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NORTH  
CAROLINA  
ARTS  
IN  
ACTION  
2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

*"This program created  
a sense of unity and  
community in my classroom.  
I saw them working together  
and encouraging each other."  
York Teacher*



## NORTH CAROLINA ARTS IN ACTION

### *Teaching life skills to children through dance and music.*

**N**orth Carolina Arts in Action (NC AIA) uses dance, music, and performance to instill self-esteem, perseverance, and excellence in children.

Behind every class is the belief that the performing arts can engage and motivate children to realize their full potential regardless of their background, ability, or socio-economic status. In 2020, NC AIA directly served 1,400 fourth graders in 14 underserved elementary schools in Wake, Durham, Orange, and Chatham Counties. Last fall we brought our innovative program to Southeast Raleigh Elementary as an afterschool program to expand to 14 schools.

In our FY 20 theme, “Animal Adaptations,” student learned about migration, extinction, hibernation, and conservation. Dancers learned how bears in North Carolina hibernate and how monarch butterflies travel from Mexico to the United States. They also discovered that armadillos, in danger of going extinct, have recently been spotted in our state. The theme ties into the fourth grade science standards. The culminating performance highlighted some of these events through original choreography, music, and art. Our program was written and choreographed by Kathy Schwering in collaboration with the NC AIA artistic staff, and with musical direction by Doug Largent.

**COVID** | This year we worked in 14 schools across Wake, Orange, Durham, and Chatham counties. Out of 14 schools, eight were unable to complete their residencies in-person due to Covid-19. However, we were able to adapt our instruction and continue teaching online. We pre-recorded videos of our musicians and teaching artists and posted them to all of our social media channels. We held live online classes through Zoom for some schools and our LEAP students. Through our online platform we reached 250 students. ●

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Mel & Zora Rashkis Elementary School  
Chapel Hill

Wakelon Elementary School  
Zebulon

Millbrook Magnet Elementary School  
Raleigh

J.W. York Elementary School  
Raleigh

Baileywick Elementary School  
Raleigh

Rolesville Elementary School  
Raleigh

Wakefield Elementary School  
Raleigh

Lake Myra Elementary School  
Wendell

Holt Elementary Language Academy  
Durham

Pittsboro Elementary School  
Pittsboro

Rogers Lane Elementary School  
Raleigh

Green Elementary School  
Raleigh

Lakewood Elementary School  
Durham

Southeast Raleigh Elementary School  
Raleigh

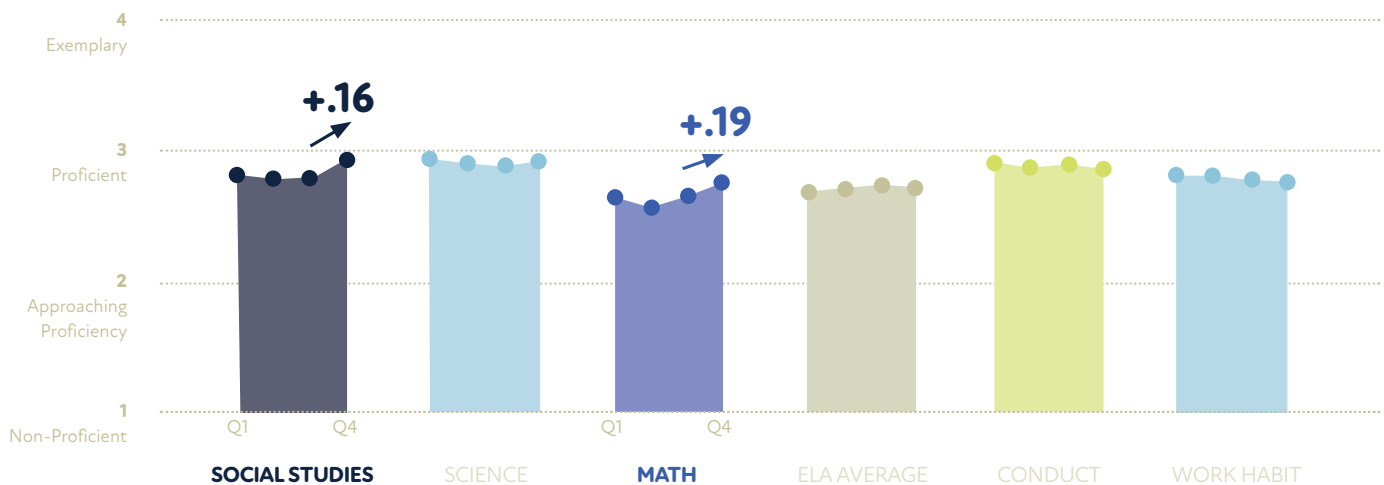
## Evaluation

NC AIA continued its program assessment with the support of Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) this past year. The Link Group designed pre- and post-program participation surveys, and four schools were selected to be part of this assessment project. WCPSS data was merged with NC AIA's collected data in order to better understand program impact. The results show a statistically significant increase in social studies and math grades in fourth graders who participate in the NC AIA program.

### Social studies and math scores increased statistically significantly after Art in Action's residency.\*

Quarterly Scores 2018–2019 School Year  
(Students, n=295)

\*Arts in Action was in residency during Q2 and Q3 of the school year



The Social Studies increase may be due to the topic of the residency, which was the American Revolution. Teachers also noted this as a key strength of the program, as they felt what students learned in the classroom was reinforced by the program, helping to support and solidify children's academic learning.

The math increase may be related to two factors — academic studies have proven the link between music /dance and mathematics. Additionally, students learned strongly from NC AIA to “not give up.” Qualitatively from teachers, we’ve heard how they are able to apply this message to motivate their students to keep trying on subjects that are difficult for them.



Millbrook Magnet Elementary School. Photo: Disha Dewan.

“(My) daughter’s participation in Arts in Action has given her a lot more confidence. She moves differently around the house.”  
Lakewood Parent

## LEAP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



**Camp High Hopes.** Photo: Disha Dewan.

**Camp High Hopes** | NC Arts in Action's LEAP Team dancer participated in Camp High Hopes sponsored by the YMCA at Leadmine Elementary School in July 2019. This was a tuition-free camp which included instruction led by our Teaching Artists. Kay Gayner, Director at National Dance Institute NYC, joined us as guest Teaching Artist.

**Stewart Theater Performance** | In partnership with NC State Live, NC State Dance and the Los Angeles based Contra-Tiempo (an Urban Latin Dance Theater) our LEAP Team dancers completed a residency which culminated with a performance at NC State University's Stewart Theater. This community engagement included dancers as part of the Community Altar alongside Contra-Tiempo, performing social justice pieces in Space. "We operate in the in-between, boldly claiming physical and metaphorical space to perform, nurture, and connect within and across communities," said Contra-Tiempo. "We create joyous, vibrant, safe, accepting spaces where we can come home, free to express the fullness of our humanity and tell our narratives through dance, in all its historical and cultural forms."

**Carolina Ballet's Nutcracker** | 11 LEAP Team dancers attended the Nutcracker with the Carolina Ballet with 30 family members at Memorial Auditorium on December 27th.

**Theater of Movement Residency** | Duane Cyrus and his Theater of Movement residency started on February 29 for the Leap Team, with his residency supported by the NC Arts Council. The theme, Animal Adaptation, was taught through storytelling of the animals represented in the Lion King.

**"Into the Wild" Gala** | LEAP Team dancers performed on February 29 at NC Arts in Action's "Into the Wild" Gala fundraising event. Leading the audience in social dances were 14 LEAP Team dancers. They danced the Cha Cha Slide, Electric Slide, and Free Style NDI dance choreography to the delight of the crowd!

**Triangle Youth Ballet** | Scheduled but canceled due to Covid-19: A Triangle Youth Ballet performance on May 21 with 20 dancers anticipated to participate.

**Virtual Learning Modules** | During the month of June, four LEAP Team dancers were featured in video sessions at City Ballet to capture Virtual Learning Modules, in preparation for Residencies in 2020–2021. ●



**NC State Live, NC State Dance and Contra-Tiempo.** Photo: Kim Demery.



Each and every one of us has the ability to shine and every one of us has the ability to shine when they get to show what they are capable of doing.

**Mindy Solie** | Vice Chair  
Community Activist

**Kim Stuntz** | Treasurer, Director of Finance of Nitta Gelatin, NA

**Mary Sibrack** | Secretary  
Clinical Psychologist

**Marlon Torres** | Executive Director,  
NC Arts in Action (Ex Officio)

**Laura Bayzle** | Vice President,  
The Link Group

**Christopher Capel** | Partner,  
Smith Anderson Law Firm

**Jeffrey LaRiche** | Former President/CEO,  
Castle Worldwide Inc.

Tricia Phoenix | Community Activist

**Jodi Schwartz** | Founder, Centerline  
Digital, Account Executive

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Pergo North America

Vera Tayeh | Human Services  
Senior Practitioner

L. J. Yarborough | President, YAMS, LLC



**“(AIA) gives each and every child a chance to shine and I love that they get to do performances to show everyone what they are learning.”**  
**Parent**

**Lakewood Elementary School.** Photo: J. Scully-Thurston.



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North Carolina Arts in Action was established in 2005 by a private philanthropist as an associate of the National Dance Institute (NDI) NY. In 2005, NC AIA began with a pilot program at Rashkis Elementary School in Chapel Hill in cooperation with school namesakes Mel and Zora Rashkis.

The next year, with additional funding from the Mary Duke Biddle and Mary D.B.T. Semans Foundations, NC AIA expanded to a 9-month residency for fourth graders and a month-long residency for fifth grade classes.

In 2007, NC AIA continued its programs at Rashkis, added a full-year program at Fayetteville Street Elementary in Durham with support from several foundations and private donations, and a second month-long residency in Chapel Hill at Frank Porter Graham Elementary.

In 2008, over 320 children were directly served through the in-school programs at these three schools. That year, NC AIA established a summer institute for NC AIA alumni with space donated by the Ballet School in Chapel Hill.

In 2010, NC AIA added Eastway Elementary and Mangum Elementary in Durham to the roster, with additional funding support from GlaxoSmithKline and in partnership with the East Durham Children's Initiative.

In 2011, NC AIA was a partner with the Triangle Corporate Battle of the Bands, breaking the record by raising the most funds of any previous Battle recipient. NC AIA used the proceeds for operating expenses and to expand into Holt Elementary, another at-risk Durham public school.

By 2013, Eastway and Mangum schools in Durham and Fayetteville Elementary Schools had completed the program. St. Thomas More Academy joined for two years and Northside Elementary School, also in Chapel Hill, added

# ten years!

*"They developed better self-esteem and saw that they could do new things and hard things when they tried and practiced at it."*  
Wakelon Teacher

our program for one year. At this point there were four schools and 400 students in the program in Durham and Orange Counties.

In 2014, NC AIA began its program in Wake County, with Wakelon and Knightdale Elementary Schools joining with underwriting from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust.

In 2015, with funding from the Fenwick Foundation and an anonymous donor, we added York, Lake Myra, and Millbrook to our elementary schools served. This year also saw expansion in Chatham County, adding Pittsboro Elementary School to our programs.

In 2017, we expanded into two more Wake County schools – Baileywick and Rolesville Elementary Schools, for 10 schools served overall and seven in Wake County.

In 2018, another two Wake schools joined the program – Rogers Lane and Green Elementary Schools. Also in 2018, NC AIA expanded into Lakewood Elementary in Durham.

In 2019, our first after school program was offered at Southeast Raleigh Elementary.

With a mission to use dance, music and performance to instill self-esteem, perseverance and excellence in children, NC AIA has grown from one school and 44 students in 2005 to expanding its reach to 14 schools and 1400 students in 2020.

**LEAP Team** | The LEAP Team is our group of alumni and current in-school program dancers, ages 9 to 15, from each of our partner schools, who want to expand their NC AIA experience beyond the school day. Dancers rehearse on Saturdays for two hours of intensive instruction, and have numerous performance opportunities throughout the Triangle. The LEAP (Learning Excellence and Perseverance) Team began in Chapel Hill in 2014 as a Saturday program. After continuing there for four years, it moved to Wake County



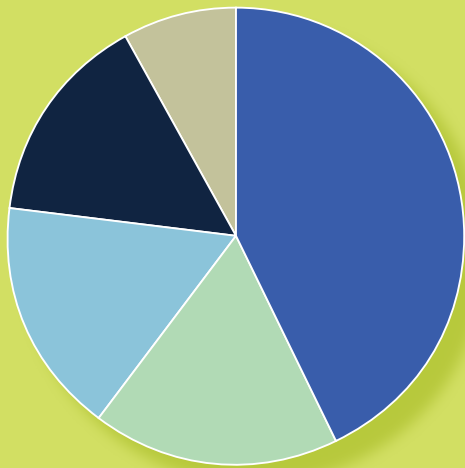
Photo: Ken Demery.

to accommodate the expanding number of schools there. Initially, it was presented at the Brentwood Boys and Girls club as a pilot program. That space was quickly outgrown, and LEAP moved to the Carolina Ballet in 2018. Our Saturday morning LEAP dancers are program ambassadors and have performed in over 25 locations across the Triangle in the past seven years. Our LEAP program has been supported by the United Arts Council and the North Carolina Arts Council.

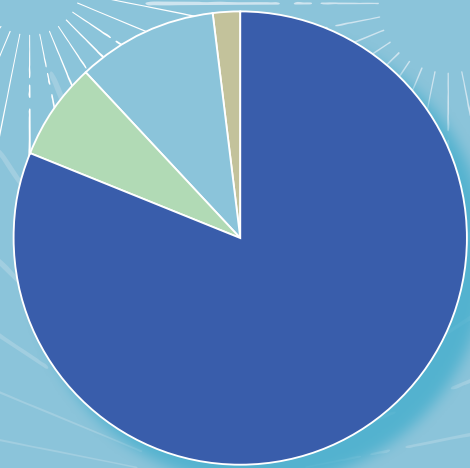
NC AIA programs have appeared in The News & Observer, Walter Magazine, The Herald Sun, Durham Magazine, Chapel Hill Magazine, Durham News, Southern Neighbor, The Chapel Hill Herald, The Maxwell Gazette, and the Daily Tar Heel. Our dancers have appeared in the annual reports of the Kenan Charitable Trust, the Mead Family Foundation, and the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. ●

**Marlon Torres**, Executive Director of NC AIA leads our dancers in 2017. Marlon has been involved with NC AIA since its inception in 2005 first as a volunteer and then as a teaching artist. After leaving to obtain his MBA and his Project Management Professional certification (PMP), Marlon returned as Executive Director in 2014 and continues to lead in that role today.





**Total Revenue**  
**\$ 580,030**



**Total Expense**  
**\$ 580,030**

#### BY THE NUMBERS

**10,400**

Children directly served  
since NC AIA began

**1,400**

Fourth grade students  
participating in FY 20

**780**

Dance classes taught live

**30**

Dance classes taught in virtual mode

**27**

Saturday LEAP sessions held

**15**

Years since NC AIA was formed

**14**

School partners offering  
NC AIA programs

**4**

Counties where NC AIA is active

#### BY THE NUMBERS | NC AIA's Fiscal Year 2020

Foundation grants	\$ 248,571
Individual support	\$ 101,162
Corporate & Event Sponsorships	\$ 98,146
Earned Income	\$ 86,663
Government	\$ 45,488

**Total Revenue** **\$ 580,030**

Program Expense	\$ 470,771
Marketing & Fundraising	\$ 40,557
Administration	\$ 57,538
Added to Reserves	\$ 11,164

**Total Expense** **\$ 580,030**



HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

**Fundraising Gala | “Into the Wild”**

We held our first public fundraising event on February 29, 2020, at the Nature Research Center in Raleigh. It was attended by 200 guests and raised over \$70,000.



**Valonda Calloway.** Photo: Ken Demery.

Photo: Ken Demery.



**Marlon Torres at gala with Paperhand Puppet.** Photo: Ken Demery.



*“I love how the teachers  
always encourage  
a kid to keep going  
and never give up.”  
Parent of LEAP dancer*

# Thank You

*Thanks for being a club member this year (July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020).*

## **PAINT THE SKY | \$25,000 +**

The Grable Foundation  
William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust  
Mead Family Foundation  
Vera Tayeh  
Wake County Public School System

## **HIGH KNEES | \$10,000 +**

A.J. Fletcher Foundation  
F. M. Kirby Foundation  
Fenwick Foundation  
Gipson Family Foundation  
Kilpatrick Townsend and Stockton LLP  
North Carolina Arts Council  
McLendon Foundation  
Rashkis Elementary School  
Charles and Ann Sanders  
Mindy and Guy Solie

## **CLAP AROUND THE WORLD | \$5,000 +**

Jeff Basham and Susan Garrity  
Bertsch Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
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Myco Medical Supplies, Inc.  
National Endowment for the Arts  
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Rolander Family Foundation  
York Elementary PTA

## **LEAPS AND BOUNDS | \$2,500+**

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Nixon Peabody  
Nomaco Inc.  
Jodi Schwartz and Charles Long  
Silverback Foundation Inc.  
United Arts Council

## **KEEP 'EM DANCING | \$1,000+**

Ann and Ronald Wooten  
Ann-Cabell Baum  
Kathy and Rich Bruch  
Chris and Sarah Capel  
Chatham County Arts Council  
ClubCorp Charities, Inc  
Debbie and John Ratliff  
Durham Public Schools Foundation  
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Vijendra and Devi Nalamothu  
Orange County Arts Commission  
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Tracy and Jim Strong  
Kim Stuntz  
Trinity Properties  
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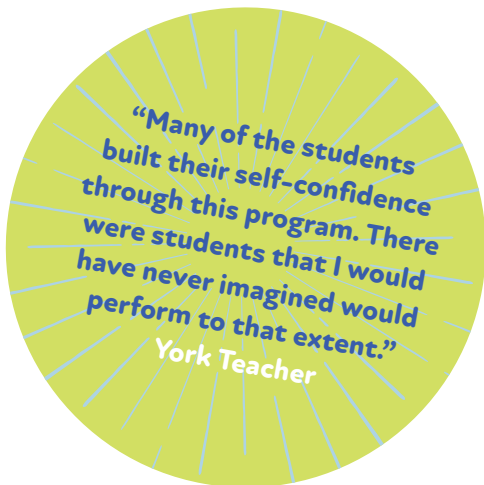
## **STEP KICK | \$500+**

Animal Hospital of Carrboro  
Laura and Scott Bayzle  
Bob and Jennifer Reidlinger  
Alan Boehm  
Brasco Marketing, LLC  
Jack Brier

David Callis  
MaryBeth Carpenter  
Cary Dance Productions Inc.  
Beverley Clark  
Karen and Glenn Coates  
Core Results Inc.  
Luz Estelia Corredor  
Eleanor Ferguson  
The Marcotte Family Foundation  
Furniture Lab  
Bob and Jane Green  
William Hooper  
Hopper Piano Company, Inc.  
Martha Huelsbeck and Chris Bavolack  
Manju Karkare and Jayant Khadilkar  
La Maison & Trellis  
Ned and Sandy McClurg  
BK and Priya Narayan  
North State Bank  
Robert Pedigo and Marlon Torres  
Harry and Jane Phillips  
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St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Triangle Community Foundation

## **FREE STYLE | \$250+**

Al's Burger Shack  
Carroll Clancy  
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Tracy Mancini and Norris Cotton  
Martha Craft  
Walter and Irina Daniel  
Becky Dees  
David and Lydia Drutz  
James and Betsy Duncan  
Thomas and Shauna Farmer  
Debbie and Sheldon Fox



Gregg Behr

## WHY WE SUPPORT NC AIA

“I loved my years when I lived in the Triangle—I felt at home in so many ways; but home for me is Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And I find that western-Pennsylvania native Fred Rogers (you likely think of him as Mister Rogers) often has words that resonate across time and geographies. He was a great lover of music and once said, “Music is the one art we all have inside. We may not be able to play an instrument, but we can sing along or clap or tap our feet.”

Those words are very true, and all children deserve the opportunity to develop and showcase these talents. That is what North Carolina Arts in Action does for children and youth across the Triangle. Every child finds a special role where each can shine. Children meet caring artists, tackle challenges together, and discover that they can succeed—a lesson learned that Mister Rogers would surely celebrate.”

Gregg Behr, Executive Director of The Grable Foundation

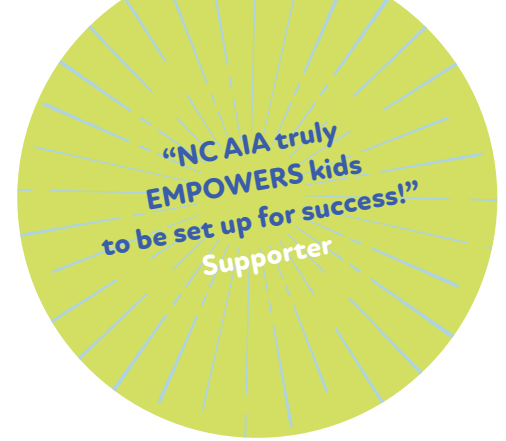


*Inspiring performance. Empowering children.*

### HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

**Rebranding | Centerline**  
**Digital rebranded NC Arts in Action last year—creating a new logo, tagline, and a refreshed look and feel for our marketing materials.**





*From the  
Paint the Sky Club*

*to our*

*Circle of Friends,*

*we appreciate*

*each and every*

*one of you!*

Martin and Nicci Gafinowitz  
Glenwood Agency  
Jeffrey Hastings  
Michael and Eileen Hendren  
Dan and Mary Hughes  
Doug and Stefanie Kahn  
Audrey Krenitsky  
James and Laura Ladd  
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Myla Lai-Goldman  
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Nancy Sumner  
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**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS | \$100+**

Kelley Basham and Tim Cruickshank  
Robert Berthiaume  
Laura and David Brody  
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Thomas and Elizabeth Caine  
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Sravan Narayan and Disha Dewan  
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Catherine Thomas  
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United Way of the Greater Triangle  
Jim and Paula Wald  
Sue Wallenberger  
LJ Yarborough

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and notify us at [info@ncartsinaction.org](mailto:info@ncartsinaction.org)  
or call 919-619-0483.*

*We thank our generous corporate sponsors and foundations that gave between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.*

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The Marcotte Family  
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Morgan Creek Foundation  
Myco Medical Supplies, Inc.  
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The Noël Foundation  
Nomaco Inc.  
North Carolina Arts Council  
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Greater Triangle  
Wake County Public  
School System  
York Elementary PTA

*"There were students  
that I would have  
never imagined  
would perform to  
that extent."  
York Teacher*



# *In-Kind Gifts*

Centerline Digital  
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Guy Solie  
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Ken Dewan  
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Irina Daniel  
Fisherman's Wife  
Uniquities  
Adams and Cheek Dentistry  
Nana Steak  
Jane Heitman Green  
Carolina Panthers  
Stella & Dot  
O2 Fitness




**Green Elementary School.** Photo: J. Scully-Thurston.





*"I have seen my child's  
self-esteem grow.  
She has come out  
of her shell."  
Parent*

#### NC ARTS IN ACTION STAFF FY 20



**Marlon Torres** | Executive Director  
**Kathy Schwering** | Associate Artistic Director  
**Doug Largent** | Music Director  
**Tiana Sutton** | Lead Teaching Artist  
**Disha Dewan** | Development Manager  
**MaryBeth Carpenter** | Senior Fundraising Advisor  
**Jennifer Scully-Thurston** | Development/Administrative Associate  
**Kim Demery** | Project Manager LEAP  
**Trish Ladensack** | Accountant  
**Suzi Landis** | Teaching Artist  
**Sue Smith** | Teaching Artist  
**Dominique Alexis** | Teaching Artist  
**Rachel Lee** | Teaching Artist  
**Joe MacPhail** | Musician, Keyboards  
**Peter Kimosh** | Musician, Keyboards, Bass  
**Grant Osborne** | Musician, Keyboards  
**Casey Overton** | Musician, Keyboards, Bass

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Executive Director and Founder  
of Together for Resilient Youth

**Beverley Clark**  
Former Wake County School  
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Language Academy

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*Thank you for your continued support!*

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PO Box 51277, Durham, NC 27717 (919)-619-0483



Millbrook Magnet Elementary School. Photo: Disha Dewan.

*"I like that there is a top-notch ability for kids to learn all forms of dance from excellent teachers without paying rates that most of us couldn't even dream of affording."*  
Parent of LEAP dancer