



think360  
ARTS  
FOR LEARNING

**2023** **Community  
Report**



# A Letter from our Board Chair

Dear Think 360 Arts Family:

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the same excitement and enthusiasm that we feel as we usher in a new era of creativity and innovation at Think 360 Arts. As the Board Chair, it is both an honor and a privilege to share with you some exciting updates and news about our organization.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to celebrate our remarkable new Executive Leader, Daisy McGowan. Her leadership and dedication to the arts community are inspiring, and we have already seen that under her guidance, we will achieve new heights in the world of arts education and advocacy.

This report represents a comprehensive overview of our organization's achievements, activities, and impact over the past year. It is a testament to the hard work of our staff, the commitment of our supporters, and the creative talents of our artists and educators. The report highlights the transformative power of the arts in our community and showcases the many ways in which Think 360 Arts continues to make a difference for Coloradans of all ages and backgrounds.

None of these achievements would be possible without the continued support of our donors, volunteers, and partners like you. Your dedication to the arts is the driving force behind our success, and we are immensely grateful for your unwavering commitment.

We invite you to explore the Think 360 Arts Community Report and witness the incredible impact your support has made. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for the arts in our community.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey, and we look forward to continuing this exciting artistic adventure with you by our side.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Molly'.

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

Think 360 Arts celebrated 60 amazing years since our charter as a Colorado 501c3 nonprofit organization in 1963. We've had the honor of serving Colorado through high quality arts education programming and vital advocacy for arts learning for six decades.



Rooted in community, we are excited to build our next 60 years together!

## **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

233 - Statewide



## Creative Aging

nearly 2,000 participants



## Total Student Experiences

19,209



## Wolf Trap

20 classrooms, 26 teachers  
& over 300 ECE children



## Professional Development

over 728 statewide participants





# Creative Aging

## Urban Communities

Think 360 Arts continued to deepen partnerships with Denver Public Library and Denver Housing Authority, Kavod Senior Life, and The Center on Colfax by offering quality arts programming to older adults in multiple art mediums. New community partners initiated this year included Community Housing and Development Association and Vi at Highlands Ranch. Participants report these experiences as valuable ways to enrich their lives by connecting them to their community, supporting better mental health for older adults in the Metro Denver area. Funded by Caring for Denver and Denver County Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).



- **84.5% of participants reported that their connection with others improved.**
- **47.9% of participants said the residencies helped them feel less lonely or alone.**
- **83.1% of respondents said the residencies improved their mental health.**

## Rural Communities

In June 2023, Think 360 Arts partnered with teaching artist Sandy Dolak to offer a program revolving around knitting and crocheting techniques with a local Walsenburg community group called The Abuelas. While these members worked on building their knitting and crocheting skills they outfitted well-loved stuffed



animals which were gifted to the Spanish Peaks Library to encourage the youth to read by offering them a critter to share their books. These many critters were also donated to the area's Human Services Department.

Think 360 Arts is continuing to forge new relationships in rural communities including Alamosa Library, Longmont Senior Center, Lifecare Center of Colorado Springs, Senior Housing Options Parachute, and Walsenburg Housing Authority.

Funded by Colorado Creative Industries and NextFifty Initiative.

“Laughing is always good for the soul and memorizing the routines helped my brain.”

Creative Aging Program Participant



## 2023 Creative Aging Convening

In September 2023, Think 360 Arts partnered with the Denver Art Museum to offer multiple programs during the Creative Aging Convening. Jennifer Kubik, Program Coordinator, presented “Creative Aging in Action: Building Relationships and Creating Safe Spaces” to all attendees. Her presentation focused on practical points in developing positive experiences for all members involved in a program from the planning stage to the facilitation of the program to the participants. Four Think 360 Arts teaching artists also offered experiential Creative Aging workshops and shared their expertise in facilitating these programs.



“This is my connection to other people - since I take care of my 2 year old grandson, it's my escape to peace and social connection at the same time.”

Creative Aging Program Participant

# Artists in Schools

## Coal Creek Elementary "Connecting with Kindness" Mural Project

In the spring of 2023, Think 360 Arts collaborated with the art teacher at Coal Creek Elementary in Boulder County to bring a Tony Ortega mural experience to their school. Coal Creek Elementary was one of several schools in Boulder Valley School District whose families were impacted by the Marshall Fire in December 2021.



Tony worked closely with the 4th and 5th graders to create a mural that shows the strength and resilience of the Coal Creek community, and the joyful ways that they connect with one another.

Depicting students engaged with one another in various activities with the Flatirons in the background, this kind of positive representation has a deep impact on students and their emotional wellbeing.



“The mural shows that everyone is welcome, and it’s just nice to work together... what I love about it is that it’s a bunch of people uniting together to have fun.”

Coal Creek Elementary Student





## **Colorado Arts Partners (CAP) Grants: The Block Fence Mural Project**

Students at Fort Morgan High School worked with teaching artist Chelsea Gilmore and their art teacher Carol Boodakian to transcend language barriers by using art as a catalyst in creating a sense of belonging within the communities of school and across Fort Morgan. This collaborative public mural installation seeks to depict the beauty of Fort Morgan and the diverse range of people who call it home. Permanently installed at The Block Commissary and Events Center.



In the '22-'23 CAP Grant program, Think 360 Arts distributed \$46,371 over 11 CAP Grant projects. The projects took place in 8 different Colorado counties, half outside the metro area, serving a total of 932 participants. 100% of projects served BIPOC students in a substantial capacity, and all but one project served students living below the poverty line. 36% of projects explicitly addressed students' mental health and social emotional needs.

# Equity in Arts Learning for Colorado Youth (EAL)

The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Denver Arts & Venues, the Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, and The Denver Foundation have partnered with Think 360 Arts to realize a nearly half-million dollar fund.

The goal of this initiative is to dismantle the systemic barriers that have long prevented marginalized youth from experiencing the life-altering benefits of arts learning. Think 360 Arts is proud to serve as a critical thought partner and the administrator of the grant program, with applications open during the 23-24 school year to fund projects during the 24-25 school year.



# Wolf Trap of Greater Denver

In July 2022, Think 360 Arts hosted three master teaching artists from Wolf Trap National to lead five Think 360 Arts teaching artists through arts-integration experiences centered on introducing early childhood students to basic math, geometry, and logic concepts.

Think 360 Arts teaching artists concluded this training by facilitating their own sample lessons incorporating math within their respective art genres.



20 early childhood classrooms across Denver hosted Wolf Trap residencies, growing significantly from the previous year. Leveraging new partnerships with Denver Public Schools and Colorado's new Department of Early Childhood, Greater Denver Wolf Trap forged partnerships with seven new school sites including: Augustana Early Learning Center, Auraria Early Learning Center, Escalante-Biggs Academy, Pascual LeDoux Academy, Place Bridge Academy, Sandra Todd Williams Academy, Stephen Knight Center for Early Education.



In FY24, Greater Denver Wolf Trap will onboard up to 5 new teaching artists to expand reach into Spanish-speaking communities, classrooms with learners of cognitive and/or physical disabilities, as well as adding music to our roster of Wolf Trap performance-based artists.

Funded by PNC Grow Up Great and Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation.

# Community Programs

## Denver Public Library

Think 360 Arts partnered with Denver Public Library branches to offer Little U programs for kids aged 0-5 and caregivers. The aim is to introduce play-based learning and equip caregivers with tools to introduce literacy, science, and math concepts into their home routines. Our teaching artists led workshops in various arts styles, including dance, science, circus arts, puppetry, and theater skills.

## Adaptive Programming

This past year, Think 360 Arts expanded partnerships with organizations providing adaptive programs for individuals with disabilities. Tailored visual arts, music, and performing arts programs were offered through partnerships with Thornton Parks & Rec, REVEL, Access Gallery, and Easter Seals. Programming is structured specifically so that all individuals can participate at a level and pace that fits their learning needs. One partner noted that a teaching artist effectively engaged all participants, leading to confidence and esteem building that can carry over to other aspects of their lives.



## **Broomfield Council on the Arts & Humanities**

Think 360 Arts partnered again with the Broomfield Council on the Arts & Humanities to provide family-friendly arts opportunities for their Summer Sunday Series. At these free community events participants engaged in hands-on experiences with our teaching artists, where they learned about various topics like hip-hop and graffiti, and the intersection of the arts and sciences.

# Professional Development

During 2023, Think 360 Arts offered customized programs to 728 classroom teachers and organizations throughout Colorado. One notable program occurred at Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy where three teaching artists provided beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels of professional development for a mix of 70+ returning and new classroom teachers.



## Denver Public Schools Performing Arts Intensive

Think 360 Arts partnered with Denver Public Schools to host an inaugural 3-day Performing Arts Intensive in June, 2023. Fourteen performing arts educators from Denver Public Schools participated in three workshops each of music, theater arts, and dance. Teachers also engaged in reflective sessions to synthesize their learnings and apply them toward their lesson development for the coming school year.

## Institute for Creative Teaching (ICT) 2022

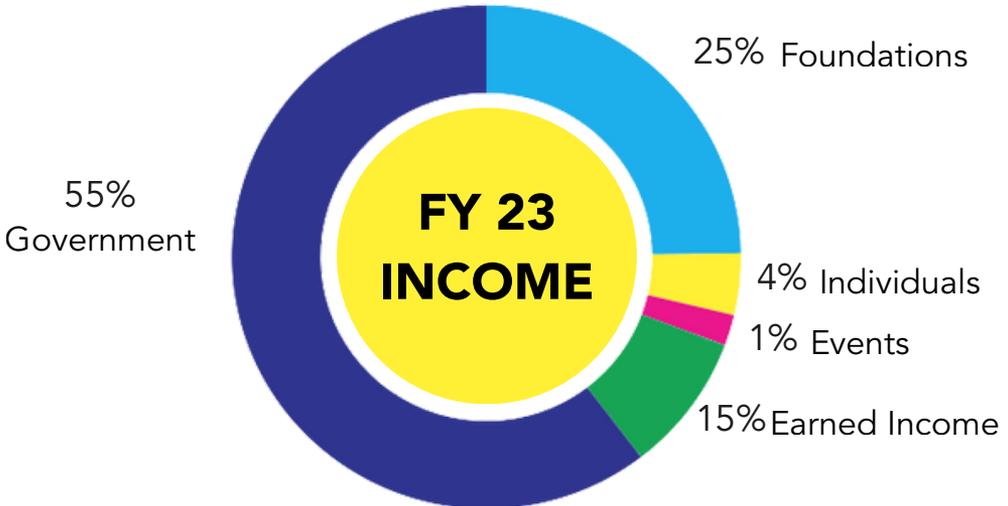
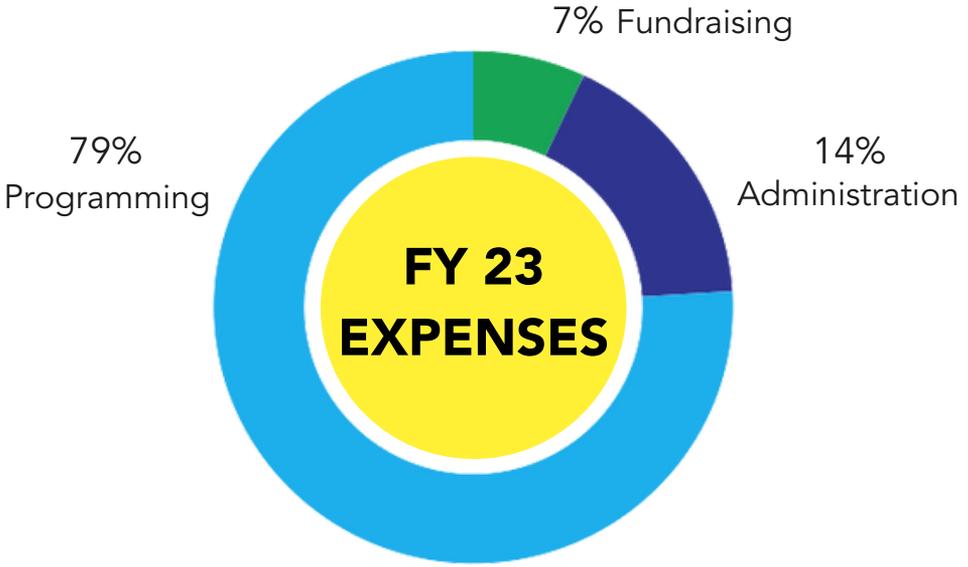
In October, 2022, Think 360 Arts partnered with the University of Denver Morgridge College of Education to provide 27 participants (composed of pre-service and classroom teachers and Think 360 Arts teaching artists) with arts-integration professional development. Three Think 360 Arts teaching artists led participants in three-days of workshops centering on building safe spaces for risk taking and expression in the classroom. Longtime ICT partner, Bruce Uhrmacher, lectured participants in aesthetic pedagogical theory, allowing participants to create engaging, artful lesson plans and experiences.



“As a dance teacher, during [ICT] my mind kept thinking on how I can flip certain activities and add dance to it for my dance classes. This excites me to be more creative in the dance classes I am currently teaching.”

ICT 2022 Participant

# Expenses & Income





# Thank you!

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

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