



**CREATIVITY
OPENS MINDS**

ANNUAL | 2022
REPORT | 2023

arck
Art Resource
Collaborative for Kids



Building
creative
and inspired
innovators
who are:

Adaptable
Responsible
Collaborative
Kind

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT ARCK

Mission and Vision.....	4
Letter from the Founder.....	5

CREATIVITY CATALYST

Our Learning Community.....	6
School Partners.....	8
About Our Students.....	9

WHAT MAKES ARCK SPECIAL

Our Impact.....	10
Q&A with a Teaching Artist.....	11
2022-2023 Highlights.....	13

FACTS & FIGURES

Financial Data.....	15
ARCK by the Numbers.....	16

THE ARCK TEAM

Staff.....	17
Interns.....	17
Board of Directors, Advisors, & Honorary Board.....	18
Supporters.....	19

ABOUT ARCK

ARCK (Art Resource Collaborative for Kids) is an innovative 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit committed to fostering creative learning solutions in the classroom. We provide educators with a creative toolbox to enhance student engagement through interdisciplinary, real-world, socially-minded innovation projects. Our approach not only enhances academic learning but also nurtures self-awareness and collaboration skills and amplifies student voices in the wider world.

MISSION

ARCK ignites creativity, promotes wellbeing, fosters academic success, and nurtures innovation by providing a unique educational framework that uses the arts to reach all children.

VISION

A re-imagined education model that empowers ALL students to realize their full creative potential as socially responsible innovators.



WHO AM I?



WHO ARE WE?



WHAT WILL WE DO?

A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER



Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to share the remarkable achievements of ARCK as we conclude our 11th year of programming within the Boston Public Schools (BPS). Our success in reaching 720 under-resourced BPS students this year marks a significant milestone, bringing our total to nearly 7,000 students over the past 11 years. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and collective effort of our remarkable team, board members, and advisors. Truly, it takes a village, and each person involved has played a pivotal role in advancing ARCK's mission.

What distinguishes ARCK from other arts organizations is our commitment to infusing creativity into classrooms and assisting educators to integrate artistic practices into academic curricula. Concurrently, we prioritize nurturing and amplifying social-emotional well-being, diversity, and youth voices. In the evolving landscape of post-pandemic education, ARCK's integrated and holistic educational model is a unique and indispensable asset.

Our vision involves re-imagining classrooms as vibrant, engaging spaces where students feel safe expressing their individual creativity. By integrating the arts into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and ELA (English Language Arts) subjects, we ensure that lessons are not only enjoyable but also memorable for all learners. Furthermore, we have witnessed the transformational power of the arts in helping students heal from trauma, articulate their thoughts, engage in critical thinking, and establish meaningful connections with others. These skills are especially crucial for students in marginalized communities, and ARCK committed to providing an interdisciplinary approach through a cycle of iterative projects, making academic concepts accessible and equitable for all students.

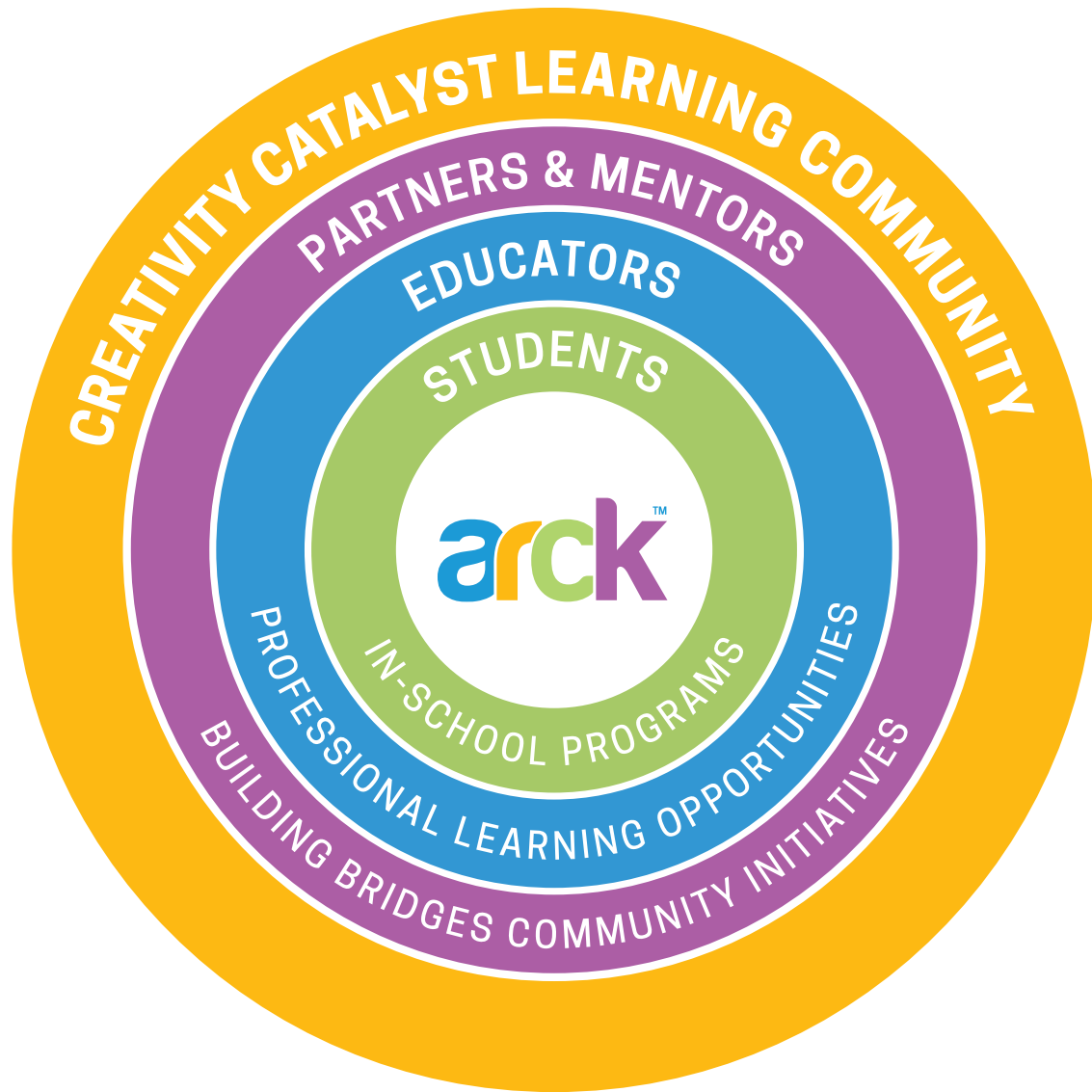
In a world marked by rapid technological advancements and shifts in the workforce, we recognize our responsibility to support educators and empower young people to navigate and address the world's most challenging issues. This mission cannot be accomplished without you, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our network of partners, donors, and funders. Your unwavering belief in our work has enabled us to expand ARCK's reach to more students than ever before.

With boundless creativity and profound gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sara Demeter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "S" and "D".

Sara Mraish Demeter
ARCK Founder and CEO

CREATIVITY CATALYST LEARNING COMMUNITY



What is the Creativity Catalyst Learning Community?

ARCK's unique education framework is based on building a "Creativity Catalyst Learning Community," a group of students, educators, and community members dedicated to making change through creative and innovative education practices.

STUDENTS

Our in-school programs depend on strong partnerships with schools and teachers. Teaching Artists collaborate with classroom teachers to provide ARCK's holistic curriculum that aligns with academics, classroom goals, and school learning initiatives.

Outcome: Students feel safe, seen, and heard, which promotes creativity, self-expression, and engagement in lessons. Students participate in interdisciplinary, real-world learning and see themselves as innovative leaders who can affect positive change in the world.



EDUCATORS

ARCK trains and coaches educators to implement our framework in schools. We provide educators with a toolbox to foster creative thinking, well-being, and academic connections for students, thereby creating joyful learning environments.

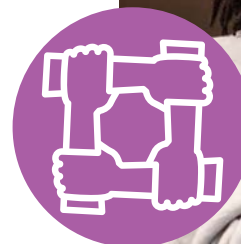
Outcome: Educators shift their mindset to a creative interdisciplinary teaching approach and achieve their curriculum goals while supporting each student to share their unique talent and voice.



PARTNERS & MENTORS

ARCK facilitates projects between educators, artists, and mentors to create public art and social innovation projects. ARCK also seeks input and commitment from the local community to help students succeed in the world.

Outcome: Students see themselves as change-makers and part of a larger community by engaging in intergenerational projects focused on creativity and innovation.

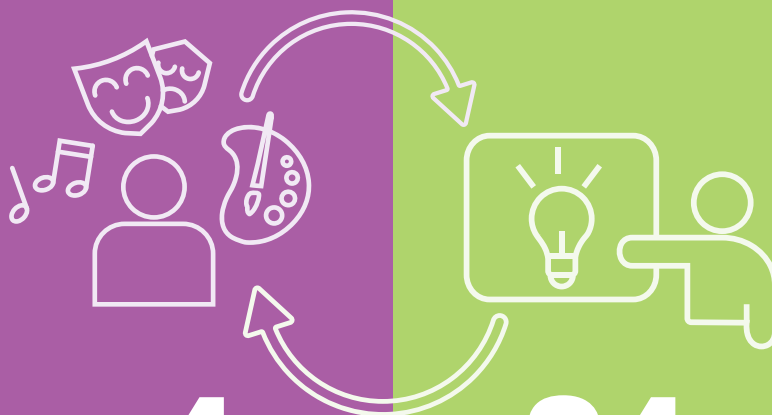


2022-23 SCHOOL PARTNERS



720

Students



4

Teaching Artists

34

Classroom Teachers



5

Partner Schools



Blackstone
Elementary

BLACKSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOUTH END

This was ARCK's 9th year partnering with Blackstone. This year, we taught a record 280 students across 14 classes of K–6th grade students.



GARDNER PILOT ACADEMY ALLSTON

GPA and ARCK have been partners for 11 years! This year, ARCK taught our Creativity Catalyst Program to 200 4th–8th graders across 12 classrooms.



JOSIAH QUINCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHINATOWN

JQES is ARCK's longest-standing school partner. Prior to ARCK's establishment as a nonprofit organization, the "Diversity Through Art" initiative was launched there in 2011. This year, ARCK taught 7 classes of 1st grade students at JQES, reaching a total of 140 students.



MARIO UMANA ACADEMY EAST BOSTON

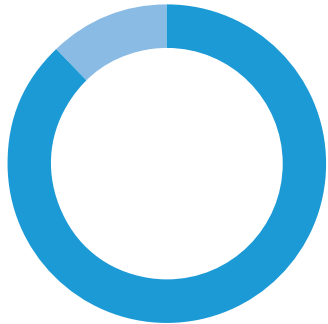
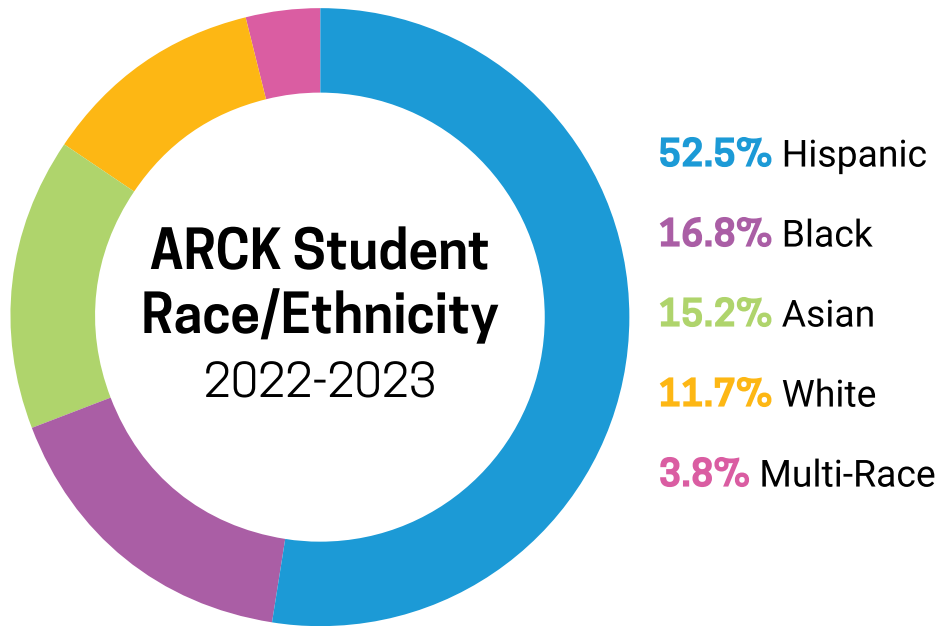
ARCK's newest partnership at Umana Academy, a bilingual Spanish-English school in East Boston, reached 60 4th grade students across 3 classrooms.



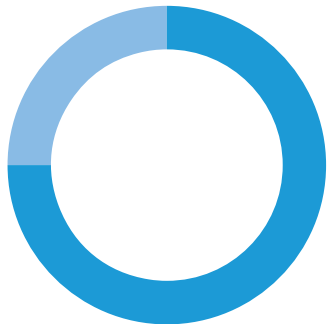
THOMAS J. KENNY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DORCHESTER

ARCK partnered with Kenny to provide after-school programming twice a week to approximately 40 K–3rd grade students.

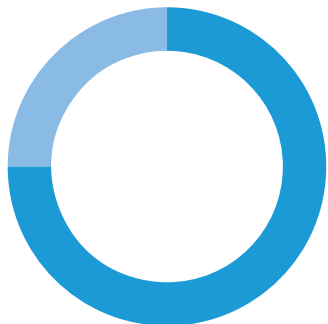
ABOUT OUR STUDENTS



88% of ARCK students are considered **High Needs**



75% of ARCK students are **Economically Disadvantaged**



67% of ARCK students are **not native English speakers**

OUR IMPACT



**“If I can’t see something,
I can draw it ... I think I
drew a feeling”**

Hurley School student

97%

Students found
ARCK class added
joyfulness and fun to
the school day.



15 out of **15**

classroom teachers “agreed”
or “strongly agreed” that ARCK
promoted social emotional
growth as well as student
voice and social action.

**“Working with ARCK
has reminded me of
the importance of
bringing art into the
classroom more often
to help students
express their beliefs
and ideas.”**

BPS Teacher



**“It makes me happy
to see students’
creativity, see them
shine, and help
them feel confident
in their work.”**

ARCK Teaching Artist



Teaching Artists reported

87%

of students made
academic connections to
their creative work
during ARCK class.



Q&A WITH A TEACHING ARTIST

ARCK Teaching Artist Maria Palkon

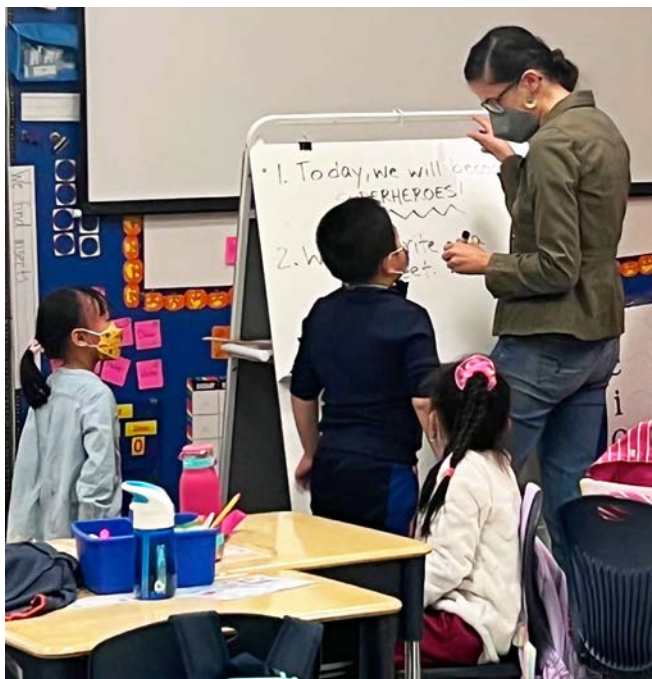
Interviewed by Olivia Player

Q. What was your top priority or goal for students in your classroom this year?

A. My goal is to make students aware of themselves, their thoughts, and their contributions to the world. Most of my classrooms have students with a history of trauma, abuse, and neglect, and I want to make the 45 minutes of ARCK education they receive each week a moment of stability and affirmation. The arts are a great way to achieve this goal.

Q. What was it like when you first entered the classroom as a Teaching Artist for ARCK?

A. There's a misconception that Massachusetts' schools are the best of the best. That may be the case for colleges and suburban schools, but urban public schools in Boston are struggling. Students are visibly frustrated, they're not achieving the state academic standards, and school infrastructure is lacking. Despite this, at the start of the year, students were hopeful. They were immediately excited by ARCK classes, and we worked collaboratively to define how our shared time would be spent. My goal was to keep that momentum and open communication going throughout the year.



Q. Did you meet your goals in the classroom this year?

A. I met a lot of my goals this year, and these successes were thanks to the relentless work of the classroom teachers who believe in ARCK and are open to having us in their classrooms each week. The student growth has been astronomical, particularly in the elementary grades. Students take in the skills we teach and use those skills as they move through the upper grades. It's rewarding to watch and is possible only through the deep collaboration we have with schools and teachers.

Q&A WITH A TEACHING ARTIST

continued



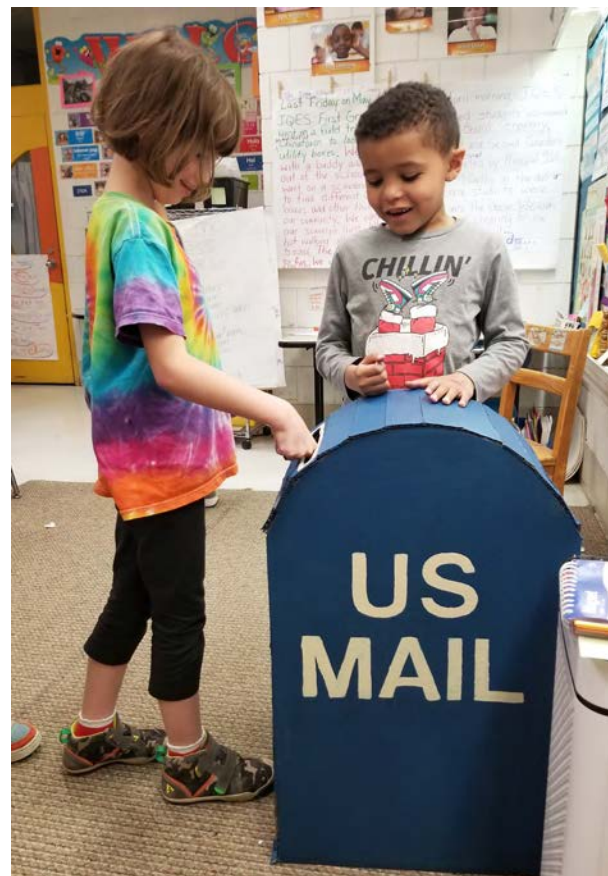
Q. What were some challenges you experienced in the classroom?

A. Dealing with student behavioral issues is the biggest challenge for me. However, understanding that the “bad” behavior in class is typically a symptom of trauma is very important to be aware of and to approach accordingly. ARCK uses the theories of Trauma-Informed Teaching, Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Social-Emotional Learning in all of our classes. One way I got through a particularly stressful relationship with a student was to sit down with her during a break in class and draw her portrait. She sat perfectly still, and we chatted while I drew

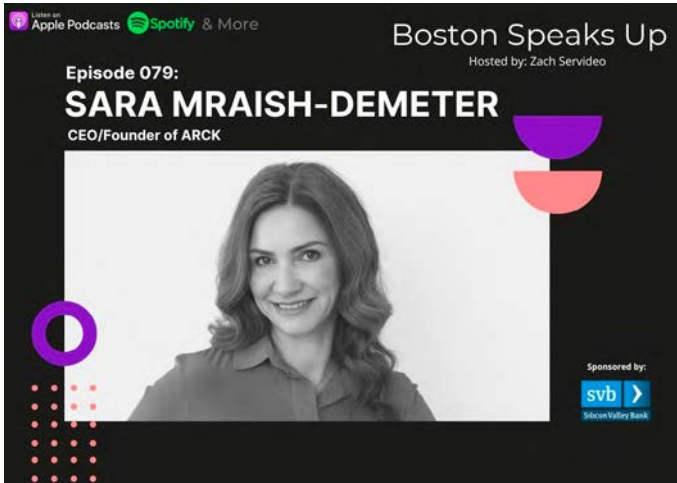
her likeness. This is an unconventional approach and won't work in every scenario, but that's also the beauty of teaching students through ARCK. I can try these personalized approaches when I feel they'll work best. Every student I've drawn has shown noticeable improvement in our interactions and has put more effort into their classwork.

Q. What were some successes in the classroom?

A. Success can come in tiny moments. One of my highlights from this past year was when a student with autism became comfortable enough to interact with me. We built a paper train and played with it on his desk. This happened around April, after months of being in class and spending time with him. I still smile when I think of that moment. For the remainder of the year, he would greet me with a smile and make artwork with me. That felt like a gigantic success!



2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS



Boston Speaks Up Podcast July 19, 2022

Sara Mraish Demeter was featured on the Boston Speaks Up Podcast, hosted by Zach Servideo. Sara told her story and detailed her inspiration for founding ARCK. Sara shared the many lessons she learned from her wide range of experiences throughout her life and how they ignited her passion for equitable creative education.

11th Annual Fundraising Gala October 20, 2022

ARCK celebrated its 11th anniversary, marking more than a decade of providing equitable arts programming to Boston Public School students. ARCK's annual fundraising gala, Igniting Imaginations: Amplifying Children's Voices, a roaring twenties-inspired event, was held at the 'Quin House in Boston. Rhondella Richardson, of WCVB-TV Boston, was the Master of Ceremonies. Former mayor of Boston, Kim Janey, received ARCK's Global Citizenship Award, and we recognized Mabeltyh Espinal Mendez, a student from Gardner Pilot Academy in Allston, with the Above & Beyond Award. Guests enjoyed food and cocktails, participated in silent and live auctions, and danced to the jazz tunes of the Hot Club of New England.



2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS

Women in Business Panel

March 23, 2023

Sara Mraish Demeter shared her experience as a woman of color and how it affected her journey as a nonprofit leader in the arts. At this event, hosted by Cambridge Trust, Sara and other panelists offered insights on what success looks like in their respective industries.



SEL in Action Convening

March 29-31, 2023: Austin, TX

ARCK was thrilled to be a part of the SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) in Action Convening hosted by the NoVo Foundation in Austin, Texas. Held in partnership with Education First and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, the event was a celebration of the SEL in Action grant winners from around the country. Sara Mraish Demeter was chosen to give an EDTALK at the conference detailing her life's story and how it has informed the core pillars of

ARCK. Sara and Creative Director, Audra Keefe, also led a sold-out and highly successful workshop on integrating creativity and SEL into the classroom.

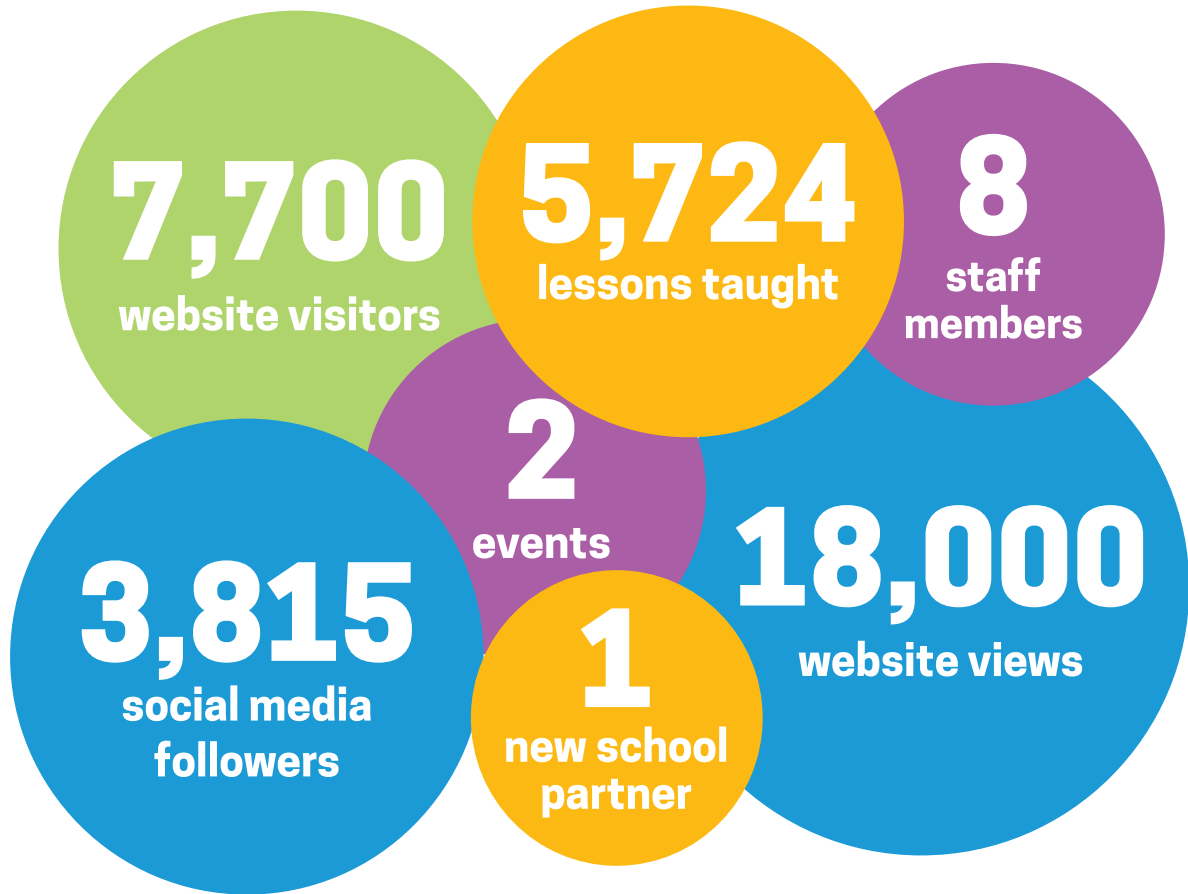
Building Bridges: Together Through Art

May 19, 2023: Fenway Park

As part of our Building Bridges program, ARCK connects young people and their communities through equity-based public art projects. With the support of the Boston Red Sox, 100 ARCK students from Gardner Pilot Academy worked with BIPOC artist Sandra Tomb to create a student art showcase alongside her mural. The event, held at 521 Overlook marked a memorable milestone for many students, as it was their first time visiting Fenway Park. The mural remains on display at the intersection of Ipswich and Lansdowne streets.



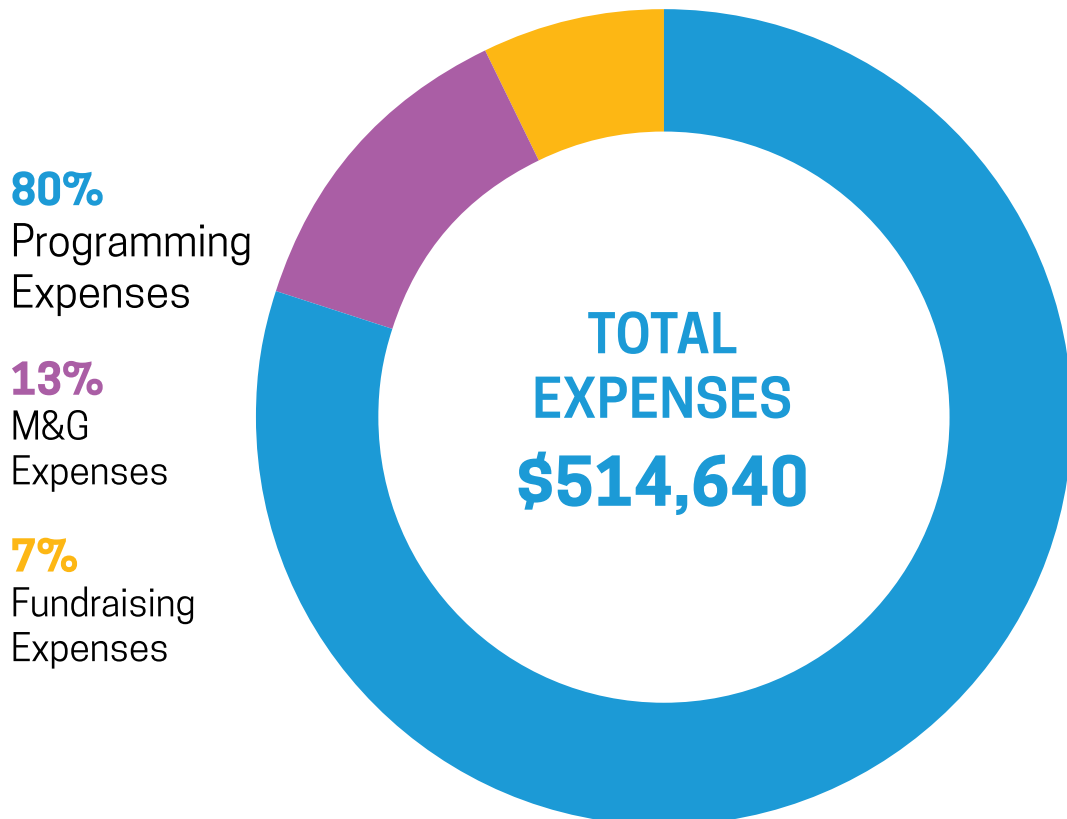
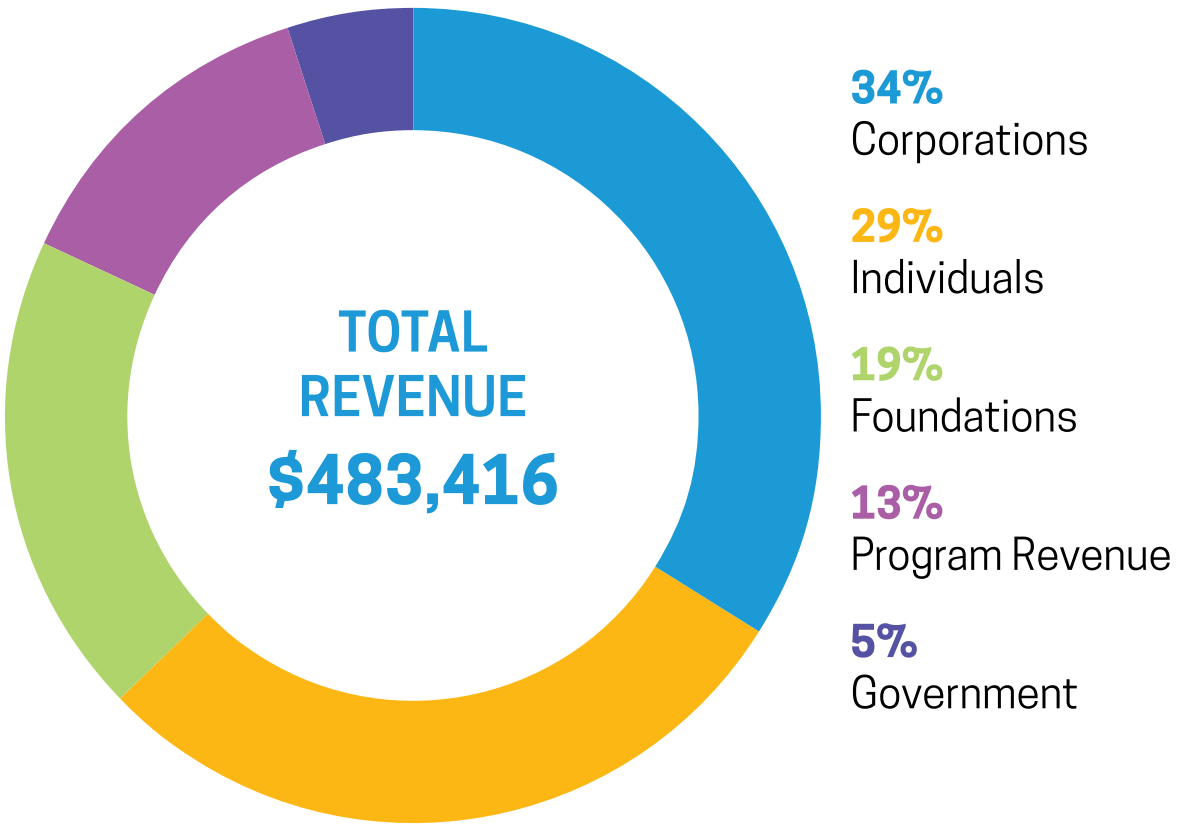
BY THE NUMBERS



LEARN MORE



FINANCIAL DATA



MEET THE ARCK TEAM



Sara Mraish Demeter
Founder & CEO



Audra Keefe
Creative Director



Maria Palkon
*Lead Teaching Artist &
Curriculum Designer*



Olivia Player
*Marketing & Communications
Manager*



Taryn Johnson
*Marketing & Communication
Coordinator*



Ananth Udupa
*Teaching Artist &
Curriculum Designer*



Nijah Wallace
Teaching Artist



Carmen Suero
Teaching Artist

INTERNS

FALL & WINTER

Zana Schwab
Education

Simeon Lloyd-Wingard
Marketing & Development

SPRING

Xinyue Hu
Development

Jennifer Ramirez
Education

Anh-Tuan Le
Marketing & Communications

BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Mraish Demeter, *President*
ARCK, Founder & CEO

Roger Krakoff, *Chair*
Monta Vista Capital, Venture Partner

Miguel Monteiro, *Treasurer*
IT and Accounting Consultant

Alexandria Monteiro, *Clerk*
*Dana-Farber, Business Operations & Provider
Services Senior Project Manager*

Panos Demeter, *Member*
The Demeter Companies, LLC, President

Robert Ayan, *Member*
Cambridge Advisors, Managing Partner

Gillian Feiner, *Member*
States United Democracy Center, Senior Counsel

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Liz Byron
Boston Public Schools, PreK-8 Visual Art Teacher

Michael Fogarasi
Mynto, Co-Founder, Director of Product

Mojgan Lefebvre
*Travelers, Executive Vice President, Chief
Technology & Operations Officer*

Scott Ruescher
*Harvard Graduate School of Education,
emeritus Program Administrator*

Joelle Tomb
Engel & Völkers Wellesley, Real Estate Advisor

ARTIST AMBASSADORS

Mark Cooper
Jamaal Eversley
Percy Fortini-Wright
Rebecca McGee Tuck
Silvina Mizrahi
Jennifer Jean Okumura
Sandra Tomb
Dwight White

ADVISORY BOARD

Craig Bassett
Bassett Consulting Group, Vice President

Karen Bressler
Boston Scott/ Qurological, Director

Jeannie Connaughton
Perkins School for the Blind, Director of Annual Giving

Evie Dykema
NavStar Advisors, Founder and Principal

Noreen Hafez
*Blockchain Founders Fund, Blockchain
Expert / Advisor*

Lukas Karlsson
Altissimo, Founder

Joyce Kulhawik
*Arts & Entertainment Critic/President Boston Theater
Critics Association*

Sandra Larson
Freelance Journalist

Ron Lawner
Ron Lawner's Catalyst, Owner

Zena Lum
*Harvard Kennedy School, Director of
Development, Major Gifts*

Michelle May
Atelier ID Global and Juniper Rag, Co-founder

Myran Parker-Brass
*Arts/Arts Education and Strategic & Feasibility
Planning Consultant*

Christine Petersen
smarTours, President & CEO

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

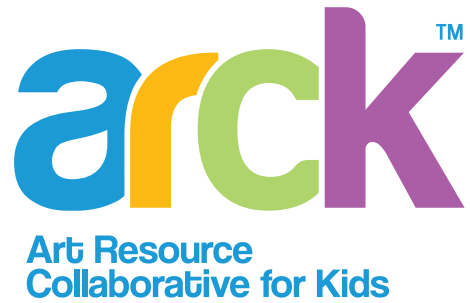
Payal Thiffault
Atelier ID Global and Juniper Rag, Co-founder

Andreas Wetterwald
*Marsh & McLennan Companies, US Chief
Information Officer*

A SPECIAL THANKS

ARCK'S FY23 FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

Bain Capital
Bain Capital Children's Charity
Beacon Hill Circle for Charity
Beacon Hill Community Fund
Beker Foundation
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Berkshire Bank
Boston After School and Beyond
Boston Cultural Council
Boston Planning and Development Agency
Boston Public Schools
Boston Realty Advisors
Boston Red Sox
Boston Red Sox Foundation
Boston University
Boston Urban Partners
BPS Arts
Cabot Family Charitable Foundation
Cambridge Trust Company
City of Boston
Deloitte
Eastern Bank
Education First
EdVestors
Fuller Foundation
Goodwin
Holland Construction
Insurance Marketing Agencies
Kelly Family Foundation
Lesley University
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Martin Richard Foundation
Mass Bankers Association
Mass Creative
Mass Cultural Council Cultural
Mass Cultural Council Festivals
Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership
MGM Music Hall at Fenway
National Art Education Association
New Commonwealth Racial Equity & Social Justice Fund
NoVo Foundation
Orange Barrel Media
Paul V. DeStefano
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
Sal's Pizza
The 'Quin House Impact Fund
The Boston Foundation
The Boston Guardian
Unqork
W.B Mason
Western Digital
WS Development



CONNECT

Visit arckboston.org

Contact info@arckboston.org

SUPPORT

Make a gift to ARCK at

www.arckboston.org/donate

EIN: 45-5442979

FOLLOW & SHARE



@ARCKBoston