Young Audiences
ARTS FOR LEARNING

New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania



Our Mission

Inspire young people and expand their learning through the arts.

Annual Report 2026



Student from Anna L. Lingelbach School in Philadelphia, PA, participates in Teaching Artist Jeannine Osayande's West African Diaspora Drum and Dance Traditions culminating event.



YA Board members came together at Greater Brunswick Charter School in New Brunswick, NJ to experience Teaching Artist Queen Nur.

Welcome New Members



Jane Golden

Founder and Executive Director of Mural Arts Philadelphia (retired)



Stefanie Lachenauer

2025 NJ State Teacher of the Year and Teacher, Montgomery Upper Elementary



Victor Francis Limjoco

Executive Director, Content & Partnerships for Comcast NBCUniversal Brand & Digital Production



Gita Varadarajan

Teacher, Riverside Elementary School in Princeton and children's book author

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Eleanor V. Horne
Barbara Moran

PRESIDENT & CEO
Michele Russo

By the Numbers 2025-2026



318,900 children



390 schools



13,482 teachers



805 assembly performances



2,812 workshops & residencies



179 teacher professional learning sessions

Year in Review

US Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman's Arts Ed Legacy



Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman joined YA's roundtable discussion about the need for arts and arts education for our most vulnerable community members, including immigrant families and children who receive special education services.

Click to Learn More

Michele Russo & NJ District 8 Assemblywoman Andrea Katz Pen Op-Ed for NJ.com





"In Uncertain Times, Arts Education Matters More Than Ever for NJ's Children"

Click to Learn More

New Website Launches



Click to Learn More

WHYY Features YA in 'Creativity Sparks Success' Series

Read about YA's role in US Department of Education-funded program RAISE, Responsive Arts In School Education, at Washington Avenue School in Pleasantville, NJ.

Click to Learn More

Year in Review

Barbara Fulton Moran Elected Trustee Emeritus



Unanimous board vote recognizes Barbara's 15 years of extraordinary service to YA, including chairing the 50th anniversary campaign that raised $5 million.

Click to Learn More

Arts Lab Applications Up by 33%

ARTS LAB

YA's scholarship program, funded by the Grunin Foundation and open to all NJ schools, served 16,000 students in 24 schools with 305 workshops, 6 family and community events, and 25 assemblies.

Philadelphia Programming Increases by 45%



This has helped me create my own rhythm, just helped me gain confidence in myself. It definitely made me into a new version of myself.

~High school student participating in YA Alex Shaw's residency "Sound Stories" at Northeast High School in Philadelphia.

Mental Health Programs Are Thriving!



74%

of students reported increased well-being

76%

of students reported a sense of belonging

Watch to Learn More

Arts Champion Awards

Recognizing outstanding arts supporters



Arthur Factor Award

KAREN WISLOCKY

School Counselor, Brainerd Elementary School, Mt. Holly, NJ

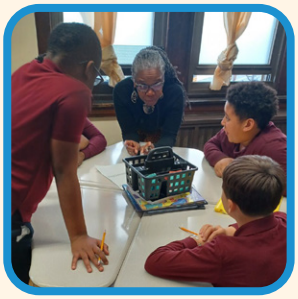
For her support of YA's work to support students' mental health through the arts.



Arts United Award

JEANNINE OSAYANDE, Teaching Artist
PILLAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Livingston, NJ, Partner School

For Jeannine's facilitation of anti-racism programming through the lens of the Black diasporic experience, and Pillar's dedication to ensuring students who receive Individual Education Plan services experience performance and workshops as part of their school day.



Philadelphia Award

AVERY D. HARRINGTON SCHOOL

For their commitment to holistic learning opportunities that combine intellectual and cultural development, and their collaboration with YA teaching artist TAHIRA and her stories in the African diasporic experience.



Distinguished Service Award

ADRIENNE OSTRANDER

Teaching Artist with Garden State Percussion

For more than 40 years of commitment to student learning, and dedication to music education that highlights collaboration, innovation, playfulness, and creativity.



AIE Governor's Award

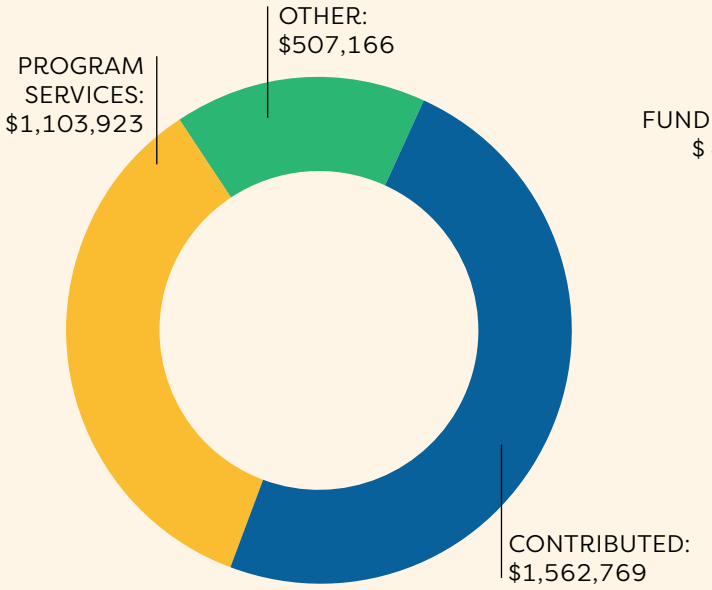
MIDDLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, CAPE MAY COURTHOUSE, NJ

For their exceptional dedication to the arts in collaboration with teaching artist Gail Scuderi.

Operating Budget

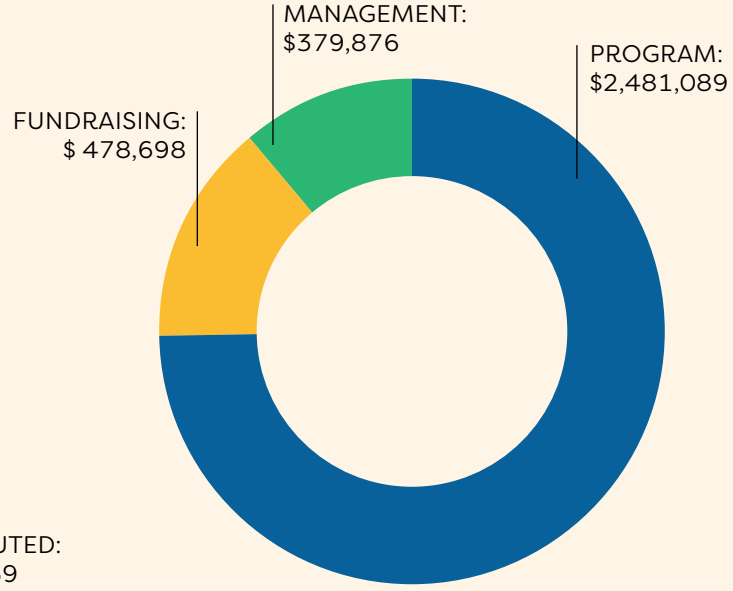
For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

INCOME & INSTITUTIONAL FUNDS



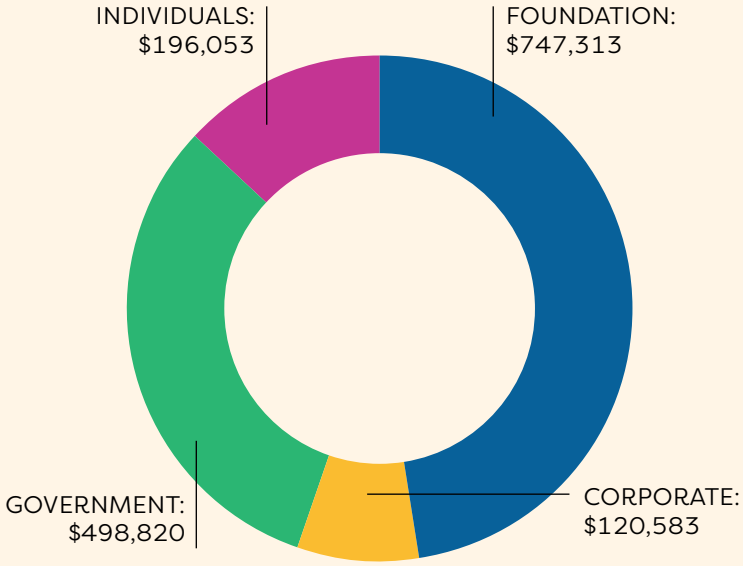
TOTAL: $3,173,858

EXPENSE



TOTAL: $3,339,663

CONTRIBUTED INCOME



TOTAL: $1,562,769

Thank you to our donors

$100,000 AND UP
Mental Health America
New Jersey State Council on the Arts
William Penn Foundation

$30,000-$99,999
Anonymous (2)
The George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation
The Meta A. & William S. Griffith Foundation
Princeton Area Community Foundation

$20,000-$29,999
Anonymous
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The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation
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Peter and Sharyn Johnson
The Piper Hill Foundation
PNC Foundation
The Robert Wood Johnson III Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Sharon and Russell White

$5,000-$9,999
The Allen Hilles Fund
The Boye Foundation
Caroline Alexander Buck Foundation

Donors ❤️ DAFs!

We started our donor-advised fund on the advice of the YA development staff. The fund was easy to set up, makes donating to YA simpler, and maximizes tax advantages. We're also building a lasting family giving legacy for our children.



~Stacy Mattia, Chair, YA Board of Trustees with her husband, Mike Mattia

The Grounds Circle
in honor of Marilyn W. Grounds

Established in 2009, in honor of Marilyn W. Grounds, founders and members are major donors to the Annual Fund.

FOUNDERS
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Marilyn and Peter* Grounds
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Christine Grounds and John Mir
Larry Capo and Jim Olson*
Mary and Gary Reece
Jay and Amy Regan
Belinda and Ferrill Roll
Deborah and Stephen Shepherd
Anita J. Siegel
Michael* and Willa* Spicer
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Steffens
Miriam and Jeff Tucker
Kristin and Ken Wenger

The Encore Society
For Generations to Come

Recognizes those whose estate and life income gifts will provide future support.

FOUNDING MEMBERS
Larry Capo and Jim Olson*
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Liz Fillo* and Chris Coucill
Cheryl and Richard Goldman
Janet M. Haring
Kathy and Jamie Herring
Gerda Kelly*
Barbara and Tom Moran
Denyce Mylson and Joseph Olenick
Mrs. Dorothy Noonan
Belinda and Ferrill Roll
Anita J. Siegel
Michael* and Willa* Spicer
Miriam and Jeff Tucker
Sharon and Russell White

* we remember

Child Development Foundation
Colbert Family Fund of Coastal Community Foundation of SC
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
The Highland-Mills Foundation
Hyde and Watson Foundation
J Leon Lockard Trust
Linda Kinsey and Don Ehman
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NRG Energy, Inc.
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Pennsylvania Creative Industries, powered by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Rosenlund Family Foundation

$2,000-$4,999

Heather S. Barberi
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Barbara Coe and Joseph Highland Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Cliff and Ellen Cramer
Gregg and Jean Frankel Foundation
The Gordon and Llura Gund Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Ed Greene and Jacqueline Jones
Janet M. Haring
Jerome Robbins Foundation
Ellen and Harry Levine
Mikaela and Jaquan Levons
MacMillan Family Foundation
Margit and Eli Marie Arvesen Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
Merril G. & Emita E. Hastings Foundation
Barbara Fulton Moran and Tom Moran
Amanda Newman-Godfrey
Barbara and Duilio Panfili
Michele Russo
Naiobe Sharrock
Myra Williams



Student from D. Newlin Fell Elementary School in Philadelphia, PA, shows off their work from Teaching Artist Kate Marie Sclavi's Upcycled Collab Weaving residency.

New Encore Society Member!

I saw an opportunity to use a bequest to support YA at a time in my life when a large cash donation isn't possible. I hope donors see planned giving as a tool to make a difference at any age or stage in life. It's truly a pleasure to know that I'm helping YA serve children for generations to come.



~Lou Chen, YA Trustee & new Encore Society member

$1,000-$1,999

Mona and Ash Bakre
Jane and Ted Boyer
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Sanjeev Dugar
Bernadette Connaughton and Michael Gray
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The Griffin-Cole Fund
Baninder Kaur Goomer
Ms. Tali Mendelberg
Michele Minter Yuan and Jeffrey Yuan
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UBS
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Justin and Lauren Williams

$500-$999

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Donna Case
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Barbara Ciamporcero
Citizens Charitable Foundation
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William V. Engel
Johnathan and Monisha Gibson
Alisha and John Hastings-Kimball
Adrienne R. Hill
Allison Howe
Cathy and Michael Levatino
John MacLeod
Michelle Marigliano and Daniel Levatino
Meredith Moore and Steve Rabbe
Shea Murray
The Philadelphia Cultural Fund





Left: *Teaching Artist Queen Nur during the Storytelling & Cultural Literacy residency at Lotus Academy in Philadelphia, PA.* Center: *Student from Lotus Academy in Philadelphia, PA, experiencing Teaching Artist Queen Nur during the Storytelling & Cultural Literacy residency.* Right: *Students and their families from Normandy Park School in Morristown, NJ, enjoy the United We Create culminating event led by Teaching Artist Bobby Beetcut.*

Mary and Gary Reece
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Gary and Vivianne Roth
Steve Runk and Ken Eiker
Siekerka Family Giving Fund
Jane Steele
Suplee, Clooney & Co.
Sarah and Michael Unger
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Winter

$250-$499

Judith Brodsky
Meredith and Michael Bzdak
Elizabeth and Miguel Fernandez
Laurie Murphy and Chuck Jopski
Laura Longman and Michael Kody
Cynthia and Don Lara
Emily Mann and Gary Mailman
Laura Marchese and Michael Estes
Margaret and Fred Marigliano
Abby O'Neill
Jean and Larry Parsons
PayPal Giving Fund
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Jamey Robertson
Heather G. Ross
Jennifer Stark and Michael Schnoering
Anne and Mitchell Seltzer
Barb Simms
Alison Baxter and Bill Stoltzfus
Miriam and Jeff Tucker
Ellen Sorrin and David York

$100-$249

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Julie Brenner and Mark Itzler
Cindy Carson
Christine Clayton-Stroh and Matthew Stroh
Elliot Cohen
Carol Cronheim
Mary Gatsch
Ms. Colleen Goggins
Suzanne and Keith Golden
Judy Hanks
Iona and Maurice Harding
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Carol and David Hunt
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Eve Niedergang and Andy Weiss
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Ferris Olin
Jeannine Osayande
Daniel Popkin
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen I. Silverman
Andrea Stein
Barbara Tokar
Molly Turlish
Amy and Paul Vogel
Valora Washington
Ross White

UP TO $99

David Altman
Dan and Gayle Ames
Sue Andarmani
Kathy Anstine
Nancy Arnold
Gigi Assante
Leslie Balin
Bank of America
Jean Boddy
Lindsey Borden
Janet Brody
Michal Caldwell
Valerie Ching
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Hannah Coale
Deborah Cohen
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Steve Crick
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Vail Dixon
Diane Dodds
Ami Dushkowich
Katie and Nick Eastridge
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Sally Innes
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Kathleen Kasdorf
Darien Kontes
Erin Kreider
Tanya Kroeber
Catherine Larmoyeux
Yuki Moore Laurenti
Dorothea Leicher
Margaret Leonard
Judy Levine
Guy Lewis
Laura Liben



Teaching Artist Jeannine Osayande leads a West African Diaspora Drum and Dance Traditions assembly at Greenwood Elementary School in Hamilton, NJ.

Irene Lipshin
Mara Loeb
Janet Lopez
Bryan Lumpkins
Debbie and Bob Macchia
Simon Marchand
Sandra Masur
Laurel Matus
Bethany McCabe
Helen McCarthy
Valerie Meluskey
Jody Meyer
Carol J Mickelsen
Jessie and Ronnie Mitra
Warren Nadler
Judith Nemzer
Linda Oakey
Mr. Gordon Ostrowski
Cheryl Parsons
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JoEllen Phillips
Liz Reisman
Margaret Rice
Joanne Rile
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Carol and Matthew Treihart
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Ron Van Tassel
Timothy and Marilyn Wade
Carol Webb
Ann Westbeld
Martha and James Wickenden
Bryan Wolf
Grace Wong
James Yon
Gerry Zajac

Left: *Teaching artist Segunda Quimbamba Folkloric Center brought an engaging and meaningful experience to students at Thomas Jefferson Intermediate School in Trenton, NJ.* Right: *Students from Anna L. Lingelbach School in Philadelphia, PA experiencing Teaching Artist Jeannine Osayande's West African Diaspora Drum and Dance Traditions culminating event.*







Students from Lotus Academy in Philadelphia, PA, enjoy their time with Teaching Artist Queen Nur during the Storytelling & Cultural Literacy residency.

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GERALDINE R. DODGE FOUNDATION

George H. & Estelle M. SANDS FOUNDATION

GRUNIN FOUNDATION

child development foundation

The Hyde and Watson Foundation

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MIMI WASHINGTON STARRETT FOUNDATION

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