



ANNUAL | 2020
REPORT | 2021

Celebrating 10 Years of Igniting Kids' Imaginations



Art Resource
Collaborative for Kids

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ABOUT ARCK

ABOUT US

Art Resource Collaborative for Kids is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires the social and emotional growth of students from under-resourced communities through creative arts curriculum. Since 2012, ARCK has offered an innovative pathway for over 3,700 students to develop a sense of identity, belonging, and agency. Committed to educating the whole person, ARCK does not seek to level the field for under-resourced students; we seek to elevate it for everyone.

MISSION

ARCK supports teachers in under-resourced communities through creative arts curricula and teacher training programs to help their students achieve their full potential as creative, socially-conscious individuals.

VISION

ARCK's vision is a world in which all children have access to creative arts curricula that inspires them to achieve their full potential as creative, socially-conscious individuals.

CORE VALUES

We believe...

1. Meaningful human connections are rooted in creativity, and students deserve an education that is rooted in equity.
2. Young people must feel safe, seen, and heard in order to learn.
3. Young people are active, contributing members of society and have the power to be agents of change.
4. Community engagement is required to promote the health and well-being of our students. Educational reform must include a new vision of community. On every level, students, parents, schools, and our local, national, and global institutions are all instrumental in rethinking the fabric of our society.

A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER



Dear Friends,

I hope my note finds you well, especially in light of the challenging year we've all had. As I reflect on the past several months of widespread uncertainty, trauma, and social unrest, I am renewed by ARCK's mission to integrate the creative arts into our public schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted childhood education across the world, and exacerbated existing socio-economic inequities in our society. The shift to online learning took a disproportionate toll on students in disadvantaged communities and those from marginalized backgrounds. Young people across the globe endured the same col-

lective trauma as adults this past year, which challenged their mental health and ability to learn. In order to process and recover from the hardships experienced this year, our students must first feel safe, seen, and heard.

Today, our children need ARCK more than ever! Studies show that integrating the arts into students' academic curriculum helps young people develop authentic identity, feel empathy for others, build relationships, and communicate effectively. Since its inception, ARCK has helped K-8th grade students develop all of these skills through a safe and supportive learning environment.

As ARCK enters its 10th Anniversary year, please join our movement to democratize education by bringing educators together to help reconstruct our educational system to better support ALL children. Supporting educators in integrating our vital framework across all academic subjects allows students to receive the tools they need to become socially-conscious, innovative, and compassionate individuals who are empowered to enact positive change and achieve equity in this world.

Help us continue to impact the lives of our youth. Please consider supporting ARCK today by visiting www.arckboston.org/donate, and join us in envisioning a world in which all students are able to achieve their full potential as creative, socially-conscious individuals.

With gratitude and creativity,

Sara Mraish Demeter
ARCK Founder & CEO

Roger Krakoff
Chair, ARCK Board of Directors

ARTS WITH IMPACT

ARCK's Arts With Impact framework provides the foundation for the following programs and initiatives:

CREATORS PROGRAM

ARCK's Creators Program is a 36 week push-in program taught by ARCK Teaching Artists that focuses on creativity as the tool for interdisciplinary academic success. Built on a three module framework (Self-Awareness, Community, and Social Justice) that addresses a series of fundamental questions through progressive hands-on projects, the Creators Program develops core creative competencies in abstraction, contextualization, critical processing, synthesis of knowledge, universal mindset, and communication. Students develop an Integrated Creative Mindset, using the skills of Social Emotional and Relational Awareness and the lens of Social Justice and Equity to learn how to affect positive change in the world.

EDUCATOR TRAINING

ARCK works directly with Districts, Schools, and Educators to provide Integrated Creativity Professional Development for certified teachers, in which we prepare arts and classroom teachers to approach creativity as both a process and a mindset for achieving holistic learning. Teachers learn, employ, and develop strategies and tools to successfully implement curricula integrating critical creativity into STEM, ELA, and Social Science content areas through a mindset rooted in interdisciplinary process-based learning. Using the Core Ideologies embedded in ARCK's Arts with Impact Framework, as well as foundational tools such as Universal Design for Learning, participants learn best practices for arts integration and build capacity to develop their own content to ensure the relevance of creative integration.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Through Artists-in-Residence programs, extracurricular programs, panel discussions, creativity workshops, family engagement activities, community public art projects, sponsor events, and policy initiatives, ARCK broadens the understanding of the importance of creativity in education and promotes civic engagement and access to art for all.



"The projects fostered a lot of conversation, excitement, and creative thinking."

- 1st Grade Teacher, JQES

2020-21 SCHOOL PARTNERS

GARDNER PILOT ACADEMY ALLSTON

GPA has been partnered with ARCK for nine years! This year, ARCK taught 5 classes of 4th-8th grade students at GPA.

BLACKSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOUTH END

This was ARCK's 7th year partnering with Blackstone School, in which we taught 8 classes of K-5th grade students.

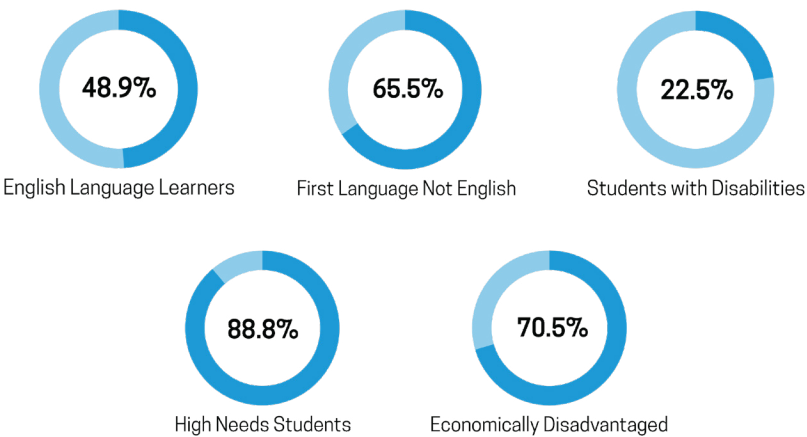
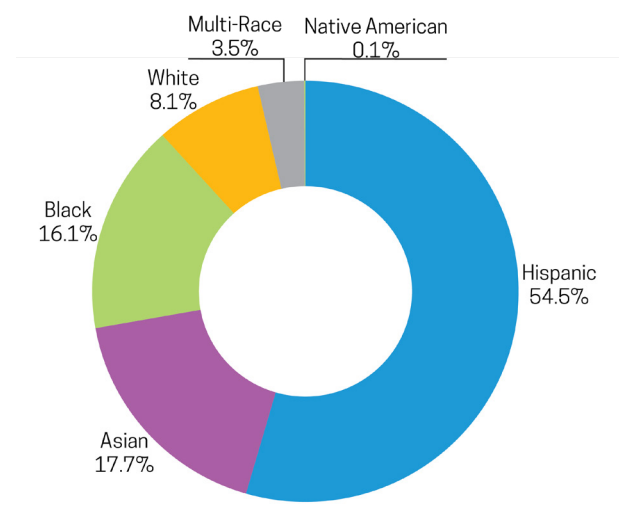
JOSIAH QUINCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHINATOWN

JQES is ARCK's longest-standing school partner, having launched the "Diversity Through Art" initiative 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

Sarah Greenwood is ARCK's newest school partner! We taught our Creators Program to 6 classes of 6th-8th grade students, and piloted our Arts Teacher Coaching program with their art teacher!

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS



"Students were more willing to speak, including our English language learners, who at times, may be reluctant to speak. Students with special needs were able to show their beautiful, creative sides, without worrying about spelling and mechanics."
- 1st Grade Teacher, Blackstone Elementary School

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

WHY SCHOOLS PARTNER WITH ARCK:

- To increase creativity and arts-based learning
- To build Social, Emotional, and Relational skill development
- To increase student engagement and participation

CORE COMPETENCIES:



78%

of Classroom Teachers & School Administrators agreed ARCK's curriculum met the needs & interests of students.

"It added JOY for us - it was fun, relaxed, inspiring. Just an overall HIGHLIGHT in our class each week."

- 1st Grade Teacher, Blackstone

"The program was a great way for kids to express themselves and use art to improve their social-emotional well-being."

- 7th-8th Grade Teacher, SGS



7

ARCK Teaching Artists



600

BPS Students



26

(Virtual) Classrooms



4

Boston Public Schools



33

Classroom Teachers & Paraprofessionals



14

ARCK Volunteers

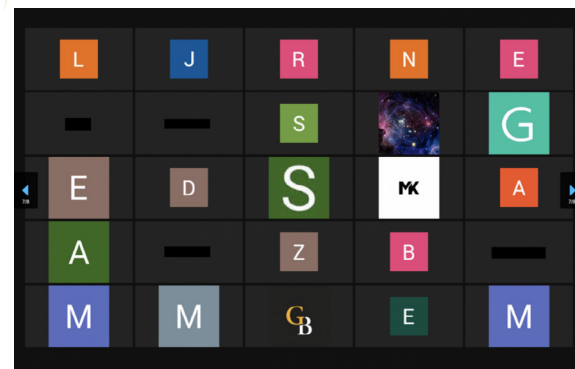
"For some students, ARCK provided an enrichment opportunity they would not have otherwise had in their schedules."

- 7th Grade Teacher, GPA

NAVIGATING THE PANDEMIC...

Class began and my camera was the only one on.

“How’s everybody doing today?” I asked to a silent room of students I did not know. “Ready for ARCK?”



I began to introduce myself. A few students wrote in the chat, “Hi Ms. Sammy! :-)” I was grateful for them, but their messages were private, visible only to me. The other 15 students, most of whom were at home learning on borrowed BPS ChromeBooks, had no idea if their classmates were present or engaged. **It hadn’t occurred to me before teaching middle school students over Zoom, in the midst of a pandemic, that silence could be visual.**

When I was granted access to share my screen by the classroom teacher, also at home and teaching via Zoom, I presented the slides I’d prepared. “Today we’ll begin a 4-week project on comics,” I explained. “Everyone will get to create a superhero character and write their own story.” As I explained the project, I scrolled through examples by other artists, aiming to spark creative energy in the room.

“Who recognizes this character?” I asked.

“Spiderman,” said three students at once, their audio interrupting each other. The chat filled with the same response.

“Nice. How about this character?”

Again, the room briefly filled with student voices - both auditory and written. Then, as I explained the day’s artistic task, the voices went silent again. We had plenty of time for independent work, so I played music as I coaxed students to share. When time was up, I said goodbye and had no idea if anyone had done anything at all related to the project. Teaching art, as I had done for over a decade, had been, until this year, kinetic and loud. **In an unimaginable year of COVID, hybrid learning, and the reduction of an entire school community into the small boxes of Zoom, art was suddenly silent and still.** The lesson I planned for our first month of ARCK involved each student choosing an animal to morph with themselves and their qualities, constructing a hybrid self-portrait and bioinspired character. Over the next four weeks, I planned for students to design their character’s costume, storyline, and personality into a full-fledged comic, and practice the skills of self-inquiry, attention, creativity, and suspended belief. They’d learn the ins and outs of comic design, including framing and narrative suspense, and design standards in speech, thought bubbles, onomatopoeia, and motion lines. Students would merge their knowledge of biology, English Language Arts, drama, and pop culture through a systematic and well-paced project. But on day one, I realized I was going to be teaching this lesson without any of the energetic feedback I was used to. My lessons would have to morph to meet the new needs of online learning. **Over the next 3 months, our lessons became a laboratory of instructional experimentation.** We tried break-out rooms, in which the classroom teacher and I worked with students individually in private Zoom rooms. We asked students what *they* wanted to learn. We invited students to share *whatever* they were working on, even if it wasn’t the day’s project. When schedules changed (3 times!) as the school accommodated hybrid

...A CLASSROOM NARRATIVE

hybrid and then in-person learning, we tried learning at different times of the day: lunch break on Wednesdays, after school on Fridays, Thursday mornings. I introduced myself again and again, and settled into a new rhythm with each new crew. **In all of my classes, I noticed that students were silent until they felt a real connection with the adults and other kids in the room.** This made sense! How can anyone be creative and share what they create into a blank and muted Zoom void? So I used fewer PowerPoint presentations and spent more time getting to know the kids. I played music while students made their artwork. I took the grand ideas of my curriculum - so promising when conceptual, when every student had their ARCKits and were awake, present, and engaged - and assumed that each week needed to stand alone. Because, as we well knew, attendance wasn’t consistent, and neither was the schedule. If a project was slated to take 3 weeks, it soon became 5, giving students the flexibility to create, conceptualize, and take their time. And they began to show interest! **Students were allowed, for one hour per week, to slow down, take the pressure off, and simply create.** The chat became a vibrant community dialogue.

“Wow, that looks so good!” one student wrote to another, after he turned his camera on to show off the self-portrait he had drawn.

“That really looks like you,” another added.

Someone wrote, “I don’t know how to make my nose.”

“I don’t know how to make sculptures with paper,” one student wrote in the chat.

“Ugh, I’m giving up,” one student said during a mobile project about balance and construction.

At each of these comments, peers spoke up with support and I stepped in to problem solve. **To me, this was solid gold: an opportunity to teach a new skill to a student in the midst of self-doubt, but open enough to share how they needed support.**

Most students remained off-camera and muted during hybrid learning. **The ability to turn it all off - even if present on the other side of the screen - was a necessary level of control in a distressingly out-of-control circumstance.** When BPS eased restrictions on in-person learning with only 7 weeks left in the year, over half of the students went back into socially-distanced and fully-masked classrooms with teachers they had never met. ARCK’s Teaching Artists were not allowed in the buildings, so our instruction continued over Zoom. It was a new rhythm to adjust to - some students at home, others in the classroom; some using their voices, others using the chat; some wearing masks and sitting in front of computers at desks 6-feet apart, and some without masks on their beds at home. This was the first time that the TAs saw some students’ faces on screen. As the year went on and students grew comfortable with their teachers and peers, they started sharing the most beautiful pieces of art. **Sometimes a student, who hadn’t spoken in weeks and who I didn’t know was even present in class, would turn her camera on and reveal a fully formed, hugely detailed creation.**

- written by Sammy Sass



2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

#ARCKITS

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ARCK provided nearly 600 students with an "ARCKit," a custom art bag with all the materials needed to complete our creative lessons from home. As many students did not have access to art supplies typically provided in the classroom, this initiative resulted in an overwhelmingly positive response from students, families, classroom teachers, and school administrators alike. Building on this success, ARCK plans to continue this initiative next year as well, despite the return to physical classrooms.



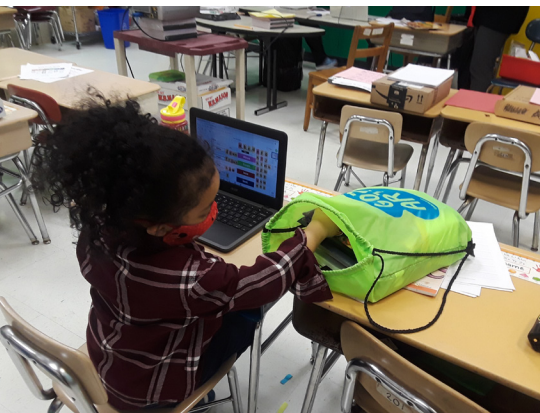
89% of Classroom Teachers & School Administrators agreed that ARCKits contributed to the success of the Creators Program this year.

What they said...

- "AAAH! These bags were like birthday gifts!"
- "The kits are essential. A lot of my students don't have art supplies at home, so with the ARCKits they were able to participate. They even used the kits outside of ARCK time."
- "The supplies were so beautiful and really high quality. We saw engagement in ARCK increase once students had materials at home."

NEW TEAM

To meet the growing demand for our programs, ARCK has exponentially increased our professional staff capacity in the past year. Since September 2020, we brought in three full-time team members, including our Director of Creative Programs, Lead Teacher & Curriculum Developer, and Operations Manager, as well as part-time Development and Marketing support staff. Additionally, we hired an entirely new team of Teaching Artists in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to deliver our Creators Program remotely this year. These individuals have worked tirelessly to ensure ARCK's success as we enter the next phase in our organization's life cycle!



"Teachers are thrilled with the Teaching Artists and the program itself. The instructors have been so interactive and provided a wonderful space for students to learn and grow."
- Partnership Coordinator, JQES

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

This year, ARCK established many new partnerships that aid us in effectively delivering, evaluating, and expanding our programs.

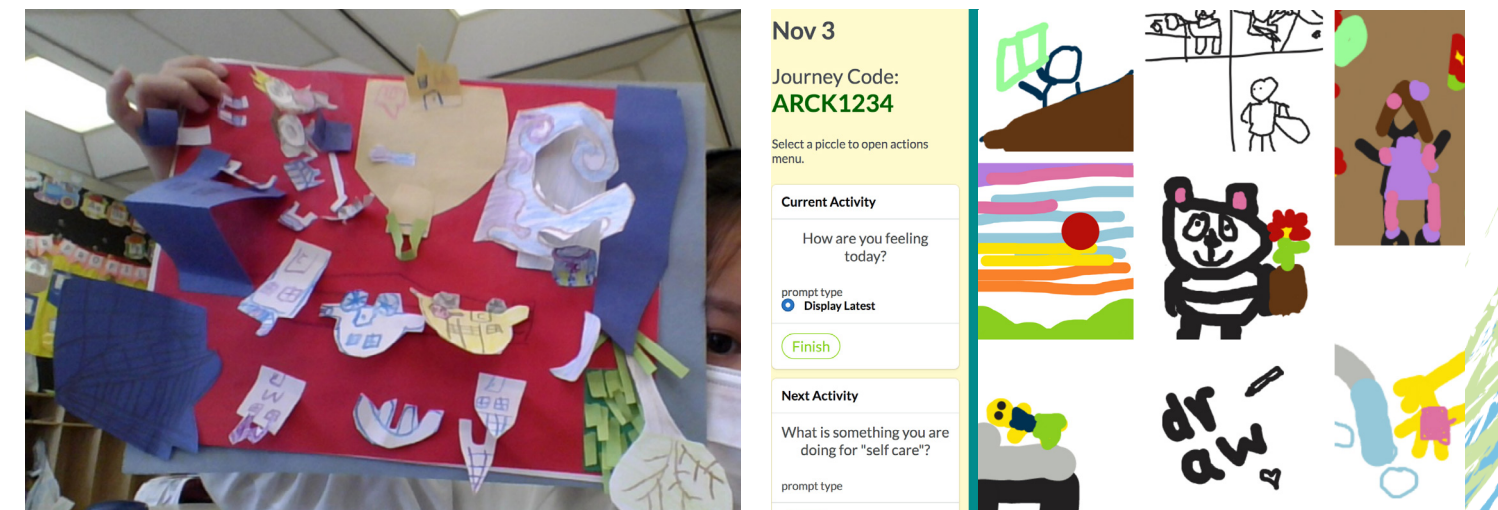
Piccles, "a virtual engagement tool powered by creativity and simplicity" and its leader Chris Bent, has donated time and resources to help ARCK's Teaching Artists keep kids engaged in remote learning this year through fun, interactive, and virtual drawing activities! They were also a hit feature at two events this year!

Boston After School and Beyond, through a partnership with **United Way** and the **BoSTEM** Initiative, assists ARCK in evaluating our Creators Program through both qualitative and quantitative methods. Boston Beyond compiles attendance data, student and teacher survey responses, and formal APT observation reports, and provides ARCK with a comprehensive evaluation of our programs to help determine both success and areas requiring improvement.

Lesley University partners with ARCK to provide consulting services as we develop our Educator Training program, as well as offer graduate art education credit and Professional Development certification for classroom teachers who will participate in our PD Program.

Operation P.E.A.C.E. (Partnerships in Education And Community Enrichment) has become a core Community Partner of ARCK's, as we jointly launch a new Outdoor Summer Enrichment program for students and also collaborate to co-host *Together Through Art*, an outdoor Public Art Walk and Festival.

Artisan's Asylum in Allston will partner with ARCK to help expand and complement our Creators Program and Building Bridges programs starting in the 2021-22 school year.

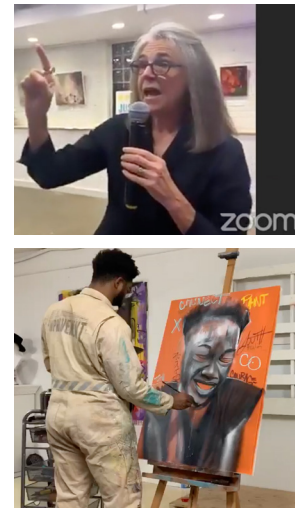


2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

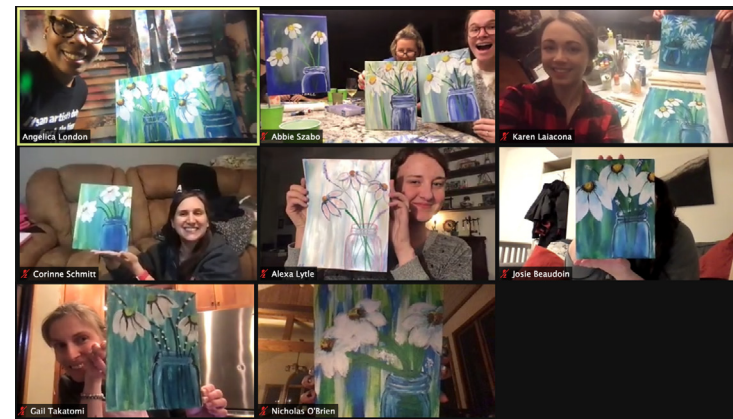
Bring Your HeART Out, ARCK's 9th Annual Benefit Gala

ARCK's first virtual event was incredibly successful, bringing in over \$150,000 to support our programs. People all across the country joined us via Zoom to celebrate, get creative with Chris Bent from *Piccles*, bid in an auction with Karen Keane from *Skinner, Inc.*, engage with Emcee Naeemah Elias and Artist Dwight White during a live painting exhibition, and dance the night away with *DJ Owrlaw*.



Virtual Paint Night

ARCK hosted a virtual paint night for the team of Unqork, our featured sponsor this year. Chris Bent from *Piccles* opened the evening with an interactive ice breaker that asked participants to share what has brought them joy during the challenges of the pandemic, and draw what art and creativity means to them. The rest of the night was spent painting together via Zoom, alongside artist Angelica London.



"Students displayed their creativity and enjoyed sharing their progress and finished pieces with each other."
- 1st Grade Teacher, JQES

WHAT MAKES ARCK SPECIAL?

HERE'S WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT ARCK!

"The students found the class to be therapeutic, and more importantly it became a de-stressor that they thoroughly enjoyed. It was very helpful at the height of the pandemic."
- 7th and 8th Grade Special Education Teacher, SGS

"Simply put - my students LOVED our ARCK time - they looked forward to this each week."
- 1st Grade Teacher, Blackstone

"Students enjoyed having another way to express themselves (building or working with their hands). For some students, ARCK provided an enrichment opportunity they would not have otherwise had in their schedules."
- 7th Grade Teacher, GPA

"I really enjoyed the program, as some of our quieter zoom students participated for the first time."
- 7th and 8th Grade Special Education Teacher, SGS

"It gave students an opportunity to express themselves in ways and exercise skills that the normal curriculum doesn't necessarily give them access to."
- 7th and 8th Grade Spanish Language Teacher, Blackstone

"ARCK gave my students the opportunity to be creative and forget a little bit about how 'different' this year was."
- 6th Grade ELL Teacher, SGS



I like ARCK because...

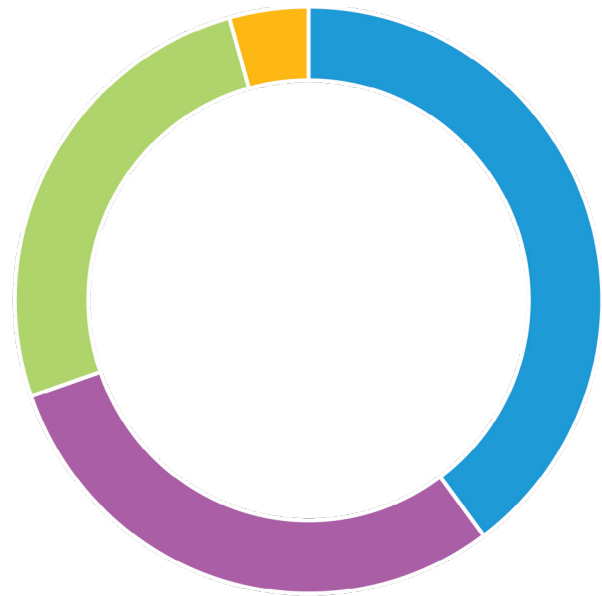
- We get to be creative.
- You get to be you.
- You can show how you feel with drawing.
- It really helps students gain confidence in expressing ourselves.
- I am free to do what I want artistically.
- I can share my art with other kids and see what they are making too.



"Families enjoyed seeing their child's creations and engagement during our ARCK time."
- 1st Grade Teacher, Blackstone Elementary School

FINANCIAL DATA

REVENUE: \$321,626



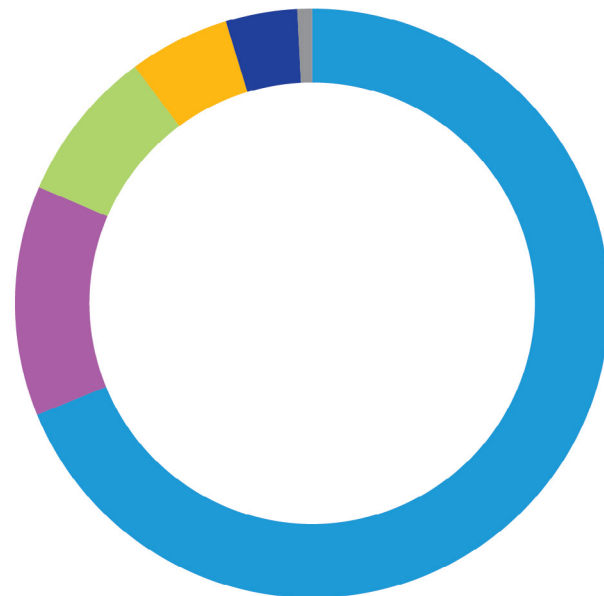
\$128,082
Corporations

\$96,093
Foundations

\$83,451
Individuals

\$14,000
Government

EXPENSES: \$337,285



\$232,124
Payroll & Related

\$42,585
Program Supplies

\$28,287
Consulting & Professional

\$18,492
Occupancy

\$18,492
Other
(Marketing, Insurance, etc.)

\$2,694
Fundraising

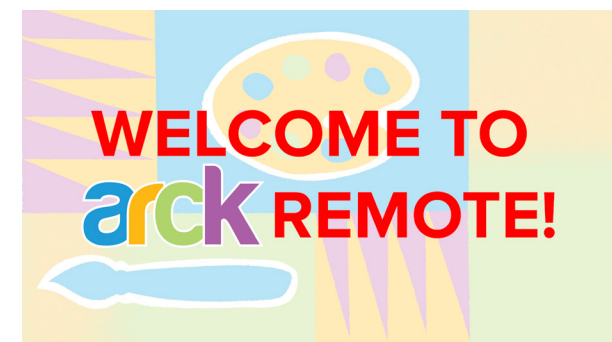
ARCK has been a true partner to GPA by providing arts programming to all 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at no cost. This has enabled GPA to expand arts programming during this pandemic.

- Director of Extended Services, Gardner Pilot Academy

A SPECIAL THANKS...

ARCK'S FY21 SUPPORTERS

- Bain Capital
- Bain Capital Children's Charity
- Ben & Jerry's Foundation
- Berkshire Bank
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts
- Boston Cultural Council
- Boston Planning and Development Agency
- Boston Public Schools
- Boston Realty Advisors
- Boston Red Sox Foundation
- Boston Urban Partners, LLC
- Boston University
- BPS Arts Expansion Fund at EdVestors
- Cambridge Trust Company
- Charles Schwab & Co.
- City of Boston
- Cognizant
- Deloitte
- Disanto Priest Charitable Foundation
- Dr. Yena Do
- Education First/ NoVo Foundation
- Foley Hoag Foundation
- Hestia Fund
- Holland Construction
- Insurance Marketing Agencies
- Kelly Family Foundation
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation
- Martin Richard Foundation
- Massachusetts Cultural Council
- National Art Education Association
- Nordstrom
- Orange Barrel Media
- Piccles
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- Samuel & Associates
- The Beker Foundation
- The Boston Guardian
- The Cricket Foundation
- United Way
- Unqork
- WS Development



People should donate to ARCK because it's a wonderful program that helps students with more than art. It's also about leadership skills and working with your fellow classmates."

- 7th Grade Student, Gardner Pilot Academy

MEET THE ARCK TEAM!



Sara Mraish Demeter

STAFF

Sara Mraish Demeter
Founder & CEO

Andrew Marcus
Director of Creative Programs

Sammy Sass
Lead Teacher & Curriculum Developer

Julia Herlein
Operations Manager

Laura Russo
Development Coordinator

Taryn Johnson
Marketing/Communications Coordinator

Angelica Dilorio
Creative Assistant

Susana Oliveros Amaya
Teaching Artist

Meredith Charles
Teaching Artist

Ally Sass
Teaching Artist

Vivian Yu
Teaching Artist



Andrew Marus



Sammy Sass



Julia Herlein



Laura Russo



Taryn Johnson



Angelica Dilorio



Susana Oliveros Amaya



Meredith Charles



Ally Sass



Vivian Yu

BOARD MEMBERS

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Monta Vista Capital, Venture Partner

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IT and Accounting Consultant

Renee Burgher, Clerk
State Street Bank, Associate Counsel

Panos Demeter, Member
The Demeter Companies, LLC, President

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Christine Petersen
smarTours, President & CEO

Kimberly Rockers
Milestones Day School and Transitions Program,
Chief Executive Officer

Andreas Wetterwald
Marsh & McLennan Companies, US Chief Informa-
tion Officer

INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

FALL 2020

Chloe Beaulieu
Social Media Intern

Angelica Dilorio
Marketing/PR Intern

Bryn Gregory
Marketing Intern

Lela Clawson-Miller
Development & Grant-Writing Intern

Katie Hare
Event Planning Intern

SPRING 2021

Carlai Phan
Arts Administration Intern

Chloe Carson
Marketing & Graphic Design Intern

Breeze Fromm-Sarto
Development & Grant-Writing Intern

Dorothy Lowenstein
Event-Planning/Outreach Intern

Joshua Sanville
Education Intern

SUMMER 2021

Dorothy Lowenstein
Event Planning/Outreach Intern

Nathan Stefanon
Community Engagement Intern

Ziyu Zhang
Marketing/PR Intern

Elsbeth (Elle) Newton
Administrative Assistant Volunteer

Amanda Resendes
Development Outreach Volunteer

2020-21 BY THE NUMBERS



STAY CONNECTED!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SUPPORT ARCK!

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

CONNECT AND SHARE!

- Visit our website and share with friends and colleagues
- Follow and share our Social Media posts
- Introduce us to corporate sponsors, foundations, or potential Board Members

GET INVOLVED!

- Become a volunteer, Board Member, or Ambassador of ARCK!
- Contact us at info@arckboston.org to see how you can get involved!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Together Through Art*: Free Public Art Walk & Festival on August 28, 2021. Learn more and pre-register at tta2021.eventbrite.com.
- ARCK's 10th Anniversary Benefit Gala: *Celebrating 10 Years of Igniting Kids' Imaginations*, on October 22, 2021 at 7pm. Purchase tickets at arckgala2021.givesmart.com.

CONNECT & FOLLOW

WEBSITE: www.arckboston.org

FACEBOOK: @ARCKBoston

INSTAGRAM: @ARCKBoston

TWITTER: @ARCKBoston



36 Bromfield Street Suite 301, Boston, MA 02108
P: 857-265-2156 W: arckboston.org E: info@arckboston.org