

### BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH THE ARTS

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF PRINCETON'S mission, *Building Community Through the Art*s, was developed with the belief that the arts and arts education: are fundamental to a healthy society; directly impact academic achievement and improve literacy for school students; positively contribute to the quality of life for all area residents; contribute significantly to economic development; and promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. The Arts Council of Princeton fulfills its mission by presenting a wide range of arts experiences and arts education programs including

studio-based classes and workshops in the visual, performing and media arts, exhibitions, performances, and free community cultural events. Arts Council programs are designed to be high-quality, engaging, affordable, and accessible to the diverse population in the greater Princeton region. Creating art and learning from working artists and performers in intimate artistic encounters directly speaks to the Arts Council's mission. Through these experiences, all people are encouraged to engage in the artistic process.



### WITH GRATITUDE

IN CASE ANYONE needs a reminder of the powerful way that the arts can transform lives, Essence Scott articulates this sentiment in an article she wrote which can be found later in this report. Essence was a participant in Arts Exchange, the Arts Council's 25-year-old program that brings HomeFront clients to our building once a week to engage in art classes, drama classes, homework sessions, and a shared meal. She beautifully captures the impact of the Arts Council of Princeton on individuals and the community. This is just one of many programs that the Arts Council runs to bring the arts, and the positive impact they can have, to underserved populations.

This Annual Report comes at a time of transition for the Arts Council. We are now in the process of developing a clear profile of Arts Council leadership needs and are making plans to fill those needs in the best way possible.

Through it all, our staff has been amazing – our programming has never missed a beat and we continue to bring passion, energy, and love of the arts to the Arts Council every day. When we say that our mission is building community through the arts, they're the ones who make that come alive.

Of course all that we do is made possible by the generosity of those people who recognize the importance of the arts in helping to keep Princeton and our surrounding areas vibrant and creative communities. We do not receive public funding, so we rely on our donors and volunteers to ensure that we can continue to fulfill our mission.

We can't thank you enough for your support. This Annual Report highlights the breadth, depth, and quality of everything that you make possible.

With sincere appreciation,

James Levine

Interim Executive Director

Sarah Collum Hatfield

Co-President, Board of Trustees

Ted Deutsch

Co-President, Board of Trustees

The Arts Council of Princeton's commitment to building community through the arts stems from the belief that the arts enable communities to thrive. For youth, strong arts programming is a means to better critical thinking and greater self-confidence. Among older adults, the benefits of the arts are evident in improved mental and physical health as well as social integration. The arts foster greater public dialogue and contribute to building local identity and pride of place. In order to

### ARTS EDUCATION

ARTS EDUCATION is at the heart of the Arts Council's programming. Students of all ages and abilities participate in on and offsite studio-based classes, camps, and workshops. Programming spans the arts spectrum including drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, dance, and theater.

have the greatest impact, the arts must be accessible to all.

All arts education provided by the Arts Council of Princeton delivers the same level of quality regardless of whether the education program is fee-based or funded. Each year, the Arts Council raises funds to provide scholarships and to underwrite programs for underserved youth and seniors including free classes benefiting homeless youth across Mercer County. We also increase access to the arts by serving as a satellite location for partners who deliver dance and music instruction.





## **PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS**

2017/18 MARKED the third **Princeton Parklet**. A parklet is a public art installation built to transform curbside parking into beautiful, lively spaces for the community to enjoy. Using the 2017 structure designed and built by local architect Joseph Weiss, the 2018 Parklet not only served as welcoming off-street seating for neighbors to gather, but also featured a green roof to serve as an educational venue to teach about the importance of water, soil, and plants in our urban environment. Our community escaped into this street garden to enjoy a beverage, chat with neighbors, and relax in what is otherwise a busy traffic area.



Top right: Student artwork; bottom left: Students in action in one of our watercolor classes; bottom right: *Princeton Parklet* featuring the new green roof.

### **ART EXHIBITIONS**

THE ARTS COUNCIL is proud of the award-winning Taplin Gallery, winning New Jersey's Favorite Art Gallery by Discover Jersey Arts five times out of the past six years.

The Arts Council kicked off 50th anniversary celebrations with a **50th Anniversary Invitational Exhibition** featuring artists ranging in involvement with the Arts Council, from former Artists-in-Residence, to featured gallery artists, instructors, terrace project artists, and more.

This year's exhibitions also included: Earth, Fire, Water, Ice, Debris: Five Artists Comment on the Environment, curated by Judith K. Brodsky featuring original work by Helena Bienstock, Diane Burko, Anita Glesta, Susan Hockaday, and Martha Vaughn; Heroes of Comic Art; Reconstructed History; and Interwoven Stories, International.

Details on the 2017/18 exhibitions can be found at artscouncilofprinceton.org/exhibits.

# THE ANNE REEVES ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED IN 2009, the Anne Reeves Artist-in-Residence Program offers select artists the opportunity to conceptualize and create new works while providing the community with creative interaction with working artists in all disciplines.

This residency is named in honor of Anne Reeves, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Princeton from 1983-2004. Anne currently serves as Founding Director on the ACP Board of Trustees and continues to be a force in the Princeton arts community.

Fall 2017's Artist-in-Residence, **Wendel White**, featured his ongoing photography project, **Manifest**. Manifest includes photographs of objects, documents, photographs, books, and other objects of African-American material culture contained within public and private collections throughout the U.S. These repositories encompass elements such as diaries, slave collars, human hair, a drum, souvenirs, and other objects, some with great significance and others simply quotidian representations of life from the history of the black community. During his residency, White's photographs featured objects recovered from the birthplace of Paul Robeson, which is located adjacent to the ACP's Paul Robeson Center for the Arts.

Top right: Opening reception of *Interwoven Stories International*, curated by Diana Weymar.

Center: Gallery talk with Patrick McDonnell, creator of MUTTS. Bottom: Opening reception of *Reconstructed History*, curated by Amy Brummer













## **PERFORMING ARTS**

THERE'S SOMETHING for everyone with the Arts Council of Princeton's performing arts programming. This year included live performances as part of the newly-initiated Community Stage Series and the always-anticipated Summer Courtyard Series.

### **SUMMER COURTYARD CONCERT SERIES**

The 2017/2018 Summer Courtyard Concert Series marked the 35th year of partnership with the Princeton Shopping Center. Each year, the Arts Council invites the community to bring their lawnchairs to the courtyard for the best in local and regional jazz, folk, world, rock, and blues.

### **LIVE PERFORMANCES**

The Arts Council of Princeton presented its sixth annual **Cabernet Cabaret,** a cabernet-infused cabaret performance and tapas reception by Mediterra Restaurant and Taverna. **Sarah Donner** and special guests performed music filled with drama, romance, and comedy.

### **COMMUNITY STAGE**

Established in 2017, the Community Stage Series presented free events held in collaboration with local artistic groups and organizations. Community Stage programming enables the Arts Council's Solley Theater to serve as an accessible space for community partnerships and high-quality performing arts experiences. Highlights included a reading from legendary playwright and poet Ntzoke Shange, a bitKlavier presentation by Legacy Arts International, and a performance by Stretto Youth Chamber Orchestra of Greater Princeton.

Top: Conga line at our Summer Courtyard Concert Series, at the band Trinidelphia's performance.

Center: Cultural icon Ntozake Shange in "Wild Beauty" poetry reading. Bottom: Sarah Donner and Mark Applegate performing in Cabernet Cabaret.

Opposite: Just a glimpse at some of the incredible chalk art by local art students, at Communiversity ArtsFest 2018.









### **COMMUNITY CULTURAL EVENTS**

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, the Arts Council of Princeton hosted multiple free events. Our cultural events are designed to celebrate the richness and diversity of the greater Mercer County community. Among the many cultural celebrations presented by the Arts Council were:

An Evening with Bollywood, Festival Cultural Latino, Fiesta del Reyes Magos (Three Kings Day), Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Communiversity ArtsFest.

### **COMMUNIVERSITY ARTSFEST**

COMMUNIVERSITY ARTSFEST continues to draw art lovers and fun seekers to downtown Princeton, making it Central New Jersey's largest and longest running cultural event. One of the goals of Communiversity is to inspire and engage creativity among its attendees. This year's event featured seven stages of nonstop live music performances, including music by returning artists The Blue Meanies, Eco Del Sur, Fresh Fire and Princeton School of Rock. Newcomers included Essie and the Big Chill, Nikki Rochelle, and Zoe Thierfelder.

Communiversity is produced by the Arts Council of Princeton with support from the town of Princeton and participation from Princeton University. This year, over 40,000 individuals enjoyed more than 225 booths showcasing original art and contemporary crafts, unique merchandise and culinary masterpieces from local vendors.







Opposite: Artistic Director, Maria Evans, leading a Kids at Work workshop focusing on the exhibit, *Reconstructed History*.





### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF PRINCETON provides year-round, free, high-quality arts programs for underserved children, teens, and seniors who would otherwise not have access to the arts.

**ARTREACH** is a free after-school arts instruction program for more than 120 low-income students delivered in partnership with Princeton Nursery School and Princeton Young Achievers. Through ArtReach, children are offered visual arts instruction, with additional programs presented across a variety of artistic disciplines, such as drama, dance, film, and music.

Kids at Work: Discovery through Art is a program in which local school children and their teachers are invited to the Arts Council during the school day for a gallery tour of our current exhibition, followed by a hands-on workshop based on the artwork

on view. In 2017/18, *Reconstructed History* (pictured below) and *Interwoven Stories International* were two of the exhibits for which Artistic Director Maria Evans led Kids at Work projects. The program promotes artistic development and its attendant academic benefits to develop self-esteem and to enhance positive community identity.

Arts and Health programs deliver free and low-cost weekly arts instruction to patients and low-income seniors across three local medical and assisted-living facilities, as well as to family and professional caregivers. The Arts Council has become a leader in the field of creative aging and is now one of three professional training sites for the National Center for Creative Aging, funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.







In partnership with HomeFront since 1983

BUILDING COMMUNITY, the capacity of people to act together on matters of common interest, makes a greater difference in the health and well-being of individuals and neighborhoods than any other factor. This year, our Arts Exchange program achieved 25 years of building community through the arts.

Arts Exchange is a 2 1/2 hour, weekly, after-school arts class for more than 25 children aged 5-19 administered in partnership with Mercer County's HomeFront of Trenton. The year-long program includes

homework help, a hot meal, and transportation to and from the Arts Council of Princeton.

Arts Exchange programming covers a diverse range of arts experiences including the visual, performing, and fine arts that develop students' drawing, painting, dance, and theater skills. Arts Exchange participants benefit from increased creativity and innovation, improved problem solving/critical thinking skills, and enhanced communications skills.

### SCOTT: WHAT I LEARNED FROM BEING A TRIUMPHANT TEEN

By Essence Scott

Children experiencing homelessness do not always feel safe within themselves. When I was homeless, I experienced this uncomfortable reality. When I moved to Connecticut Avenue, I still felt like I was homeless; I had to readjust.

There was one place where I felt my absolute safest: the Arts Council of Princeton on Witherspoon Street. I went there with HomeFront on Thursday nights for art class.

A lot of the time, I was the oldest one there, but that did not matter to me. On Thursday nights, we worked with a number of different artistic mediums—painting, clay, and the performing arts, among others.

I have many fond memories of being swept into the world of *A Christmas Carol* at McCarter Theatre in Princeton. I loved the times when McCarter performers came to teach us a little something it gave me hope that we very well could be actors and actresses. It also helped me learn a great deal about the world and perceive it as one big stage—full of opportunity, rehearsals, reruns, and final performances.

Attending these art classes also helped me escape for a little bit. In school, I

was exceptional, but introverted, and I did not make friends easily. While I felt purposeful at school, I did not exactly fit in. When I was with HomeFront, I was still on edge because I was usually one of the oldest in the group—people of my age tended to be volunteers—but the opportunities that these art classes afforded me made it all worth it. I was learning to be present with myself and practicing new and constructive ways to express my feelings and thoughts.

The Thursday night art classes quickly become a staple—something that I could look forward to every week. I did not always like being at home, a small motel room with too much stuff and not enough room; the art space soon became my respite from all this.

One night, I remember visiting a mural near the Arts Council with my class. I felt something stir in me when I looked at the mural; it inspired me to write one of my first poems. Much like the images on the mural, I felt safe, insulated by this world that someone else made. I knew that I could express this with my writing—something that I had found comfort and solace in for years—and so I began to write and I have not stopped since then.

The class at the Arts Council helped me

to find myself. One time after a night-time excursion with a person that I thought I trusted went horribly wrong, I felt lost and isolated. I could barely write anything, and I was so afraid of everything around me. At class that week, we were doing fairytale retellings. I wrote a *Sleeping Beauty* retelling that involved Cinderella as her sister. I put a grim spin on the text and spilled my negative feelings and thoughts onto the page.

The experience of doing so was euphoric and I felt much better afterwards. I needed to confront the hurt and anger that I was feeling and had it not been for the particular focus of class that night, I may have succumbed to my mental torment. In this instance and many others, the art class provided me with a safe and productive outlet to challenge and cope with the hurdles in my life.

Right now, there is much that I want to pursue in life. I want to write, play sports, and be an actress. The art classes that I attended as a teen and a young adult gave me a safe haven to work through some of my most difficult experiences growing up; they taught me to take control of my thoughts and emotions in ways that make my dreams realistic and attainable today.



### **HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US**

### **GALA BENEFITS**

THE ARTS COUNCIL'S GALA season kicked off with "75 Cleveland Lane." One hundred guests gathered on October 13 for an evening of history and culture at the recently renovated estate of Kristina Johnson, a long time supporter of the Arts Council. Attendees were given an exclusive tour of the home's restoration by Grant Homes, a performance by the Princeton Tiger Tones, presentation by the Princeton Preservation Committee, and catering by Chef Max Hansen. Proceeds from this event were used to support the Kristina Johnson Memorial Fund.

Dining by Design is the Arts Council of Princeton's signature gala benefit in support of community programs, which includes arts programming for underserved individuals. On October 28, the Arts Council hosted more than 200 guests at the *Edge of Dawn* at the Frick Chemistry Laboratory at Princeton University. The night featured cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, party boards,a live dance performance, a dinner catered by Jules Boutique Catering and an exciting live auction led by Rago Arts' Sebastian Clarke.

The Arts Council's spring gala, *Pinot to Picasso – Vinyl and Velvet Vintage 1968*, was held May 18 at the Technology Center of

Princeton. This event supports the Anne Reeves Fund, which benefits community arts initiatives and the Artist-in-Residence Program. With more than 300 guests attending, this popular fundraiser included dancing, its signature "tombola" art lottery, featuring works donated by 80 artists, and a sampling of food and beverage from local restaurants including Gingered Peach, Jammin' Crepes, Local Greek, Mediterra, Milk and Cookies, McCaffrey's, and Triumph Brewery.

### **MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERS**

Over 800 housholds are active members of the Arts Council of Princeton. Our members help support the growth and preservation of arts education and production in the community. All members receive the Arts Council's ArtsCARD, which may be used for benefits including discounts on Arts Council classes, workshops, concert tickets, gallery purchases, as well as savings at more than 20 local businesses.

On June 7 at the Annual Members' Meeting, the Arts Council elected new and continuing Trustees and recognized individuals and organizations for their generosity. We welcomed our newly elected Board of Trustees member, Ryan Stark Lilienthal. We honored Rhinold Ponder and Marlyn Zucosky, who completed their terms, and thanked them

for years of dedicated service. Renewing members included Sherry MacLean, Dawn McClatchy, Edward Stelmakh, and Amrit Walia.

Pride of the Arts Council Awards were presented to McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton Public Library, Witherspoon Media Group, Janssen Pharmaceutical Inc., Terra Momo Restaurant Group, Deena Miller, Kyra Torres-Olivares, Joseph Weiss, and Barbara DiLorenzo. The recipients of the 2017/18 Charles Evans Scholarships were also acknowledged at the meeting.

We are extremely grateful for the dedication and commitment of our wonderful volunteers. They are the reason our doors are open to the public six days a week. Last year, our volunteers donated more than 3,000 hours of their time answering phones, greeting the public, assisting in studios, helping with community events, and much more.

To volunteer please visit http://artscouncilofprinceton.org/our-people/volunteer

## Other Ways to Support the Arts Council of Princeton in addition to your Annual Fund gift:

CORPORATE MATCHING An easy way to magnify the impact of your giving is by connecting with your employer's philanthropic giving program. Many corporations allow employees and retirees to request matching gifts electronically. Examples include Bristol-Myers Squibb, Johnson & Johnson, Merrill Lynch, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Please contact your Human Resources department to learn more about matching gift opportunities.

MEMORIAL GIFTS A memorial gift is a thoughtful way of honoring the memory of someone you care deeply about. Continue their legacy in a way your loved one would have appreciated, by giving to the Arts Council. When a memorial or honorarium gift is made, the Arts Council notifies the honoree's family member(s).

CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER Taxpayers age 70 ½ or older may transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their traditional or Roth IRA accounts directly to the Arts Council without first having to recognize the distribution as income. Please contact your IRA custodian to authorize your donation.

STOCK OPTIONS/APPRECIATED SECURITIES Appreciated securities that have been held for more than 12 months can be gifted to the Arts Council of Princeton. Stock and securities donations can be claimed as a charitable income tax donation for the full value of the shares. Gifts of stock are sold upon receipt. Stock contributions are credited for the value of the stock on the date the gift is made.

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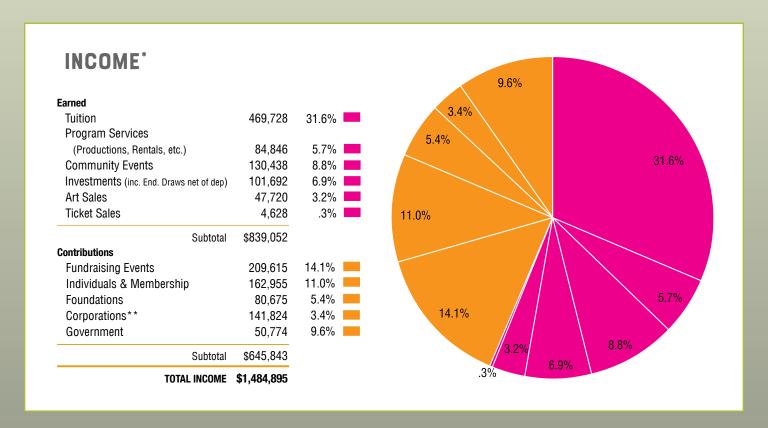


Tom Florek and the Café Improv crew, recipients of the "Pride of the Arts Council" volunteer award.

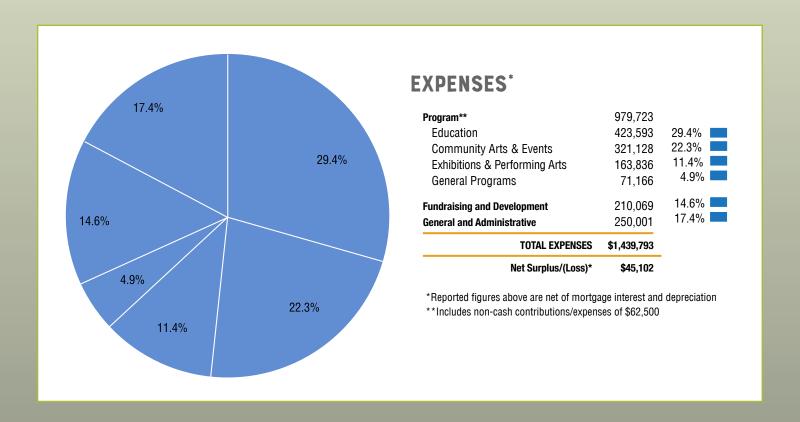
## **FINANCES**

The following data details general operating sources of income and expenses on an accrual basis by category, and the past three years of budget activity.

### **General Operating Statement of Activity 2017/2018**



	E-YEAR Parisoi				
2015/16 Revenue Expenses Net	1,603,566 (1,603,471) 95	2016/17 Revenue Expenses Net	1,715,144 (1,601,064) 114,080	2017/18 Revenue Expenses Net	1,484,895 (1,439,793) 45,102
‡excluding de Dep & Int E	epreciation and mort expense \$(227,848)	tgage interest	\$(203,822)		\$(193,941)



## **ENDOWMENT SUMMARY**

		Principal Balances	
	6/30/2016	6/30/2017	6/30/2018
<b>Endowment Funds</b>			
Galbraith Fund	699,663	699,663	699,663
J. Seward Johnson Fund	250,000	250,000	250,000
Evans Fund	147,000	147,000	147,000
Waxwood Fund	40,000	40,000	40,000
	\$1,136,663	\$1,136,663	\$1,136,663
Income Earned			
Galbraith Fund	84,909	92,422	66,804
J. Seward Johnson Fund	12,031	31,291	22,622
Evans Fund	23,285	15,117	8,008
Waxwood Fund	1,085	5,382	3,873
Income Earned	\$121,310	\$144,212	\$101,307

### **DONORS AND PARTNERS**

The Arts Council of Princeton receives income from a number of sources, including philanthropic gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations; government grants; sponsorships; fundraising events; membership; and contracts. We are grateful to those on the following list, who made it possible for us to continue Building community through the arts during 2017/2018 through cash and in-kind contributions.

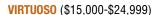
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