



## Annual Report 2021



### Adapting, Innovating, & Creating

With help from you and all our supporters and partners, **Arts for Learning reimaged and reinvented arts education during the 2020-2021 school year.** Our goal remained the same — reaching Virginia’s children through the power of the arts — but our methods looked very different

In January, we received a major honor. Dominion Energy announced Arts for Learning had won its ArtStars Award for Eastern Virginia, recognizing Take 10 digital programming for its enterprise and artistic quality.

from previous years. We never could have guessed we would be fostering students’ social-emotional wellness through our own puppetry videos or helping them build literacy skills through hands-on art activity kits.

The reinvention began in spring 2020 when we launched our

“Take 10” video initiative. That early success led to the development of new virtual learning programming and then evolved into two more highly ambitious undertakings.

**Each program worked to address the serious social-emotional and academic issues that negatively impacted students during the global pandemic.**

“I just want to say this is the best storytelling I have ever heard and I hope we get to see you again!!!!!!  
**LOVED YOUR STORIES.”**

Luke, McLean School student, following Ole Skool Classics by Sheila Arnold

### Enhancing Virtual Learning

“Even through Zoom, the messages of resilience, perseverance, and friendship were heard loud and clear.”

Carrie Green, Norfolk Public School music teacher, following Constructing Friendship by Art Song Duo

Beyond Take 10, we invested in new audio/visual equipment to produce high-quality virtual learning. **We partnered with our artists to help them translate their art forms and educational content into engaging experiences for digital audiences.** It was a continuous learning process — refining arts techniques, improving interactivity, mastering technology.

### Safe, In-Person Arts Programming

**Pandemic. Protocols. Social Distancing. COVID-19. Masks:** All words that became part of our everyday language as we planned and scheduled arts programming during 2020-2021. We never underestimated the importance of ensuring the health and welfare of our artists and the children we serve. **By following all CDC-related safety precautions, our artists were able to provide meaningful arts learning to students and their families.**

Highlights included:

- Armed Services YMCA’s Operation Hero camp: Teaching artists worked to combat summer learning loss and performing artists entertained and inspired campers of military families.
- Open Norfolk: The public enjoyed free A4L-led dance and music workshops at outdoor neighborhood gathering spots.
- Suffolk Center of Cultural Arts camps: Teaching artists mentored children at theater and visual arts camps.
- Public performances: Area libraries and community centers hosted a wide variety of arts-rich programs.

### Artful Thanks

We also honored our essential workers in a contest that drew entries from children throughout Virginia.

If you’d like to know more about Arts for Learning, visit us online at [Arts4LearningVA.org](https://Arts4LearningVA.org), or follow us on social media.

[facebook.com/arts4learningVA](https://facebook.com/arts4learningVA)

[instagram.com/arts4learningVA](https://instagram.com/arts4learningVA)

[twitter.com/Arts4LearningVA](https://twitter.com/Arts4LearningVA)



With the success of our livestreamed and on-demand programming, **Arts for Learning took another step forward with the creation of a digital library on our website**, giving our educational partners direct access to our artists’ videos.

### Spreading Kindness (Not Germs) Through Video

“When COVID-19 first revealed itself, we all had to adapt, adjust, and find a new compass. During this turbulent time, the Spread Kindness (Not Germs) video did its job. It deserves five stars!”

Deborah Pope Johnson,  
Newport News Family and  
Community Engagement

Responding to the stressors that children faced during the COVID-19 crisis, we developed a series of original videos, recording them in our Norfolk office that now doubles as a production studio. **Through puppetry, music, and dance, the series of ten videos**

**helped students explore the complex issues and emotions they faced during the global pandemic.**

### Nourishing Kids Through Art

**With the creation of Arts + Learning Snacks, we reached children in another new way** — these art activity kits gave children a break from screen time and the challenge of a hands-on project. The “Learning Snacks” contained supplies needed to complete the art project with instructions printed in both English and Spanish. We provided the kits — which did not require internet access — for free to high-need schools, federal meal sites, and libraries.

Artists designed the curriculum, including one kit that was custom-made for students with autism. And we supported the artist community by paying artists on our roster to assemble and distribute the snacks.

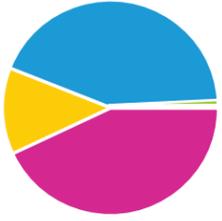
“Every time I stop by our youth desk, we need more art snacks. Everybody loves them.”

Crystal Parker, Librarian,  
Virginia Beach Public Library

Facing challenges unheard of in our 66-year history, **Arts for Learning never wavered from our mission to engage and inspire students in and through the arts.** Cultivating new ways to connect with children, wherever and however they were being schooled, we served **28,417** students, families, and educators in Virginia during the 2020-2021 school year.



**Artists provided 325 arts experiences.**



**Program Categories:**

■ Performances	43%
■ Workshops	13%
■ Residencies	43%
■ Professional Development	1%

**Art Forms Represented:**

■ Music	31%
■ Theater	34%
■ Dance	14%
■ Visual and Design Arts	11%
■ Digital Media/Technology	10%



**Students Served:**

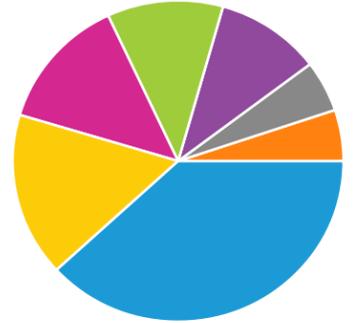


*Annual Report*  
**2021**



**Curricular Content of Arts Programming:**

■ Language Arts/Literacy	37%
■ Social Studies	16%
■ Character Education/SEL	13%
■ STEM	11%
■ Health and Nutrition	10%
■ Environmental Awareness	5%
■ Multicurricular	5%

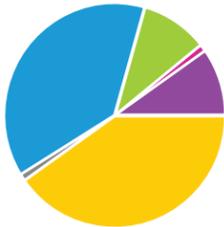


**Placement of Programming in Schools:**



**Percentage of students reached by race:**

■ African American	40%
■ Asian-Pan Islander	<1%
■ White	39%
■ Hispanic	10%
■ Native American	<1%
■ Other	10%

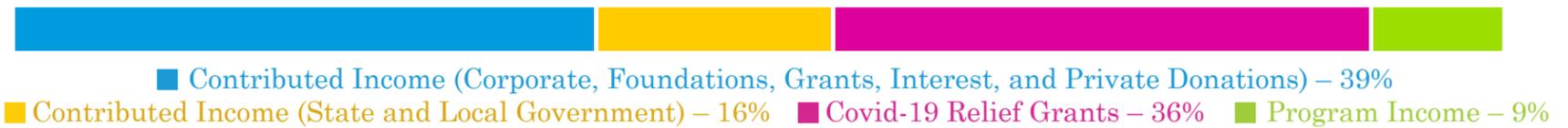


**Collaborations:**

- Educators: **1,772**
- School districts, libraries, and community centers: **31**
- Foundations, nonprofit organizations, and municipalities: **16**
- Professional artists on our roster: **116**

*Financial Perspective*

What are the sources of Arts for Learning Virginia's income by category (expressed in percentages)?



What percentage of Arts for Learning Virginia's expenses are used for programming, administration, and fundraising?



What was Arts for Learning Virginia's total operating budget during the 2020-2021 fiscal year?

**\$592,100**

*Your Generosity at Work*

We are thankful for all our donors who supported us through tough times during the pandemic. We deeply appreciate our major donors who helped underwrite our operations and programs: the Commonwealth of Virginia, the city of Norfolk and its Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Business Consortium for Arts Support, United Way of South Hampton Roads, the city of Newport News and its Arts Commission, Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission, PRA Group (our signature sponsor), Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts. For a complete list of all 2020-2021 donors, visit [Arts4LearningVA.org](https://Arts4LearningVA.org).

