



**CREATIVITY
OPENS MINDS**

ANNUAL | 2021
REPORT | 2022

arck
Art Resource
Collaborative for Kids



ARCK is an **innovative** education organization that uses **art** as a universal language to educate the **whole child**

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ABOUT ARCK

ABOUT US

ARCK is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides under-resourced public school students with creative programs that deepen academic learning and emotional well-being through project-based arts integration. We also aim to strengthen communities through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. We believe that change starts with education and students must feel safe, seen, and heard in order to thrive. ARCK's unique framework "Arts with Impact" is designed to build students' creativity and critical thinking skills while also developing social-emotional intelligence—the exact type of education that students desperately need to repair social connections and pandemic-related learning loss. Since 2012, ARCK has engaged over 5,000 under-resourced K-8th grade students across 10 partner organizations. Moving forward we plan to expand to high schools and pilot our educator training and coaching program. We work with our partners and funders to re-imagine education for underserved schools and communities impacted by the stronghold of systemic inequality. We provide vital creative programs that help students become compassionate, socially-conscious individuals and innovators.

MISSION

ARCK facilitates a student-led arts education that gives young people the tools to become creative problem solvers as well as compassionate and innovative change makers.

VISION

ARCK envisions an equitable education system where students feel safe, seen, heard, and can build the creative skills they need to innovate for a better world.

SUPPORT

Make a gift to ARCK at
www.arckboston.org/donate

Become a sponsor
EIN: 45-5442979

CONNECT

Visit arckboston.org
Introduce us to your network
Contact us at info@arckboston.org
to see how you can get involved!

FOLLOW & SHARE



@ARCKBoston

A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER



Dear Friends,

I am writing to thank you for your interest in ARCK and to update you on our successful 10th year of programming in the Boston Public Schools (BPS). This year saw a number of challenges due to pandemic-related social isolation and learning loss. It was a tough road, but we continued to provide our vital creative programs to students, helping them to repair social skills and re-engage with learning. We are prouder than ever of our Teaching Artists and their ability to reach over 700 BPS students through our arts integrated lessons that promote creativity, well-being, and equity.

This year we made great strides in formalizing our operational procedures and standardizing our “Arts With Impact” framework. ARCK is finally positioned to truly scale our programs and ultimately re-imagine education through the arts. I want to acknowledge and thank the team and board members that have made it possible to get to this point. It truly is a team effort and everyone plays an important role in supporting ARCK’s mission, programs, and advancement.

As the world recovers from the pandemic, we are at a precipice—a place where we can reevaluate what our education system looks like. ARCK has always been about making change, making the system better for under-resourced students, and providing opportunities to amplify our students’ voices. Now more than ever, we are all becoming aware of the importance of education as not just a vehicle to relay information, but to support students as creative problem solvers and thoughtful agents of change. As Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

ARCK is an innovative education organization that uses the arts as a universal language for educating the whole child. The arts are central to our mission and we believe that art matters, art heals, builds community, and can change the status quo. As our world evolves, our students’ need an education system that reflects 21st century jobs. Human-centered skills and creativity will be the currency of the future and our students need the kind of education that ARCK provides now more than ever.

We can’t do this work alone, we are incredibly thankful for our strong network of partners, donors, and funders. We will continue to look for ways to maintain our current relationships while we grow and make new connections. Thank you for helping us envision a world in which all students are able to achieve their full potential as creative and compassionate change makers.

With gratitude and creativity,

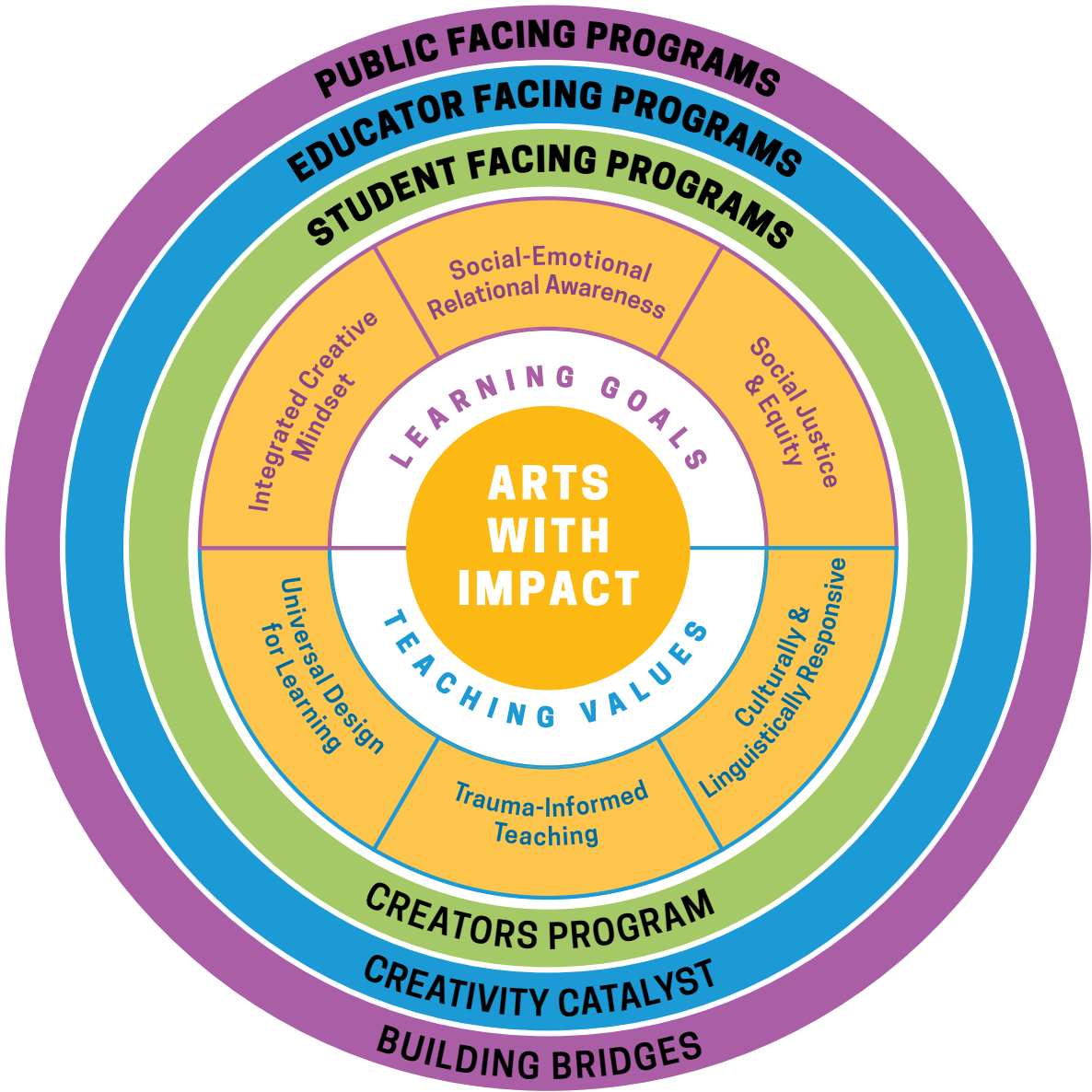
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Demeter". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sara Mraish Demeter
ARCK Founder & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Krakoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Roger Krakoff
Chair, ARCK Board of Directors

ARTS WITH IMPACT FRAMEWORK



ARCK’s “Arts With Impact” (AWI) framework is the foundation from which we build our educational, organizational, and cultural ethos. AWI informs the design and delivery of creative arts programs that deepen learning through arts integration and strengthen the community through collaboration and innovation.

OUR LEARNING GOALS

We integrate artistic practices into project-based lessons that promote creative thinking, academic learning, self-awareness, classroom community, and social action and advocacy.

OUR TEACHING VALUES

We practice teaching methods that allow all students to feel safe, seen, and heard.

ARTS WITH IMPACT PROGRAMS

OPEN MINDS



PROMOTES WELL-BEING



FOSTERS EQUITY



CREATORS PROGRAM

The Creators Program is ARCK's flagship student-facing program. ARCK Teaching Artists collaborate with classroom teachers to provide arts curriculum that aligns with academics and school initiatives.

MINDFUL ARTS

Mindful Arts is ARCK's extracurricular program. It engages students on a journey of self-expression, awareness, reflection, and restoration.

CREATIVITY CATALYST

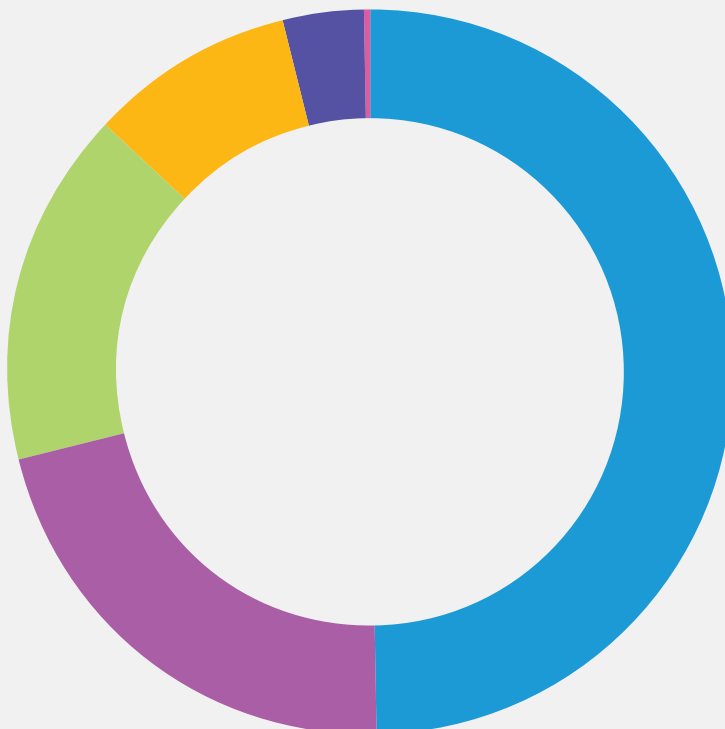
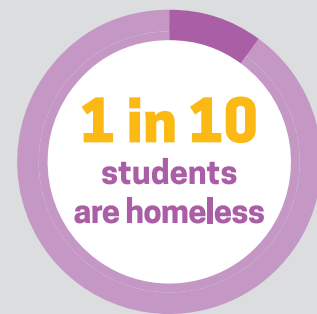
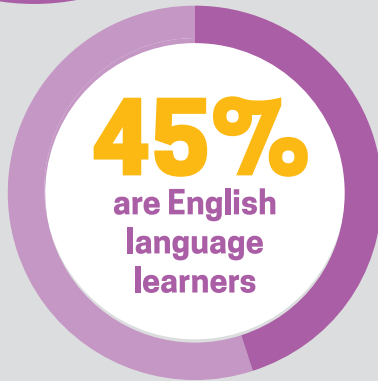
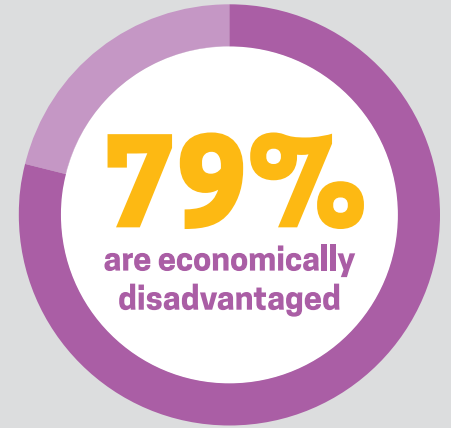
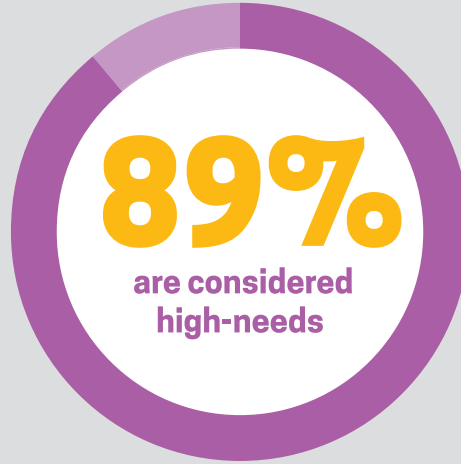
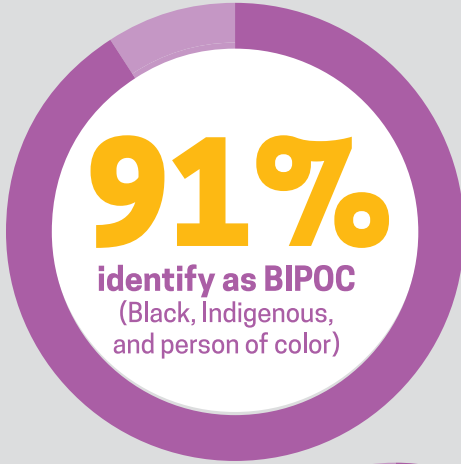
Creativity Catalyst is ARCK's educator-facing program. We train and coach teachers to implement our Arts With Impact curriculum.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Building Bridges is ARCK's public-facing initiative that reinforces the importance of creativity to the world at large. This includes a Creative Residency program that features BIPOC artists, public art projects, and events.



ABOUT OUR STUDENTS



- 49.8%** Hispanic
- 21.5%** Black
- 15.8%** Asian
- 9.1%** White
- 3.7%** Multi-Race
- .1%** Native American

OUR IMPACT



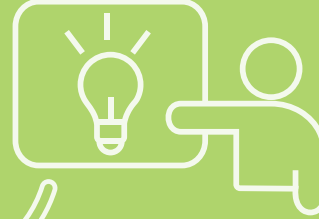
720

Students



6

Teaching Artists



35

Classroom Teachers



6

Partner Schools

2021-22 SCHOOL PARTNERS

BLACKSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOUTH END

This was ARCK's 8th year partnering with Blackstone School, in which we taught 8 classes of K2, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade students,

JOSIAH QUINCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHINATOWN

JQES is ARCK's longest-standing school partner. The "Diversity Through Art" initiative was launched there in 2011 prior to ARCK's establishment as a nonprofit organization. This year, ARCK taught 7 classes of 1st grade students at JQES.

SARAH GREENWOOD SCHOOL DORCHESTER

SGS first partnered with ARCK in 2020. This year, we taught our Creators Program to 7 classes of 6th-8th grade students.

GARDNER PILOT ACADEMY ALLSTON

GPA has been partnered with ARCK for 10 years! This year, ARCK taught both the Creators Program and Mindful Arts at GPA, including 8 Creators Program and 2 Mindful Arts classes of 5th-8th grade students.

LILAH G. FREDERICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DORCHESTER

Following a successful partnership with Frederick during Summer 2021, ARCK was asked to provide a weekly after school Mindful Arts program to approximately 25 middle school students.

THOMAS J. KENNY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DORCHESTER

ARCK partnered with Kenny to provide twice weekly after school Mindful Arts programming, to approximately 40 K1 and K2 students. This partnership took place from September-December 2021.

CLASSROOM NARRATIVE

A Hole in the Wall

by Scott Ruescher, featured on [Medium.com](https://www.medium.com)

Audra Keefe, Teaching Artist for the Art Resources Collaborative for Kids, likes to tell about a middle-school student at Gardner Pilot Academy, a public school in Allston. “She had a flair for drawing and painting,” says Audra. “Her teachers didn’t know about it until she showed them projects from our Friday ARCK class.” The Gardner has its own art teacher for first and second graders, but not for older students. “When I told her about the Boston Arts Academy, she hesitated to apply. But I convinced her to make a portfolio. She finally agreed—and won a slot at BAA.”



Today, Audra is preparing for a third-grade class at the bilingual Blackstone Innovation School, in a South End block bounded by the Villa Victoria and Cathedral housing developments. Each of the dozen children in the host classroom of Ms. Llaverías is from a Spanish-speaking family.

Here they come now, in fact, fresh from lunch, swarming the table like bees in clover to see what nectar is for dessert today.

“Ms. Audra,” says one sweet girl with pink ribbons in her Afro puffs and a pink heart on her t-shirt. “Are we gonna work on the Lovewall like we did last week?”

“Yes,” says Ms. Audra, “we are going to work on the Lovewall today.”

A collection of works from Audra’s weekly visits, the completed Lovewall will be applied to a background and installed on a hallway wall, replacing a chair that covers a hole the school hasn’t had the resources to repair — roughly the size of potholes in the flagstone walkway to the school’s main entrance.

This isn’t near the gentrified parts of the South End known for Union Park, the Southwest Corridor, and the Center for the Arts plaza. But that doesn’t prevent Ms. Audra from being ready with her class plan.

Before class, she covered the desks with newsprint, took painting supplies from the bag that serves as her art cart, and spread last week’s results around the worktable — small square paintings, some with rainbow designs, layered sunset colors, or cool dark backgrounds evenly sparkled with hot yellow sun-like dots. “Today,” says Ms. Audra to the class, “you are going to paint a heart and paste it onto the painting you made last week. I will collect the hearts, and we’ll make a mural in the hall. The Lovewall!”

Placing her portable vinyl cutter on a table against the wall, she cuts out enough heart shapes for the whole class, tears them from the cardstock sheets, and passes them around.

Since the Lovewall is “dedicated to kindness and consideration for others,” says Audra, the heart is an obvious choice — one that pop artists such as Romero Britto and Jim Dine use,

CLASSROOM NARRATIVE

defying dictates against imagery with “received” associations. For nine-year-olds like those in this class, the heart as a symbol of affectionate feeling for others is still fresh.

“When you paint your heart, choose colors that will stand out against the background, warm colors like red and yellow for a dark background, cool ones like dark blue and brown for a light background.”

The third graders have been studying color, and they are ready. A Puerto Rican girl who code-switches between Spanish and English declares that “red and blue make purple.” A boy from the Dominican Republic, reminding Audra that the Spanish for brown is “marrón,” works with a serene little girl from El Salvador to mix a batch of brown paint in her tray. “Basically, you use all of your colors to make brown,” Audra reminds them.



Unless they’re doing collaborative projects in science, math, or language arts, they may not have as much fun as this in their usual day at the Blackstone. But it’s not frivolous fun — it’s interactive, relational, like the gatherings that are a hallmark of their family-oriented cultures. It calls for them to help each other, be considerate. They work together to produce that brown paint — as if each student represents a different color that contributes to the common result.

They work together to cover that hole in the wall.



2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS



#ARCKITS

ARCK provided over 600 ARCKits to students in 2021-2022! This is a huge accomplishment for the organization and a boon to students and teachers. ARCKits provide students with materials, a sense of ownership and responsibility, and an opportunity to learn to care for materials.

SUMMER LEARNING

ARCK and Operation P.E.A.C.E. joined forces to provide eight weeks of free outdoor arts and movement enrichment programming to K-8th grade students in Boston's Fenway and Dorchester communities. ARCK also partnered with Boston After School and Beyond's 5th Quarter summer learning program to provide six weeks of arts integration enrichment to 25 middle school students at the Lila G. Frederick Pilot School.



TOGETHER THROUGH ART

In August ARCK and local nonprofit Operation P.E.A.C.E. collaborated to host "Together Through Art." Approximately 200 community members engaged with a public art tour, in-person and through a curated mobile app, from Ruggles MBTA Station to Fenway Park. The final stop was a community celebration and festival, the highlight of which was an interactive art-making activity. Alongside Boston-based artists Rebecca McGee Tuck and Jamaal Eversley, attendees decorated fabric leaves with art and inspirational messages of hope. These leaves now hang on a 9-foot tall wooden tree sculpture painted by Eversley. Mayor Kim Janey also visited the Festival, where she spoke about the power of art and the role artists have played in helping us navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. She even decorated a leaf for the tree on behalf of the City of Boston!



2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS

10TH ANNUAL GALA

ARCK celebrated its 10th Anniversary marking a decade of providing equitable, arts-integrated educational programming to more than 4,500 Boston Public School students. ARCK's annual fundraising gala, Celebrating 10 Years of Igniting Kids' Imaginations was held on October 22, 2021 at the 'Quin House in Boston. Katie Thompson, of WCVB-TV Boston was the Master of Ceremonies. Philanthropist and business woman Paula Price received the ARCK Global Citizenship Award and we recognized Angel Perez, a student from Gardner Pilot Academy in Allston, with the Above & Beyond Award. Guests enjoyed food and cocktails, participated in an auction, and watched an exciting dance performance by Arthur Murray Dance Studios of Boston at the newly re-imagined 'Quin House in the Back Bay.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Our 2022 Miles of Murals Project was brought to new heights and new technologies, culminating in a Jumbotron display at Fenway Park. A collaboration between Blackstone students and BIPOC artist Silvina Mizrahi, the digital mural was inspired by student artwork. This collaborative project wrapped up at a student celebration at Blackstone School in June. Students were treated to food generously by Sal's Pizza and the Ben & Jerry's ice cream truck. They also received a special video message from the Red Sox and got to see their artwork projected on the giant Jumbotron screen.

WHAT STUDENTS SAY

During ARCK I feel relaxed, no worries, completely anxiety free.

I wish we could have ARCK all day long.

I'm so excited for ARCK, I feel like an exploding volcano sliding down a slide!



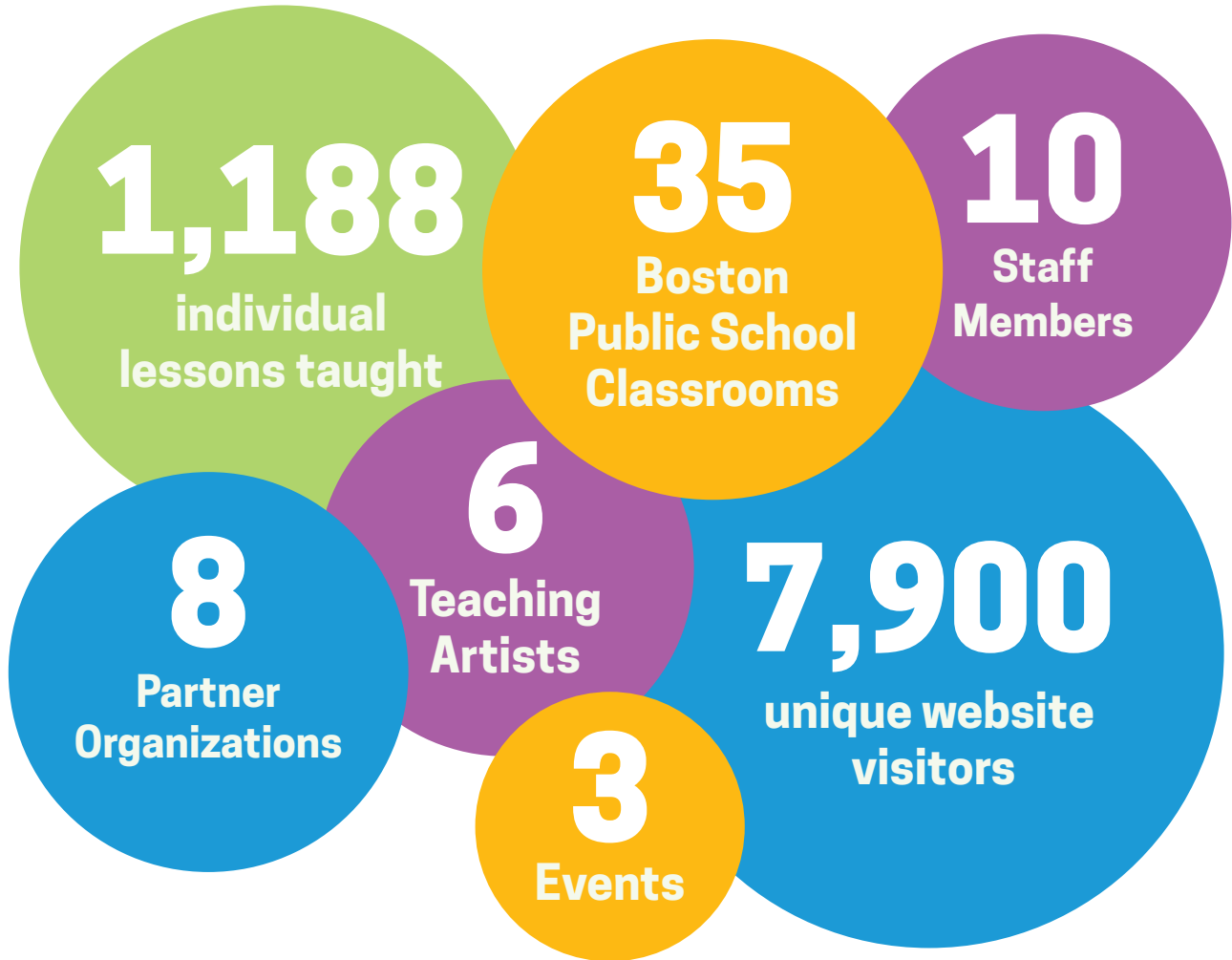
WHAT CLASSROOM TEACHERS SAY

ARCK added JOY for us! It was fun, relaxed, inspiring - just an overall HIGHLIGHT in our class each week.

ARCK has helped me think about how to integrate academic concepts with creative expression to give my students a more engaging and authentic experience.



2021-22 BY THE NUMBERS



78%

of classroom teachers believe the creative skills learned in ARCK transferred to other subject areas



99%

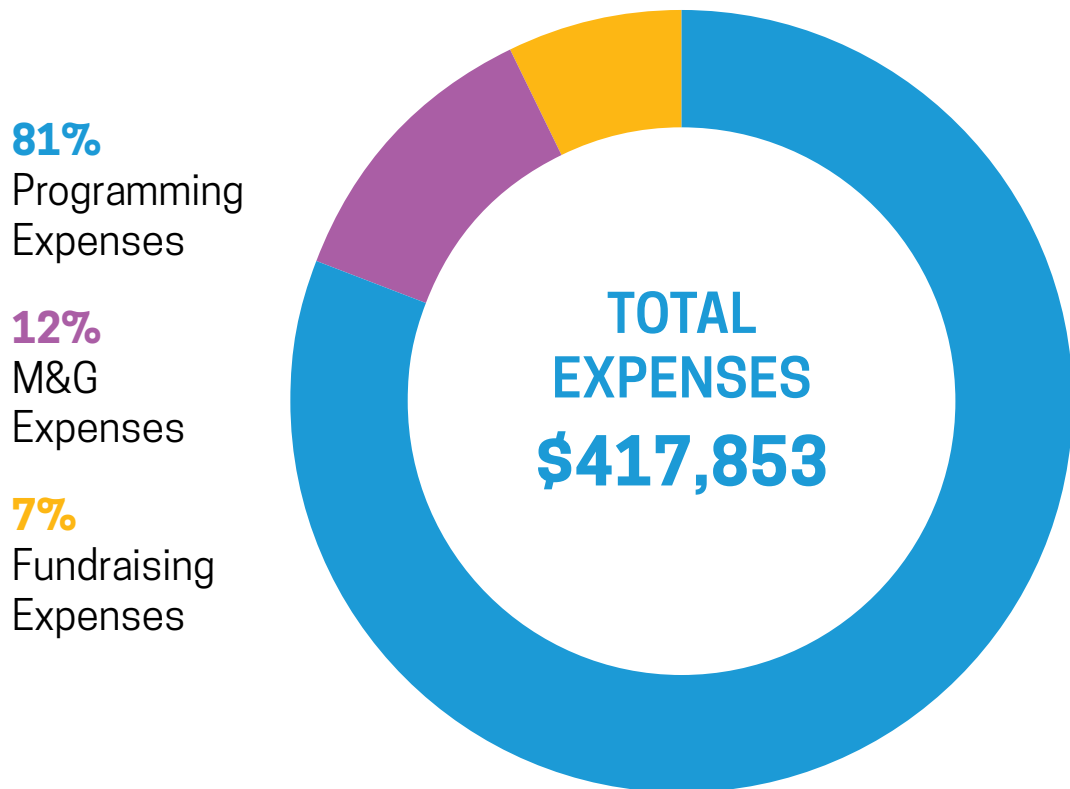
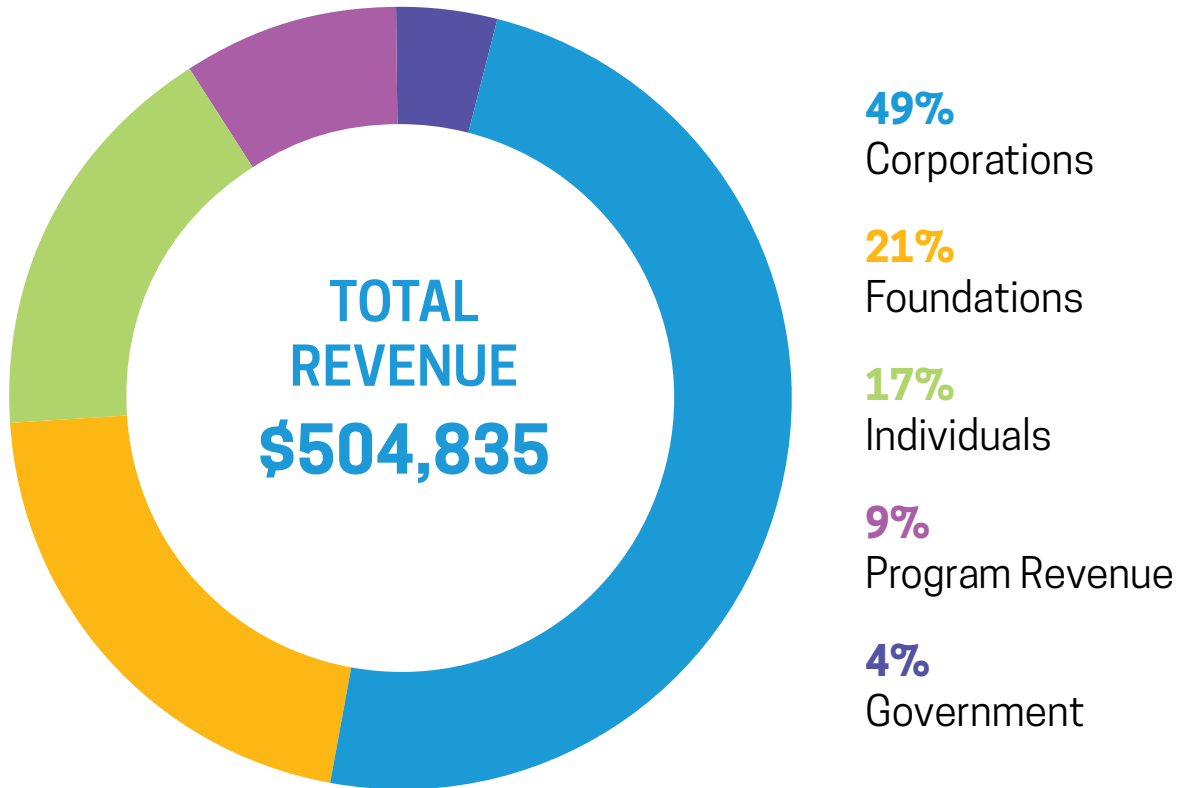
of classroom teachers felt students showed emotional growth due to ARCK



85%

of students demonstrated the ability to stand against bias and injustice

FINANCIAL DATA



MEET THE ARCK TEAM

STAFF



Sara Mraish Demeter
Founder & CEO



Julia Herlein
Operations Manager



Sammy Sass
*Manager of
Creative Programs*



Taryn Johnson
*Marketing &
Communications Coordinator*



Meredith Charles
Teaching Artist



Audra Keefe
*Teaching Artist &
Curriculum Designer*



Maria Palkon
*Teaching Artist &
Curriculum Designer*



Emily Santiago Preachers
Teaching Artist

INTERNS

FALL 2021

Catherine Burroughs
Education Intern

Tamar Friedman
Development Intern

Dorothy Lowenstein
Event Planning/Outreach Intern

Jingyi Zhang
Marketing & Development Intern

SPRING 2022

Yu Xuan
Marketing & Development Intern

Jingyi Zhang
Marketing & Development Intern

SUMMER 2022

Bridget Duffy
Development Intern

Zana Schwab
Education Intern

Jiamei Zheng
Event Planning

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A SPECIAL THANKS

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Martin Richard Foundation
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Mass Creative
Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership
National Art Education Association
Nordstrom
Orange Barrel Media
Operation Peace
Paul V. DeStefano
Piccles
Red Sox Foundation
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
Sal's Pizza
Samuel & Associates
The Boston Foundation
The Boston Guardian
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