AWAKEN YOUR DREAMS

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015
ARTWELL WAS FOUNDED IN 2000 to respond to the chronic community violence in Philadelphia by introducing a preventive, educational, arts-oriented approach to reach underserved communities and youth facing discrimination, poverty, violence, and the everyday challenges of growing up.

Among the 10 most populous U.S. cities, Philadelphia ranks highest in deep poverty and has a 70% four-year graduation rate against the 86% statewide average.

Our mission is to support young people through arts education and creative reflection to discover their strengths, face complex challenges, and awaken their dreams.

www.theArtWell.org
Dear Friends,

At ArtWell, the power of collaboration in service of the world that we want to create with our youth and communities has made for an amazing season of growth.

During 2014-2016, ArtWell created three new program expansions that have already served 830 students in 33 classrooms across Greater Philadelphia. We have grown and nurtured our core of teaching artists who bring a wealth of different art forms and inspiring abilities to connect with and engage our students. Our students have exhibited and performed their work at the extraordinary ArtWell Awards and the ArtWell Festival held at our beautiful new home at Oxford Mills Center for Educational Excellence. ArtWell students also performed for and connected with visionary artists Spike Lee and Philadelphia Poet Laureates Sonia Sanchez and Yolanda Wisher.

In addition to core program expansions, we have improved evaluation tools in partnership with Research for Action and Drexel University Creative Arts Therapy Department and have significantly expanded our Professional Development offerings. These advancements help ArtWell continue to grow partnerships with behavioral and public health partners and arts and community leaders to work together for a stronger collective impact to help our students and communities heal from trauma.

ArtWell has also strengthened operations by aligning our fiscal year with our program year and outlining a 2016 - 2019 Strategic Plan, which guides us to focus on deeper impact while also expanding our reach through new Board members and strategic alliances.

In ArtWell classrooms, we witness every day how the arts break through despair and build community. We celebrate as our students shine with their newly discovered abilities to write, make music, create art and lead change in their schools and neighborhoods.

As 4th grade students at Dunbar Elementary expressed in their original rhythm and song:

**WE ARE HEARTBEAT, WE PLAY DRUMS**
**THE RHYTHM TEACHES US WHERE WE’RE FROM**
**AT THE END OF THE SONG THERE’S MORE WE KNOW**
**CHANGING THE WORLD AS WE GO!**

For the change that is needed, your partnership is essential. Thanks to all who invest in ArtWell and in our students as they create the rhythms of healing, the voices of hope, and visions of the joyful world that is possible.

With heartfelt gratitude!

Rev. Susan Teegen
ArtWell Executive Director

P.S. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (artwellphilly), visit our new website at www.theArtWell.org, and be sure to subscribe to ArtWell eNews!
THE ART OF GROWING LEADERS
is an expansion of ArtWell’s rites of passage program, The Art of Growing Up. Through mask-making, poetry and multi-disciplinary arts, students build trust with one another and explore their identity and aspirations, inspired by cross-cultural coming of age traditions. Later in the program, students identify their unique strengths as leaders and work together on a social action project using art for advocacy and activism.

Partners can select either the rites of passage or leadership development components or choose a year-long program with both. Participant groups may be single or mixed gender.

HEARTBEAT
Thanks to generous funding from the William Penn Foundation, ArtWell launched a 15 week HeartBeat music program for K-5 classrooms at nine schools. Building on 15 years of partnership with Marcy Francis and Jan Jeffries, ArtWell’s Percussion Artists-in-Residence, the program uses the power of West African and Afro-Caribbean music and tradition as a vehicle to engage youth, while integrating ArtWell’s expertise in poetry for literacy-building and reflection.

WE THE POETS
ArtWell’s longest running program, We the Poets, builds literacy skills, communication, self expression and fosters a love of a learning through poetry. The 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.

ECOARTS
EcoArts uses art, poetry, and reflection to engage youth in exploring and redefining what the “environment” means to them. In EcoArts workshops, students reflect not only how they can impact and care for their surroundings, but how the environment can impact their lives and well being. Students use arts and poetry to imagine the world they want to live in and the advocate for environmental justice and sustainability.

Through a 2-year grant from the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Foundation of the Eugene C. Bay Fund, ArtWell expanded its reach through EcoArts in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Chester, which under the leadership of Janet Riley Ford, Executive Director, has a wealth of dynamic relationships with partners in Chester that focus on creating sustainable youth development.
POETRY HELPS ME GET WHAT’S INSIDE OUT, SO THE WORLD CAN SEE ME IN A NEW WAY. - Jayden, ArtWell Student

MASTERPEACE
ArtWell’s MasterPeace program engages students and communities in large-scale arts processes such as murals, mosaics and installations, in order to overcome obstacles, build bridges and lift up strengths. MasterPeace is a collaborative community project that creates large pieces of artwork in the city, restoring neighborhoods and empowering individuals.

SLAM TEAM
ArtWell has been honored to help support young poets through our ArtWell Slam Team which competed in 2015 through the Philly Youth Poetry Movement’s Philadelphia city-wide Slam League.

ArtWell’s Slam Team is gearing up for the upcoming Slam League in Spring 2016 with a city-wide team based out of Parkway West High School and led by co-coaches Sara Graybeal and Julian Randall.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ArtWell’s Professional Development workshops introduce educators and youth service providers to our unique approach, which combines creative expression and reflection to provide new tools for engaging young people, as well as a sense of replenishment, joy and community for the professionals who participate.

Through hands-on arts activities, participants will experience how poetry, visual art and music encourage youth to become aware of their inner resilience, to have a greater respect for cultural diversity, build literacy skills and academic engagement, and to value their own voices, visions and creative spirit.

Our goal is to support individuals and organizations in their needs as professionals who directly impact our youth and the future of our communities. We tailor our workshops to ensure that you are equipped with the specific skills and support you need to best serve your youth’s needs.

Commonly requested Professional Development Training Topics include:
• Team Building
• Healing from Loss, Trauma and Secondary Trauma
• Arts Integration
• Poetry for Literacy Building
• Building Community and Sanctuary through the Arts

ArtWell also offers fee-for-service adult art workshops and retreats by request, and provides grant-funded workshops at no cost to groups and organizations when available. Paying at the higher end of the spectrum supports ArtWell’s ability to provide arts-based programming for youth and to work with other groups/organizations at little to no cost. To learn how you can become a participant, or bring a program to a school or organization in your neighborhood, please contact Julia Terry, Program Director (215.386.7705 x 6) or submit your request by completing the Booking Request Form online at www.theArtWell.org.
IN THE CLASSROOM

ArtWell responds to the challenges facing our youth:

- In 2014/2015, ArtWell brought core programs to 42 classrooms across 30 sites.

- 80% of ArtWell students surveyed in 2014/2015 want to work with others to help solve problems in their communities.

- 82% of ArtWell students surveyed in 2014/2015 feel involved and important in classes.

- In 2014/2015, ArtWell served 1,500 students across the Greater Philadelphia region.

- Since 2000 ArtWell has grown to partner with over 395 organizations and serve more than 33,500 participants.

www.theArtWell.org

MY ART WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

- Olivia, ArtWell Student, Grade 7
PROGRAM PARTNERS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE
Achieving Independence Center
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia – Violence Prevention Initiative
Health Federation of Greater Philadelphia
NorthEast Treatment Centers
Turning Points for Children

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
Parent-Infant Center

INDEPENDENT & FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS
Al-Aqsa Islamic Academy
Esperanza
Friends’ Central School
International Montessori School at Paoli
La Salle Academy
North Penn Mosque
Quba Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies
Saint Francis De Sales School

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PARTNERS
Drexel University School of Nursing – Creative Arts Therapies Program
Research for Action

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME / COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
The Attic Youth Center
Boys and Girls Club of Chester
Camp Sojourner Girls’ Leadership Camp
Columbia North YMCA
Police Athletic League (PAL)
Taller Puertorriqueño
YESPhilly

PUBLIC / CHARTER SCHOOLS
Bache-Martin Elementary School
Folk-Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School
James G. Blaine School
James Rhoads Elementary
John H. Taggart School
Memphis Street Academy Charter School
Olney Charter High School
Parkway West High School
Paul L. Dunbar School
Penn Alexander School
The U School

Fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

STUDENTS HAVE GAINED CONFIDENCE, SKILLS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY PASSION FOR WRITTEN AND SPOKEN POETRY.
2014/2015 HIGHLIGHTS

ArtWell programs impacted 1,500 students in 2014/2015. At one program, held at James Rhoads Elementary, we were able to teach multi-disciplinary art forms several days a week throughout the entire school-year, including poetry, mural-making, and photography. Many students were not reading or writing at grade level. ArtWell organized additional volunteers to join classes for two extra hours per week to help bring students up to reading level. Students improved their skills, gained confidence, and were ultimately able to create beautiful poetry journals which also contained photographic self-portraits. At a public culminating celebration, the audience was brought to tears as we watched students beam with pride over all that they had done; over all they could do. For information about ArtWell volunteer opportunities email us at volunteer@theArtWell.org.

Thanks to our dedicated supporters in June 2014, ArtWell was able to win an online contest and receive an IKEA makeover for its new office location at Oxford Mills.

Expanding upon our successful The Art of Growing Up® program, ArtWell launched The Art of Growing Leaders, which includes a leadership component developed through a highly competitive grant from Impact100 Philadelphia. The program culminates with each group of students developing a creative social action project to address an issue they face in their communities.

Comprised of students from Philadelphia-area schools, ArtWell’s Slam Poetry Team took on high school teams from the region in spring 2015 and advanced to the semi-finals in the PYPM Slam League.
ArtWell partnered with Al-Aqsa Islamic Society, City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, and community partners in South Kensington and across Philadelphia in spring 2016 to create a public mural for peace and understanding. The “Windows to Peace” project, to be completed in 2016, has already engaged people of many races and many faiths including Muslim, Jews, Christians, Atheists, and more.

In May 2015, ArtWell hosted its inaugural ArtWell Festival, a free city-wide celebration, bringing over 300 people together from across Greater Philadelphia for an afternoon of song, drumming, poetry, mask-making, envisioning and play.

In 2015, ArtWell partnered with creative agency Here’s My Chance, made possible by The Philadelphia Foundation, to update outreach materials, including the ArtWell website (relaunched September 2015), a program brochure, and an ArtWell video. Visit our new digital home at www.theArtWell.org and follow us on social media for the latest ArtWell developments.

She calls it her garden of hope. Every day she watches over it to see if something will grow.

- Kadidja, ArtWell Slam Team Member, Grade 9

2015 ARTWELL AWARDS
ArtWell was delighted to gather with more than 320 supporters and friends on October 17, 2015 for a joyful celebration highlighting honorees Spike Lee, Lynne Horoschak, and Jerron Corley. Look for coverage of this inspiring event in our next annual report (2016 summer/fall release).
AWAKENING DREAMS

Gifts of all sizes make a difference for ArtWell students:

$25K
Provide a high school group of 20 students with consistent poetry workshops throughout their 4 years of high school, helping them develop literacy and writing skills

$5K
Provide a 30 week program, helping 20 students to discover their creative strengths and honor those of others

$2K
Provide 10 weeks of percussion and poetry classes to a child who has never experienced multicultural music education

$500
Support a culminating event, where students can proudly share their creativity with their family, friends, and community

$80
Staff a classroom of 20 students with 2 talented teaching artists who will teach youth creative skills, and serve as mentors to students who need more caring adults in their lives.

www.theArtWell.org

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Figures for 2015 are reflective of ArtWell’s recent move to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015.

2015 MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

OVERALL GROWTH OF REVENUE & SUPPORT

FY ’15
July 2014 - June 2015 $678,957

2012

2013

2014
Jan. 2014 - June 2014 $220,880 (Fiscal Year Transition)

OVERALL GROWTH OF REVENUE & SUPPORT
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

The Allen Hilles Fund
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Bemis Company
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Eugene C. Bay Fund
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Connelly Foundation
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation
Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial
The John Templeton Foundation
Lindback Foundation
Lindy Center for Civic Engagement
Lumpkin Family Foundation
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Penn Treaty Special Services District
Philadelphia Cultural Fund
The Philadelphia Foundation
Public Citizens for Children and Youth, Picasso Project
Rosenlund Family Foundation
Saul Ewing, LLP
Seybert Foundation
St. Luke United Church
Tabernacle United Church
Union Benevolent Association
William Penn Foundation

SOMETIMES you have to try new things to find out who you are.
- Michael, ArtWell Student, Grade 7

Fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015
Thank you to our many supporters who inspire us every day as we pursue our vision of a better Philadelphia.

$150K
Seth Koppes

$50K+
John & Josephine Templeton

$35K+
Jennifer & Scott Simpson

$5K+
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$2.5K+
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$1.5K+
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Cory Stirling
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UP TO $750
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Nancy Adess
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Nancy Ameen & Alan Hoden
Rehana & Mohammad Jan
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Jeffrey & Heather Dill
Monica & Remy Djerassi
Ricci & Michael Doctrow
Maurine Doggett & James Thacker
Alice & Peter Dustin
Dawn Chloe Early
Arnold & Barbara Eiser
Rabbi Nancy Epstein
James Fairburn

Fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015
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Jackson Zhong

I LEARNED HOW TO EXPRESS MYSELF THROUGH ART, NOW I’M OPEN TO SO MUCH MORE.
- Zoey, Art of Growing Leaders Student
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Thank you to Patricia Coyne, Monique Bair DiSabatino, Marcus Gaskins, Fariha Khan (2015 Chair), and Kameelah Rashad for their commitment and leadership as ArtWell board members during 2014/2015.

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