




arts for
learning

Annual Report 2023



2022-23 was a year of incredible transformation for this organization.

We started the year as Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington, and ended as Arts for Learning Northwest. This change reflects the evolution of our organization from a presenter of classical music for school audiences in the 1960's to a champion for abundantly accessible arts education that includes artist residencies, robust arts integration, and features a diverse roster of over 70 artists and ensembles that bring innovative and inspiring art, music, theater, and dance experiences to over 40,000 young people every year. Arts for Learning Northwest will remain a member of the Young Audiences Arts for Learning national network, which collectively serves over 5 million young people annually, as it has since 1958.

At Arts for Learning Northwest, we believe that the arts are a fundamental part of the human experience, and all children deserve access to diverse arts experiences as a part of their education. Our new name is one component of an organization-wide recommitment to equity and accessibility, which are the foundation of our work. We also clarified and restated our mission:

Our mission is to connect young people with diverse arts and creative experiences, and make the arts abundantly accessible in their schools and communities.

Our new mission and name are a part of our commitment to serving the schools and children in our community who are historically marginalized by investing in equitable funding models and partnerships.

The arts are an inherently transformative experience. Whether you are watching a performance, experimenting with a new material in the studio, or collaborating with a group to write a song together, you are engaged in creating something that wasn't there before — transforming an idea or raw material into a meaningful experience or expression. This sense of connection, possibility, and innovation is at the heart of our organization's identity, as well as the core of our programs. We want to transform our region to be one where the arts are celebrated, abundant, and available in all schools, instead of the first

thing to be cut. That is a cultural shift we can't achieve on our own, so we are building partnerships with school districts, state legislators, fellow non-profits, and individual artists so that we can create that transformation together. The Pacific Northwest is known for its creative economy, and we are committed to providing robust arts education for the next generation of artists, innovators, and change-makers.



Thank you for being a part of this exciting new phase of the organization!

Warmly,
Lauren Jost, Executive Director

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Arts for Learning Northwest operates in the present-day Portland Metro area of Oregon and in surrounding areas including Central Oregon and Southwest Washington. We wish to communicate our gratitude for the privilege to live, work, and play in these lands. We recognize and acknowledge that all of these spaces have been and continue to be the home lands of over 380 different tribes of people including the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many others.

As part of this recognition, we must also acknowledge the harm that is done to these many indigenous peoples by separating them from their lands and homes and extracting the resources and wealth from the land. We also acknowledge the systemic policies of genocide, relocation, assimilation, and cultural erasure that still impact many Indigenous/Native American families today. It is only in the acknowledgment of this harm that we can begin to move forward. Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington commits to partnering with indigenous people and tribal communities in ways that work towards repair of this erasure and harm.

As settlers on these lands, we pay respect to past, present, and future Indigenous peoples, families and leaders. We offer gratitude and care as we pledge to make ongoing and accountable efforts to recognize their knowledge, creativity, and resilience.

Strategic Plan

Our new name and mission came out of a year-long strategic planning process with our staff, board, artists, and community. This process clarified our institutional core values, which guide the work that you will read about in this report.

CREATIVITY IS ESSENTIAL

We believe joy, curiosity, and creativity are the foundation for learning, innovation, and new ways of thinking.

ARTS FOR ALL

We believe arts, culture, and creative expression are human rights, and should be welcoming and accessible for all people.

DIVERSE VOICES, INCLUSIVE SPACES

We believe in centering a diversity of thought, experience, and perspectives, and working together to create liberatory spaces where all can thrive.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

We believe that collaboration is vital to creative and equitable work, and relationships in our community should be rooted in care, connection, respect, and support.

You can read more about our strategic plan and values [here](#) or scan the QR code:



Programs Updates

This year our roster of 70 artists sang, danced, painted, sculpted, drummed, and wrote stories with 40,000 students across the region! Performances were back in a big way this year, with 119 concerts, dances, and plays in school auditoriums, community spaces, and classrooms.

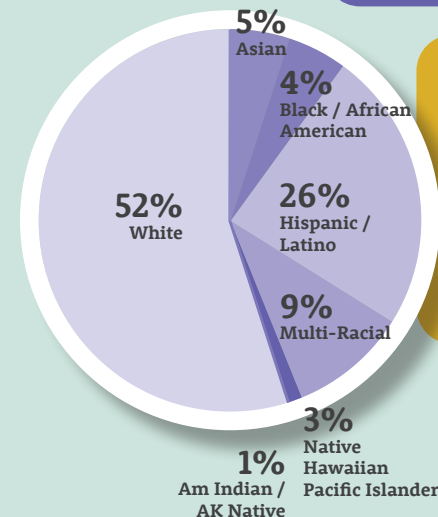
PROGRAM NUMBERS

163,747	TOTAL ARTS EXPERIENCES
73%	RESIDENCIES
9%	PERFORMANCES
16%	WORKSHOPS
2%	OUT-OF-SCHOOL

WHO WE SERVE

40,685	UNIQUE STUDENTS
36,322	OREGON STUDENTS
4,363	WASHINGTON STUDENTS

STUDENTS SERVED



VENUES SERVED

128	SCHOOLS
65	TITLE 1 SCHOOLS
27	DISTRICTS
9	COUNTIES

Programming in 128 schools across 27 districts, nearly half of which are eligible for Title I funding (schools where 40% or more families are low income).

Roster Programs

Our artist roster connects schools with arts enrichment programs through residencies, workshops, performances, family nights, and more. These services are available in 9 counties in SW Washington, Portland Metro, and Central Oregon.

HIGHLIGHTS



7 & 8 graders at **Cesar Chavez** chose four colors to make wire and bead models of DNA with teaching artist Alicia Moya-Mendez. Students choose whether they would like to make mutations in their DNA strands and demonstrate those using different colored pairs.



Kanani Miyamoto worked with students at **Union Ridge** to create artwork about the life cycles of salmon. "She was WONDERFUL! Thank you so much for this wonderful experience for both my students and myself!"



Anne Rustand worked with students at **Hugh Hartman Elementary school in Redmond, Oregon** doing her program titled: Color Exploration and Paper Engineering.

NEW ROSTER ARTISTS



JEN
HERNANDEZ



ANGELA MION



SEFFARINE

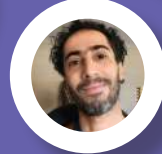


JULE L.
PARK



ALICIA
MOYA-MENDEZ

VALENTINA
ORTIZ

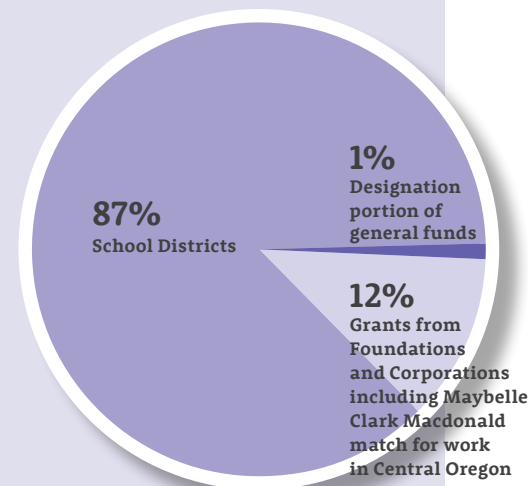


MARTIN
ZARZAR

Thank you to these funders who subsidize artist programs for students in geographically specific areas:

- » Far West Recycling, Beaverton
- » Marie Lamfrom and IQ Credit Union, Southwest Washington
- » Oregon Association of Education Service Districts, Central Oregon

FUNDERS



EQUITY PRIORITIES

Since 2017, the Roster Diversification Initiative has focused on bringing culturally specific artists onto our roster. We are proud to offer the region's most diverse artist roster in terms of art forms, cultural art forms, and artist identity.

Right Brain

The Right Brain Initiative, now in its fifteenth year, is a high-level arts partnership that integrates the arts across the school curriculum. Our arts integration staff and teaching artists collaborate with teachers and administrators for innovative residency experiences, and in-depth professional development for all teachers in the school. This approach leads to improved arts and academic outcomes, but more importantly, cultivates a district-wide culture of creativity and innovation. In 2022-23, we revamped our partnership model to ensure that all participating students will receive equal programming, and went “back to basics” with teachers as our coaches and artists helped schools focus on the social/emotional learning needed for pandemic recovery.

HIGHLIGHTS



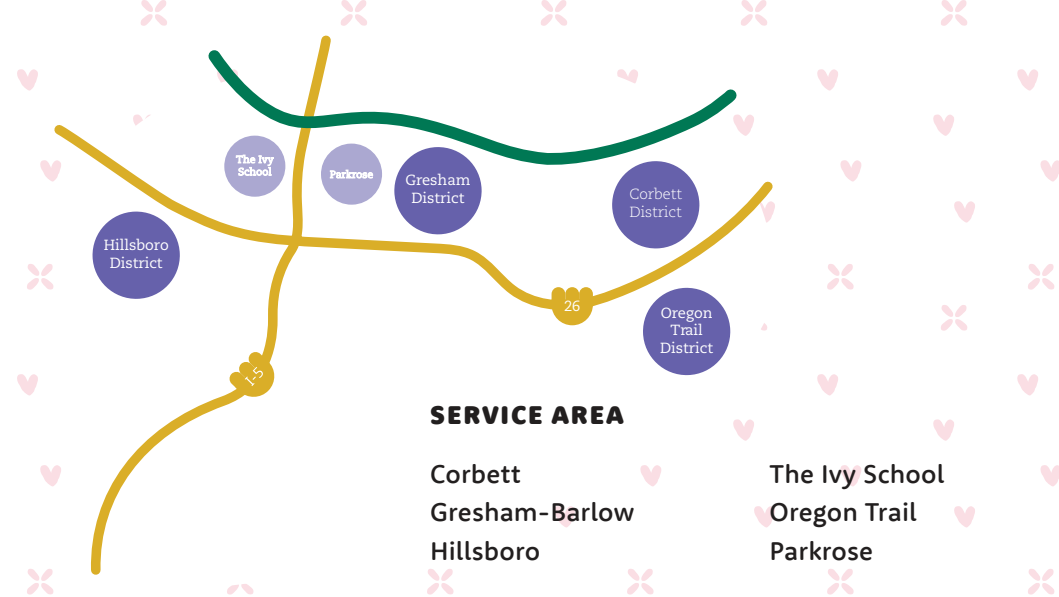
Students at **Naas Elementary in the Oregon Trail School District** worked with Right Brain teaching artist, Peggy Ross, in a residency that integrated math with weaving patterns. Students also studied fabrics and materials from West Africa.



Middle school students at **CAPS, in the Corbett School District**, worked with Unit Souza in this Right Brain residency. Students learned Japanese Taiko drumming, which integrates principles of respect, cooperation and perseverance into the artform. Students then wrote their own songs, integrating the art further into their social studies curriculum.



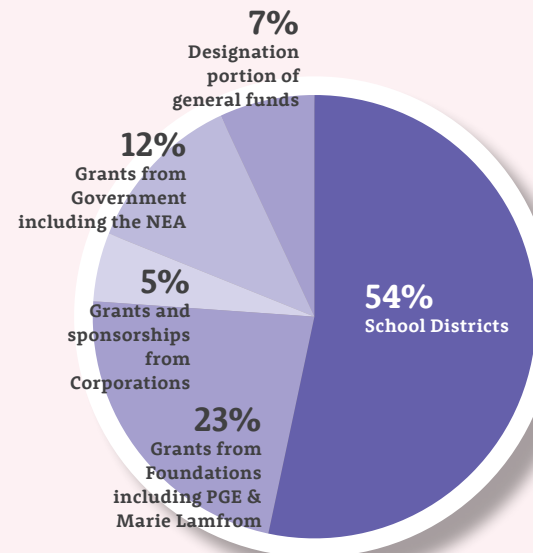
Students at **Imlay Elementary** school worked with Julie Keefe in a Right Brain photography residency titled “Best Part of Me”. Students took photographs in pairs and then integrated language arts and wrote about themselves with a focus on smile and metaphor.



PROGRAM NUMBERS

48,943	TOTAL ARTS EXPERIENCES
434	RESIDENCIES
5	AVERAGE SESSIONS PER RESIDENCY

FUNDERS



EQUITY PRIORITIES

Right Brain programs ensure that the arts are integrated into every classroom in participating schools, which means no one is left out. Because the funding comes directly from the districts, all schools receive equal services that are not dependent on parent groups or outside fundraising. Right Brain also serves a high number of rural schools, ensuring equitable access for remote areas of our region.

Special Programs

Summer Programming

Over the 2022 summer, Arts for Learning NW hosted free arts summer camps for 301 Portland Public School students at two sites. These week-long camps featured studio time with a variety of artists and art forms, and students got to play, dance, sing, drum, sculpt, and paint all summer long. In addition, we reached 5,792 students in Reynolds, Corbett, Hillsboro, and Beaverton school districts through performance and residency programs. These opportunities were all funded through federal COVID-relief funding given to school districts for student enrichment and engagement. We believe in the power of the arts to help young people heal and connect, and we were thrilled to be a part of our community's recovery and re-engagement strategy.

Latinx Affinity Choir

In 2019-20, Arts for Learning Northwest supported the production of a youth choral concert series premiering an original work by composer Luz Mendoza, *El Alma de Mi Ser*. This concert series was scheduled for April 2020, and was canceled due to COVID-19 shutdowns. In 2022, we were thrilled to revive this project with Portland Public Schools (PPS) as a partner, who convened an affinity choir of Latinx-identifying and Spanish speaking students as well as community choir members and mentor singers. Selections from *El Alma de Mi Ser* premiered on April 11, 2023, as a part of The Heart of Portland at the Portland Art Museum.



Fun For the Arts

Fun for the Arts is a school-based fundraising program that raises dedicated arts funds for classrooms. During this one-day Dance-A-Thon on November 4, 2022, students and teachers were encouraged to dance, jump, and move however they felt best expressed "Fun for the Arts." All funds raised on that day were equitably distributed to the 14 participating schools.

EQUITY PRIORITIES

Systemic racism has contributed to persistent income inequality and access to equitable education, resources, and to quality arts experiences. In the 2019-2020 school year, the lower income schools participating in Fun for the Arts raised ~\$8 per student while the higher income schools raised ~\$40 per student. This gap reflects the historically inequitable access to resources in our communities and in our education system for our students. The arts can be a transformative force in education. Moving to a community-wide fundraiser rather than focusing on individual schools helps us to close the opportunity gap and provide more equitable access to the arts for all students.

FUNDERS



PARTICIPANTS

14	PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS
6038	PARTICIPANTS
50%	HIGH FRL SCHOOLS



Career Connections

Arts for Learning NW's out-of-school Career Connections programs for teens partners middle and high schoolers with professional designers and sound engineers to learn the art of fashion design and live music production, expanding their career options while investing in the future of our region's creative economy.

PARTICIPANTS

46	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
37	NON-MALE PARTICIPANTS
29	NON-WHITE



LiveSET

LiveSET provides technical and artistic training in music engineering for high-schoolers who are primarily from communities underrepresented in the field of professional sound engineering. Through hands-on classes taught by real-world professionals, participants learn about the craft and science of sound design, then cap their experience by engineering a public concert or recording.

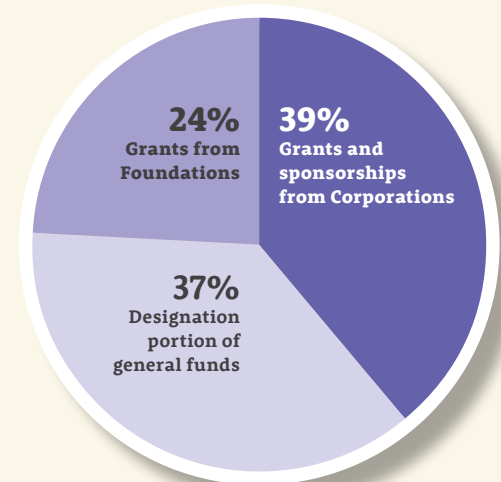
Friends of Noise Partnership

We partner with Friends of Noise, a music non-profit, to provide paying work opportunities at all ages shows in the region through the Sound Squad Supreme. This way, LiveSET alumni can go straight to work.

FUNDERS

EQUITY PRIORITIES

LiveSET focuses on recruiting young women, non-binary youth, and youth of color to help correct the underrepresentation of those populations in the music engineering field. All of these services are fully subsidized and offered free of charge to participants.



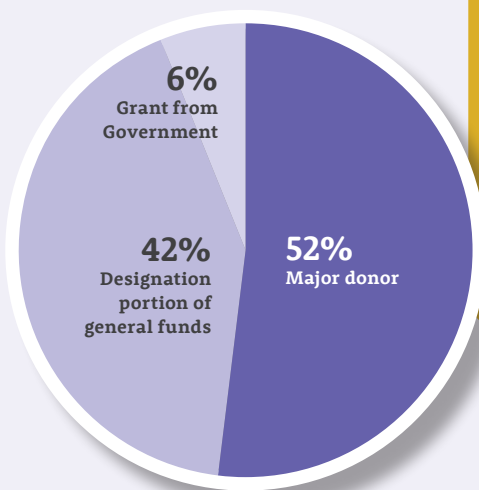


SH/FT

Students who identify as non-binary, BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ are prioritized in SH/FT, an incredible mentorship program that pairs design groups with local drag queens who then model the garments in a live drag fashion show event that celebrates the ingenuity of the young designers and the vibrancy of our LGBTQIA+ community. Each group interviews their drag queen partner for inspiration, and then designs and creates a one-of-a-kind look using only recycled and upcycled materials. The program culminates in an annual live fashion show that took place May 25, 2023 at Oregon Contemporary.



FUNDERS



“(I LIKED)...GETTING TO KNOW OTHER YOUTH INTERESTED IN FASHION AROUND ME, AND BUILDING SOMETHING CREATIVE WITH THEM. THERE AREN’T MANY OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL IN A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL/CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT TO GET TO KNOW PEOPLE MY AGE, AND THIS REALLY FULFILLED THAT.”

EQUITY PRIORITIES

SH/FT focuses on recruiting youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth. All of these services are fully-subsidized and offered free-of-charge to participants.

Teaching Artist Studio & Educator PD

Creating a community with abundant arts education means cultivating a community of professional teaching artists! Arts for Learning NW is proud to offer professional development to artists on our roster, as well as artists and educators in the community at large. Our wide selection of professional development services for teachers and artists includes one-time workshops, job-embedded training, and a year-long cohort, the Teaching Artist Studio.

Teaching Artist Studio

This year-long cohort invites 12 artists to dive deeply into what makes arts education effective, and how their own creative practice is integrated into their work with youth. Cohort participants get to put their learning into action by partnering with a local school and testing their new curriculum with the support of TAS instructors.

Workshops and training

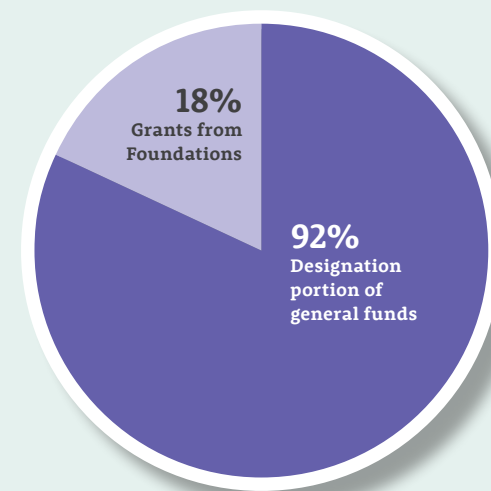
Arts for Learning NW provides workshops and trainings for educators focusing on specific topics like equity in the arts classroom, art-form skill building, and activating the creativity in your teaching practice.



EQUITY PRIORITIES

In order to cultivate a diverse field of teaching artists in our region, this program is offered free of charge to program participants.

FUNDERS



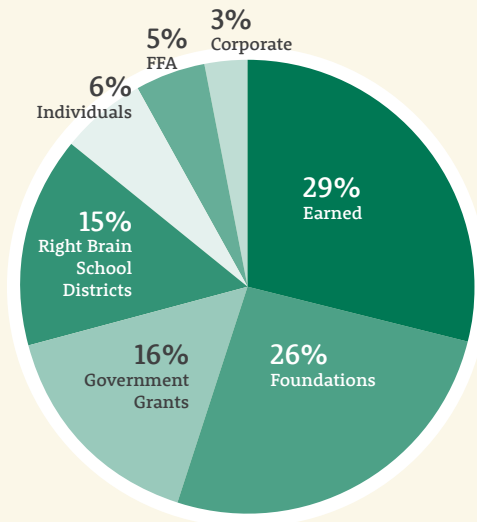
Financial Data and Accountability

This year included plenty of challenges, and we were able to meet those challenges with creativity, thanks to the growing contributions of our diversifying base of supporters — whether you are a long-time funder or brand new GEM donor to ALNW (donors who Give Every Month), we appreciate your choice to help inspire young people and make the arts abundantly accessible in their communities — thank you!



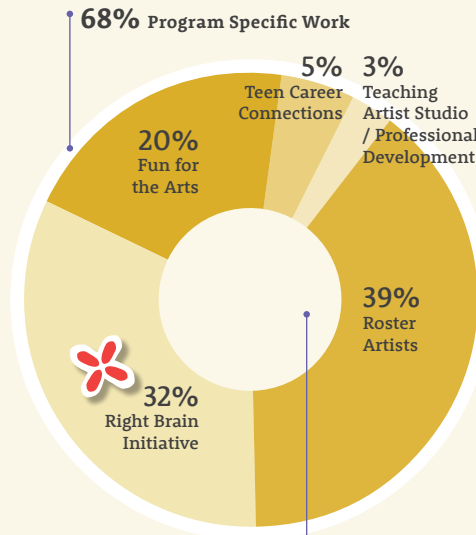
INCOME

\$1,510,944



EXPENSES

\$1,906,783*



32% Core Mission Work

- Staff support
- Finance and governance
- Strategic partnerships and fundraising

**Please note: this expense total does not indicate a deficit, but rather the spending down of funds raised in previous fiscal years*

Our Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President

Lisa Harley
National Sales,
CLC Lodging

Vice President

Tania Flynn
VP/Creative Director,
Nike Women's Apparel

Welcome new Board Members: Chris Gilbert, Pam Sporborg, Alexia Wellons, Lauren Reagan and Aaron Nigel Smith!

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Senior Portfolio
Manager, Vice President,
HighMark Capital

Secretary

Steven Heinze
Lead Appeal
Coordinator,
Moda Health

Treasurer

Jarkko Cain
Co-owner / General
Manager, Holocene

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Kathy Darnielle
Retired

Chris Gilbert
Senior Loan Officer,
StanCorp Mortgage
Investors, LLC

Kevin Nesse
Manager / Owner's
Representation
Services, Hyphn

Aaron Nigel Smith
Education and
Community Programs
Manager, The Patricia
Reser Center for the Arts

Lauren Reagan
Corporate Relations,
Bloodworks NW

Pam Sporborg
Director, Transmission
& Market Services,
Portland General Electric

Alexia Wellons
Co-Owner, Scarlet
Letters Copywriting

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Communications
Specialist



Ryan Higa
Programs
Specialist



Lauren Jost
Executive
Director



Brett Kimball
Finance
Director



Josephine Kuever
Senior Operations
Programs Manager



Allie Maki Maya
Grants and Special
Projects Manager



Maia McCarthy
Artist Program
Manager



Ryn McCoy
Operations and
Equity Manager



Melody Mikkelsen
Development
Director



Koko Olszewski
Community
Engagement
Manager



Kristi Riedel
Programs
Director



Kim Strelchun
The Right Brain
Initiative Director



Allena Vestal
Career Connections
Manager



Christi Zorrilla Soto
Central Oregon
Program Manager

Thank you

Due to the generosity of Donors and Funders, ALNW is able to offer programs at rates below what would otherwise be possible.



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Biamp Systems
Cigna
Clabough Foundation
Deschutes County
First Interstate Foundation
Garcia Fund
H.W. Irwin & D.C.H. Irwin Foundation
Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
Hillsboro Arts & Culture Council
iQ Credit Union
Juan Young Trust
Keeping the Arts
Lease Crutcher Lewis
Les Paul Foundation
Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund
MUFG - Union Bank
Multnomah County Cultural Coalition
NewJee LLC

OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation
Oregon Association of Education Service Districts
Oregon Community Foundation
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Starseed Foundation
Sundt Foundation
The Jackson Foundation
The Standard
The Swigert Foundation
The Swinerton Foundation
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Our Right Brain School District Partners:

Corbett
Gresham Barlow;
a founding school district
Hillsboro;
a founding school district
The Ivy School
Oregon Trail
Parkrose
Aaron Jost
Aaron Nigel Smith
Alexia Wellons
Alicia & Brett Murray
Alicia Vasilko
Alison Shinsato
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& Roy Kaufmann
Claudia Contreras-Peters
Colby Smith
Daniel Luksic
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Dawn Glockler
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Denise Guillen
Diane Rutan
Dolores Judkins
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Erin Smith & Jin Han
Evan Shereck
Forrest Fisher
Genevieve Maull
George Chesney
Ginny Feldman
Glen Vigorito
Grace Abalades
Grandma & JJ
Grandma and Grandpa Christensen
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Heather Bacon-Shone
Heather Friedman
Heather Parks-Huitron
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Isabelle Dunn
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Mariela Daby
Marjorie Garza
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Martina Steinkusz
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Tayler Kim
Taylor Alberg
Tessa Glade
Theo Menard
Thomas & Melinda Goldsmith
Tiffany Wandzilak
Tight Tacos
Tim Bishop
Tim Davidson
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Vajra Alaya-Maitreya
Vanessa Gavrich
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Franklin Johnson
Vicki Pratt
Walker Paynter
Wild Oma
William Miller



Arts for Learning Northwest
1220 SW Morrison, Suite 1000
Portland, OR 97205-2228

info@artsforlearningnw.org
artsforlearningnw.org



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*Come see your impact! We invite you to join
your fellow arts education champions and
hear from leaders and artists at our Impact
Brunch on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at
Beaverton's Patricia Reser Center for the Arts.*