



Inspiring performance. Empowering children.

NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Suzi Landis has become our new Artistic Director for NC Arts In Action. A teaching artist for the past seven years with NC AIA, Suzi is a graduate of Appalachian State University where she received a BA in Communications and a minor in Dance. Suzi was fortunate to train with the late Jacques d'Amboise, founder of National Dance Institute (NDI) and has trained in the NDI pedagogy with NDI's Artistic Director Kay Gaynor, with NDI's Artistic Director Emerita Ellen Weinstein, and with NDI's Artistic Associate Tracy Straus. Suzi has more than 20 years of experience teaching ballet to all ages.



Suzi Landis teaches a class at Millbrook Elementary School. Photo Credit: MaryBeth Carpenter

LEAP UPDATES

Our Learning and Perseverance (LEAP) Team student dancers have enjoyed several performance opportunities these past few months.

In March, they learned choreography and danced in a workshop with Ephart Asherie Dance Troupe on the campus of NC State University in partnership with NC State Live.

On April 30, the LEAP Team performed at the Kid Lit Fest at E. Carroll Joyner Park in Wake Forest, enjoying its beautiful amphitheater and stage. Our student ambassadors gave a beautifully orchestrated 20- minute performance -demonstration.



BACK TO SCHOOL LEARNING



Photo credit: Marlon Torres



We have returned to in-school classes this year and through our programming we have been able to teach resilience and spread positivity to children during this uncertain time.

This year, NC AIA has partnered with more schools than ever before. We have implemented 20 dance and live music residencies, including 12 in-school programs, one online only program, one after-school program, our Saturday LEAP program, and five summer residencies. Here are our school partners for FY 2022:

Merrick Moore,,Eastway, Holt, CC Spaulding, Ignite Online Academy, Wakelon, East Garner, Green, Millbrook, Baileywick, York, Rashkis, Pittsboro, Southeast Raleigh Club ROAR – After School, and LEAP Team – Saturday Program. Our Summer schools are WG Pearson, CC Spaulding, Eno Valley, Hillandale and R.N. Harris

North Carolina Arts in Action's, "Dream Big," in-school program featured a 16-week residency curriculum that taught students about notable women in North Carolina's history through dance and music while integrating social emotional learning objectives centered on building children's confidence, motivation, resilience, perseverance, and excellence. This "Dream Big" theme highlighted notable North Carolina women in the social justice and equality movements.

In addition to returning to in -class programming this current school year, we also kept an online component of our program, with the Ignite! Online Academy teaching to students who wished to access our program virtually this school year. Durham Public School's Ignite! Online Academy was offered to students in grades 3 to 8.

Connect with us:



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THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many funders who give generously to support our mission!

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KEEP 'EM DANCING

This year, we implemented 20 dance and live music residencies across Durham, Orange, Chatham, and Wake Counties. As we approach the end of our fiscal year, please consider making a contribution to help our dancers continue learning through the summer!

The cost of supporting one child through a 16-session Arts in Action residency is \$320. As a tax-exempt nonprofit, we rely on donations from Generous individuals like you to ensure our students have free access to arts education programs like ours that inspire and build confidence in children. Please make your gift today!



York Elementary Students Dream Big
Photo credit: MaryBeth Carpenter

BEYOND FOURTH GRADE – CC SPAULDING

NC AIA began a pilot program at CC Spaulding Elementary School in March. Our expanded innovative program is being offered to every student from Kindergarten through the fifth grade at this Durham school from March through June in 2022. This program, which aims to use structured physical activity in the classroom throughout the day, accelerates learning, supports development and meets state mandated standards.

"We are very lucky to have such strong arts education partners like North Carolina Arts in Action helping children reach their full potential. Their programming uses effective arts integration techniques to help our students connect their ideas to core subjects, using dance and live music as vehicles to increase understanding. We are so fortunate to have NC Arts in Action in our schools reaching more than 600 students this year. Our goal is to continue to strengthen and grow this partnership." -Jeremy Tucker, Director of Arts Education for Durham Public Schools

SPARKLERS GALA

Our third annual Gala was a sparkling success. Held at the NC Museum of Art, our Sparklers – Celebrating Heroes in Action celebration featured leaders in health, education and art. With heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, a jazz band, a live and silent auction, our gala was attended by 250 guests and raised \$115,000!



Photo credit: Ken Demery Photography

NC AIA AWARDED AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN GRANT

The Wake County Board of Commissioners approved funding for nonprofits like NC AIA to elevate Wake County. With a grant of \$35,000 approved by Wake County's local government, NC AIA will help fourth-grade students at East Garner Elementary develop life-skills through dance and music in the coming school year. NC AIA was one of five arts-based organizations to receive funding.

"The NC Arts in Action program is a great opportunity for our students. Most of them are not able to participate in after-school activities due to cost barriers. Being able to integrate this program as part of the school day is great for our students." -Principal Carmen Graf, East Garner Elementary School



York Elementary students interpret Maya Angelou
Photo credit: MaryBeth Carpenter

OUR MISSION

NC AIA's mission is to empower children in elementary schools statewide through dance and live music programs accessible to all students regardless of abilities and socio-economic status. Using dance and live music, NC AIA develops in students the life skills necessary for success in the classroom and in life.

On behalf of the Board, Staff, and children we serve, thank you for your support. NC AIA believes that participation in the arts promotes self-confidence, builds self-esteem, self-discipline, tenacity and a commitment to excellence. Please donate today by check or online!