



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



NORTH CAROLINA ARTS IN ACTION HELPS CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL
POTENTIAL USING PERFORMING ARTS AS THE CATALYST TO BUILD FOCUS,
DISCIPLINE, SELF-ESTEEM, TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP.

ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH: NC AIA EXPANDS TO TEN SCHOOLS IN FOUR COUNTIES

In 2017, North Carolina Arts in Action (NC AIA) directly served more than 1,000 fourth graders in ten underserved elementary schools in Wake, Durham, Orange, and Chatham Counties. In the Spring, Baileywick Elementary and Rolesville Elementary Schools launched our innovative arts program at their schools to bring our reach to seven schools in Wake County.

Students learned about the power of curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration with this year's theme *The Collision: Technology Meets the Arts*. Through dance, music and visual art, our students explored the evolving relevance of technology as a means of communication, connection and productivity in our society.

NC AIA is an internationally acclaimed in-school, curriculum-based performing arts program. Our program builds confidence, leadership skills and tenacity as it develops life skills such as self-esteem, teamwork, and focus among underserved students in Title 1 schools. Children discover the arts through dance and develop standards of excellence, a pride of achievement and a curiosity about the world that supports their success in school and in life. We have directly served 5,700 students since our program began 12 years ago in Chapel Hill.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Mel & Zora Rashkis Elementary School – Chapel Hill
Wakelon Elementary School – Zebulon
Knightdale Elementary School – Knightdale
Millbrook Magnet Elementary School – Raleigh
J.W. York Elementary School – Raleigh
Baileywick Elementary – Raleigh
Rolesville Elementary – Raleigh
Lake Myra Elementary School – Wendell
Holt Elementary Language Academy – Durham
Pittsboro Elementary School – Pittsboro



Leaping Dancers at Millbrook Elementary

LEAP TEAM OPENS IN WAKE COUNTY

Our Learning Excellence and Perseverance (LEAP) dancers deepened their dance experience by participating in our Saturday program throughout the school year. This tuition-free program for Arts in Action graduates extends the benefit of our core programming to more students. Our 40 LEAP dancers are our ambassadors of the Arts in Action program. They gave showcase performances throughout the community at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, the NC School of Science and Math, Marbles Kids Museum, Knightdale High School and at after-school events.



LEAP Team at Nasher

This year's program was directed by Marlon Torres, written by Alton Tisino, with musical direction by Doug Largent. Narration was by Yolanda Rabun. Performances included two original musical pieces by Alton Tisino, *The Artificial Human* and *Think Big*.



Wakelon Elementary



Lake Myra and Knightdale Elementary Schools

WHY WE GIVE TO ARTS IN ACTION

– Alice Kirby Horton,
A donor and Trustee of the F.M. Kirby Foundation

“I first became interested in NC Arts in Action because of Mindy Solie. Who can resist her enthusiasm, dedication to a cause and happy personality? I sure couldn’t so I attended a class. That was all it took to see why Mindy was so enthusiastic: the way the students were engaged with the teacher, his positive encouragement but also his ability to make sure the students stayed on task, the humor and the athletic energy that filtered through the whole session made me realize that NC Arts in Action was really providing a wonderful resource for the 4th graders. After a couple of visits to other schools, I remain most impressed and happy to provide support to a growing, impactful nonprofit.”



Rolesville Elementary

“Aspects of the program that are most appealing: discipline, rewards, character building, and pride. The classroom teachers are hooked on it! This program is integrated with the Essential Standards, promotes physical activity, pride and character building.”

- An Elementary School Principal

WHY WE SUPPORT ARTS IN ACTION

Diane Mead

Secretary, Board of Directors, Mead Family Foundation

“Imaginary curtains open to two young girls, twirling and kicking high to the crashing cymbals of the rousing march. My sister and I loved to dance, and this was just one item of many on our monthly show bill, which included our younger brothers for magic tricks, corny jokes, and as extras in the Romeo and Juliet shotgun wedding.

While swinging our hips and arms in unison to “Popsicle,” we were exhilarated, full of the joy of the moment. For the time being, we could forget our childhood traumas such as divorcing parents, losing beloved pets, and realizing what our bomb shelter was for. Dancing stimulated our creativity, made us fit and limber, and kept us laughing.

Arts in Action brings this gift to so many students in the Triangle, offering them renewed confidence, a special bonding with others, and a treasured appreciation of dance that they can carry with them forever. The dedicated efforts of the AIA team are evident in the changed lives of these students and their families.”



Holt Elementary

“Yesterday the kids were exhausted but focused after Arts in Action. They look forward to it and need it. When we don’t have Arts in Action, we have an off day.”

A Lake Myra Elementary School Teacher

WHY I SERVE ON THE BOARD AND DONATE TO NC AIA

- Susan Herst



"I am passionate about my time and financial support of NC Arts in Action (AIA) as it speaks to my desire to keep children engaged in school and an active lifestyle. AIA allows children the chance to experience the joys of dance while staying involved in their classrooms. Statistically we find fourth graders benefit through better attendance on AIA days and a boost in self confidence after participating in the program. We tie the dance to their curriculum; education is more effective when it's fun!

"AIA provides children opportunities to shine in ways that they couldn't otherwise in the classroom. Dance is not competitive so every child performs and is celebrated. I'd love to see the program be integrated in all the Triangle elementary schools, especially the ones with the most vulnerable students who may not have extracurricular activity opportunities otherwise. I am impressed with how much the program has grown but there are so many more children I'd like AIA to reach!"

Susan Herst serves as treasurer of NC AIA's Board of Directors and has served as a donor and board member for the past six years.

"The most awe-inspiring benefit of working with NCAIA, is watching the transformation of children's lives! The numerous stories of those who walk into the first AIA class with their hoodies pulled tight over their heads never wanting to make eye contact, or those who do not speak or participate, then suddenly, the same students evolve into soloists, narrators, heroes! I have not yet been able to make it through a final performance with a dry eye. My heart and soul burst with pride for these children and what they have been able to overcome."

- Sue Smith
NC AIA Teaching Artist



Millbrook Elementary

BY THE NUMBERS

4

Counties involved in NC
AIA school programs

10

Schools offering AIA
programs

12

Years since AIA was
formed

16

Weeks our program is active
in each school

1,000

4th grade students
participating in FY17

5,700

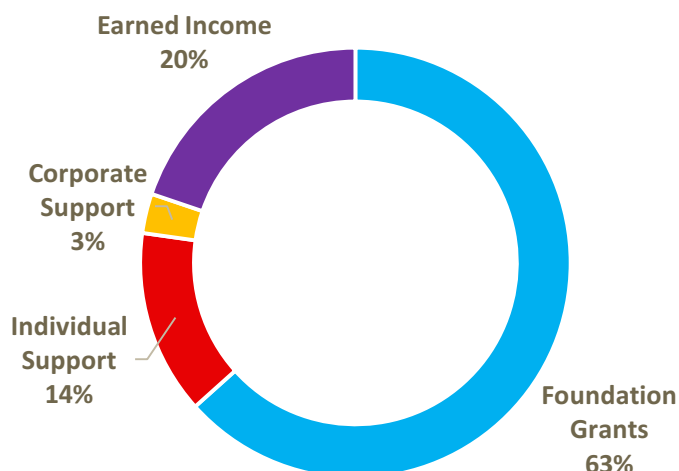
Number of children
reached since being
founded

100%

Students involved in direct
instruction

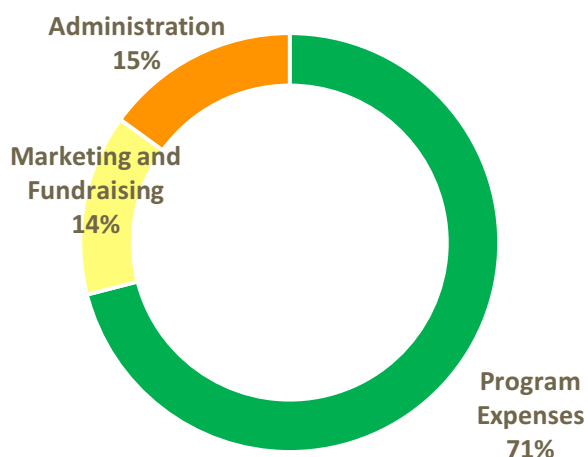
NC AIA FY 17 REVENUE

Foundation Grants	\$235,000
Individual Support	\$50,000
Corporate Support	\$11,000
Earned Income	\$71,800
Total:	\$367,800



NC AIA FY 17 EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$262,800
Marketing and Fundraising	\$52,484
Administration	\$52,516
Total:	\$367,800



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank our devoted donors who have generously given to NC Arts in Action from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

\$25,000+		\$10,000+	
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\$250+		“I like how NC AIA brings a relevance between curriculum and the arts. It allows students to collectively work on a project together and see how their collaboration and teamwork with one another can create something amazing.” A Fourth Grade Teacher	
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**York Elementary**

If a gift is omitted or incorrectly noted, please accept our apology and notify us at
info@ncartsinaction.org or call 919-619-0483.

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We thank our generous corporate sponsors and foundation donors who gave between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

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United Arts Council
Wake County Public School System



Pittsboro Elementary

"I wanted to take a moment to thank the Arts in Action team for all you've done this year with our students. They get so excited for their Arts in Action class and their behavior for the rest of the day is dramatically different. They are happy, positive, focused, and respectful! You guys have made a huge difference in the lives of these kids and you give them something to really be proud of themselves about."

- A Fourth Grade Teacher



Baileywick Elementary Photo Credit: Jennifer Tarrazi-Scully



Pittsboro Elementary



Holt Elementary



York Elementary

"What I liked about my Arts in Action teachers is that they always encourage you and tell you to never give up. When I was sad, they always made up my day."

- A Fourth Grade Student

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Nicole Oxendine
Dancer/Teacher/Therapist, Director

**“I loved the program.
My son is not as shy and is willing to try new things.”**
– Parent of an Elementary School Student



NC AIA band plays live music at every AIA performance and class



NC AIA Staff

NC AIA Staff

Marlon Torres

Executive Director

Alton Tisino

Artistic Director

Doug Largent

Music Director

Jennifer Tarrazi-Scully

Development and Administrative Associate,

Teaching Artist

Kim Demery

Project Manager LEAP

Trish Ladensack

Accountant

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Teaching Artist

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Teaching Artist

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Christiana Murphy

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Sue Smith

Teaching Artist

Brevan Hampden

Musician, Drums, percussion

Andrew Berinson

Musician, Keyboards

Joe MacPhail

Musician, Keyboards

Peter Kimosh

Musician, Keyboards, bass

Grant Osborne

Musician, Keyboards

Yolanda Rabun

Musician, Vocalist

Erich Lieth

Sound engineer

On behalf of the Board, staff and children we serve, thank you for your continued support. NC Arts in Action believes that participation in the arts promotes self-confidence, builds self-esteem, self-discipline, tenacity and a commitment to excellence.

Thank you also to our volunteers, classroom teachers, program liaisons and school administrators for their belief in NC Arts in Action. Our work is made possible with the collective support of all of these individuals.

Please donate today by check or online.

WWW.NCARTSINACTION.ORG

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Rashkis Elementary