Enhancing Virtual Learning

Effects of the Global Pandemic

The global 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.

Adapting, Innovating, & Creating

“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.

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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 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.

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With help from you and all our supporters and partners, Arts for Learning reimagined 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 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.

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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:
- Performances, workshops, & professional development events 54%
- Spread Kindness (Not Germs) 37%
- Arts + Learning Snacks 9%

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:
- Urban schools 88%*
  *61% of which are Title 1 schools
- Suburban schools 12%

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)?
- Contributed Income (Corporate, Foundations, Grants, Interest, and Private Donations) – 39%
- Contributed Income (State and Local Government) – 16%  Covid-19 Relief Grants – 36%  Program Income – 9%

What percentage of Arts for Learning Virginia’s expenses are used for programming, administration, and fundraising?
- Program – 84%  Fundraising – 5%  Administrative – 11%

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.