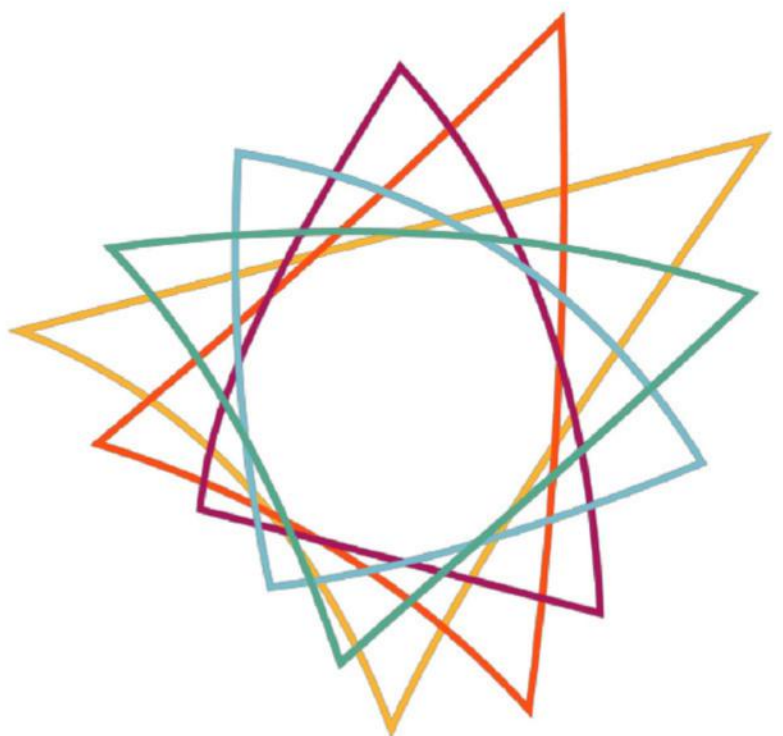




2022



the arts empowerment project

COMMUNITY
IMPACT
REPORT







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Natalie Frazier Allen
Founder | CEO



Letter from our **FOUNDER**

Dear Friends and Supporters:

As we reflect on the strides we have made over the past year, we are more grateful now than ever for your support. It is only with the help of donors, volunteers and friends like you that The Arts Empowerment Project can continue prioritizing the participation of our community's most vulnerable children in transformative arts experiences designed to heal, inspire, and provide positive self-expression, social emotional learning and access to new opportunities.

The stress and intensity of the past few years have underscored how the performing and visual arts are an important way for the at-risk youth we serve to feel connected, hopeful, inspired and secure. The philosophy that the arts are an essential tool to build life skills and bring resilience to our youth is and will continue to be the driving force behind The Arts Empowerment Project's core mission.



Since we began serving youth in 2014, your investment and involvement in our organization have directly impacted the lives of over 2,500 of our community's children and teens, providing them with the resources and experiences they need to remain engaged, connected and open to the possibility of a brighter tomorrow. In 2022, over 377 individual students enjoyed over 2,700 hours of program classes, with over 300 students receiving outreach and engagement through our HeART Pack Program.

We are proud yet humbled to share how together with you, our strategic partners, volunteers, and community supporters, we are growing and reaching more students in meaningful ways. Thank you for allowing us to help each child develop social capital, build essential life-skills, and find the hope and inspiration necessary to envision a brighter future.

Gratefully yours,

Natalie Frazier Allen, J.D.
Founder | CEO

Making a **DIFFERENCE**

What we do

The Arts Empowerment Project provides high-quality arts programming, enrichment experiences, and social emotional development for children in need of access to light, hope, equity, and opportunity, which together offer paths to resilience.

Our programs combine meaningful and high-quality art instruction with development of life-skills. These include communication, self-esteem, decision making, personal branding, leadership, goal setting, visual literacy, exploration of social and racial justice, activism through art, and positive self-expression.

Why It matters

National studies show that participation in the arts and positive pro-social activities contribute to great academic achievement and can mitigate the effects of childhood trauma, transforming lives.

An independent study of TAEP's pilot program by the UNC-Charlotte School of Social Work reported that our students formed career and educational goals, developed positive peer interactions, grew more engaged in their community, accessed new opportunities and experiences, gained new life skills, discovered healthy emotional outlets and became more confident.

3x

Students with access to the arts in high school are **three times** more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than students without arts experience (17% vs. 5%)

4x

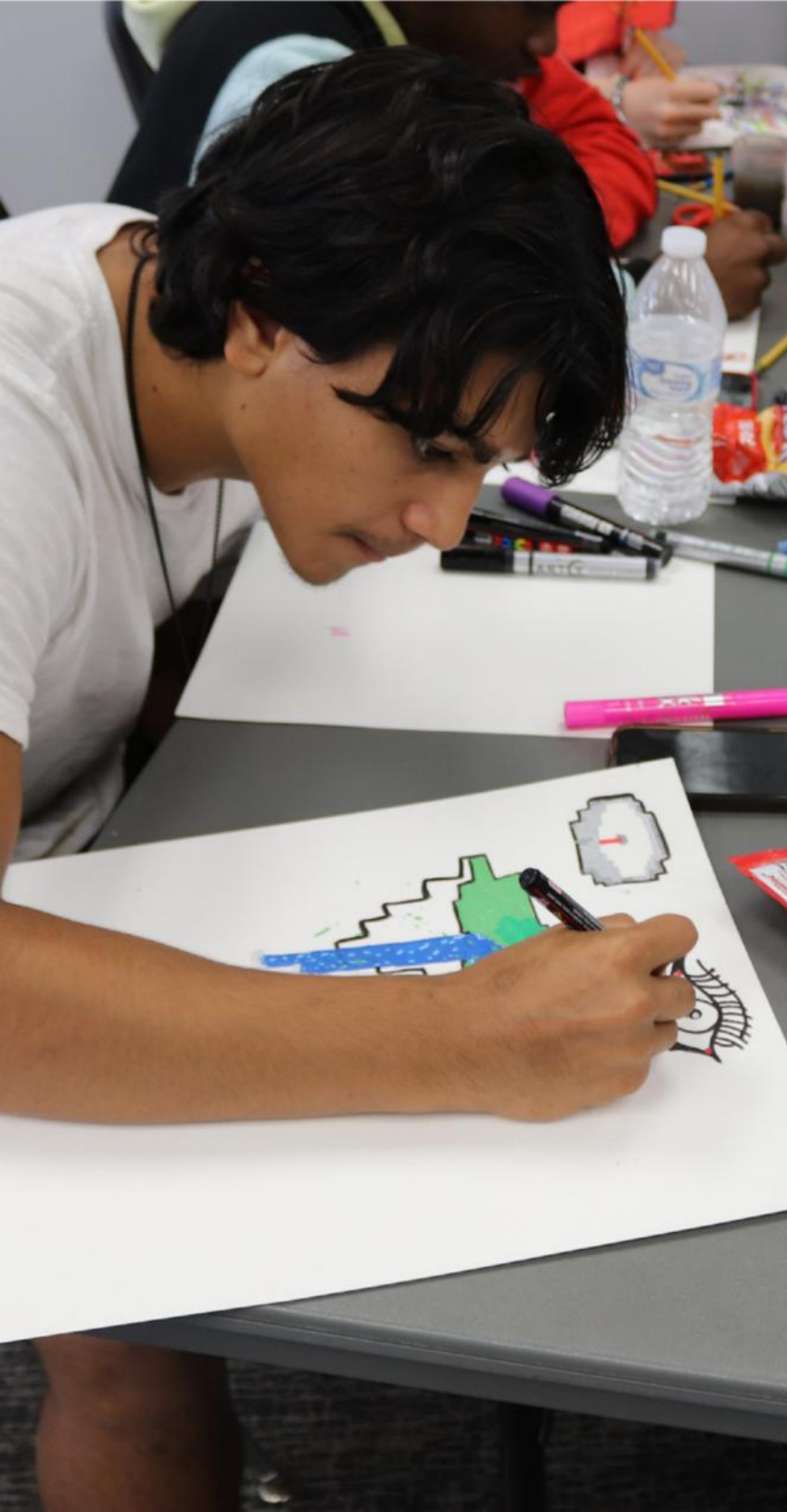
Students with weekly exposure to the arts are **four times** more likely to be recognized in school for academic achievement

5x

Students with little or no arts education are **five times** more likely to drop out of high school than students with high arts involvement



"Thoughtful Flowers"
Niner University



Our PROGRAMS



Free Arts



Encounters



Culinary Camp



HeArt Packs



Free Arts

The Arts Empowerment Project's Free Arts program brings arts experiences to underserved youth enrolled at Niner University Elementary and the YWCA of the Central Carolinas. Throughout the year, students and their families also enjoy opportunities to attend local theatrical performances, and participate in cultural enrichment. This year, over 26 TAEP art facilitators and volunteers worked with 313 students and provided 580 hours of instruction, exploring character development, social and emotional learning, and literacy through the arts.



580

**Total Student
Contact Hours**



906

**Cumulative Student
Attendance**



313

**Students
Served**



62

**Classroom
Sessions**



26

**Program
Facilitators**



2

**Community
Partners**



Encounters

Encounters: Life Skills Seminar is a collaborative program we offer to court-involved youth each year, which includes workshops with local artists, entrepreneurs, motivational speakers, and community members. Through art-making and facilitated discussion youth in grades 8-12 participate in activities which encourage positive choices and self-awareness while also promoting leadership and orientation to educational and career goals. This year, our facilitators engaged a cohort of 23 students in over 348 hours of instruction, exploring alternative dispute resolution, positive self-expression, career goals, and social emotional and practical life skills. Our seminars were supported in part by grant funding from the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and through generous community support.



348

Total Student Contact Hours



174

Cumulative Student Attendance



23

Students Served



12

Classroom Sessions



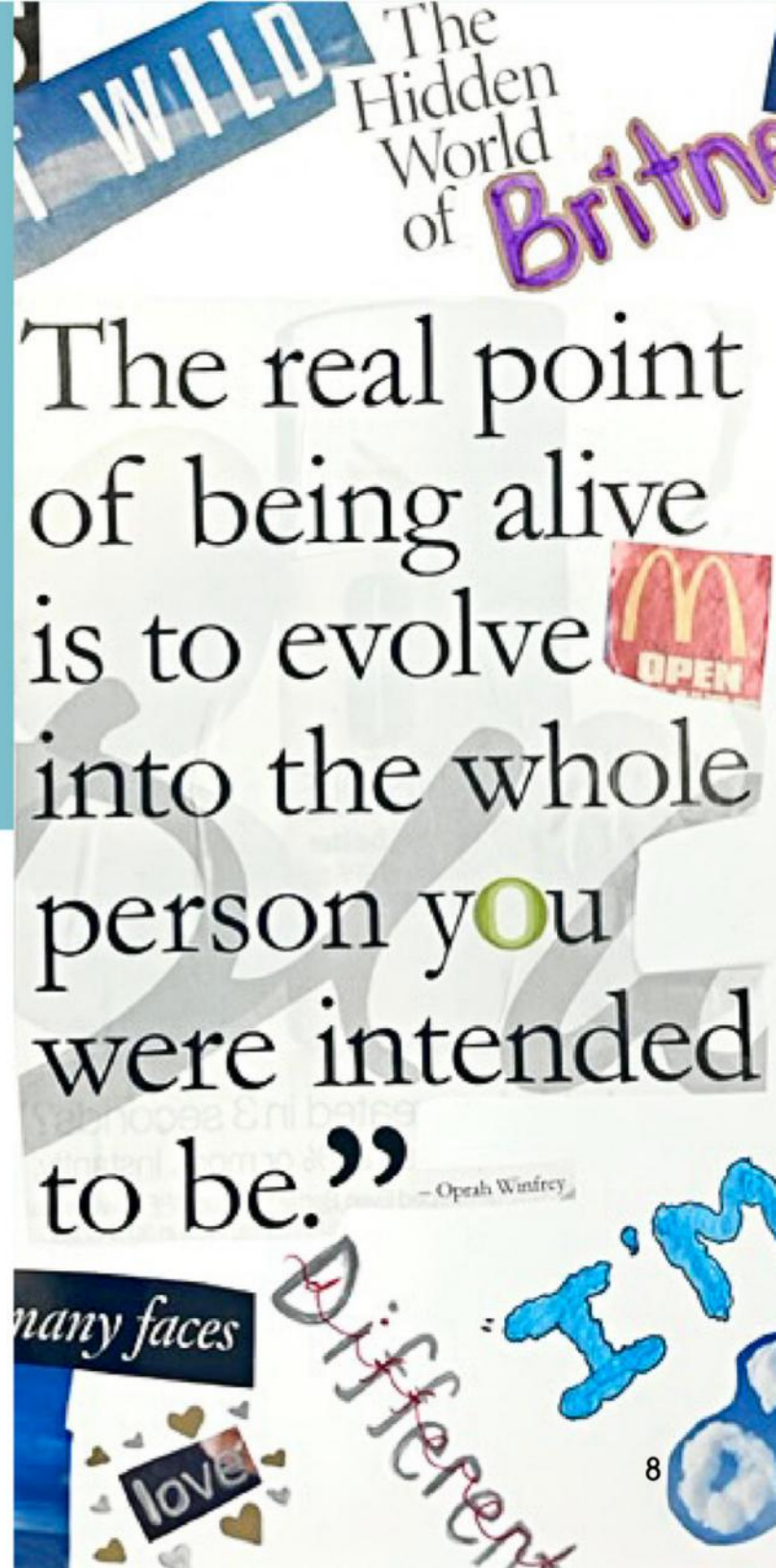
13

Program Facilitators



2

Program Volunteers



The real point of being alive is to evolve into the whole person you were intended to be.” — Oprah Winfrey



Culinary Camp

Our Culinary Camp teaches underserved youth basic cooking skills, healthy eating and shopping on a budget, etiquette, and life skills that will help them when they one day live on their own. During our Summer, Fall and Holidays sessions, over 41 students in our Culinary Camp participated in sessions with professional chefs, including former student, Chef Valencia and chefs from Central Piedmont Community College. Participants explored their creativity, and pathways for higher learning, including opportunities in the culinary arts and culinary career tracks. The program culminated with a graduation ceremony where students invited guests to enjoy dinner.



430

Total Student Contact Hours



131

Cumulative Student Attendance



41

Students Served



12

Classroom Sessions



8

Program Facilitators



4

Program Partners



HeART Packs

Our HeART Packs outreach program provides art care packages to underserved youth. HeART Packs contain age-appropriate donations, including art supplies, educational games, comfort and creative age-appropriate toys, healthy snacks, gift cards, and messages of inspiration. HeART Packs provide the opportunity to explore creative outlets and positive self-expression, crucial to youth during the summer and holiday breaks. This year schools, businesses, individuals, and volunteers joined us to collect, assemble, and donate over 300 HeART Packs, involving the broader community in TAEP's work.



301

HeArt Packs



58 Summer Packs



243 Holiday Packs



\$9,616

Total Value of HeArt Packs



4

Community Partners



25

Program Volunteers

HeArt Packs Distributions:

YWCA
Niner University
Safe Alliance



2022

TOTALS

"I didn't let trauma hurt me, I let it change me into a beautiful person."

- TAEP Student,
Age 15.



678

Students
Served



86

Classroom
Sessions



28

Program
Facilitators



29

Program
Volunteers

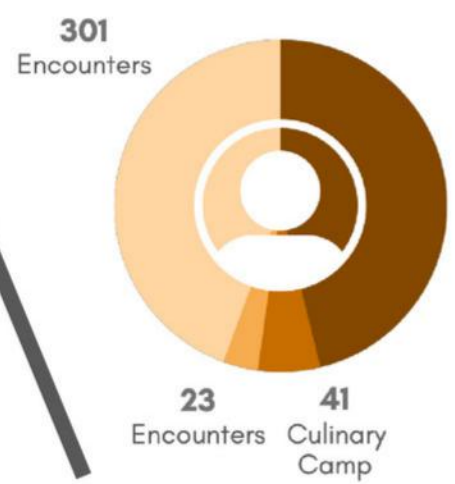


2022 TOTALS

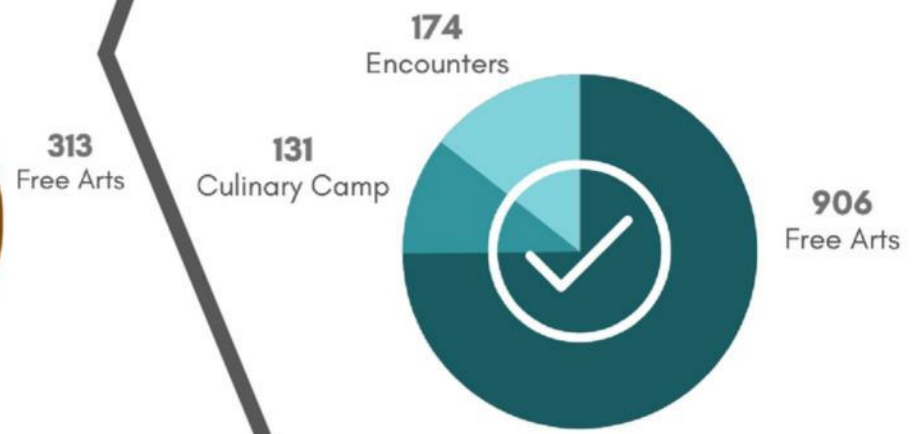
1,358
Total Student
Contact Hours



678
Students
Served

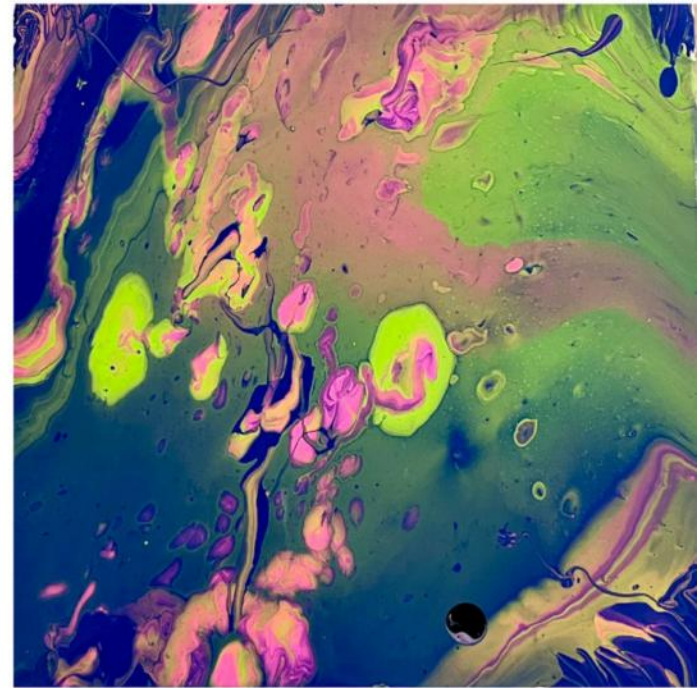
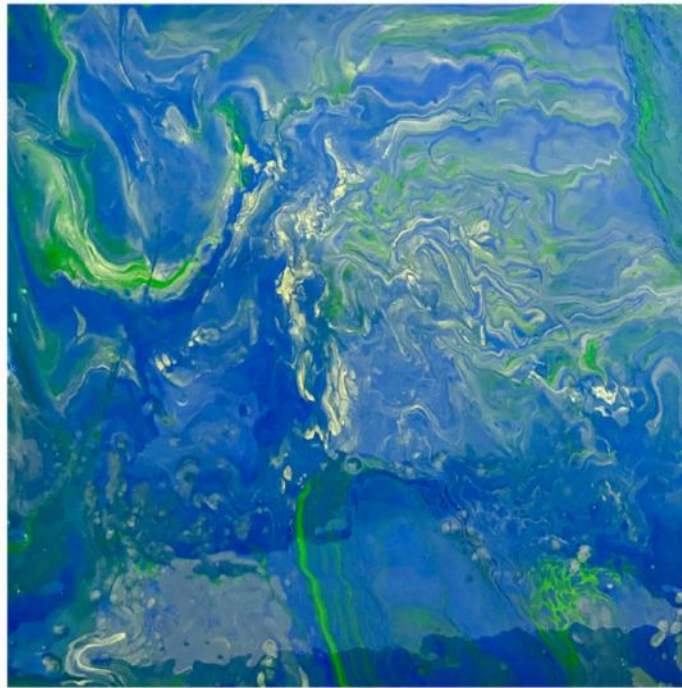


1,211
Cumulative Student
Attendance



14
Community
Partners



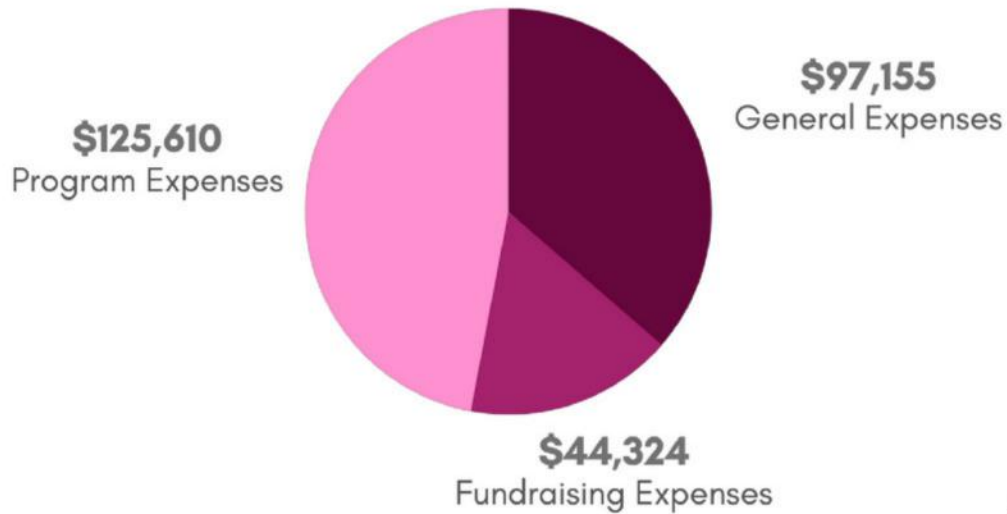




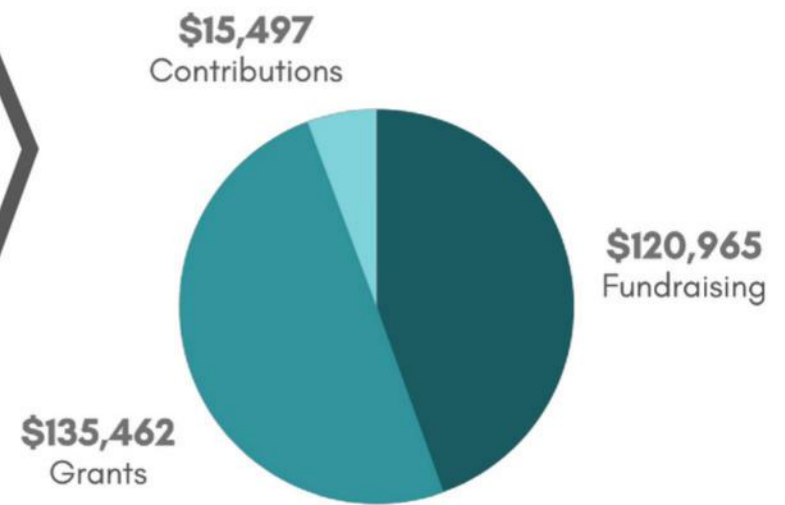
2022

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Expenses
\$267,089



Total Revenue
\$288,366



Social Emotional Learning

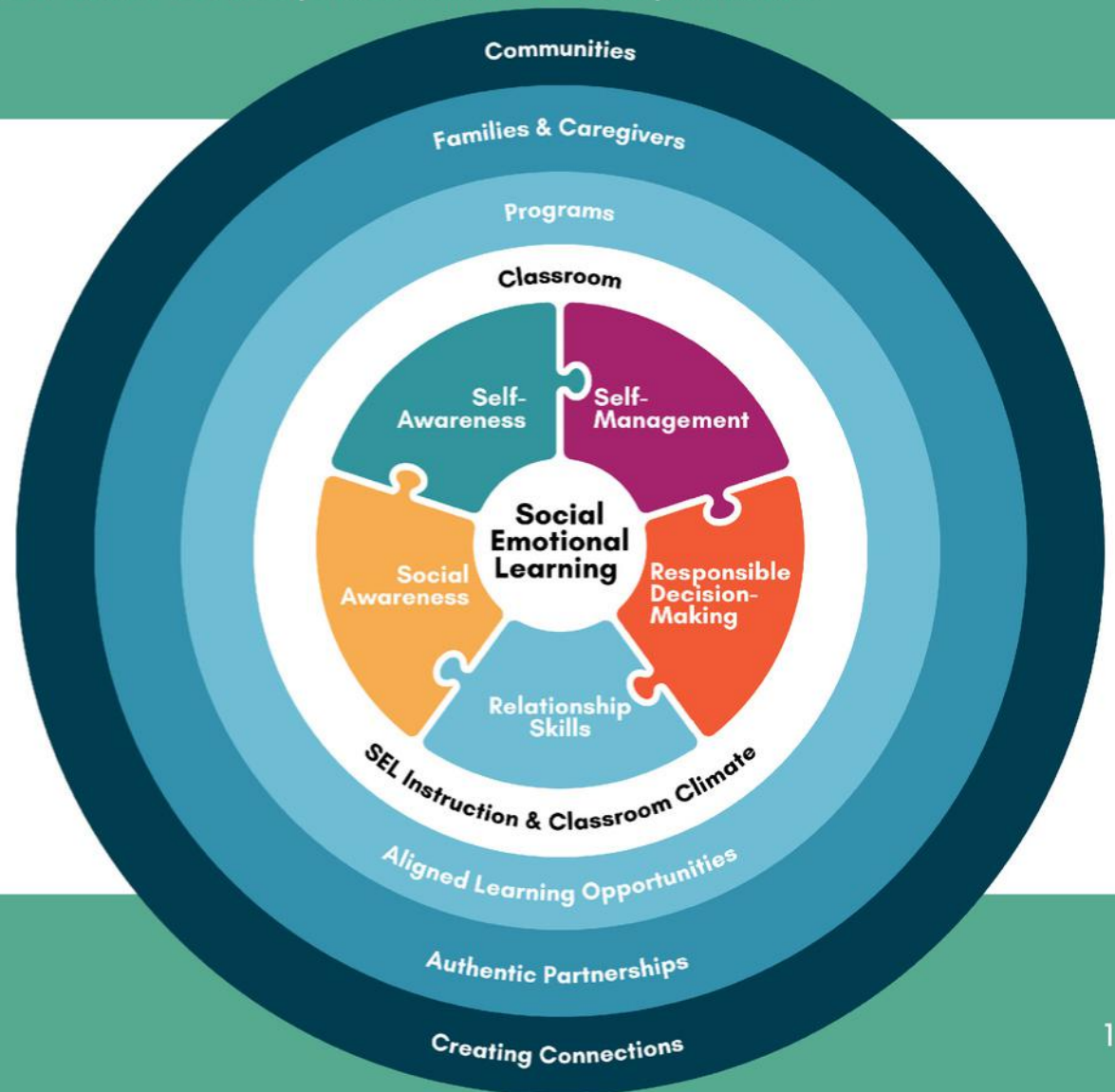
At TAEP, we structure our lessons with Social and Emotional Learning Components. SEL makes a difference. Research demonstrates that an education that promotes SEL has a positive impact on a wide range of outcomes, including academic performance, healthy relationships, mental wellness, and more. SEL's assist in building resilience and coping skills to counterbalance the Adverse Childhood Experiences that far too many of our children have experienced.



**“YOU GET YOUR
STRESS OUT...IT’S UPLIFTING.**

For me to cope with my stress and my anger, I draw. You don’t have to talk all the time. I get to draw, and I make everybody laugh, too.”

- Nathan, 15



Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful incidents or environments which children experience and which have the potential to cause long-lasting trauma. Psychological trauma is what happens when a person is overwhelmed by stress and feels that he or she is unable to return to a "safe" state. When this occurs, it can cause lasting harm to the brain's stress responses, potentially leaving those affected by trauma feeling like they are fighting old dangers years after they've passed. In the infographic, we show a variety of ACEs and the impact they have on peoples' lives.

3 Types of ACEs and subcategories

Abuse




Neglect



Household Dysfunction



Having 4 or more ACEs can lead to:




3x the levels of lung disease and adult smoking




14x the number of suicide attempts



4.5X more likely to develop depression



11x the level of intravenous drug abuse



4x as likely to have begun intercourse by age 15



2x the level of liver disease



2022

SHINE FUNDRAISER

The performing and visual arts are an important way for youth who are at risk to remain connected and to find hope, comfort, and healing in these times of unprecedented challenges. The philosophy that the arts are an essential tool for building life skills and bringing resilience to our youth is and will continue to be the driving force behind The Arts Empowerment Project's core mission. To raise the necessary funding to support our mission of serving the most vulnerable children in our community, we held our SHINE Fundraiser. This signature event allows us to continue our commitment to the community of children we serve and recognizes the individuals and organizations committed to furthering opportunities for children and families in the Charlotte area. Thanks to our donors and sponsors' generous support in 2022, we raised over \$108k in contributions. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this successful event possible!



Raised over

\$108k

at our
annual
event!

More than

100

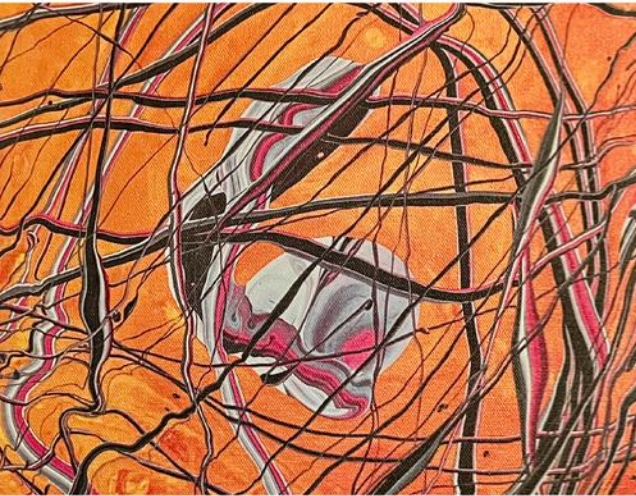
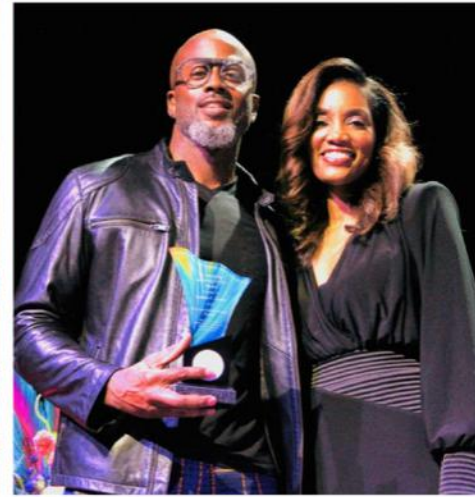
auction
items
donated!



SHINE Team Members

Beth Cameron
Katie-Rose Higgins
Portia Kee
Lisa Mele
Mary Beth Morgan

Kaitlin Powers
Molly Shah
Evelyn Warren
Julia Winfield
Carolyn Zimmerman



Event SPONSORS

NEW HORIZONS SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



LUMINARY SPONSORS



Kaitlin Powers & Michael Coletta

Kobi Kennedy Brinson

BRILLIANT SPONSORS

Adrienne & Bruce McDonald



S/F Holdings, Inc.



Mary Beth & Bill Morgan

Our TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hugh W. Allen
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Portia Kee
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Arthur Rogers
Molly Shah
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Dwayne Wilson
Carolyn Zimmerman

2022 STAFF

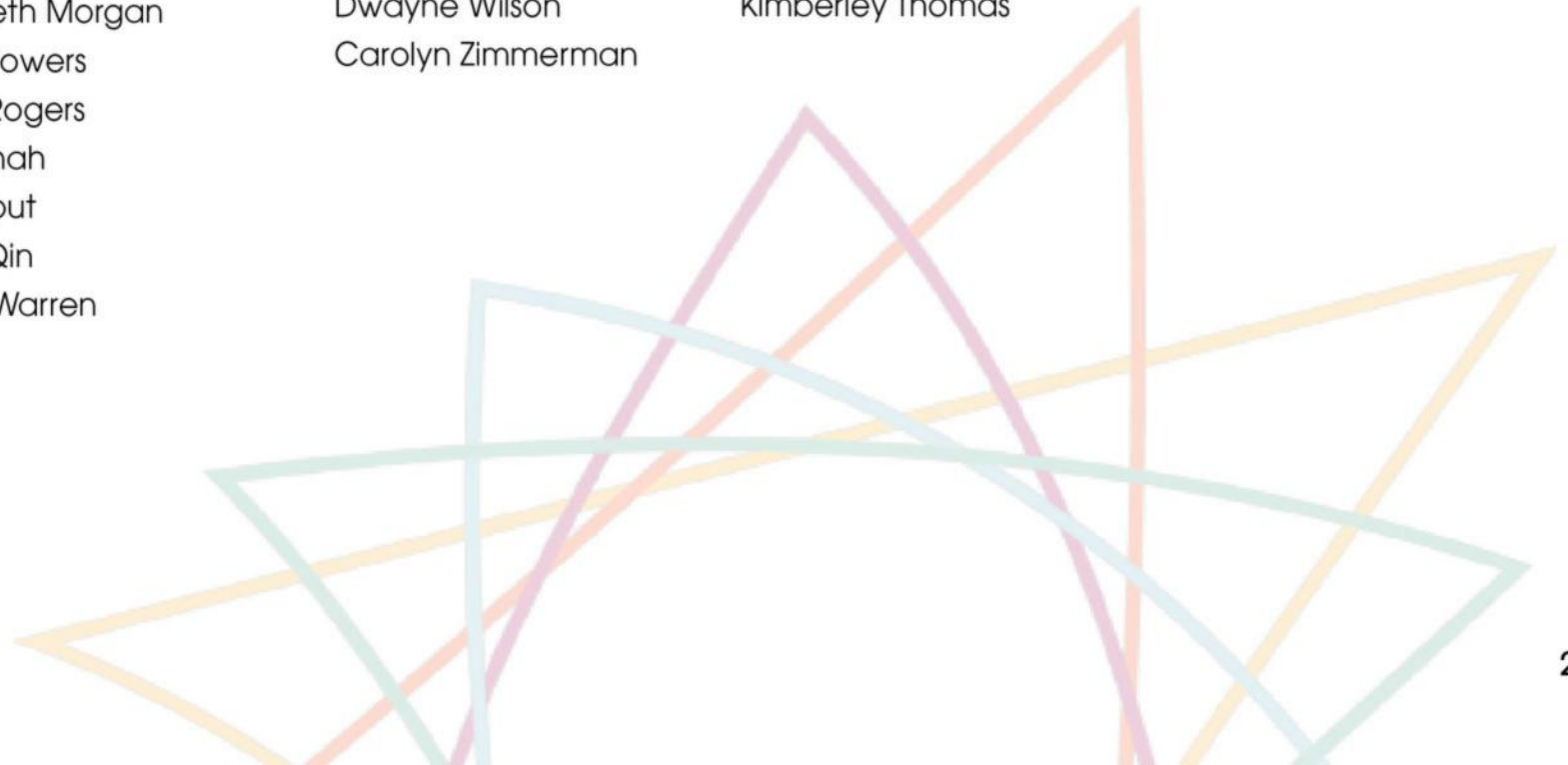
Natalie Allen - Founder | CEO
Shonya Anderson - Program Director
Julia Winfield - Marketing and Program Coordinator
Rebekah Shamberger - Programming Consultant
Jonathan Gerstl - Social Media and Web Design

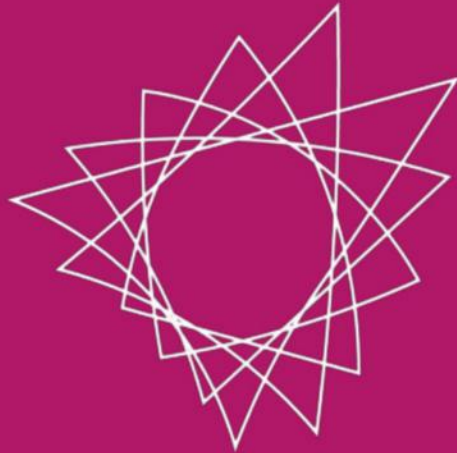
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Jayda Bailey
Spencer Page





the arts empowerment project



COMMUNITY **IMPACT** REPORT

Infusion Fund
A Partnership for Arts + Culture



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