

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



North Carolina Arts in Action

A person wearing a red t-shirt and black pants is performing a handstand on a dark, textured floor. The person's legs are spread wide apart in the air, and their arms are extended downwards to support their weight. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

RESILIENCE
WE LIVE WHAT WE TEACH
ALWAYS BE RESPECTFUL
ALWAYS GIVE 100 PERCENT
NEVER GIVE UP
GROW

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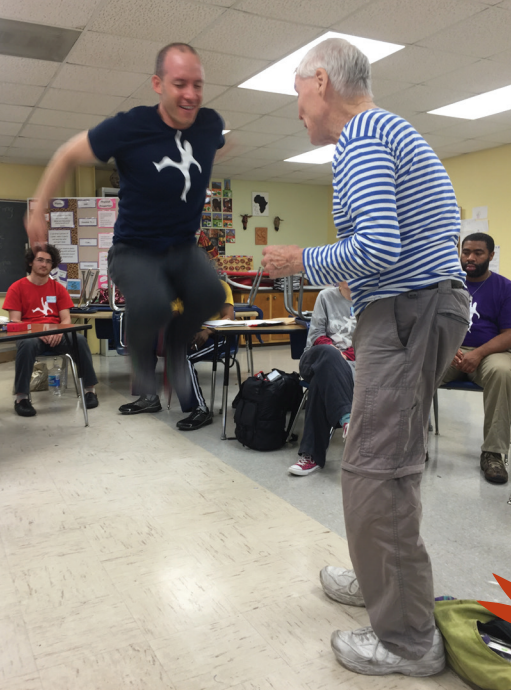


Photo by Doug Largent



Jacques Changed Us

A TRIBUTE TO JACQUES D'AMBOISE

Jacques d'Amboise, the founder of National Dance Institute (NDI) in New York City, passed away on May 2 at age 86. NC AIA is an affiliate of NDI. Marlon Torres trained under Jacques and had partnered with him for the past 15 years.

“Jacques d’Amboise showed me how to believe in the limitless capabilities of every child. In his classes, the shy dancer hiding in the back became the most important one. Jacques would not teach the next step until he had everyone giving 100 percent and the boy lurking in the background was dancing front and center. It was his extraordinary commitment to the success of the whole class that truly transformed children’s lives.

The enduring lessons of Jacques d’Amboise and the teaching techniques he developed through the National Dance Institute, will continue guiding the spirit and work of NC Arts in Action. Jacques reminded us always that the arts should be taught in schools and be at the center of our lives, and that if we surround children with the best, we will get the best out of them. Continuing to have highly

trained teaching artists, who love, respect, and believe in the limitless capabilities of children, will guarantee our program’s success and that of the students.

In memory of Jacques, and as a tribute to his brilliance as a dancer, teacher, mentor, and scholar, we have established a special fund to help support the yearly cost of our professional training through the National Dance Institute in New York. Any contribution given in Jacques’ memory will help ensure that NC Arts in Action teaching artists have the tools necessary to maintain the excellence of our program.

I have eternal gratitude for Jacques, who always made me feel like dancing.”

MARLON TORRES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NC AIA

Participating Schools

Holt Elementary
Language Academy,
Durham

Lakewood Elementary
School, Durham

Millbrook Magnet
Elementary School, Raleigh

J.W. York Elementary
School, Raleigh

Wakelon Elementary
School, Zebulon

Green Elementary
School, Raleigh

Rogers Lane Elementary
School, Raleigh

Mel & Zora Rashkis Elementary
School, Chapel Hill

Summer Program Schools

(all in Durham)

Eastway Elementary
Creekside Elementary
Forest View Elementary
Spring Valley Elementary
Southwest Elementary

2020-2021

NORTH CAROLINA ARTS IN ACTION

This year we reached a total of 839 students across five schools in Wake County, two schools in Durham, and one school in Chapel Hill.

With the onset of COVID, NC AIA replaced its in-school dance program with virtual programming in our schools. From September 2020 to January 2021 we offered an online, virtual program with synchronous, live sessions for Holt and Lakewood Elementary schools. Supported by Durham Public Schools this program was offered over four months as a district-wide initiative called Wellness Wednesdays. Our team taught virtual classes live streamed from our homes. We also made our entire “Dream Big” theme curriculum available online on our website, including instructional videos and activities for children and families. Students joined us to learn about notable women in North Carolina’s history through dance and live music and about women who were at the forefront of the equal rights and desegregation movements.

Instead of live performances at the schools, the culminating projects were compiled into a class video and shared on the final week of class. Families, students, and classroom teachers were able to view the class project and celebrate our children. The program was offered using Google Meet and all live lessons were integrated into the school’s curriculum.

Our school partners at Wake County schools—Millbrook, York, Wakelon, Green, and Rogers Lane—began their virtual residencies in January. Rashkis Elementary School students in Chapel Hill started their virtual residency in February.

NC AIA staff trained in the Fall with Kay Gayner of the National Dance Institute, who offered professional development to our staff so we could teach effectively online. 🙌

2020-2021

“I think the kids did so great today! I think there’s something about being remote that makes them even more free. I saw a few pretty shy kids participating.”

NC AIA also continued with the LEAP (Learning Excellence and Perseverance) team program by offering hybrid classes both in person and online throughout the year. The LEAP theme followed the school theme of women's suffrage and equal rights but expanded it to include stories of North Carolina women whose advances made national news.

Our LEAP team learned swing dance and its origin in Harlem during the 1920s in the advent of Jazz. They practiced swing, and the "Lindy Hop" also known as the "Jitterbug." During an inperson dance performance in February, the team showcased all of

the dances they learned this year, performing at Burning Coal Theater and were filmed for NC AIA's 15th anniversary virtual gala video, which was presented in April.

We kicked off our summer 2021 with programs live in person at 10 Durham schools as part of Operation Summer Learning. Students at each participating school learned about how things move, animal adaptations, conservation, and space exploration. Students explored these concepts through dance and music and performed a final showcase at the two-week residency's end. 🐼

Photos by MaryBeth Carpenter





“

**I'm just happy
the kids got to
participate in
AIA in some form
this year—they
have loved it!—**
PRINCIPAL

Durham Public Schools Summer Program

Ten elementary schools in Durham participated in Operation Summer Learning in Summer 2021. Each school participated in NC AIA's innovative dance education program for two weeks, learning about a variety of academic concepts through dance and music, while building important life skills such as teamwork and collaboration. Students performed a final showcase at the end of the residency.

Instruction was held in June for two weeks in Eastway Elementary, Creekside Elementary, Forest View Elementary, Spring Valley Elementary, and Southwest

Elementary, with their final showcases on June 24 and 25.

The second summer session, for our remaining five Durham schools, began on July 19. Participating were students at WG Pearson, C.C. Spalding, Eno Valley, Hillandale and R.N. Harris. Final showcases were July 29 and 30.

In partnership with Durham Public Schools, NC AIA supported the following goals: address the impact of COVID-19 on learning; improve learning outcomes by providing summer learning opportunities to targeted students; and cultivate partnerships to provide every student with a joyful, purposeful summer learning experience. 🍌

Ken Demery Photography (left, center) and Disha Dewan (right)



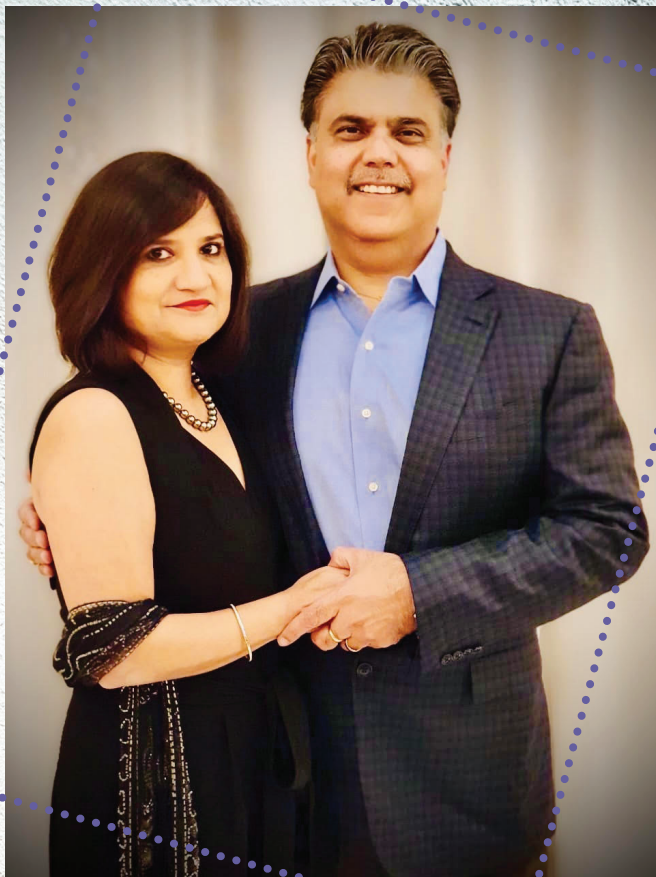
Theme

Last year's theme, "Dream Big," began with the story of Dolley Madison, who welcomed people into the White House and created a sense of community and belonging. Also featured in our program were Virginia Russell Reaves, a World War II nurse from North Carolina, who saved many lives on the front lines and embodied the spirit of Rosie the Riveter. Students also learned about Durham-based women Ann Atwater and Pauli Murray, who were at the forefront of the equal rights and desegregation movements. Our journey was told using the poetry of Maya Angelou who made North Carolina her home, and honored other present-day women such as NC State graduate and astronaut Christina Koch, who holds the record for the longest space flight by a woman. The show celebrated the 100th year of Women's Voting Rights by highlighting exceptional women from North Carolina who have made great contributions to our society.

Photos by Disha Dewan



Why We Give to NC Arts in Action



**Both as parents and business owners
it's important to us to invest in the
wellbeing of those around us.**

We support North Carolina Arts in Action because both as parents and business owners it's important to us to invest in the wellbeing of those around us. As an educational organization that uses the arts, especially dance and music, as vehicles to help children feel good about themselves and the work they can accomplish at school, Arts in Action is one of the most respected nonprofits in the Triangle. They put a lot of care in measuring the impact of their program, and in this last year, they have proven to be nimble, resourceful, and resilient.

These are the qualities we all want to see in our future generation and Arts in Action has developed a great program that helps foster these qualities in children. We are proud supporters of NC Arts in Action and are thrilled to see how much they are growing. We thank the staff and its board of directors for their commitment to helping children reach their full potential!

**LONG-TIME
DONORS
SAM KUMAR
AND MANJRI
LALL**

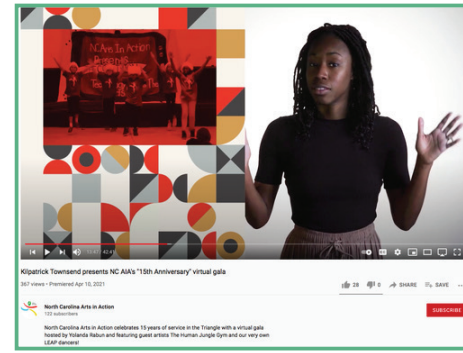
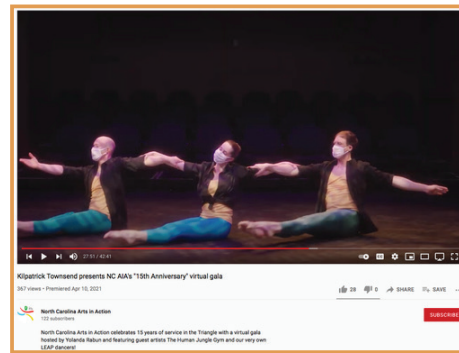
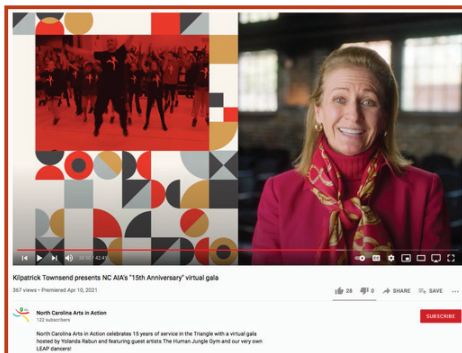
Virtual Gala

With the wonderful assistance of Centerline Digital, NC AIA created a successful Gala Video that was held on April 10 and continues to support our development efforts.

Our evening of entertainment in celebration of NC AIA's 15 years of service in the Triangle was hosted by Yolanda Rabun with performances from our LEAP Team Dancers and featured guest artists The Human Jungle Gym.

Participants had a chance to win a pair of 14K gold earrings from Diamonds Direct. All sponsors and donors of \$500 or more received a special Event Viewing Gift Box with cookies designed by Bakers Street Cookies and delivered to them before the event began. Proceeds from these Gift Boxes went toward delivering 32 teacher gifts for our partner schools to thank our teachers.

NC AIA raised \$50,352 from the event.



Video Stills from Centerline Digital

“

Arts in Action is accepting of everyone. All the energy, they take, they love it and turn it into a positive. A lot of times my son likes to take a leadership role, even offering information to the teachers, and as a parent I'm like "Oh my goodness." But for him, that's a part of his personality and I love that Arts in Action respects that.—PARENT

Program Impact

With support from The Link Group, we engaged in formal research with the cooperation of Wake County Public Schools.

Primary Research Question

What impact does the NC AIA program have on children's development of skills necessary for success in school and in life and is it sustainable one year post program participation?

Hypothesis

We believed the study would demonstrate that all program participants, particularly those with lower socioeconomic status, benefit from the NC AIA program by becoming more engaged learners and in developing skills critical to navigating aspects of their life inside and outside of the classroom and that this experience would continue to have impact one year post program participation.

Evaluation Results

Our teacher surveys showed that one of the most important aspects of the program is its ability to increase confidence in students. This increase in confidence translates into students' work in the classroom. Teachers continue to report that children seem more focused and more confident in their ability to do work in the classroom after participating in NC Arts in Action. Teachers identify three key benefits of the NC AIA residency for their students: Creating student self-confidence, building unity and community and supporting academic curriculum. In addition to students performing better in math and social studies after their participation in NC AIA, nearly all students — 87% — report feeling good about coming to school on NC AIA days in comparison to 59% on non-NC AIA days.




Produkt by Keil Denny's Photography



Photo by Disha Dewan

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Photos by Disha Dewan

BY THE NUMBERS

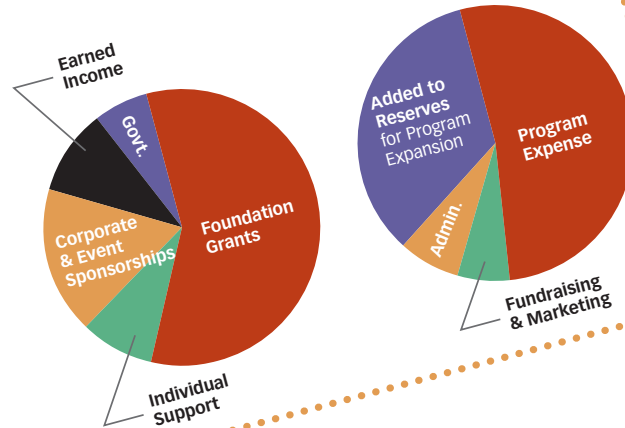
NC AIA's Fiscal Year 2021

Foundation Grants
Individual Support
Corporate & Event Sponsorships
Earned Income
Government
Total Revenue

\$451,345.00
\$66,856.00
\$135,111.00
\$78,010.00
\$48,448.00
\$779,770.00

Program Expense
Fundraising & Marketing
Administration
Total Expense
Added to Reserves for Program Expansion

\$410,250.00
\$47,946.00
\$56,615.00
\$514,811.00
\$264,959.00



“

It gave my child the opportunity for socialization and exercise. It helped bridge times of the year where there were no other opportunities available due to the pandemic. I saw a big impact. She has come a long way with socializing with others and making new friends.”—

PARENT

*Thank you for being a
club member this year
(July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021).*

PAINT THE SKY | \$25,000 +

Durham County Public Schools
The Grable Foundation
William R. Kenan, Jr.
Charitable Trust
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School System

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**CLAP AROUND THE WORLD |
\$5,000 +**

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Martin Marietta
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KEEP 'EM DANCING | \$1,000 +

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York Elementary School

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If a gift is omitted or incorrectly noted, please accept our apology and notify us at info@ncartsinaction.org



Photos by Ken Demery Photography (top); Disha Dewan (bottom)

*We thank our generous corporate sponsors
and foundations that gave this year
(July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021).*

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United Arts Council
US Foods
Wake County Public School System
Wegmans
William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust
York Elementary School



“
Jacques was a truly magical person and it is hard to comprehend the number of people he has touched. —LAURA SCHANBERG, M.D., NC AIA SUPPORTER

2020-2021



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Executive Director, Artistic Director,
North Carolina Arts in Action
ex officio



It's really amazing what we can do with just a little bit of money; we reach thousands of children every year." —BOARD MEMBER AND MAJOR SUPPORTER MINDY SOLIE

Photos by (clockwise from top) Disha Dewan, Robert Pedigo and MaryBeth Carpenter; Front and back cover photos by MaryBeth Carpenter; Back cover cut in photo by Disha Dewan

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Photos by Ken Demery
Photography (top) and
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MaryBeth Carpenter | Senior Fundraising Consultant, Grantwriter

Trish Landensack | Accountant

OUR MISSION

NC AIA uses dance, music and performance to instill self-esteem, perseverance, and excellence in children. Our vision is to bring the NC AIA program to fourth grade children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in the performing arts and benefit from the life skills they teach and inspire.

NC Arts in Action is an internationally acclaimed in-school, curriculum-based performing arts program for elementary students. The program develops life skills such as self-esteem, teamwork, and focus among underserved students in Title 1 schools. We provide dance teaching from highly trained instructors, live music, and allow students rigorous exercise. NC AIA benefits schools across the Triangle.

On behalf of the Board, Staff, and children we serve, thank you for your support. NC AIA believes that participation in the arts promotes self-confidence, builds self-esteem, self-discipline, tenacity and a commitment to excellence.



INSPIRING PERFORMANCE
EMPOWERING CHILDREN



THANKS

for your continued support.

Please donate today by check or online www.ncartsinaction.org or NC Arts in Action, PO Box 51277, Durham, NC 27717