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.

Of the nation’s 10 largest cities, Philadelphia has the highest rate of poverty with more than 400,000 Philadelphians living below the federal poverty line, including 37 percent of children.

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

theArtWell.org
Dear Friends,

One of the highlights of this past year was creating the Young Dream Maker’s Award for our biennial ArtWell Awards, in honor of our beloved friend Miki who chaired ArtWell’s Board from 2008-2011. Miki was also the creator of ArtWell’s tagline: Awaken Your Dreams. She embodied the dream of a life lived with inspiring purpose, love, joy, and authenticity in ways that were contagious to those around her. We experienced her spirit and legacy of continuing to “move the world forward” when we gave this award to Miki’s dear friend Lynne Horoschak, and honored two other Visionary Leaders: Spike Lee and ArtWell student alum Jerron Corley. We also feel this dream coming alive every day in our amazing students, our devoted Board leaders, our talented teaching artists, and our incredible staff.

This year, our student projects covered a wide range of topics from connecting and sustaining a beautiful and just environment with a poetry garden at the Boys & Girls Club of Chester, to a student-led photography exhibit on “What would you say to a police officer?” and every pressing social issue in between. All of us at ArtWell, and the communities with whom we partner, have been inspired by the dreams and creative solutions our young people imagine and share for a future where we can all thrive.

These same sparks of hope to move the world forward came from a community paint day for our Windows to Peace mural project, co-hosted with Al-Aqsa Islamic Academy and the Mural Arts Program. This event brought together people of all ages, from all areas and backgrounds, to hold up a vision of peace and to stand together with their neighbors during a time rife with conflict, hate, and division.

In addition to our impactful programs and partnerships, we were grateful to be recognized by many of our supporters including the Council on American-Islamic Relations Philadelphia (Leadership Award), and the Jimmie Johnson Foundation (2016 Helmet of Hope). Most notably, the William Penn Foundation not only allowed us to pilot our HeartBeat music program, they will also support our DeepWell model over the next two years, supporting our strategic plan to provide more comprehensive and holistic partnerships with workshops in multiple classes per site and stronger relationships with teachers, students, and families.

As we look forward to the next year of programming for ArtWell, I hope that you will join me in holding this vision of moving the world forward. After all, it’s not something any one person can do alone—the world will only change if youth and communities come together and share their visions, engage in creativity, and reflect upon the future they want to and can build. We here at ArtWell are honored every day that our partners, donors, and supporters trust us to do this work. It is a true gift, and one that we don’t take for granted.

Rev. Susan Teegen
ArtWell Executive Director

"IF WE HAVE ONE JOB, IT IS TO HELP MOVE THE WORLD FORWARD. IF WE'RE NOT DOING THAT, WHAT IS OUR TRUE LEGACY? OUR TRUE CONTRIBUTION?"

MIKI YOUNG, MARCH 17, 1952 - AUGUST 17, 2014

If we have one job, it is to help move the world forward. If we’re not doing that, what is our true legacy? Our true contribution?”

Miki Young, March 17, 1952 – August 17, 2014
ARTWELL CORE PROGRAMS

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

THE ART OF GROWING LEADERS
The Art of Growing Leaders is an expansion of The Art of Growing Up® program, ArtWell’s rites of passage module. 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.

During the 2015/2016 school year, The Art of Growing Leaders program reached more than 100 students in 9 schools where the majority of students reported gaining a positive perspective on leadership as a collective action that involves helping others and sharing responsibility.

HEARTBEAT
Launched in the fall of 2015, HeartBeat builds on 15 years of partnership with Marcy Francis and Jan Jeffries, ArtWell’s Percussion Artists-in-Residence. HeartBeat 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.

In 2015/2016, HeartBeat program assessment by Research For Action showed 100% of classroom teachers and teaching artists to have reported productive and mutually respectful relationships with regular communication during the school year.

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

In 2015/2016, We the Poets was run at 15 sites in two sections: Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-12. The majority of nearly 500 participating students reported improved writing skills and poetry development, and increased confidence in sharing their ideas with others.

I LEARNED NEW SONGS, NEW WAYS TO PLAY THE DJEMBE, AND I LEARNED IT’S GOOD TO TRY NEW THINGS.
HeartBeat Student

A 2015/2016 HeartBeat program assessment by Research For Action showed 100% of classroom teachers and teaching artists to have reported productive and mutually respectful relationships with regular communication during the school year.
**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 lift up 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 neighborhoods.

**SLAM TEAM**

ArtWell has been honored to help support young poets through the Slam Team which competes in the citywide Slam League orchestrated by Philly Youth Poetry Movement (PYPM). The ArtWell team is comprised of middle school and high school students who compete with other students and teams from across the city. Participating students are able to take the risk of performance and self-discovery in an environment of appreciation, positive affirmations, and applause in salute of their bravery.

**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 ArtWell Booking Request Form online at www.theArtWell.org.
IN THE CLASSROOM

ArtWell responds to the challenges facing our youth:

- During 2015/2016, ArtWell led core programs in 39 classrooms across 31 sites.
- 70% of HeartBeat students said their creative skills improved since joining the ArtWell program.
- 73.5% of Art of Growing Leaders students surveyed reported more than once that they were interested in making a difference.
- During 2015/2016, ArtWell served more than 1000 students across the Greater Philadelphia region.
- Since 2000 ArtWell has grown to partner with more than 400 organizations and serve more than 34,500 participants.

POETRY CAN OPEN THE HEART AND MIND.

We the Poets Student, Grade 9
PROGRAM PARTNERS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE
Achieving Independence Center
CHOP Family / Immunology Center
CHOP Violence Intervention Program
NorthEast Treatment Centers

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
ChildSpace
Parent-Infant Center
Timothy Academy

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

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME / COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
The Advocate Center
Attic Youth Center

Boys & Girls Club of Chester
Camp Sojourner Girls’ Leadership Camp
City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program
Girls Justice League
Norris Square Neighborhood Project
Philadelphia Youth Poetry Movement
Police Athletic League
Sandbox Collective
Sunrise of Philadelphia

PUBLIC / CHARTER SCHOOLS
James G. Blaine Elementary School
James Rhoads Elementary School
John H. Taggart School
Kensington Creative & Performing Arts High School
Lowell Elementary School
Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
Memphis Street Academy Charter School
Overbrook Education Center
Parkway West High School
Paul L. Dunbar Promise Academy
Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander School
Southwark School

Fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016
In Fall 2015, thanks to generous funding from the William Penn Foundation, ArtWell launched a 15 week HeartBeat music program for more than 200 students in K-5 classrooms at nine schools in Philadelphia. Enjoy their recordings online at artwellheartbeat.bandcamp.com.

In October 2015, ArtWell was selected by the Bartol Foundation as the winner of the 2015 George Bartol Arts Education Award: “The Award is given to an organization that provides sustained, meaningful exposure and participation in the arts; that demonstrates an active engagement in the lives of its students and community; and that maintains high artistic standards for its faculty and students.”

More than 320 supporters and friends gathered on October 17 for the 2015 ArtWell Awards, a joyful celebration featuring honorees Spike Lee, Lynne Horoschak, and Jerron Corley—the event raised more than $135K for ArtWell youth programs. Living up to its billing of transforming and inspiring through the power of the arts, the Awards also featured original poetry readings throughout the night in addition to live jazz, fervent percussion and dance performances, and live painting. Among the many standout performances, Former Poet Laureate of Philadelphia and recipient of the 2013 Visionary Leader Award Sonia Sanchez presenting honoree Spike Lee with a rousing poem penned in his honor and for the 2015 Awards.

During 2015/2016, The Lenfest Foundation awarded ArtWell $200,000 to support ArtWell’s The Art of Growing Leaders program at 25 sites over two years and The Nessa Forman, David Forman, Eleanor and Solomon Forman Family Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation granted ArtWell $38,000 to support We the Poets® programming.

In March 2016, Gryphon Cafe at Oxford Mills played host to an ArtWell student exhibit featuring poetry and artwork from program participants at Rhoads Elementary and La Salle Academy. For the final day of the show, some of the young and talented artists came out for live readings and discussions on the merits of their work. Bravo!

As follow up to the previous year’s launch of the new ArtWell website, a new ArtWell film was released in partnership with creative agency Here’s My Chance, made possible by The Philadelphia Foundation. Watch it online at theArtWell.org or youtu.be/SQ94yLKGyo.

As one of 10 semi-finalists selected from 1200 applicants across the country, ArtWell participated in the final voting round of the Jimmie Johnson Foundation Blue Bunny Helmet of Hope grant competition. ArtWell placed first among the top 5 vote-getters in May 2016 to receive a grant package that included a $25K cash grant and organization logo featured on Jimmie Johnson’s race helmet for an August 2016 NASCAR race.
Al-Aqsa Islamic Society, ArtWell and Mural Arts hosted a May 21 community celebration and mural dedication for “Windows to Peace”, a sequel project to the 2004 collaboration that brought together the three partners to create the “Doorways to Peace” mural. Previously in support of the project and Al-Aqsa Islamic Society, more than 250 members of the community from various backgrounds of age, race, and religion participated in two community paint days in January 2016.

On June 26, ArtWell was humbled and honored with the CAIR-Philadelphia Leadership Award at the Second Annual Interfaith Iftar Dinner. Former ArtWell Board Chair Fariha Khan and ArtWell friends Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, and the Very Rev. Judith Sullivan were among those who shared powerful, heartfelt words during the presentation and dinner.

In Spring 2016, through a partnership between ArtWell’s Art of Growing Leaders and Camp Sojourner Girls’ Leadership Camp, a group of youth participants launched the “Let Us Walk” social action project using guerilla-style art and community activism to voice their thoughts and opinions, and spark discussion about the effects of harassment on girls. Their social action project was also featured on the website of Stop Street Harassment (SSH), a nonprofit agency dedicated to documenting and ending gender-based street harassment.

At the close of the 2015/2016 school year ArtWell concluded its first EcoArts program in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Chester. Made possible by a 2-year grant from the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Foundation of the Eugene C. Bay Fund, students in the EcoArts program used art, poetry, and reflection to discuss and explore environmental justice and sustainability.

I saw students become proud and hopeful of their creations where previously there was apathy or fear.

ArtWell Teaching Artist
AWAKENING DREAMS

Gifts of all sizes make a difference for ArtWell students:

* 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

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

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

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

* 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/donate
Before Artwell classes I was not willing to express my feelings.
ArtWell Student, Grade 3

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Cozen O’Connor Foundation
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation
Douty Foundation
Forman Family Fund
The Glenmede Trust Company
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
Hamilton Family Foundation
Harry Chapin Memorial Foundation
Jimmie Johnson Foundation
JKJ Financial Services
LaSalle Academy
Law Office of David Berney
Lenfest Foundation
LevLane
Lincoln Investment
Main Line Children’s Festival
Main Line Reform Temple
The Mask and Wig Club of the University of Pennsylvania

Meyer Capital Group
Moore Brothers
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Penn Treaty Special Services District
Philadelphia Cultural Fund
Philadelphia Federal Credit Union
The Philadelphia Foundation
Psalm 103 Foundation
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Saul Ewing LLP
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Tabernacle United Church
Templeton Foundation
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Fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016
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$15K+
Charlotte Kaitz

$10K+
Suzan Kaitz and Jonathan Katz

$5K+
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