



AWAKEN YOUR DREAMS

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



ArtWell is a Philadelphia-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing educational, arts-based programs for youth and communities facing discrimination, poverty, violence, and the everyday challenges of growing up.

Founded in 2000 in response to chronic community violence in Philadelphia neighborhoods, ArtWell has since partnered with more than 400 organizations, serving more than 43,634 participants across the Greater Philadelphia region.

f @ArtWellPhilly

FRONT COVER: WORKSHOP AT URBAN
LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA
RIGHT: COMMUNITY COLLAGE AT PLEASE
TOUCH MUSEUM



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

A year at ArtWell is full of learning, growing, connection, and moments of joy for all involved, and last year was no exception. Guided by a theme of LOVE, our Teaching Artists, staff and Board of Directors worked in concert to produce a robust offering of in-school and community programming, welcoming me into the organization as Executive Director along the way.

When we say “love is our bottom line,” we speak to our desire to use art as a way to reinforce belonging, a sense of support, and respect among every student we encounter. In the classroom, this takes the shape of words of encouragement, identity-affirming projects, and meditative practices like breathwork and visualization. In our community partnerships, love is evident in quality time spent between families and the willingness of strangers to connect with one another while artmaking.

In the pages that follow, you will find a number of highlights from the year, including considerable growth in our out-of-school-time programs, the expansion of our revenue sources, and a warm send-off for ArtWell’s founding Executive Director, Susan Teegan.

We hope to convey a sense of optimism for the journey ahead, our dogged pursuit of programmatic excellence for Philadelphia youth, and our deeply held belief that art heals.

Wherever this report finds you, please know that we are grateful for your presence in our community. Our work would be impossible without you, and your belief that art transforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malia". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'M' and a trailing flourish.

Malia Gilbert Neal
Executive Director

ARTWELL PROGRAMS

Since 2000, ArtWell has had the honor of working with hundreds of amazing partners including schools, libraries, diverse faith-based organizations, and health and social-service providers to serve up to 1500 participants per year across the Greater Philadelphia region.

ARTWELL DEEPWELL

The ArtWell DeepWell initiative provides select partner sites with multiple ArtWell core programs for students across several grade levels. The multi-program model was developed in 2015 to provide educational partners with consistent, long-term programs for deeper impact on students, and an expanded school presence in support of school staff, families, and the broader school community.

2022/2023 DeepWell Partners: Al-Aqsa Islamic Academy, Eleanor C. Emlen Elementary, John H. Taggart School, Parkway Northwest High School

WE THE POETS

The We the Poets® program, ArtWell's longest running program, builds literacy skills, communication and self expression, and it fosters a love of learning through poetry. We the Poets' curriculum is aligned with state and core standards for grades 1-12 and has been used in Pennsylvania districts for standardized test (PSSAs) preparation tied to literacy comprehension.



We the Poets programming was provided in 18 school classrooms during the program year.

THE ART OF GROWING LEADERS

Through multi-disciplinary arts, students build trust with one another and explore their identity and aspirations. Students identify their unique strengths as leaders, build a sense of community in the classroom, and work together on a social action project using art for advocacy and activism.



Art of Growing Leaders programming was provided in 9 school classrooms during the program year.

"I can change my negative words into positive words."
- We the Poets Student, Emlen Elementary School, Grade 3

ECOARTS

EcoArts uses a combination of art, poetry, and reflection to engage youth in exploring and redefining what the environment means to them. Participants study and discuss how they can impact and care for the environment, as well as how it directly impacts their lives and well-being. Through a combination of art forms and garden projects, students imagine the world they want to live in and advocate for environmental justice and sustainability.

MASTERPEACE

ArtWell's MasterPeace® program engages students and communities in large-scale arts processes such as murals, mosaics and installations to help participants overcome challenges, build bridges and ensky the strengths of their neighborhoods. Individual and community-focused projects under the Masterpeace program have led to a number of collaborative installations throughout the city, empowering individuals and restoring their communities.

To request a youth program or workshop, email programs@theartwell.org or visit us at theartwell.org.



IN THE CLASSROOM

696

Students

1,363

Program Participants

27

Classrooms

ArtWell programs and workshops were held in 27 Philadelphia school classrooms. Across all programs, ArtWell served 1,363 individuals, including 696 schools students.





PROGRAMS IN ACTION

11

Teaching Artists

712

Program Hours
in Schools

265

Program Hours
in Communities

TEACHING ARTISTS

Cathy Cohen
Adina Shapiro
David Gaines
Donnell Powell
Enoch the Poet
Jennifer Eckenrode
Jessica Eldridge
Valerie Anderson
Sabriaya Shipley
Jillian M. Rock
Nella Rohan
Blew Kind



977 hours of program and workshop instruction were provided by 11 ArtWell Teaching Artists and Programs staff.

LEFT: WETHEPOETS AT AL-AQSA ACADEMY

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

HOW IS ARTWELL SUPPORTING PHILADELPHIA YOUTH?

9

ArtWell led youth arts programs and workshops at nine schools during the program year.

11

ArtWell collaborated with 11 community organizations to provide programs, workshops, or arts activities.

8

ArtWell offered programming in 8 Philadelphia zip codes.

43K+

Since 2000, ArtWell has partnered with more than 400 organizations and served more than 43,673 participants.



PROGRAM PARTNERS

DEEPWELL PARTNERS

Al-Aqsa Islamic Academy
Eleanor C. Emlen Elementary School
John H. Taggart School
Parkway Northwest High School

SCHOOL PARTNERS

St. Francis School
C.C.A. Baldi Middle School
Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter
Kipp Dubois Collegiate Academy
Kensington High School for the
Creative and Performing Arts (KCAPA)

"It has been a wonderful learning experience for me. ArtWell enabled me to learn things about my students I didn't know."

-- Ms. Argentieri, 5th Grade Teacher,
Emlen Elementary School

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME / COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Please Touch Museum
Hardy Middle School
Urban League of Philadelphia
Philadelphia Youth Basketball
Cobbs Creek Foundation
Camp Sojourner
The Rail Park
Smith Playground
Temple University
PA Humanities
PhilaCollageWorks

"I enjoyed that every time ArtWell visited the mood changed in a positive way."

-- Art of Growing Leaders Student,
Parkway Northwest High School, Grade 11

2022/2023 HIGHLIGHTS

MALIA GILBERT NEAL JOINS ARTWELL AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September, 2022.

With intention and special consideration given to the skills, experiences, expertise, and values needed to guide ArtWell in its next phase of growth, the Board of Directors selected Malia Gilbert Neal to serve as Executive Director.

In the true spirit of ArtWell, the search and hiring process was highly collaborative, both internally and externally. We are profoundly grateful for the generous investments from long-time donors and the Philadelphia Foundation, who invested in ArtWell to support a healthy transition. ArtWell appointed a Transition Committee, including board members and staff, to lead the search and partnered with the search firms, DiverseForce and Fairmount Ventures, to create and execute a rigorous and equitable process.



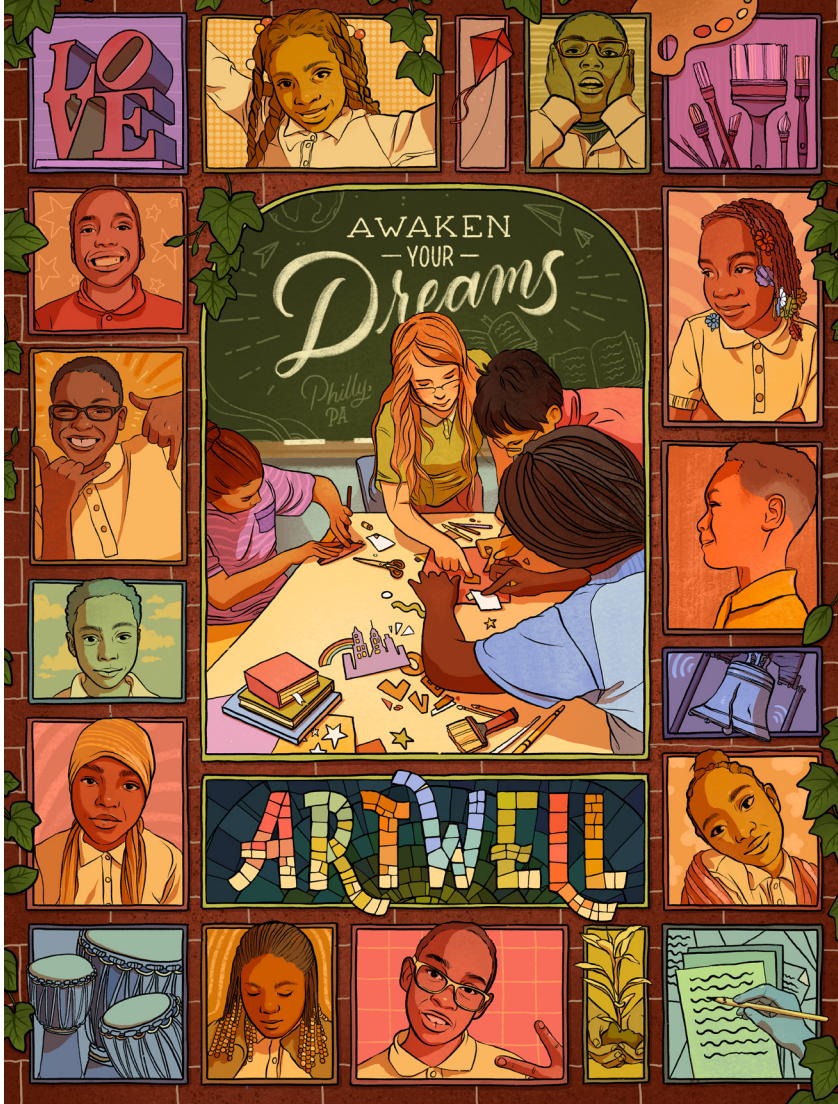
MALIA GILBERT NEAL

RETROSPECTIVE BOOK PUBLISHING BY BLACK MINDS PUBLISHING

October, 2022.

In partnership with Black Minds Publishing and through generous funding from the PA Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, ArtWell published a compilation of images, artwork, and poetry from the last ten years.

The retrospective book features and celebrates students' voices and their creativity. Picture shown on the right is the front cover, designed by Cynthia Zhou.



2022/2023 HIGHLIGHTS

2022 ARTWELL AWARDS, HONORING VISIONARY LEADERS

October, 2022

The biennial ArtWell Awards was held in-person for the first time since 2018. We all gathered at the Logan Hotel for a celebration of creativity and community as we honored three visionary leaders: Majd Ahmad (Alumni Leader Award), Susan Teegen, ArtWell's Founding Executive Director (Miki Young ArtWell Leader Award), and Stacy Holland (Visionary Leader Award) with special performances and a night to remember.

To mark this special occasion and transition in leadership, ArtWell Co-Chair, Angela Steel offered blessings for Susan and Malia as they embark on their exciting new chapters.

COMMUNITY COLLAGE PROJECT

February, 2023

We partnered with Philadelphia CollageWorks to bring their Community Collage Quilt Project to the ArtWell community. Attendees created collage squares which will become part of a large collage quilt with other contributions from participants across Philadelphia.





FIRST WEDNESDAYS AT THE PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM

March & April, 2023

ArtWell ran an art activity during the Please Touch Museum's First Wednesdays in March and April. March's activity was a community collage in honor of Women's History Month. In April, ArtWell's offered sensory art activities, bubble art and finger painting in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

BLACK JOY WORKSHOPS AT URBAN LEAGUE

February, 2023

In honor of Black History Month, ArtWell offered two workshop series on Black Joy and Black Excellence to both Urban League of Philadelphia and Kipp Dubois Collegiate Academy. During these workshops, students created paintings, poetry, photography, and mixed-media collages with watercolors.

2022/2023 HIGHLIGHTS

IT'S RAINING POETRY!

Spring, 2023.

ArtWell hosted the PA Humanities Rain Poetry project in classrooms at Emlen Elementary School and Al-Aqsa Academy. Facilitated by local poets and Youth Poets Laureate, students engaged in a hands-on poetry activity. Their haikus are installed on the ground at high traffic public spaces and are visible when water-activated.

PHILADELPHIA YOUTH BASKETBALL WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

Spring, 2023.

As part of the Philadelphia Youth Basketball Work-based Learning program, 15-year old scholar Tavis Sanders worked with ArtWell for several weeks as an intern.

Tavis reflected on his time with ArtWell: ***"I was able to improve my photography skills and gain a deeper grasp of posting and content development during this period of time, which passed way too quickly...I am very grateful for this opportunity to work with ArtWell and I hope that we still stay in contact and are able to collaborate later in the future."***



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Tavis Sanders



AWAKEN



YOUR

DREAMS

POETRY AND ART SHOW



AWAKEN YOUR DREAMS POETRY AND ART SHOW

The second-annual Awaken Your Dreams Poetry and Art Show kicked off with an opening reception on June 2nd followed by a week-long exhibition at 1040 Creative.

The show aimed to uplift the voices and visions of Philadelphia youth, including participants from Parkway Northwest High School, Kensington Creative and Performing Arts High School, John H. Taggart School, Emlen Elementary School, Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School, C.C.A. Baldi Middle School, Please Touch Museum, and Urban League of Philadelphia.

The breadth of artwork was inspiring and included tile art, collage, canvas paintings, sculptures, digital portraits, video, poetry, and even repurposed art made with vinyl records.



ARTWELL LEADERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Angela Steel, PhD **Co-Chair**
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Malia Gilbert Neal

ARTWELL STAFF

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Briana Clarke
Program Director

Jessica Eldredge
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Dan Host
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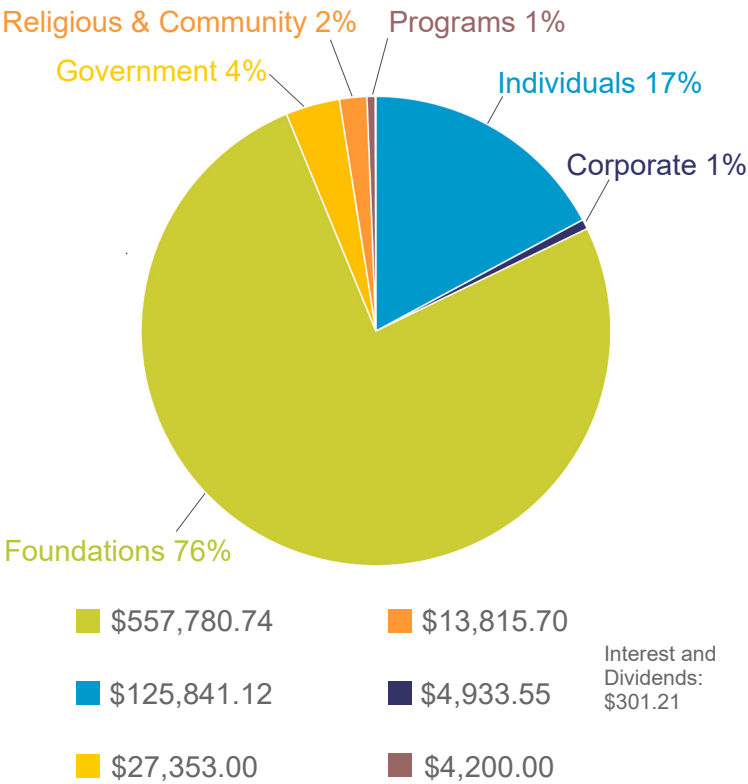
Tiffany Zerby
Communications Manager

Keyonna Butler
Program Coordinator



REVENUE & SUPPORT

Fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

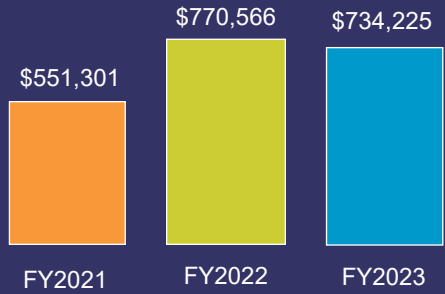


*Gifts from Corporate Foudations are included in the Foundations section.



Gifts of all sizes are meaningful and appreciated!
Donated today at <https://theartwell.org/donate>

REVENUE FROM LAST 3 FISCAL YEARS



INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATIONS & FUNDS

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Citizens Charitable Foundation
Cobbs Creek Restoration & Community Foundation
Genesis Inspiration Foundation
Penn Treaty Special Services District
Forman Family Fund
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Transition Network Philadelphia Giving Circle Fund

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Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
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CORPORATE SUPPORTERS & MATCHING PROGRAMS

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Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
Interfaith Philadelphia

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\$10,000+

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Cathleen Cohen

\$5,000+

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Harrington
Susan and Steven Dubow

\$2,500+

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\$1,500+

Susan Wargo
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Malia Gilbert Neal
Adab Abraham
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Normadene Murphy

\$500+

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Ronit Engel
Grant Harrington
Tiffany Robbins
Ayana Curtis



ArtWell supports young people and their communities through multidisciplinary arts expression, education, and creative reflection to celebrate their strengths, thrive while facing complex challenges, and awaken their dreams.

theArtWell.org



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