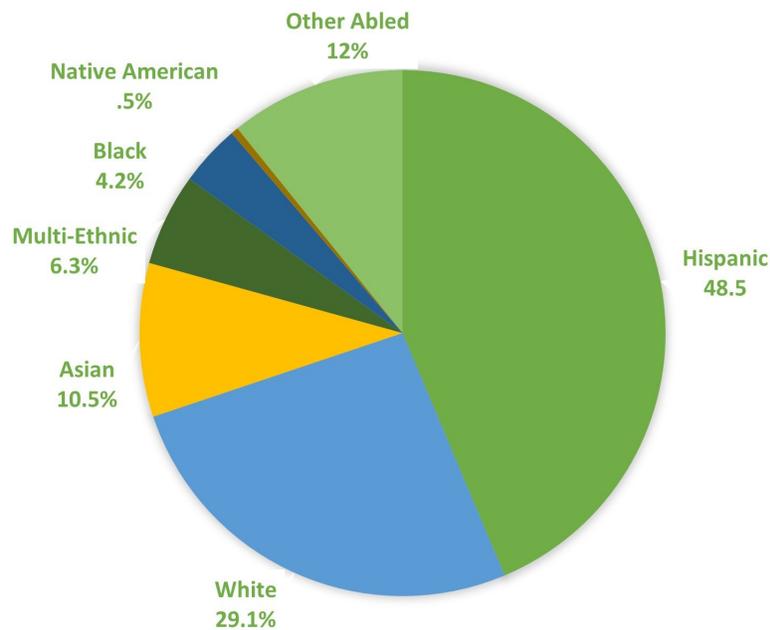
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnNx1oSkknE>

ANNUAL PROGRAM IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

During the 2020-21 academic year, AECSD:

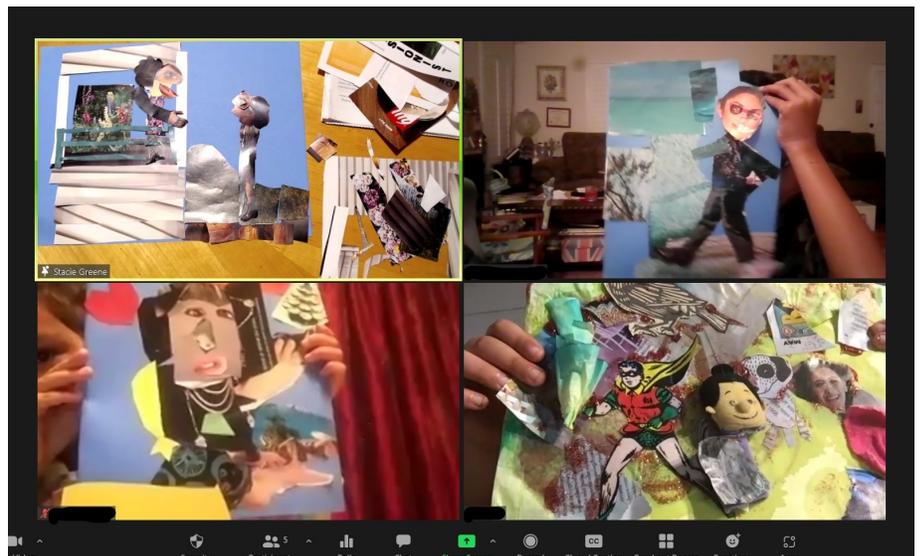
- served approximately 23,000 students (including parents),
- had active programming in 12 out of 43 school districts,
- reached 470 classroom teachers,
- delivered 811 programs.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



+Source: Education Data Partnerships (www.ed-data.org).

“I’m hoping we might be able to continue the amazing opportunities for our children through Arts for Learning in a virtual way.”
–Nicole Weber, Principal, Rowan Elementary

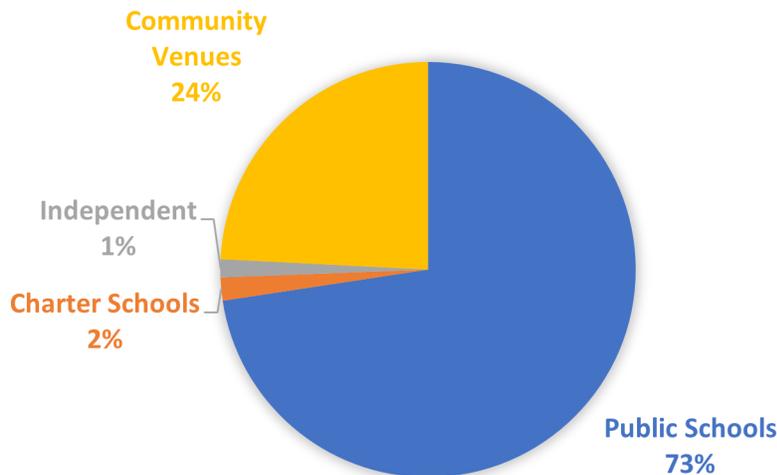


KEY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Our programs thrive on the mutually beneficial partnerships that we develop each year. We value those school districts and community partners who have been with us for many years and welcome new partners to our family!



PARTNERS



KEY FUNDERS

We are so grateful for the support we receive from government, corporate, private foundations and individuals.



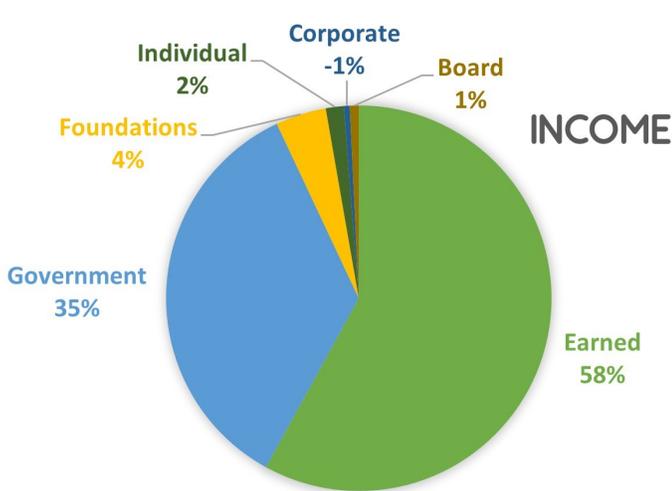
Individual Donors (from 7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021):

Evangeline (Angie) Bitsko, Daniel & Kathy Bruton, Edgar & Linda Canada, Karen Cangialosi, Michael & Pamela Carleton, Brian Cerasoli*, Julia Collins, Teresa Drew*, Charles Freebern, Joy Freeman*, Margaret (Meg) Goffredo, Beverly Goodman, Peter Gust*, Jill Hall, Hilliard & Mary Ann Harper, Edwin & Beverly Hom, Marilyn Jones, Stan Katz, Roy & Marie Kerckhoffs, Kristin Kurth*, Karah Lain*, David Lerner, Joan Liddell, Keith Mautner, Madonna Maxwell, Haley McDonald, Jere McInerney, Jamey Murphy*, Virginia Oliver, Sandra Polster, Lauren Rand, Peggy Richards, Sally Rodriguez, Terri Siegler, Rein Townsend*, Adrienne Valencia, Eric Von Ehrenberg, Carey Gail Wall, and Elizabeth (Liz) Wepsic.

*denotes AECsd Board member

FINANCIALS: A SNAPSHOT

	FY21	FY 20	FY 19
Revenue			
Contributions & Grants	\$342,021	\$256,903	\$402,811
Program Service Revenue	\$463,764	\$573,419	1,235,723
TOTAL Revenue	\$805,785	\$830,322	\$1,639,120
Expenses			
Grants Paid	\$0	\$1,500	\$9,690
Salaries/Compensation	\$243,991	\$346,991	\$491,492
Other Expenses	\$451,428	\$535,495	\$1,221,884
TOTAL Expenses	\$695,491	\$883,986	\$1,723,026
Revenue Less Expenses	\$110,294	(\$53,664)	(\$83,906)



As schools and community venues continued to deal with the COVID-19 situation, our earned income decreased for the second year in a row. We cut expenses by giving up our office space, paid down our debt, and increased our contributed revenue. Even with the challenges that this situation has brought us, we ended FY21 in a better financial position than the previous year, and we expect to continue that trajectory for FY22.

We have received the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar for the second year in a row.

About ARTS EDUCATION CONNECTION SAN DIEGO

Since 1963, Arts Education Connection San Diego has delivered a rich variety of arts education programs to San Diego students and communities through performances, workshops, residencies and professional learning opportunities, connecting young people to their cultural roots and creative wings. During the 2020-21 school year we served 23,000 students and their families.

Our programs are...

- **Multi-genre:** Choose from dance, music, theater, visual and literary arts. STEAM programs are also offered.
- **Standards-based:** We develop our programs in alignment with National Core Arts Standards, California Visual and Performing Arts Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and Common Core Standards.
- **Collaborative:** We work with classroom teachers and school personnel towards the goals of enhancing student learning, improving test scores and increasing parent engagement.

We believe in the value of arts education for all students, and serve as advocates in local, regional and national efforts that protect and advance arts education in our community.

SPECIFIC PROGRAM OFFERINGS

RESIDENCIES are 6- to 32-week partnerships with schools. Teaching Artists (TAs) instruct students in weekly lessons that are focused on discrete art or arts integration. Students learn art vocabulary, techniques, and concepts; cultivating imagination, critical thinking, and crucial life skills needed to succeed in today's world.

PERFORMANCES bring world-class performers to students in an assembly/virtual format. Learning can be extended through hands-on WORKSHOPS that connect educational content to age-appropriate arts activities.

ARTS INTERVENTION programs address the special needs of our most vulnerable students in the Juvenile Court and Community Schools. These students may be incarcerated, pregnant and/or parenting, in foster care, expelled, chronically truant, in drug treatment, in group homes for neglected or abused children, and/or experiencing homelessness. Our programs give youth tools for positive self-expression and support their social/emotional and academic growth.

TEACHING ARTIST INSTITUTE OF SAN DIEGO supports the development of informed, reflective, and culturally responsive TAs through a series of intensive workshops with renowned specialists in the arts education field. Topics include classroom management, trauma-informed practices and arts integration.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING opportunities help classroom teachers discover meaningful and manageable ways to integrate a variety of art forms into their lesson plans and infuse their daily teaching practice with innovation and creativity. Sessions are guided by our Master TAs, imparting skills to nurture students' academic achievement and classroom engagement.

FAMILY ARTS NIGHTS are multi-disciplinary events (30 min performance with a 50 min hands-on activity) that cultivate family bonding, parent engagement and positive school culture.

FAMILY ARTS & LITERACY CONNECTION and **MILITARY ARTS CONNECTION** are spin-offs; one with a literacy focus and one for military families.