



# 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

*Stories and data from the fiscal year Aug 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024*



TURNING VISION INTO IMPACT, ONE STUDENT AT A TIME



Leading with Music,

# EMPOWERING WITH PURPOSE

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## Our Mission

**To transform the lives of youth** in under-resourced communities across the US through tuition-free music lessons and mentorship by paid, professional artists.

## Our Vision

**To provide students with a pathway** to academic, economic, and emotional stability through music mentorship.







**“For many young people across the country, music is their driving force—it inspires them to take action, brings hope, and gives life meaning. We strive to be that source of motivation, hope, and purpose for every young person who needs it. Our ambitions are big because the need is even bigger.”**

From the Founders,

**Building a reputation for impact and excellence takes time**, requiring both patience and perseverance. Nine years ago, we had a vision: a world where every young person, regardless of their circumstances, could harness the power of music to unlock their fullest potential. We knew the path ahead would be long and challenging, but driven by our mission, research, and personal experiences, we stayed the course.

Today, after eight seasons of transformative programming, touching the lives of over 1,732 students, delivering over 45,212 lessons, and achieving outstanding, measurable results, we are recognized as leaders in music education and youth empowerment. This is a tremendous source of pride for everyone at ArtSmart, evidenced by the prestigious foundations and partners who support our programs.

We are deeply humbled by the individuals and organizations who believe in our mission and stand with us. Foundations like The William Penn Foundation, The Presser Foundation, and many others have not just provided financial support—they have invested in the future of our youth. With their generous support and the contributions of 274 individual donors, we were able to reach more young people than ever before.

Yet, the demand for our programs far outpaces our current reach. The communities we serve represent just a fraction of the many under-resourced areas across the nation where young people are waiting for opportunities like this.

The future of our society depends on the success of today's youth. For many young people across the country, music is their driving force—it inspires them to take action, brings hope, and gives life meaning. We strive to be that source of motivation, hope, and purpose for every young person who needs it. Our ambitions are big because the need is even bigger.

A reputation, once earned, must be upheld. We know we cannot do this alone. Together, we can be the driving force that brings music, hope, and purpose into the lives of our youth. We look forward to surpassing expectations in the years ahead, and we invite you to join us in this mission.

Warmly,

Michael Fabiano and John Viscardi



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# LEADERSHIP

## Board of Directors

### **George Shirley**

*Board Chair*

### **Michael Fabiano**

*Executive Director & Co-Founder*

### **John Viscardi**

*Board Treasurer, Managing Director & Co-Founder*

### **Liz Letak**

*Secretary*

### **Kelly Clarke**

### **Marvin Vernell Curtis**

### **Anthony Fabiano**

### **Latonia Moore**

### **Louise Toppin**

### **Lilian C. Tsai**

### **Rosemary Vega**

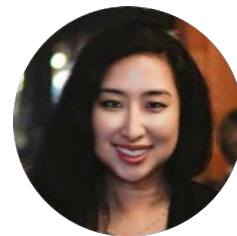
### **Susan Stauter**

*Emeritus Board Member*

### **Nadine Sierra**

*Emeritus Board Member*

## **Welcoming Our Newest Leader**



***Lilian C. Tsai***

**Lilian C. Tsai** negotiates commercial deals and advises global business units as an in-house corporate attorney at Oracle. She studied communications and political science at the University of California, Berkeley and earned a JD at American University's Washington College of Law. Lilian grew up playing violin, piano and flute, and credits her paternal aunt and uncle, who were subscribers at San Francisco Opera for 30+ years, for her love of opera. Lilian serves as the board secretary for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Historical Society, the board secretary for the Hawaii Chamber Music Festival, a board member for ODC Dance, a councilor of the San Francisco Opera's BRAVO! Council, and a court appointed special advocate (CASA) for foster youth.



# Alumni Advisory Board

**Cameron Santiago**

*President (Philadelphia)*

**Isabelle Rodrigues**

*Secretary (Newark)*

**Isaias “IZZY” Aragon**

*(New York City)*

**Jim Lam**

*(San Francisco)*

**Bryant Fleming**

*(Philadelphia)*

**Steven Garcia Lopez**

*(San Francisco)*

**Mrittika Paul**

*(New York City)*

**ArtSmart’s Alumni Advisory Board** is a group of former students who collaborate with the organization by offering strategic guidance and valuable insights to further the mission of ArtSmart. This board serves as a bridge between the alumni community and ArtSmart, fostering a dynamic relationship that benefits both current students and graduates.

The Alumni Advisory Board focuses on providing expertise on a variety of topics: (1) the ArtSmart mentee experience, (2) curriculum development, (3) accessibility, (4) networking opportunities, and (5) collaboration with executive leadership, mentors, and alumni.

In 2024, the Board created the Alumni Network, which now has 24 enrolled alumni. The board is excited to grow the Network and host events for the community.

## Welcoming Our Newest Leaders



**Jim Lam**  
*San Francisco*



**Steven Garcia Lopez**  
*San Francisco*

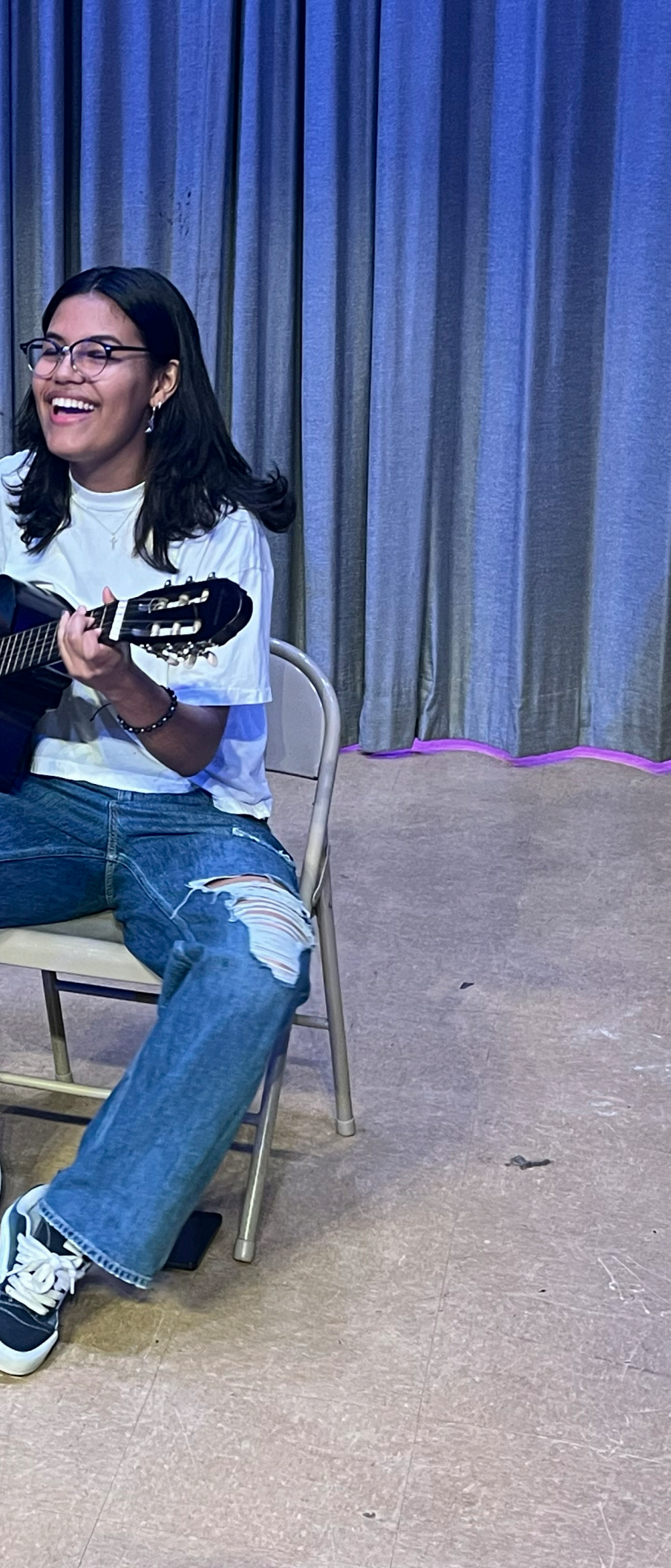


PERFORMANCE REPORT

# IMPACT AND GROWTH OVER TIME







## ALL TIME IMPACT

# STATS

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Total Lessons Received

**45,212**

Total Students Served

**1732**

Total Mentors Employed

**92**

Total Schools and  
Communities Served

**39**

Platinum  
Transparency  
2024

**Candid.**

*As of December 31, 2023*

# 2023–2024 STUDENT SURVEY DATA

## Measuring the Impact of Music Mentorship

**ArtSmart’s 2023 Longitudinal Study** in partnership with the WCG Institutional Review Board shows a causal link between ArtSmart participation and **increased plans to attend college**, having a **meaningful connection with an adult**, and having **an adult to talk to when stressed or having problems**. We are committed to measuring ArtSmart’s impact year over year through our annual student and mentor surveys. In this section, you will find results from our 2023-2024 program year surveys.

### Artistic Development

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#### ArtSmart Overwhelmingly Encourages Artistic Growth

**96% of ArtSmart students** report feeling happy with the musical progress they made in lessons this year.







5%



# SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

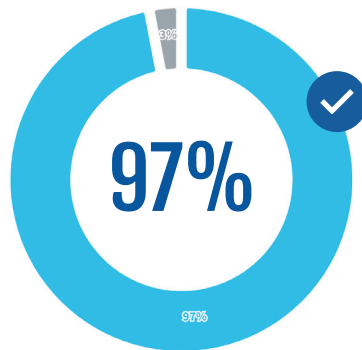
## Academic Success

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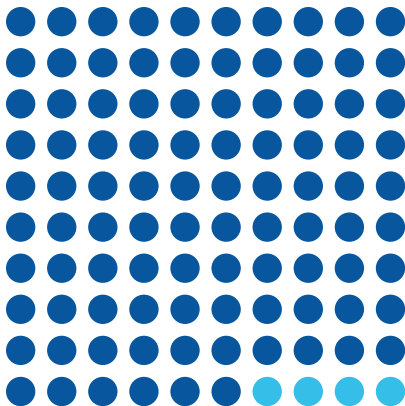
### All 2024 ArtSmart Students Graduated High School

100% of ArtSmart students graduated high school.



### ArtSmart Students Pursue Higher Education

97% of graduating students plan to attend college this year.

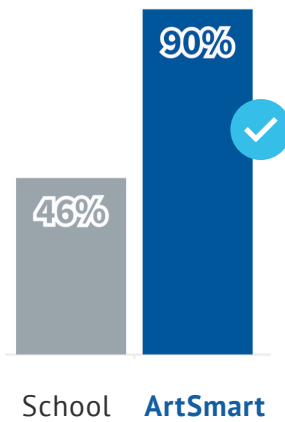


## 96%

### ArtSmart Fosters Goal-Setting Competency

96% of students felt that their mentor helped them set achievable goals this year.



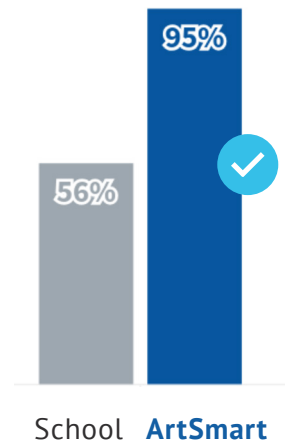


### ArtSmart Increases Excitement for School

**90% of students** were excited to come to school on ArtSmart lesson days compared to only 46% who were excited to come to school on regular school days.

## Physical and Psychological Safety

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### ArtSmart Provides Safe Spaces

**95% of students** felt that their ArtSmart lessons were a safe environment compared to only 56% who felt that school was a safe environment.

## Social and Emotional Learning

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### ArtSmart Increases Confidence

90%



**90% of students** report increased confidence as a result of ArtSmart.

### ArtSmart Students Develop Personal Agency

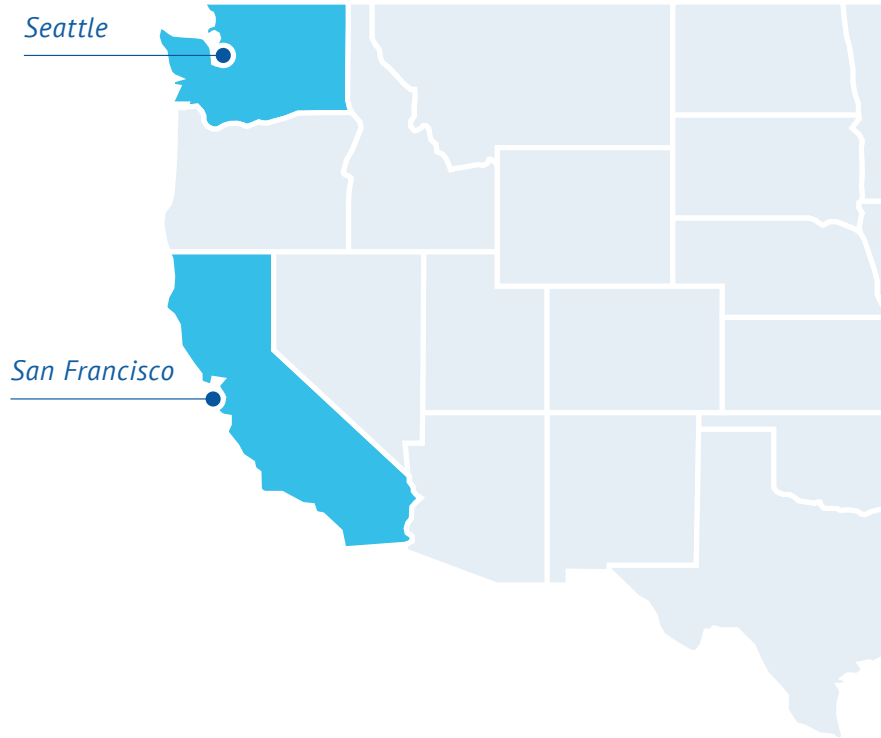
95%



**95% of students** report feeling fully responsible for their actions.

# NATIONAL PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

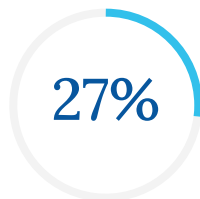
2023-2024  
Program Year



## Student Demographics



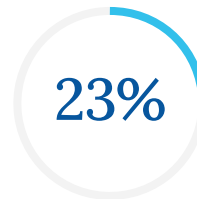
82% of students identify as part of a racial/ethnic minority population



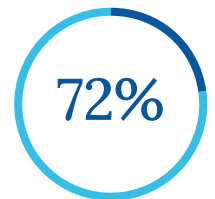
27% of students identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community



48% of students speak a second language other than English at home



23% of students come from an English Language Learning background

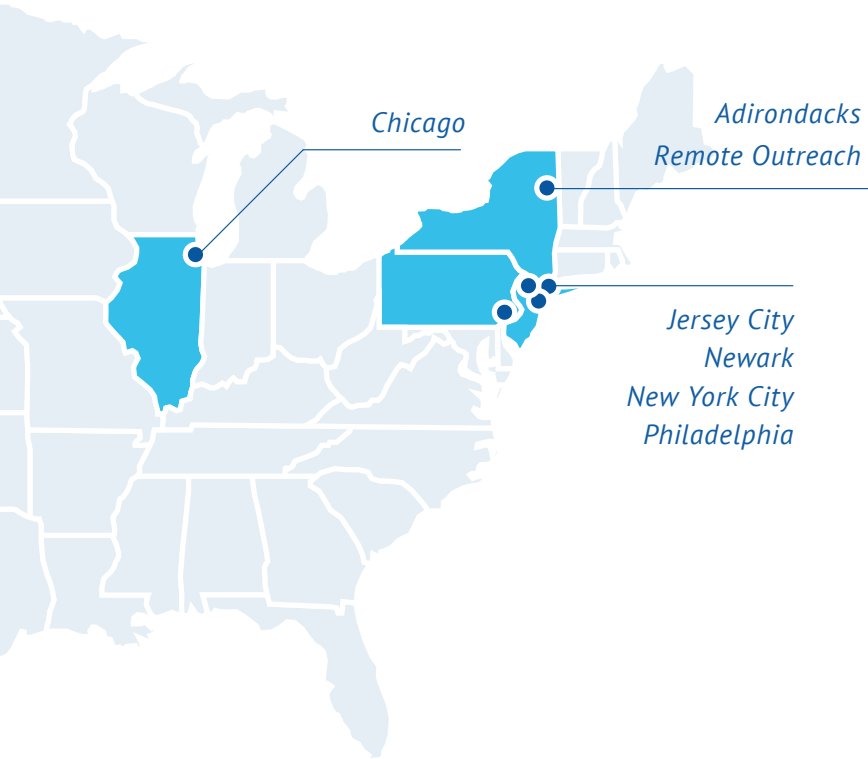


72% high school students, 28% middle school students





2023-2024 Program Year



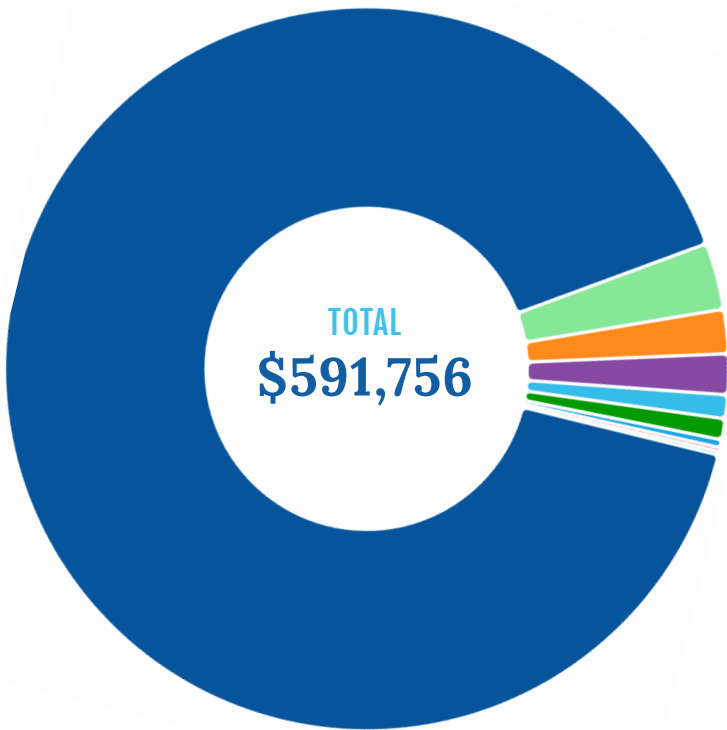
606 Students

60 Studios

43 Mentors

34 Schools

8 Regions



Total Program Expenses

Mentors & Program Management	\$535,863
Taxes & Insurance	\$17,694
Student Performances	\$11,670
Outcomes Research & Analysis	\$10,750
Accompanists	\$6,265
Other	\$5,530
Office & Technology	\$2,082
Media & Marketing	\$999
Supplies	\$965

Total \$591,756

# MARIA MANETTI SHREM MENTORS

“

*What are some of your favorite moments from your ArtSmart lessons?*

“Literally everything. I could not write enough. I love Mr. Brennan so much and every experience I had with him and the lessons in general was amazing. He helped me grow in so many ways.”

– **ArtSmart Student**  
Chicago

## Mentor Demographics

56%

**56%** of mentors identify as belonging to at least one under-represented population

34%

**34%** of mentors identify as part of a racial/ethnic minority population

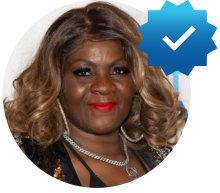
30%

**30%** of mentors are bilingual or trilingual

95%

**95%** of mentors have higher education degree





Maria Manetti Shrem Mentor Spotlight

## Danette Sheppard-Vaughn

Newark & Jersey City

**While Danette Sheppard-Vaughn is not mentoring ArtSmart students,** she stars as the Omnium Circus Ringmaster. Danette is one of only eight women in the world in history to be a ringmaster in the male-dominated industry. In April 2023, she appeared on Broadway with Omnium Circus at the New Victory Theater. Danette made it possible for her ArtSmart mentees to come to see her performance and visit her backstage. Danette has a unique way of mentoring that garners respect from her students and colleagues. ArtSmart is lucky to have her on the team!



# PROGRAM OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS



## One-To-One Mentorship

**Individualized instruction** from a highly-qualified artist-mentor for private voice, piano, and instrumental music lessons. Students work with their mentors to identify goals and create action plans to advance artistic and personal growth.



## Vocal Theater

**Small groups of students** are paired with one highly-qualified artist-mentor and create an original theatrical piece with music and dialogue performed at the end of the year. The group explores social issues and personal values through team-building exercises, acting, and singing lessons.



## Remote Outreach

**ArtSmart partners** with the Adirondacks-based nonprofit We Are Instrumental to provide music lessons and mentorship to students throughout the region, who could not otherwise access lessons due to geographical barriers and financial constraints.





# Instruments Offered



## NATIONALLY:

- Voice
- Piano
- Vocal Theater

## REMOTE OUTREACH:

- Sax
- Clarinet
- Flute
- Composition
- Strings
- Percussion
- Horn

## SELECT REGIONS:

- Bass Guitar
- Trumpet

# GROWTH SINCE 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
STUDENTS	411	449	606	+35% Since last year
MENTORS	32	42	43	
CITIES	7	8	8	
SCHOOLS	25	28	34	
LESSONS RECEIVED	9,360	6,886	10,117	+47% Since last year
STUDIOS	40	48	60	+25% Since last year
ONE-TO-ONE VOCAL	25.5	33	40.7	
ONE-TO-ONE PIANO	3	3	3.3	
VOCAL THEATER	10	10	12	
REMOTE OUTREACH	1.5	2	4	



## Program Partners

**Thank you** to the following organizations who have partnered with ArtSmart to provide programs for our students.



## Grants Won

### WilliamPennFoundation

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*Lead support is provided by the William Penn Foundation in Philadelphia.*

**\$300,000 over 36 months**



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*2023-2024 Advancement of Music Grant*

**\$5,000**

STUDENT STORIES

# CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

**Take a look** into the  
ArtSmart lesson  
room where the  
magic happens.







8th Grade Off-Bench  
Date: April 29th

7th Grade Off-Bench Date  
May 15th

US	US	US
SK	CS	SI
DSR	DS	PL

SK - SK  
DS - DS  
US - US  
CS - CS  
VEL - VEL  
USL - USL  
DSL - DSL  
DSL - DSL



# LIGHTING THE PATH FOR THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

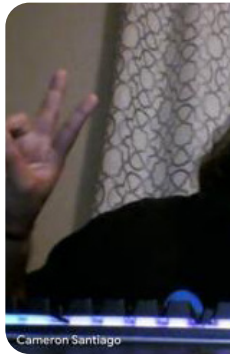


ArtSmart Site Ambassador Spotlight

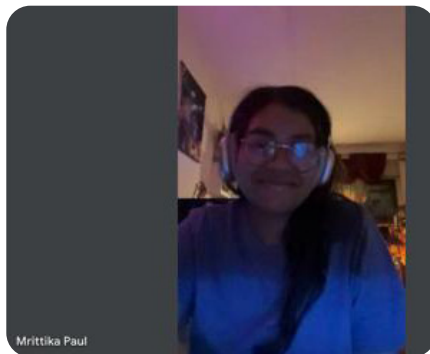
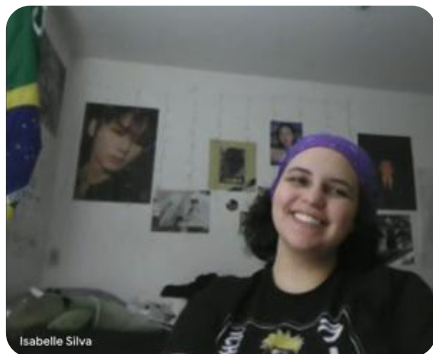
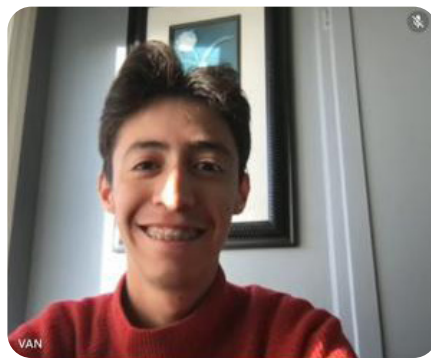
**Colin Sharp**

**Franklin Learning Center**

**Colin Sharp, an instrumental and music theory teacher at Franklin Learning Center,** has been an incredible partner to ArtSmart since our programs launched in Philadelphia in 2017, making him our longest-standing ArtSmart Site Ambassador. His unwavering commitment to his students and his bright, positive presence at the school have made him an invaluable part of our mission.







*The Alumni Advisory Board met to welcome new West Coast members Jim Lim and Steven Garcia Lopez.*

“

**“ArtSmart as a whole has helped me grow as a person** and has helped make school more bearable, even on the days when I feel like I’m at my lowest and as if I should just give up. ArtSmart has contributed a lot to helping my mental health improve, allowing me to connect and meet people who I otherwise would have been too scared to talk to.”

**– ArtSmart Student**  
Philadelphia

*Colin Sharp (center) pictured with Lucas DeJesus, Sira Jitapirom, and Paul Giess (left to right).*

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING STUDENTS

## College Graduates



**Mrittika Paul**

**Stony Brook University, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor in Music**

*Alumnus of Brooklyn Tech High School, Mentor: Shelley Mitchell*

## High School Graduates



**Adnan Aldamrawi**

**Penn State University,  
Biomedical Engineering  
Philadelphia**

*Mentor: Sirapat Jittapirom*



**Anabel Rubin**

**UC Berkeley,  
Molecular Cell Biology  
San Francisco**

*Mentor: Nikki Einfeld*



**Juzteen Combay**

**Emory College, Musical Theater  
New York City**

*Mentor: Cynthia Wuco*



**Nausicaa Wong**

**University of  
California Riverside,  
Psychology**

*San Francisco*

*Mentor: Nikki Einfeld*



**Julia Lynch**

**SUNY Buffalo State College,  
Television and Film Arts**

*Adirondacks*

*Mentor: Patrice Malatestinic*





*Graduating Seniors from Matthew Brennan's vocal studio at Lake View High School in Chicago:*

**Evelyn Ocampo**  
City Colleges of Chicago

**Marisol Gil**  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Gabriella Salinas**  
City Colleges of Chicago

**Kevin Berry**  
Western Illinois University studying Musical Theatre

**Ian Langtiw**  
Loyola University Chicago

**Evie Once**  
University of Illinois at Chicago

COMMUNITY

# WE ARE ARTSMART

**A community** that  
values and sustains  
music mentorship.

*April 2024: Board Member Latonia Moore  
sings in a benefit recital for ArtSmart  
at the Blue Gallery in New York City.*









COMMUNITY

# STAFF



*ArtSmart staff, mentors, and community partners.*



## Staff

### **Michael Fabiano**

Co-Founder, Executive Director

### **John Viscardi**

Co-Founder, Managing Director

### **Lucas DeJesus**

Director of National Program Operations

### **Erin Alcorn**

Manager of Individual Giving  
and Communications

### **Danielle Bavli**

Manager of Institutional Giving  
and Program Operations

### **Shelley Mitchell**

Curriculum, Training & Surveying  
Consultant; Alumni Advisory Board Liaison

### **Cortni Loveridge**

Development Representative

### **Christina Frankel**

Manager of Finance and Human Resources

### **Liz Letak**

General Counsel Consultant

## Regional Program Coordinators

### **Chad Armstrong**

New York City, Newark, Jersey City

### **Lucas DeJesus**

Philadelphia

### **Efraín Solis**

San Francisco

### **Matthew Brennan**

Chicago

### **Evan Mack**

Adirondacks

### **Katie Stevenson**

Seattle

# INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESS

**ArtSmart was founded on the principles embodied by the acronym IDEA.** ArtSmart's mission was created to provide inclusion, equity, and access in music education to a diverse student body in historically under-resourced communities. We believe that integrating IDEA values into the daily operations of ArtSmart is an ongoing journey. Each day, we actively engage with our community, assess our systems, and adapt to better meet its needs. ArtSmart adopts a grassroots approach, prioritizing feedback from those on the ground—the Maria Manetti Shrem Mentors, students, and program partners. We continually evaluate our curriculum and organizational structure to ensure they align with the needs of our community. Our efforts extend to fostering diversity and representation among our mentors, staff, and leadership. IDEA is not just a set of values but a dynamic process rooted in action. It permeates every aspect of ArtSmart's work, guiding our decisions and initiatives. As we continue to evolve, we remain committed to the ongoing narrative of advancing inclusion, diversity, equity, and access in music education.

ArtSmart has expanded identity and trauma-informed mentor training and development resources to support the diverse needs of our students. With increasing numbers of ArtSmart students identifying as non-binary, facing mental health challenges, or having disabilities, we are dedicated to building our team's skills and knowledge to affirm and empower them.







## Expanded Resources

- **In Summer 2024**, veteran Maria Manetti Shrem Mentor Katya Powder developed a new mentor training module: “De-Gendering Vocal Anatomy & Teaching the Non-Binary/Trans Voice.”
- **In Early 2025**, ArtSmart plans to host a live mentor training session on Katya’s work.
- **In Spring 2025**, ArtSmart mentor, Site Ambassador, and Curriculum Consultant, Shelley Mitchell will lead mentors in a session on “Implementing Mindfulness and Inquiry in the Studio.”
- **In 2025**, ArtSmart intends to invite a guest speaker to lead a session on how best to support LGBTQIA+ students as they navigate the current social and political atmosphere.
- **During the 2024-25 season**, ArtSmart plans to purchase and incorporate more music by female composers and composers of color into its sheet music library.

Through these comprehensive efforts in leadership diversity, inclusive programming, and culturally responsive training, ArtSmart demonstrates an unwavering commitment to embedding anti-racism, equity, and inclusion into the very fabric of our organization, ensuring that our work continues to evolve and strengthen in service of all communities we reach.

# DONOR RECOGNITION

**We extend our heartfelt gratitude** to the following individuals for their generous contributions during the 2023-2024 season. Your steadfast support has been invaluable in driving ArtSmart's mission forward.

Thanks to your commitment, we have provided essential resources, transformative opportunities, and tailored mentorship that ignite creativity and empower our students to achieve their fullest potential. Your dedication to the transformative power of music education continues to create a lasting and meaningful impact in the lives of countless young musicians.

## Founder's Circle

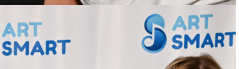
ArtSmart expresses appreciation to the following individuals whose generous financial commitment has made a lasting impact on the success and sustainability of the ArtSmart program. Without them, ArtSmart would not be what it is today.

- Maria Manetti Shrem
- Maryanne Tagney
- Betsy Z. and Edward Cohen
- Yogen and Peggy Dalal
- C. Graham Berwind III, Director of Spring Point Partners
- William Penn Foundation
- Linda Mirels
- Barbara A. Wolfe
- Judith Messina

*These levels represent lifetime giving amounts for our 2023-2024 donors.*







## Champion \$500K+

- Maria Manetti Shrem

## Luminaries \$250K+

- Maryanne Tagney
- Spring Point Partners
- Betsy Z. and Edward Cohen Arete Foundation
- William Penn Foundation
- Yogen and Peggy Dalal

## Visionaries \$100K+

- Linda Mirels
- Festival Napa Valley
- Barbara A. Wolfe
- Judith Messina

## Guardians \$50K+

- Leslie Larson and Don Katz
- Melissa Young and the Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation
- Anthony Fabiano
- Keith and Priscilla Geeslin

## Ambassadors \$25K+

- The Presser Foundation
- John Stassi and Chris Israel
- Michael Fabiano
- Dan Gueron
- Barbara Greis and Howard Gottlieb
- Mary Madden

## Patrons \$10K+

- Theo Osborne and Justine Fisher
- Bob Harries
- Kevin Woodbridge and GATC Health
- Rosemary Ryan
- Joan and John Viscardi Sr.
- Martin Jeiven

## Supporters \$5K+

- Harold F. Pitcairn II
- Louise Toppin
- David K. Weaver
- Donald and Victoria Strumillo



### Donor Spotlight

## C. Graham Berwind III

### Director of Spring Point Partners LLC

## SPRING POINT PARTNERS

We extend our deepest gratitude to C. Graham Berwind III, Director of Spring Point Partners, for his generous gifts and unwavering support. Over the past year, Mr. Berwind has played a pivotal role in empowering ArtSmart to create a meaningful and lasting impact, enriching lives and expanding opportunities within the communities we serve. We deeply appreciate your belief in our mission.

CULTURE

# ARTSMART SUSTAINERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**ArtSmart Sustainers** keep open a pathway to academic, economic, and emotional stability through music mentorship for our students. Sustainers enjoy exclusive benefits like access to VIP events, social gatherings, and opportunities to connect with ArtSmart artists and mentors.

[Learn more at ArtSmart.org/Sustainers](https://ArtSmart.org/Sustainers)







“



Sustainer Spotlight

## Hannah Alexander

Civil Rights Lawyer from Austin, Texas

**“I am committed to creating a society where everyone’s basic needs are met, but also where art, culture, and beauty thrive.** Like the idea behind ‘Bread and Roses,’ when our basic needs are fulfilled, we can truly enjoy these wonderful aspects of life. ArtSmart plays a crucial role in leveling the playing field for those who need access to music and mentorship. It supports young people from under-resourced communities, helping them find pathways to success and enrichment in both their creative and personal lives.”

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Our Goals

**ArtSmart is committed to amplifying access to music mentorship** sessions for countless more students in under-resourced communities. Since the previous program year, we accomplished the following goals.

### Seattle

---

+4

- Added 1 studio at Chief Sealth High School
- Added 1 school at Denny Middle School
- Anticipating +2 more schools this program year

### Adirondacks Remote Outreach Program

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+36

- Successfully expanded the Adirondacks region to serve 36 students

### San Francisco

---

+1

- Added City Arts and Leadership Academy in San Francisco





## Philadelphia

---

**+3**

- Added Munoz-Marín Elementary, Olney High School, and West Philadelphia High School

**+7**

- Added 7 studios



## Chicago

---

**+1**

- Added Darwin Elementary



## Grow the Alumni Advisory Board and Alumni Network

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**+2**

- 2 new members from San Francisco added this year

**+24**

- Newly launched Alumni Network now has 24 enrolled students



## Projected Students Served by 2025

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**+2,100**

By Spring 2025, ArtSmart will have engaged with more than 2100 students since its founding

# THANK YOU

**Thanks to the unwavering dedication, passion, and expertise of our team and supporters,** ArtSmart proudly delivered over 10,000 lessons to under-resourced middle and high school students in the 2023-2024 program year. To everyone in the ArtSmart community, we extend our deepest gratitude for making this possible.

Yet, there is so much more to be done. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to discover their potential and build a brighter future through music mentorship.

ArtSmart students depend on YOU.

Donate at...

[ArtSmart.org/Donate](https://ArtSmart.org/Donate)















[ArtSmart.org](https://ArtSmart.org)