

ST.LOUISARTWORKS

CREATING. OPPORTUNITIES.



2015
ANNUAL
REPORT

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

When you think of your first job, you likely recall how it felt to be in a new environment, full of unfamiliar expectations. But what if you could choose to dream bigger?

WHAT IF your first job helped you feel more empowered to make a difference in your community, provided you with a sense of competence, and improved your sense of self-worth?

WHAT IF your supervisors helped you develop social skills, gain social confidence and develop close, personal relationships with peers?

WHAT IF the skills you gained improved your ability to cope with challenges, helping you to develop a more positive future outlook? Sounds like a DREAM job, right?

These incredible benefits are among the findings of an 18-month Impact Study completed this year on the well-being of youth apprentices employed by St. Louis ArtWorks. This year, our projects focused on DREAMS. We asked apprentices about their dreams for their futures, their dreams for their communities, and what they dream for the world in which we all share.

Throughout the year, we provide employment training in a variety of art disciplines, including coping with the challenges of meeting new people and learning to work with a team. Teens also explore new areas of their communities, highlighting the importance of active participation, fiscal responsibility, and environmental stewardship. Through this mosaic of opportunity, St. Louis ArtWorks gives voice to the dreams of young people in St. Louis.

After 20 years, our story - and our work - continues to grow. Our biggest news in 2015 is St. Louis ArtWorks' MOVE to 5959 Delmar Boulevard! After many years of dreaming bigger, we have repurposed a building in the East Loop, consolidating ArtWorks' studios to one address and providing easy access to public transportation for our youth.

It is because of our collective investment in improving the quality of life and choices for the future of the most vulnerable youth in our community that we can truly make a difference.

Thank you for 20 years and counting,



Priscilla Block, Executive Director



The MISSION of St. Louis ArtWorks is to broaden educational and career opportunities for youth in the St. Louis Region through apprenticeships in the arts and through community collaborations.

Since 1995, ArtWorks has provided apprenticeship opportunities for thousands of young people, successfully helping to prepare them for future education and employment opportunities.

St. Louis area youth ages 14-19 receive learn-while-you-earn training, including a variety of art disciplines and communication skills during the spring, summer, and fall program sessions.

Activities such as client meetings, open house events and public sales give the Apprentices a chance to practice presentation and public speaking skills, and leave better prepared for the future with resumes, community contacts, and a portfolio of work.

Apprentices learn the elements of good design, along with art history and the importance of art for social change from Teaching Artists, who offer guidance, instruction, and supervision during Apprentices' participation at ArtWorks.

Teens are also provided exposure to the local arts community through visits to galleries, parks, and businesses in which art is a key component.

Twenty-first century life skills training completes the picture, helping Apprentices gain vital knowledge as they plan for their futures. Fiscal literacy is emphasized, including opening a bank account, keeping a budget, and responsible credit development. With our Community Partners, we instruct Apprentices in effective communication skills, as well as the importance of nutrition, good health, and personal safety.

Apprentices also learn about the ecological impact of everyday items, including the responsible use, upcycling and repurposing of materials to reduce our carbon footprint.



Apprentice Damesha greets Francis Slay, Mayor of the City of St. Louis.



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THANK YOU!



"St. Louis ArtWorks was my first job and it was fun. SLAW has taught me how to do client meetings, and talk with the public. I did a lot of projects that I thought were not possible. This also helps with job skills and applying them to everyday life. Especially the handshake." – Barrie, Age 15

2015: The Year of Dreams

"EVERY GREAT DREAM BEGINS WITH A DREAMER. ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOU HAVE WITHIN YOU THE STRENGTH, THE PATIENCE, AND THE PASSION TO REACH FOR THE STARS TO CHANGE THE WORLD." Harriet Tubman

In 2015, St. Louis ArtWorks hired 136 unduplicated youth between 14-19 years old for 184 positions. These apprentices came from 56 schools in the metropolitan area and 34 various zip codes. Of the youth hired, 65% (116) were residents of St. Louis City. Diversity of age, gender, neighborhoods, schools, artistic discipline interest, and experience were used to select participants. Of the 2015 apprentices, 81% identified as African American, 10% Caucasian, 1% Asian, and 8% identified as two or more races.

ArtWorks offers year-round program opportunities for teens during out-of-school hours. The Summer Program is our largest and served 85 teenagers in 2015. Apprentices worked five hours per day, five days a week for six weeks on a variety of projects and disciplines. Our Fall and Spring Programs met for five hours each week for 12 weeks after school and on Saturdays, and offered 99 paid positions.

THE CREATIVE FUTURES PROGRAM:

The Creative Futures Program is a Fall and Spring program which offers teens with multiple barriers to success the opportunity to increase their artistic skills, continue to build their job skills knowledge, and earn a paycheck while receiving extra support services, including counseling and college application assistance. To be accepted into the Creative Futures program, teens must live in households which fall below the HUD Federal Poverty guidelines. During the spring and fall, Creative Futures met after school hours for five hours a week.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

In order to become part of the St. Louis ArtWorks program, the youth were either recommended by the teaching artists they had worked with in previous programs, or were invited to interview day. SLAW staff reviewed each youth application to assess eligibility based on age, completeness of the application, previous employment, volunteerism, artistic experience, interests, and letters of support from teachers or mentors, with an eye for diversity. A broad spectrum of community volunteers participated in the summer and fall interview days, ranging from college and corporate presidents to local artists and community residents.



ST. LOUIS ARTWORKS CELEBRATED ITS 20TH YEAR

by moving to our new flagship location at 5959 Delmar Boulevard in August 2015. This move was the culmination of three years of planning, fundraising, and partnership building on behalf of the organization. ArtWorks' new location has 18,000' of space; including open studio space, a cafe, accessible bathrooms, a garden, and a MakerSpace. The building is located one block from the Delmar MetroLink station, offering easy access to youth and families living north of Delmar.



SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS



SPRING (JANUARY-MAY)

RAIN BARRELS: Apprentices painted original designs inspired by Missouri flora and fauna on rain barrels donated by MSD, while also learning about the importance of reducing rain water run-off and our regional watershed.

*Supported by: Metropolitan Sewer District, St. Louis County Children's Services Fund
Teaching Artists: Byron Rogers and Stajah Curry*

BLOOMWORKS: Painting with support from Daughters of Charity and St. Louis Mental Health Board Apprentices by creating painted pyrographic signs for the home and garden.

*Supported by: Daughters of Charity and St. Louis Mental Health Board
Teaching Artists: Hannah Montford and Byron Rogers*

BOOMERACKS: Apprentices designed bird houses and works of art for the home from recycled bike parts and materials, as well as a commissioned BoomerRack bicycle rack for St. Louis ArtWorks' new building at 5959 Delmar.

*Supported by: Daughters of Charity and St. Louis Mental Health Board
Teaching Artists: Deborah Alma Wheeler*

BOOMERANG PRESS/MEDIA: Apprentices worked with New Art in the Neighborhood with the Contemporary Art Museum on a stop-motion film depicting their dreams for the future. This continues BoomerPress/Media's offerings into digital media.

*Supported by: Daughters of Charity, St. Louis Mental Health Board
Teaching Artists: Adam and Laura Hogan*

FALL (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER)

BLOOMWORKS: Apprentices completed two community murals for their client, Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) reflecting MSD's history, diversity, and its services to the region.

*Supported by: Metropolitan Sewer District
Teaching Artists: William Burton, Robert Kitchens*

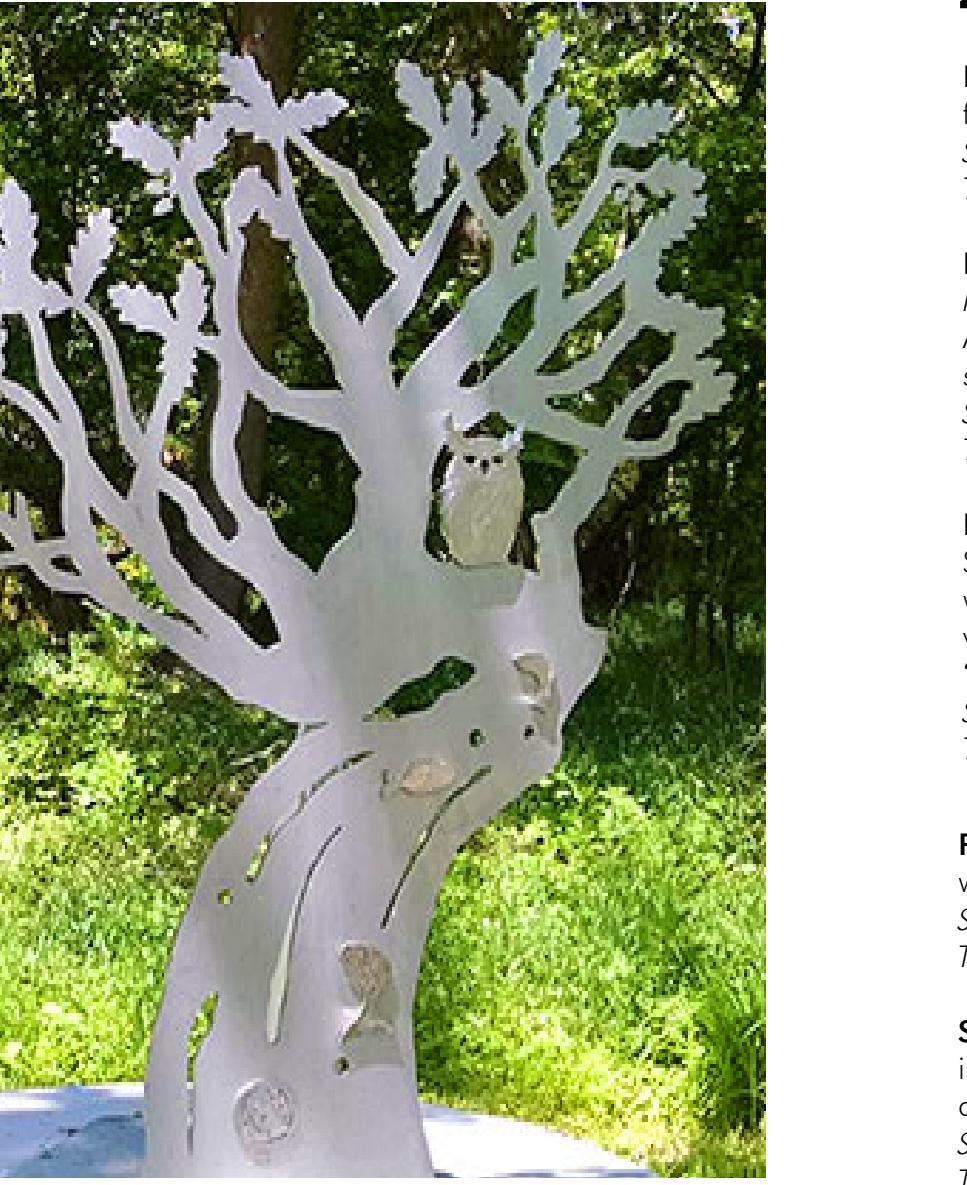
BOOMERANG PRESS/MEDIA: Apprentices developed technical skills in filmmaking while creating a public service announcement (PSA) for their client, St. Louis County Children's Services Fund.

*Supported by: St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, St. Louis County Mental Health Board
Teaching Artist: Mark Clark*



In fall 2015, apprentices designed and painted this mural for installation at MSD's home offices, on the Engineering floor. The mural represents the history and diversity of the engineers who have designed our waste management systems.

2015 SUMMER PROGRAM



"WHERE TREES GROW, RIVERS FLOW", designed by the summer sculpture apprentices is installed in Edgar M. Queeny Park, in Ballwin, MO. The sculpture was commissioned by The Nature Conservancy, as part of the "Growing a Healthier Meramec" project, funded by Boeing, and in partnership with several area non-profit organizations.

BLOOMWORKS: Apprentices created an outdoor fiber arts-focused installation on the fence of our new space at 5959 Delmar, using repurposed materials.

*Supported by: St. Louis ArtWorks
Teaching Artists: Ellie Balk and Kamille Litton*

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: Apprentices created a pocket park design for client Great Rivers Greenway, as part of the St. Vincent Greenway Alignment in Pagedale, MO. Apprentices were introduced to landscape architecture and sculpture while creating scale models and concept drawings for the park.

*Supported by: Great Rivers Greenway
Teaching Artists: L. Irene Compadre and Caitlin Penny*

POETRY/VIDEO: with support from Roblee Foundation and Teaching Organization Partner, Springboard, apprentices were educated on techniques of poetry and video animation with a focus on writing and developing original haiku poems into stop motion animated videos. The project was funded in part by Roblee Foundation and explored the theme, "Why Should I Care?"

*Supported by: Daughters of Charity, St. Louis Mental Health Board, Roblee Foundation
Teaching Artists: Thomasina Clarke and Megan McCormack*

PRINTMAKING AND PHOTOGRAPHY: Apprentices created 20 works of art utilizing printmaking and photography for their client MSD. Their second commission work was 4 graphic designs for community conversation cards for ADL and NCCJ STL with support from RAC Social Impact Grant.

*Supported by: Daughters of Charity and St. Louis Mental Health Board
Teaching Artists: Lois Ingrum and Byron Rogers*

SCULPTURE: As part of the collaborative project, "Growing a Healthy Meramec" funded by Boeing, apprentices worked in teams to design a sculpture for installation at Queeny Park, which speaks to the importance of the Meramec River system. The Nature Conservancy acted as fiscal agent and provided additional environmental stewardship education workshops for apprentices.

*Supported by: Boeing, The Nature Conservancy
Teaching Artists: Deborah Alma Wheeler and Lauren Rogalsky*

VIDEOPROGRAPHY/DIGITAL PRODUCTION: Apprentices developed technical and critical skills through digital filmmaking by working as a production team to develop concepts for "Thank you" videos and mini documentaries of St. Louis Artworks.

*Supported by: St. Louis ArtWorks
Teaching Artist: Mark Clark*



"AWAKEN YOUR DREAMS" is a fiber-art installation at 5959 Delmar Boulevard, using repurposed materials.

2015 TEACHING ARTISTS

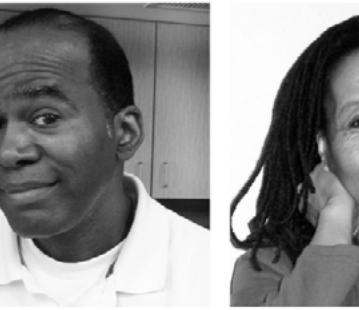
The Teaching Artists for St. Louis ArtWorks share their expertise and years of experience in photography, painting, poetry, art therapy, drawing, landscape design, and videography and sculpture with our Apprentices. In addition to color theory, design, art history and practical skills, Teaching Artists work with apprentices to help them discover and develop their own artistic voices.



ELLIE BALK



WILLIAM BURTON



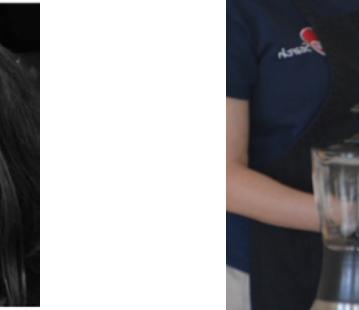
MARK CLARK



THOMASINA CLARK



L. IRENE COMPADRE



NATALIE CORIELL



STAJAH CURRY



ADAM HOGAN



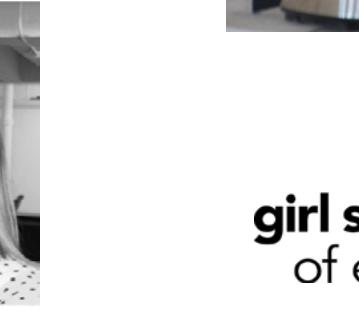
LAURA HOGAN



LOIS INGRUM



ROBERT KETCHENS



KAMILLE LITTON



MEGAN MCCORMACK



HANNAH MONTFORD



CAITLIN PENNY



LAUREN ROGALSKY



BYRON ROGERS



DEBORAH ALMA WHEELER

2015 COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Operation Food Search spoke with the teens at St. Louis ArtWorks about the importance of good nutrition through a cooking demonstration and tasting. Apprentices were taught quick and healthy recipes, including fresh green salad with homemade vinaigrette, and yogurt and fruit smoothies.



Wells Fargo Advisors met with apprentices in groups to discuss fiscal responsibility. Because many apprentices have their first bank account once they join St. Louis ArtWorks, topics such as balancing a checkbook and planning monthly budgets were emphasized. Apprentices were also taught about financial issues that could affect their future plans, such as responsible credit development, savings, and retirement. Thinking of retirement while you're a teen may seem premature, but apprentices soon learned that it's never too early to prepare when you have big dreams!



Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri hosted an interactive communications seminar on professional and interpersonal interaction, resolving disputes, and active listening. Apprentices shared their experiences, learned new skills and were given the opportunity to practice them with their fellow artists.

IMPACT STUDY



APPRENTICES SAY THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH ST. LOUIS ARTWORKS HAVE HELPED THEM:

- Develop a more positive future outlook,
- Develop a sense of competence and improve their sense of self-worth,
- Become more open to new situations,
- Feel more empowered to make a difference in their communities,
- Meet and learn to work with peers from different backgrounds,
- Improve social skills, gain social confidence, and develop close, personal relationships with peers, and
- Improve their coping skills.

In 2015, the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund (CSF) Discovery Initiative, awarded funding to St. Louis ArtWorks to design and implement a research project that assessed the impact of arts programming on the overall mental health and well-being of youth participants. The study was designed in the fall of 2014, implemented in the spring of 2015, and completed in December.

"THE STAFF REALLY CARE ABOUT THE APPRENTICES... THEY'RE JUST REALLY ONBOARD WITH US AND THEY UNDERSTAND WHERE WE COME FROM."

During the study, ArtWorks operated in a multidisciplinary team model with a social worker overseeing each teen's progression from admission through completion of the program. During this CSF-funded Impact Study, the team consisted of an art therapist, professional teaching artists, an MSW manager/social worker, site supervisor, lead researcher, and research assistant.

Being able to identify and express one's emotions in appropriate ways can be a challenge for some youth. Through St. Louis ArtWorks, apprentices found creative ways to express themselves and learned coping skills. The program impacted apprentices' energy levels, and those with strong attendance reported feeling more relaxed in their lives at school and home by the end of the program.

With funding from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund (CSF) Discovery Initiative, psychoeducational group activities led by an art therapist provided apprentices with opportunities to express their emotions through art, learn about emotional regulation, and gain deeper insight into their own identity development.

St. Louis County  Children's Service Fund
Keeping Kids First

Thank You to Our 2015 Supporters



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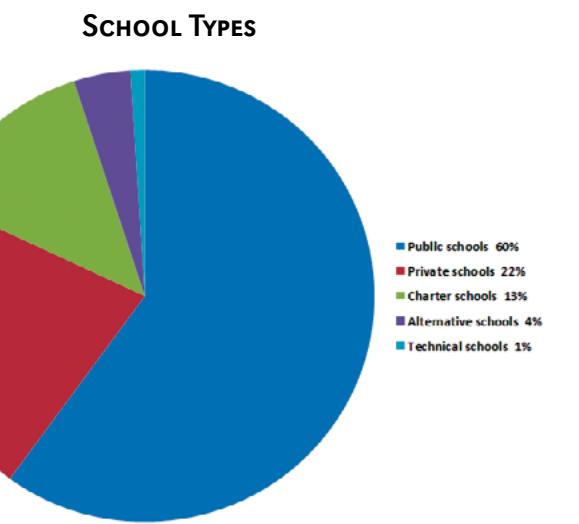
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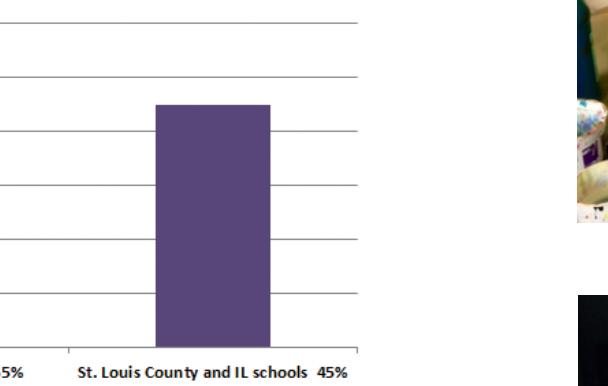
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2015 APPRENTICES



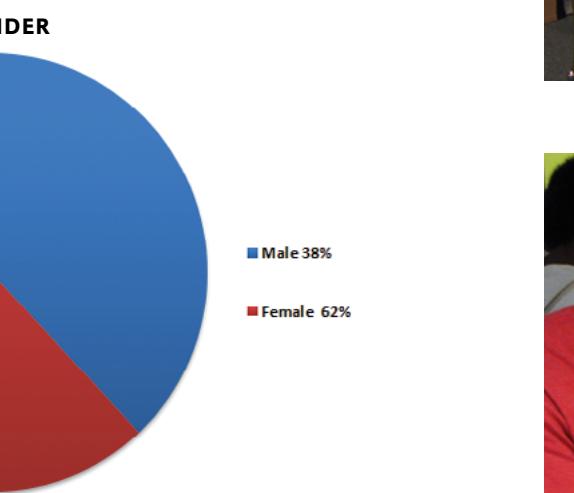
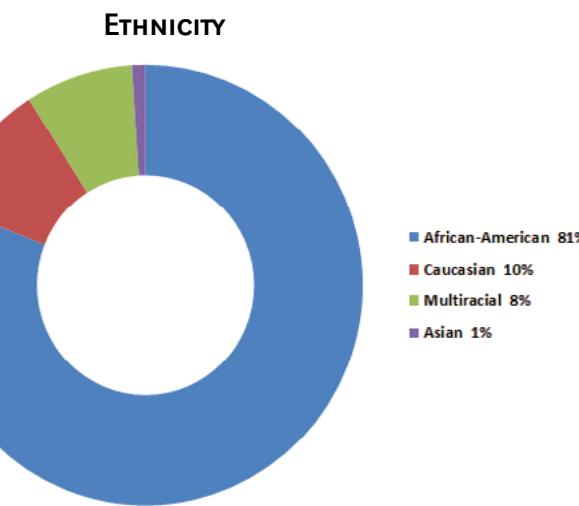
CITY AND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS



"St. Louis ArtWorks has taught me all that I need to know about being a young professional, and I enjoyed every minute. I already knew that I wanted to have a career in the arts, but now I know for sure."

I now know how to give and participate in client meetings, speak publically; all important skills I learned through St. Louis ArtWorks."

- Kennedi, Age 15



With STL ArtWorks, I'm working together with people that I share an interest with, and I'm working on things that I actually care about, and that just really means a lot to me.

- 2015 Apprentice

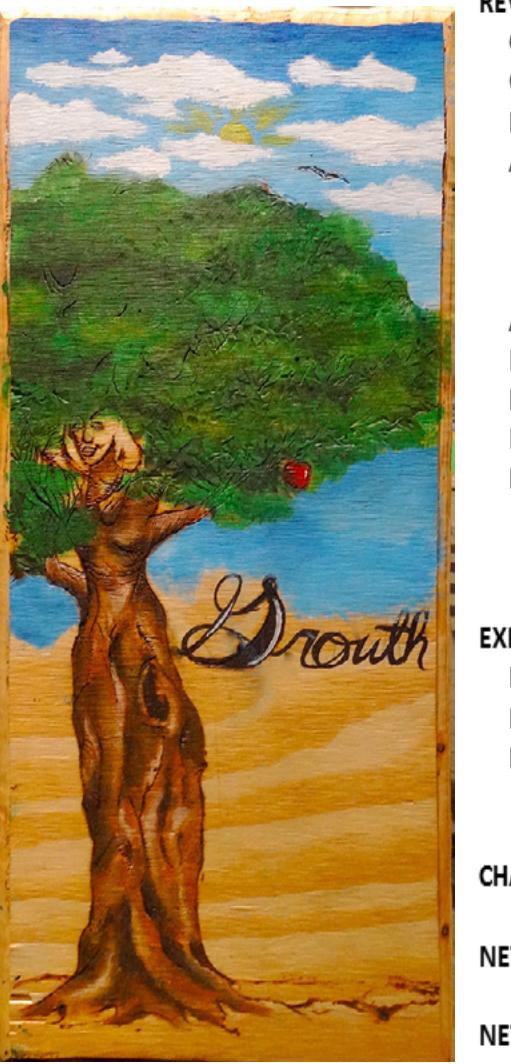
The art they create is important, but it is really just a channel through which they learn to be assertive, confident, and articulate. I can see the apprentices begin to imagine their futures differently and understand that they have the power to rise above their current situations.

- 2015 Teaching Artist



FINANCIALS

Below is the 2015 audited Financial Statement of Activities for St. Louis ArtWorks.

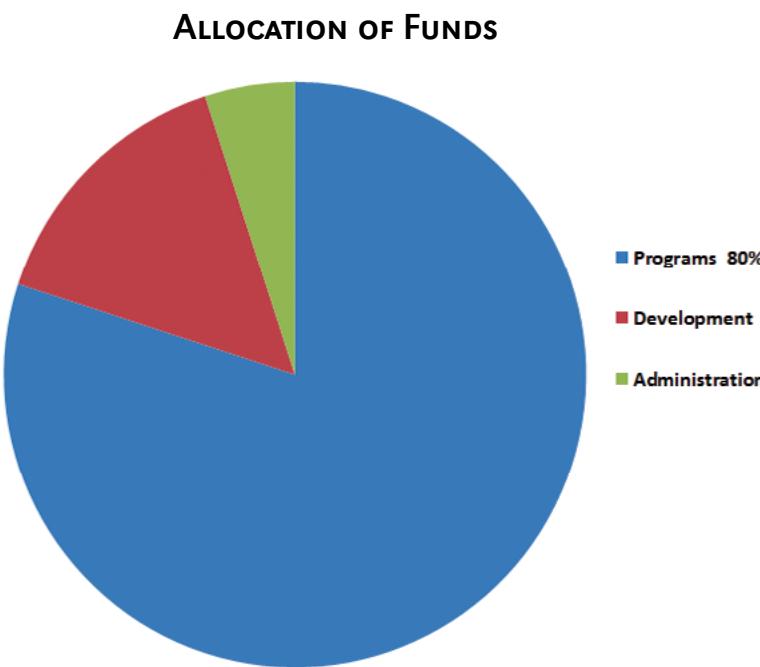


ST. LOUIS ARTWORKS STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

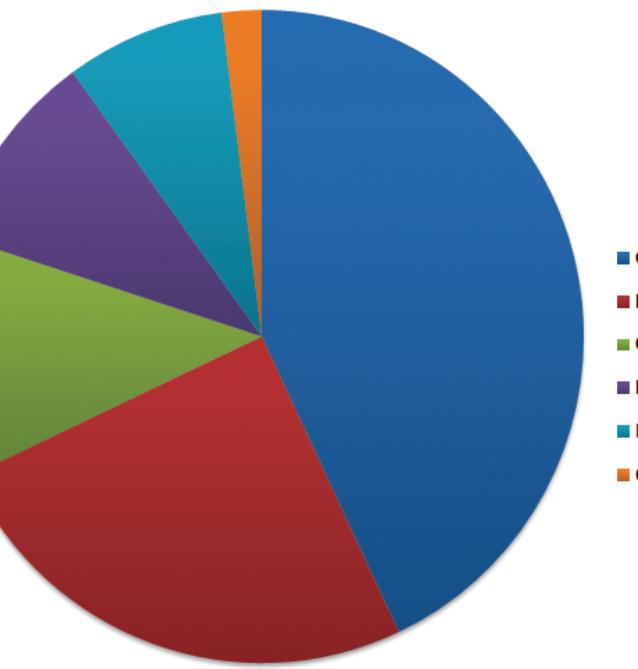
	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
REVENUES, GAINS, AND SUPPORT			
Government Support	\$ 254,352	\$ 36,158	\$ 290,510
Contributions and grants	178,576	124,657	303,233
In-kind contributions	4,534	-	4,534
ArtWorks Enterprises			
Commissions	47,333	-	47,333
Support	31,000	18,000	49,000
Sales	2,408	-	2,408
Art sales	4,677	-	4,677
Rent income	6,400	-	6,400
Interest and other	414	-	414
Realized loss on investment	(63)	-	(63)
Net assets released from restriction:			
Satisfaction of purpose and time restriction	328,443	(328,443)	-
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, AND SUPPORT	<u>858,074</u>	<u>(149,268)</u>	<u>708,446</u>
EXPENSES			
Program	542,483	-	542,483
Management and general	36,668	-	36,668
Fundraising	100,935	-	100,935
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>680,086</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680,086</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>177,988</u>	<u>(149,628)</u>	<u>28,360</u>
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>165,633</u>	<u>288,079</u>	<u>453,712</u>
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 343,621</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 138,451</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 482,072</u></u>

2015 FUNDING SOURCES AND ALLOCATIONS

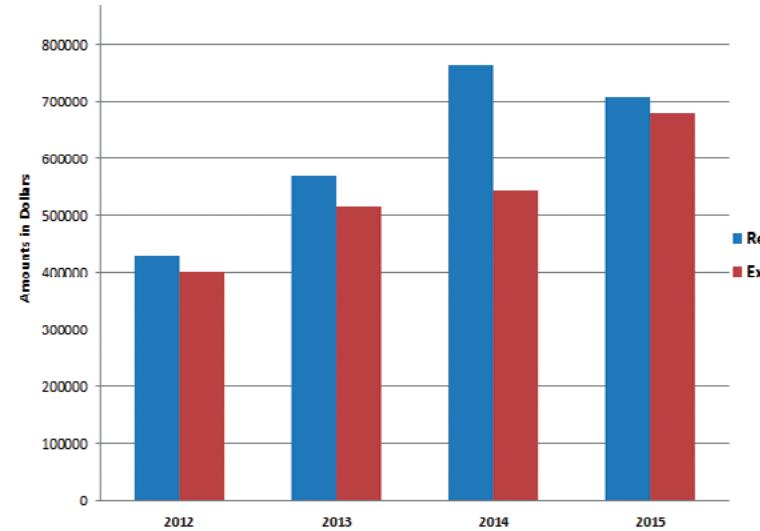
In 2015, St. Louis ArtWorks utilized 80% of its funding for youth apprenticeships and programming, 15% for development, and 5% covered administrative expenses.



PROGRAM FUNDING SOURCES



REVENUE AND EXPENSES (5 YEAR HISTORY)

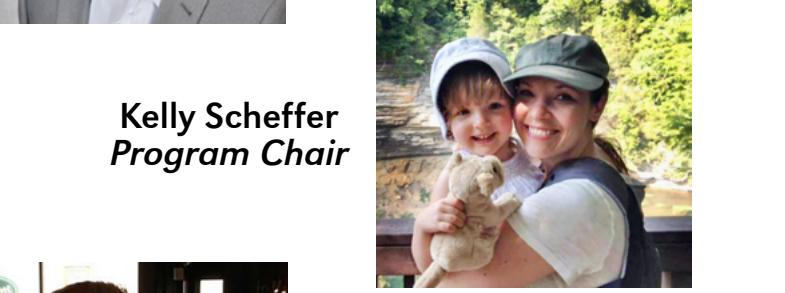


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Matt Semrad
Vice-Chair



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STAFF



Jessica Graham, *Program Manager*



Donica England, *Site Supervisor*



Alayne Yates, *Office Manager*



Vicki Kahn, *Media and Events Manager*



Susan TeStroete, *Grants Manager*



Michael Sophir, *Research Assistant*

STRATEGIC PLAN



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE PROGRAM MODELS THAT INCORPORATE INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

St. Louis ArtWorks is thinking creatively about expansion of innovative programming, building entrepreneurship into new offerings, and ensuring sustainability through diversified program opportunities. As the needs of the 21st century workplace change, so must the organization develop programming which engages youth interest and provides workplace-readiness skills which meet those needs.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY: INCREASE OUR OUTREACH AND PROGRAMMING TO AFFECT CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY.

Consolidating our locations and the expansion of space at our new address provides the opportunity to expand services to more youth, and partner with new organizations and businesses. By growing the number of youth we serve, we increase St. Louis Art-Works' ability to impact youth and families in both St. Louis City and County, as well as the positive effect our programming has on the community-at-large.

FINANCES: INCREASE SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING REVENUE.

As St. Louis ArtWorks is positioned for growth, and Board and staff leadership are thoughtful about both fund development and service delivery. The new facility offers the ability to diversify revenue beyond traditional fund development efforts and the organization's current entrepreneurial efforts. Increasing individual giving and offering spaces in the new building for special event rentals are two areas of focus to support growth and diversity of funding.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT: STRENGTHEN AND BUILD NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS.

Continue to develop a Board of Directors that contributes their time and talents to increase the capacity of St. Louis ArtWorks, furthering its reach into the community. Through clear expectations, opportunities for professional development, and succession plans for outgoing and new board members, St. Louis ArtWorks will continue to ensure that board members are well-equipped to champion both the mission and the organization.





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