



Wingspan Arts

Annual Report 2019



A word from our Executive Director, Paul Ashley



As we journey through our second decade of serving New York City children, we welcome the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of our students, artists, and educators that started with one afterschool program in September 2001. While our arts-based programs remain consistent from year to year, I continue to be amazed by our community's commitment to our core values, demonstrating the value of arts education for all of our program participants.

When trying a new activity in one of our afterschool classes, students from ages four years old and up show remarkable courage by standing in front of their peers and presenting their art. The creativity that flows every day from our talented roster of Teaching Artists is inspiring, and exhibits the endless possibilities that the arts can offer. Our Summer Conservatory ensembles bring so much passion and authenticity to their performances, that it is easy to forget that these young artists haven't even graduated from high school yet!

In the following pages, you'll see how these core values are woven into the fabric of our organization and the community we have cultivated over the last 18 years. We are grateful for the growth we experienced in our first 15 years, allowing us to create artistic opportunities and forge lasting relationships with over 20 schools annually. It is a privilege to provide creative spaces for curious children, and to empower them to express themselves with and through the arts. As we prepare to celebrate our 20th Anniversary, we are excited to continue to nurture this next generation of artists, educators, and patrons of the arts.

None of this can happen without the commitment of our staff, Board of Directors, and extended family of Wingspan Arts supporters. The partnerships that we have formed with schools, families, Teaching Artists, and the funding communities are the cornerstone of the work that we are fortunate to do every day. With your ongoing support, we can continue our work of "connecting the arts to life!"

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely reading 'Paul Ashley'.

Our Mission

Wingspan Arts aims to enrich the lives of young people in and around New York City through multi-disciplinary arts education programs both in and out of the classroom. Our programs emphasize the value of theatre, music, visual arts, and dance while also using these art forms as tools for communication, personal growth, and self-expression.

Founded in 2001 in response to the lack of arts instruction in public schools, Wingspan Arts' customized programs have benefited thousands of children across the New York Metro Region. By partnering with professional artist-educators who bring their creative experiences and personalized lessons to the classroom, Wingspan has transformed the traditional teacher-student paradigm into an authenticity-driven, community-based learning environment. Through afterschool, in-school, theatre conservatory, and public programs, Wingspan Arts students are empowered both as individuals and as stewards of the expanding arts community.

All children have creative promise; however, many may not have means to access the arts. For these families, Wingspan Arts is committed to offering tuition-free opportunities, a scholarship program, and free public events as part of our aim to reach as many young people as possible. This helps fulfill our mission of connecting students to the arts, and the arts to life.

Wingspan aims to emphasize our Core Values in our programs and community of staff, artists, educators, and families.

COMMUNITY

As a community-based organization, Wingspan cultivates a warm and nurturing learning environment for all community members. We value opportunities to showcase student growth, celebrate artist success, and collaborate with school leaders and families.

AUTHENTICITY

Wingspan Arts celebrates Authenticity by partnering with professional artist educators, many of whom are leaders in their artistic fields. By bringing their authentic voices to the classroom, Wingspan students see and experience the transformation arts can have on individuals.

COURAGE

Whether on the stage or in the classroom, Wingspan encourages our artists and students alike to take risks, be brave, and trust themselves.

CREATIVITY


The creative use of the imagination is imperative in building a strong personal foundation. Wingspan fosters the growth of students, teachers, and artists by providing an outlet to engage the creative mind.

COMMITMENT

Wingspan Arts demonstrates the value of commitment by creating accessible pathways to artistic experiences. By means of our scholarship program, tuition-free opportunities, and public events, Wingspan commits to reaching as many young people as possible.

REFLECTION

As the arts landscape in New York City is ever changing, Wingspan continually reflects on best education practices, the needs of our school and program communities, and opportunities for growth and learning.



Wingspan Arts changed my life, and I'm not exaggerating. All the shows I have participated in have been amazing. I've learned so much from teachers, and made so many friends along the way!

- Jazz Adam, Conservatory Student

A Year at Wingspan Arts...

185 Visual Arts
Classes

139 Dance
Classes

182 Theatre
Classes

123 Music
Classes

1 in 6

students receive financial assistance

30,850

total instructional hours across all programs

102 Sports & Games
Classes

24 Language Arts
Classes

35 Science & Tech
Classes

13 Culinary Arts
Classes



Community

Community is at the foundation of Wingspan Arts' mission, but is perhaps the most impactful in our [Afterschool Programs](#). By building creative communities of young artists throughout New York City, Wingspan Arts is connecting the arts to life for students, families, and schools that might otherwise not have access to such unique cultural experiences. Students in the Wingspan Arts Afterschool Program benefit from taking classes led by Teaching Artists that are masters in their field and skilled at sharing that talent with young people.

Perhaps the greatest joy of the Afterschool Program comes when the full community of students, Site Staff, Teaching Artists, families, and school representatives, come together at the end of each art-filled semester to celebrate the amazing learning and growth of our students. These Showcases celebrate the commitment the students and Teaching Artists have made to each other, their fellow community members, and their art-making.

Our students' learning goes beyond cultivating artistic talents, and they gain a lasting impact in social-emotional growth, problem-solving, and forging new, deeper connections to personal, academic, and global issues. Wingspan's greatest wish is to empower our communities to invest in a lifetime of arts involvement, awareness, and support for our fellow artists.





Wingspan has broadened
my daughter's view of
community, art and
friendships and I could not
be more elated to be a part
of this wonderful program.

- Neighborhood School Parent

Our Afterschool Communities

The Anderson School

Brooklyn School of Inquiry &
The Academy of Talented
Scholars

PS 40

PS 110

PS 130

PS 183

PS 267

PS 281

PS 303

PS 340

PS 516

PS 527

The Neighborhood School

Yorkville Community School

Authenticity

Wingspan Arts' **In-School Residencies** are driven by the authentic artistry of our educators. Wingspan proudly partners with professional artists, many of whom are leaders in their field and are known for their gallery works, their Off-Broadway theatrical pieces, and their nationally recognized songwriting and music videos. Beyond their own artistic pursuits, these Teaching Artists are committed to sharing their creative talents and passion with young people.

Each of Wingspan's In-School Residencies are uniquely created through careful collaboration with our school partners. For many of our partners, we are the sole provider of arts curriculum in the school community, and as such, the residencies are custom-designed to meet the learning and cultural goals of the school. The In-School Teaching Artists often partner with classroom teachers, and they facilitate original curriculum ranging from arts enrichment to arts-integrated lessons. With Wingspan Arts' multi-disciplinary offerings, we are able to use various arts mediums to enhance student learning and cultivate rich, lasting relationships with our school community.

Our Teaching Artists commit to each individual student's learning experience and empower students to develop their own authentic artistry. Our students are the creators of their own art, and our Teaching Artists serve as a guide to self-discovery, unique perspectives, and creative collaboration within an academic setting. Beyond the artwork itself, our In-School Residencies benefit our communities by nurturing collaborative partnerships, embracing a passion for the arts, and using authentic arts skills as tools for self-expression, personal growth, and leadership.





Teaching at Claremont International HS has given me the opportunity to witness once again how, although most of the students barely speak English, music prevails as the universal language.

- Renato Thoms, Teaching Artist

Courage

Wingspan Arts' Theatre Conservatory celebrates courage as the foundation of the program, empowering students to take hold of their artistry in new and exciting ways. In the Conservatory program, middle and high school students build their own artistic identities by taking creative risks and forging lasting relationships with like-minded artists and mentors. The Conservatory classes and performance opportunities ignite a curiosity in our students, and they bravely share their discoveries with audiences throughout the year.

Wingspan Arts' Theatre Conservatory emboldens students to use their creativity to develop fundamental skills in performance, leadership, and compassion. Through classes, the Cabaret Troupe, and the tuition-free Summer Conservatory, Wingspan students experience a multitude of opportunities to take bold, creative risks in both practice and performance. The ensemble-based approach in our classes and productions highlights the impact of teamwork, and students leave our program feeling confident in their abilities both on and off the stage.

By emphasizing the values of courage and collaboration, our students move on from the Conservatory program with meaningful life skills: understanding others with empathy and patience, managing time and expectations, and leading with confidence and flexibility. Wingspan Conservatory alumni have not only been on Broadway, in television and film, and currently exist at the helm of transcending producing companies, but they've also attended more than 30 colleges around the country. It is our hope that our students continue to take brave risks by utilizing their creative skills to impact the ever-changing world.

Before Wingspan, I didn't have a lot of confidence in myself as a performer. But through this program, I opened up more, I grew to trust myself, and I felt encouraged by the loving people around me.

- Lorraine Boller, Conservatory Student



Creativity

Creativity is the emphasis of all Wingspan Arts programs; however, it is most celebrated when we invite our community to be creative with us. Creativity is meant to be shared, and Wingspan Arts is glad to do so through a growing series of [public programs and events](#).

Wingspan Arts honors the creativity of our Conservatory students at our annual benefit, A Taste of Conservatory. Featuring both a cocktail reception and a music performance, A Taste of Conservatory highlights the impact our programs have on our students, and how their creativity will continue to influence their lives beyond their time with us. At this event, Conservatory students share their creative talents onstage with alumni, staff, and special guest performers, and our supporters are empowered to join the arts movement we are building.

Wingspan Arts also hosts over 300 families every spring at Artopia. This free, family-friendly arts festival celebrates creativity through a diverse program of interactive workshops. At Artopia, professional artists lead thematic projects in visual art and performance, encouraging children and their families to use their imaginations and curiosity to express themselves creatively. Families build take-home artworks, participate in dance and theatre workshops, and watch performances from Wingspan Arts' Cabaret Troupe and select Afterschool classes. The event is completely free for all families and celebrates the value of the arts for all ages.





These programs have enhanced my son's creativity, social & emotional development, self-awareness, and have fostered his ability to problem solve. Being a part of the Wingspan community introduced my son to new people and experiences.

- The Academy of Talented Scholars Parent

Commitment

Government Grants



Foundation Support

The Bydale Foundation
Leo Model Foundation
The Pine Tree Foundation

Corporate Sponsors

Davis Polk & Wardwell
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation,
U.S. Matching Gifts Program
GFP Real Estate
Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs

Individual Donors

June 2018 - May 2019, Over \$25

Claudia Abate-Debat
Casey Abeson
Valerie & Omar Altahawi
Nancy & Frank Ashen
Dennis & Brenda Ashley
Nancy & JB Barricklo
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Gary & Dale Bernstein
Karen Blaine
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Laurie Kasloff & Steven Lion
Meskerem Kebede
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Cheryl Vollweiler
Monica Von Thun Calderón
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Arthur & Inna White
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Jose Zayas

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Development & Community
Engagement Manager

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Education Program Manager

MARISOL DEMONTE
Education Program Manager

MATT FREEMAN
Education Director

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ERIK KEARNEY
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June 2018 - May 2019

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Reflection

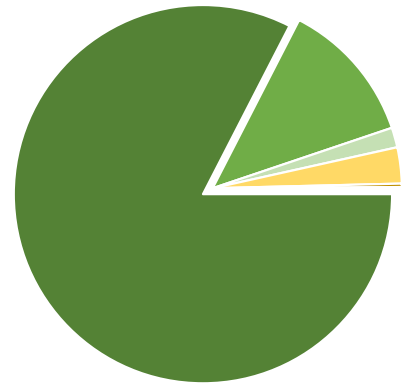
Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year End August 31, 2018

Income

Tuition income (net of scholarships of \$459,000)	\$3,100,848
Contracted services income	\$460,695
Contributions	\$63,685
Government grants	\$115,913
Fundraising income	\$10,960
Interest and other income	\$3,829

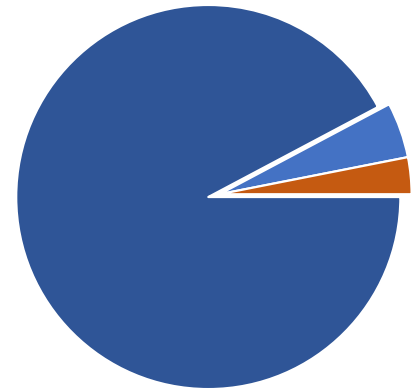
Total Income \$3,755,930



Expense

Program services	\$3,198,637
Supporting services	
Management and general	\$161,857
Fundraising	\$107,405

Total Expenses \$3,467,899

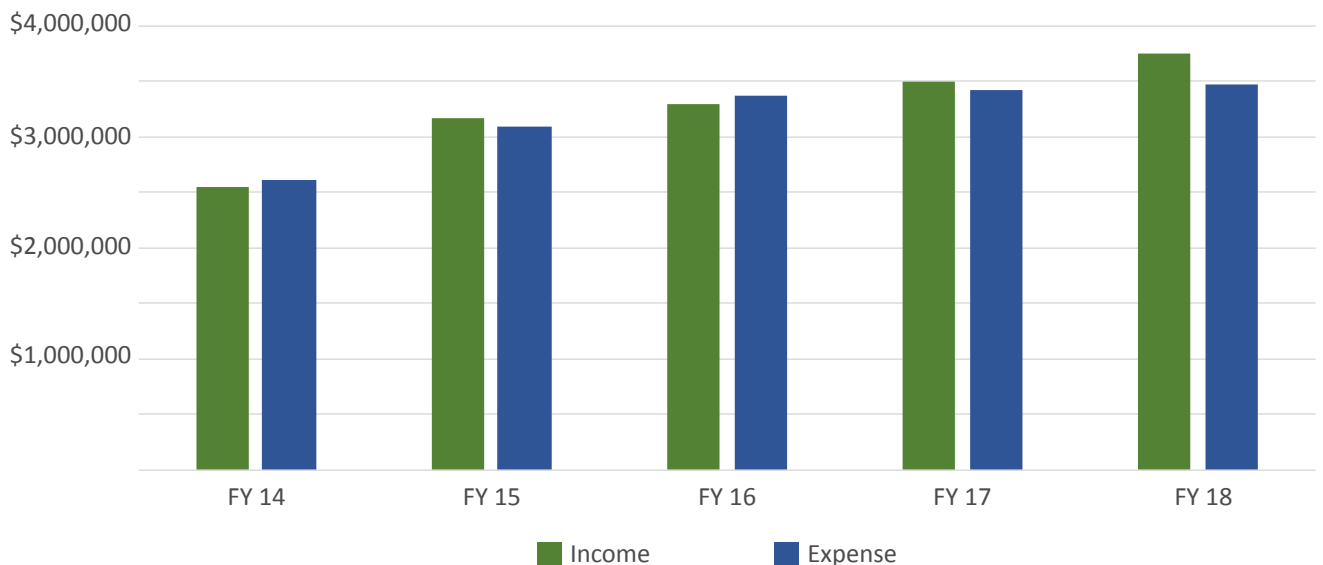


Change in net assets \$288,031

Net assets - beginning of year (\$265,644)

Net assets - end of year \$22,387

Income and Expense Over the Last 5 Years





Thank you for this amazing program.
It's literally been an integral part of
our children's development and we are
so grateful for the love and support it's
provided them over the years.

- Sarah Jonas, Conservatory Parent



WingspanArts
connecting the arts to life

630 Ninth Ave, Suite 602
New York, NY 10036
(212) 586-2330
www.wingspanarts.org

