



think360
ARTS
FOR LEARNING

2022 **Community
Report**



A Letter from our Board Chair

Dear Think 360 Arts Family:

When I first entered into board service for this organization in 2017, I knew I was going to be a part of something special. We were just hiring a new Executive Director, and programming was in full swing. It has been my pleasure to be a part of this organization's dynamic path, throughout the challenges and joys the next few years would bring. Our artists, staff, and board have called upon their creativity to keep the organization strong, and connected to community.

Now in 2022, we are saying goodbye to our Executive Director and will soon welcome a new leader. We're building on a strong foundation. During the last five years, the organization has seen exceptional growth in programming, reputation and financial position. Board & staff collaboratively developed new vision, mission and values statements and created a robust five-year strategic plan that placed a priority on equity, inclusion, accessibility, and diversity. It will be an honor as Board Chair to bring this plan to full fruition with the team.

None of this would have been possible without broad community support. I am grateful to you, our Think 360 Arts family, for your steadfast commitment to fueling this growth. May we look towards the future together.

Sincerely,



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Molly B Casey'.

Molly B Casey (she/her)
Board Chair, Think 360 Arts for Learning
Chief Curator, NINE dot ARTS

Our Board and staff along with a committee of teachers, teaching artists, and nonprofit partners engaged in our strategic planning process for our organization, which resulted in the development of our new mission, vision, and value statements.



Rooted in community, we are excited for our next chapter and journey to uphold our new mission!

Mission

To engage Coloradans of all ages in innovative arts programming that inspires creativity, builds community & advances equity.

Vision

All communities can experience the transformative benefits of arts education.

Values

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility
- Creativity & Delight
- Learning & Curiosity

Total Programs

163



Creative Aging

nearly 900 participants



Total Student Experiences

nearly 10,000



Wolf Trap

7 classrooms, 11 teachers
& over 100 ECE children



Professional Development

over 600 participants





Creative Aging

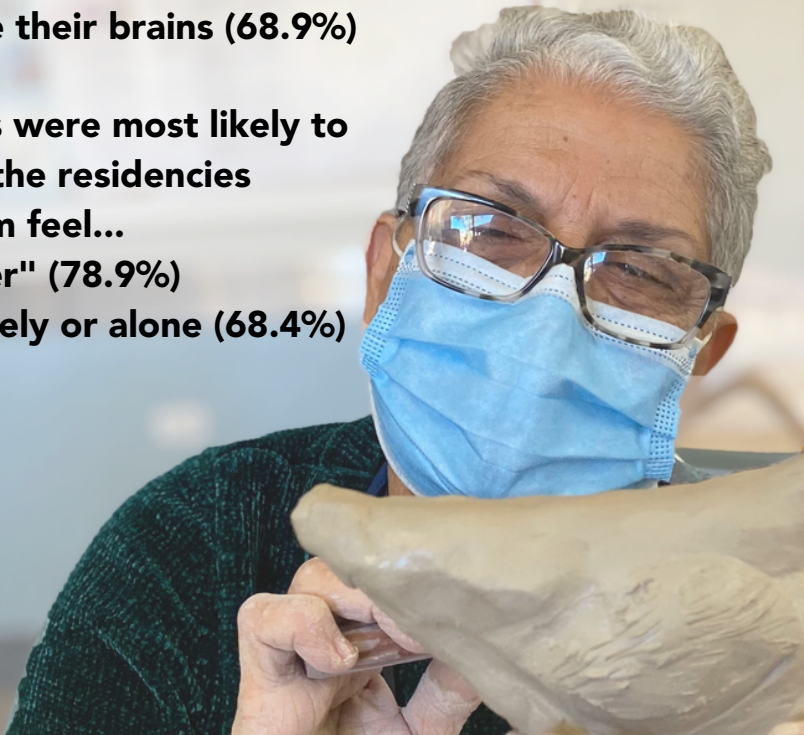
Think 360 Arts has been able to develop new partnerships in Denver, with a focus on longer-term residencies lasting four sessions or more. These partners include Denver Public Library branches, Denver Housing Authority locations, The Center on Colfax, Kavod Senior Life, Carillion at Bellevue Station, and Windsor Gardens. Funded by Caring For Denver.

Participants agreed that the residencies helped them...

- **Learn or try something new (94.7%)**
- **Exercise their brains (68.9%)**

Participants were most likely to agree that the residencies helped them feel...

- **"Happier" (78.9%)**
- **Less lonely or alone (68.4%)**



“I was too isolated and needed to get out of my comfort zone and meet people and challenge myself creatively. This workshop provided that.”



Creative Aging Program Participant

Creative Aging programming expanded to La Veta, Sterling, and Palisade, with training taking place for artists in eleven Colorado counties.

These programs were funded by Next Fifty Initiative. In addition, they were made possible by a grant provided by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in partnership with E.A. Michelson Philanthropy.

Artists in Schools

Courageous Play for Connected Communities

Teaching Artist Lainie Hodges facilitated theatrical improvisation workshops designed to support community connection at four different schools in Denver's District 9 (Manual High School, Bruce Randolph School, Garden Place Academy, and DC-21).



Courageous Play offered students opportunities to come together and re-imagine how to relate to one another, addressing emotional barriers created by pandemic isolation. Funded by Denver Human Services' Human Together Grant.

Students reported they felt...

- More connected to their community (83%)
- Better equipped to deal with difficult emotions (67%)
- Safer at school (50%)





Colorado Arts Partners (CAP) Grants

CAP Grants provide schools throughout Colorado with the opportunity to apply for grant money for collaborative programming with a community artist that sparks innovation, creativity, and joy. CAP Grants occurred in 12 schools this year.



“...Our learners, staff and family have a lasting legacy on the front of our school building - it will always make us remember our collaboration, journey to come back together and the impact art can have on us and others.”

Rim Rock Elementary
School Educator

One recipient, Rim Rock Elementary, worked with Artist Pavia Justinian to create a mural with the entire school community, including teachers and volunteers. The teachers recall the sheer excitement at the reveal and the pride the students had in their work. Funded by Colorado Creative Industries.

Wolf Trap of Greater Denver

Think 360 Arts became the Colorado-serving affiliate of Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts in 2019. After a virtual pilot year in 2020, this past year's residencies took place in person. Funded by PNC Grow up Great, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, and the Moore Family Foundation.

“When I ‘showered’ the students with colorful artificial leaves during one activity, the children were having fun collecting them - and I saw a few giving leaves they had caught to other children who hadn't yet managed to catch any... I heard one child say to another ‘Don't worry, here's a leaf’ - which sounded like a near-echo of a line from our focus book: ‘Don't Worry, it's Only Autumn.’”

A Teaching Artist's reflection of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) occurring during a Wolf Trap residency

Community Programs

Denver Arts Week: Community Mural Project

With guidance from Teaching Artist Tony Ortega, CEC students, as well as visitors of the Northside Community Painting Day in celebration of Denver Arts Week, had the opportunity to contribute to a large public mural that is representative of Denver's Northside neighborhood.



This community mural is especially significant as it celebrates its very recent renaming - after 50 years of protest - into "La Raza Park," a name symbolizing empowerment, pride, and unity for the Chicano community in Denver. It is now proudly displayed at the NINE dot ARTS office. Funded by NINE dot ARTS.



“The mural commemorates the rich history of the Chicano and Indigenous communities, and demonstrates the power of art to heal us, connect us, and help us spread joy and pride for who we are.”

Teaching Artist Tony Ortega



Professional Development

Permission to Play

This is the second year of partnering with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Standards and Instructional Support team on Social and Emotional Learning. In 2021-22, Think 360 Teaching Artists facilitated active, small-group sessions with teachers, where they could experiment with art forms together and explore pedagogical practice. Teachers from across Colorado were able to participate because of the virtual format.

Institute for Creative Teaching 2021

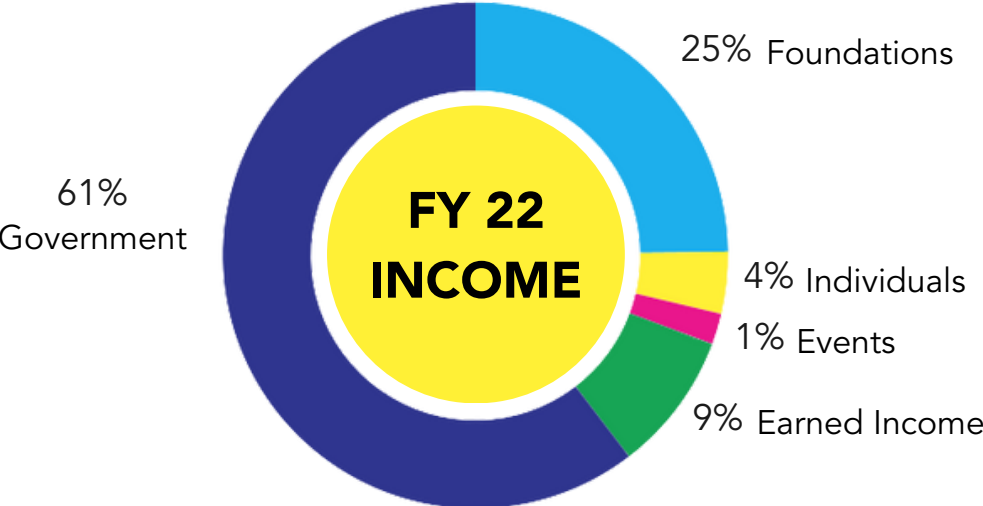
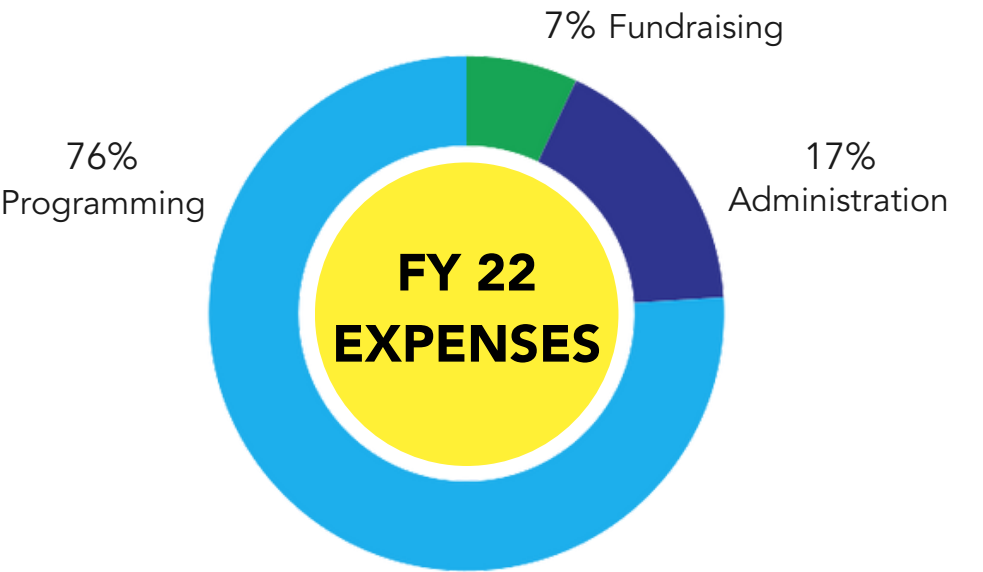
The Institute for Creative Teaching is a collaboration with the University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education. Through this intensive program, teachers learn both theory and practical applications of arts integration, an approach to teaching and learning that leverages creative practices to meet learning goals.

The Institute that took place in October 2021 served 27 teachers. Scholarships to the Institute were provided through Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti PC and Denver Arts & Venues.



In surveys, 55% of participants highly agreed that “The Institute for Creative Teaching gave [them] new ideas about how to integrate creativity, social-emotional learning, and joy into the curriculum.”

Expenses & Income





Thank you!

We express our deepest gratitude to all of our individual donors!

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Visit our website:
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