

# STATEMENTS

StART Making A Difference.

NYC

# StART

Annual Report

2022

statement  
**ARTS**  
Art for a Conscious World





Welcome  
to the  
Family

# Programs By The Numbers

WE'RE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF THE IMPACT WE'VE MADE OVER 20+ YEARS SERVING COMMUNITIES ACROSS LOW-INCOME AND UNDER-SERVED NEIGHBORHOODS IN EVERY BOROUGH OF NEW YORK CITY.

**100%**

**SUCCESS RATE**

in college admission for all of our high school graduates

**181**

**TOTAL STUDENTS**

served by StART Dreaming College Readiness Program

**835**

**TOTAL STUDENTS**

served by Statement Arts since we started

WE MEET A CRITICAL GAP IN EXISTING SERVICES IN NEW YORK CITY WHERE

**45%**

**OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

do NOT have music programs\*

**70%**

**OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

do NOT have theatre programs\*

**84%**

**OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

do NOT have dance programs\*

**\$1M+**

raised towards programming to cultivate the next generation of leaders who can inspire social and cultural change

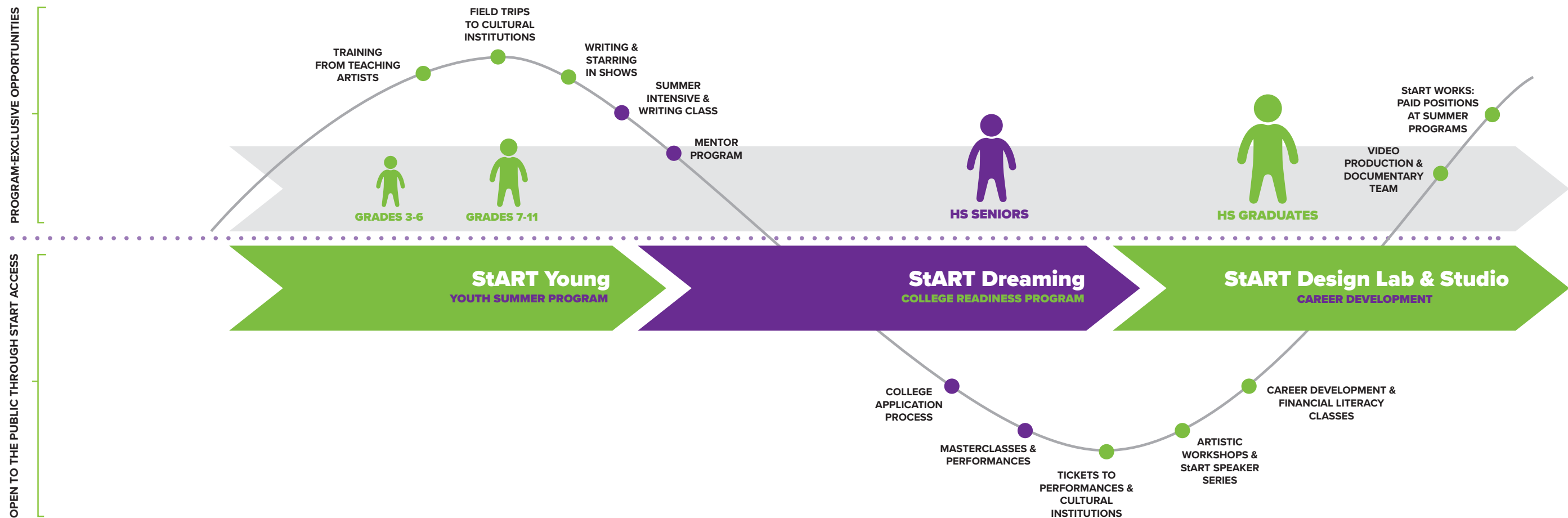


**2 POSSE**  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**RECIPIENTS**

**1**

Gates Millennium Scholars  
**RECIPIENT**

# Our Continuum of Service



## About Our Programs

We cultivate a family dynamic and, for many, we are a second home. Alumni often return to their StART family for guidance and support throughout their lives. For us, it's just how we do things - for others, this is a novel, unique idea. In a debrief with their team leadership, The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) praised our organization on our familial atmosphere, the longevity and depth of our relationships with our alumni, and our overall continuum of service. Maintaining relationships while continuing to connect those we serve with artistic and professional opportunities remains at the forefront of our mission.

Speaking of families, we are listening... We gathered feedback from families and participants in a variety of ways this year from conversations to surveys. We're dedicated to providing our participants with innovative, top-notch educational and performance opportunities and continue to craft new offerings and alter our existing programming to best accommodate them. We're confident this will only strengthen the bonds we're creating within our community.

Growing and strengthening our existing programs became our clear area of focus for 2022. We aim to ensure the success of our programs for years to come by making sure they are sustainable, replicable, and have strong, clear handbooks and playbooks to keep them running smoothly. We're proud to share our growth and success with you!





# growing DEEPER ROOTS in our COMMUNITIES

## StART Young

StART Young included two two-week summer arts education camps known as the Summer Music & Theater Program. Session 1 was for grades 3-6, and Session 2 was for grades 7-11. This program emphasizes singing, acting, movement, community-building, and story-telling with a focus on issues relevant to our young participants. Our brilliant teaching artists were dedicated to weaving cultural responsivity in their planning and introduced our students to songs from musicals like *Hadestown*, *Funny Girl*, and *The Wiz* while also adding staples from other genres like rap/hip-hop, classic oldies, and songs in Spanish like Selena's "Amor Prohibido." In 2022, the program was again held in-person in Washington Heights at NoMAA at the United Palace, our home for many years. Each session of StART Young culminated in a final performance where our students proudly displayed their work for their parents, family, and friends.



Education Partnership has confirmed that students who participate in programs like these developed an improved understanding of social relationships and complex emotional issues. A Missouri study also confirmed a powerful correlation between students who study the arts and disciplinary infractions: school districts in which there was a higher percentage of students enrolled in art classes demonstrated fewer reported behavioral problems including violent outbursts.

**In a world in which schools feel increasingly unsafe, programs like StART Young matter all the more.**





## StART Dreaming

The **StART Dreaming College Readiness Program** is designed to fill the arts education gap that exists in the public school system and assists rising high school seniors as they prepare to take their next big life step: college. There are two components of this program: The Summer Arts Intensive and The Fall/Winter/Spring College Mentorship Sessions. This unique and innovative program prepares students emotionally by honing their creative skills, building their confidence, and sharpening their presentation abilities while giving them the tools and mentorship they'll need to get into their college of choice and remain there.

The **Summer Arts Intensive** was held at the Triad Theater on Manhattan's Upper West Side. In keeping with our goal of expansion, our 2022 cohort consisted of 19 rising seniors (our largest ever!) from schools across NYC and was lengthened from three weeks to four. We were joined by six paid interns, alumni from previous years of StART Dreaming, who learned new skills, helped keep us organized, and led by example in rehearsals and performances. Each student participated in hours of acting masterclasses, studied private voice lessons, engaged in daily creative writing activities, and studied dance. Our teaching staff consisted of a diverse team of seasoned professionals including Leon Glover as our choreographer, Aidan Davis as our vocal coach, our Founder Liza Politi as acting teacher and creative director, and Broadway's Michael Dansicker as our guest music director. The four weeks crescendoed to two sold-out final performances that many remarked were our strongest ever.

The **Fall/Winter/Spring Mentorship Sessions** were conducted on Zoom this year. Our volunteers provided one-on-one and group mentorship and guidance to our students through their college application process including assistance with financial aid, FAFSA, and scholarships. For students applying for a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), additional requirements are needed. StART Dreaming provides assistance with the BFA admission requirements including pre-screens, headshots, resumes, portfolios, essays/personal statements, and coaching for auditions. Despite ever-evolving challenges, we strive to empower our participants and connect them to higher learning opportunities.





## StART Design Lab & Studio



**StART Design Lab & Studio (SDL)** is the newest addition to our programming. Launched in 2020, it provides StART Dreaming alumni with continued educational and professional opportunities intended to bridge the gap between college education and professional work experience. To date, SDL has been able to offer a total of 11 different types of classes with 4-6 sessions in each including songwriting, singing, acting, photography, financial literacy, goal-setting and achievement, and audition technique. In 2022, we set our sights high and worked with a few dedicated alumni to help them each record a song in a professional recording studio after receiving hours of private voice lessons with a professional vocal coach.







# StART Access

**StART Access** started in 2018 with the intention of broadening our reach to new students who could benefit from our programming. In the past we have offered multiple speaker series, performance opportunities, and cultural enrichment programs. In 2022 we had the pleasure of taking several groups of students to see two Broadway shows featuring stories and experiences of people of color: the long-awaited revival of *Trouble in Mind*, and Miranda Cromwell's all-Black production of *Death of a Salesman*. In addition to Broadway access, we launched a series of masterclasses last spring that included three courses: Own Your Voice: A Voice Performance and Pedagogy Course; Dance It Out: An Introduction to Dance; and Take the Stage: An Open Masterclass in Acting and Storytelling. Each course resulted in a final showcase, and we were thrilled to introduce new members to our family as a result of the offerings.

## Michael Dansicker Spotlight

We were thrilled to add a Broadway legend to our brilliant staff of teaching artists at StART Dreaming this summer - the one and only Michael Dansicker, veteran of 50 Broadway shows. Michael has worked with literally everyone in the business from Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, Patti LaBelle, Twyla Tharp, Anne Hathaway, and many more. He has collaborated with every major casting director in NYC and has music directed over a dozen Broadway shows. Michael has a proven track record of a commitment to DEIA and pioneered the Disney Musical Theatre Diversity Workshops with the intention of giving more opportunities to young performers of color. Michael had this to say about his experience with us this summer:



“When the “DYNAMIC DUO” - LIZA and AIDAN first spoke with me about STATEMENT ARTS, I was so impressed with the goals they had outlined to accomplish in a short 4 week program. I had just finished working with some of the top performing arts teens in the country at programs in Michigan, Washington DC and Detroit. But I was anxious to work with New York City talent. Could these kids possibly live up to the high level of professionalism I was expecting? I climbed “the steep and narrow staircase” at THE TRIAD, and there was a group of the most dedicated, exciting young talent I have met in some time. They took their performance training seriously, and I treated them in the same way I would teach any working professional. The growth from day to day was astounding! But the performance night was MAGIC. Everyone had grown 500%, and the joy in their performance was contagious. The audience was thrilled. I was thrilled. Forget MIRACLE ON 34th STREET. This was a MIRACLE on 72nd STREET. I have sung the praises of these hard working professionals to everyone I know. It is a summer I will never forget. And when was the last time I have been in a performance environment catered so lavishly: pizza, burgers, Chipotle, fresh fruit, and homemade cookies? The food was great; the staff amazing; and the talent - PERFECT!”



# new partnerships, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

We're continuing to expand our family by adding several exciting new partnerships this year that not only provide more opportunities to our family members, but help fulfill a few points of our strategic plan.



## Partnerships

### CLARITY CLARITY MEDIA

We are thrilled to be learning from the very best in the business with Bill McGowan and Juliana Silva from the global go-to communications firm Clarity Media Group. After hearing about Statement Arts and our incredible kids, Bill and Juliana graciously volunteered to meet with us and coach our students to strengthen their auditions and interviews. They're also working with our staff to finesse our pitches and refine our communication as we continue to grow and evolve, and we can't wait to see what we'll do together in 2023!



### SPOTCO

Helping our alumni bridge the gap between college and top-notch paid internship opportunities matters to us. That's why we've partnered with SpotCo, the advertising agency who've worked to create the most memorable marketing campaigns and graphic designs on Broadway, from iconic shows like Rent to modern smash hits like Hamilton. Each quarter we identify a group of qualified alumni and review their resumes and writing samples, provide real time feedback, and coach them through multiple rounds of interviews to ensure their success. We send our top picks to SpotCo to be interviewed for a final time before they're invited to accept a part-time paid internship where they rotate through multiple departments within the agency to determine what they're most passionate about. Each intern receives regular one on one mentoring and invaluable work experience.

### barbarian

### BARBARIAN

Ricardo de La Cruz, Director of IT at The Barbarian Group, was invited by a family member to watch one of our StART Young final performances. After hearing about our mission and some of the challenges our young people face regarding a lack of quality technology, he and his team sprang into action. With the help of his IT Manager Kevin Gonzalez, their IT department set aside 51 Macbooks, wiped each one of them clean, installed fresh operating systems, and donated them to us. They had the following to say: "Here at Barbarian, we believe in the power of art and creativity and its impact on the world. More importantly, we believe in your vision in shaping the next generation of leaders who will inspire social and cultural change. It is our pleasure to contribute to your program in a way that is meaningful and supportive." We were thrilled to gift each of our StART Dreaming participants from the 2021 cohort with one of these freshly refurbished devices to support their next adventure - college. Thank you, Kevin, Ricardo and the team at Barbarian!





# Creating a community for everyone.

It's been demonstrated time and time again through multiple studies that people take advice from people they relate to: patients trust the advice of doctors who look like them, and students often learn best from teachers who resemble them. It's essential to us that each of our participants sees themselves in us as an organization from our teaching artists to our board. We believe our commitment to DEIA is an ongoing one that we'll continue to strengthen as we keep it at the forefront of our planning. Here's some of the progress we've made this year.

## CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS

While our roots have always been in the world of musical theater, exercising awareness while helping our teaching artists develop their curricula helped us weave cultural responsiveness through their work. The song selections our StART Young participants enjoyed this summer spanned all genres from rap/hip-hop to beloved classics like "Amor Prohibido" while giving nods to classic pop tunes by iconic artists of color like Tina Turner and the Isley Brothers.

## TEACHING ARTISTS

We were thrilled to have a brilliant and diverse team of teaching artists and professionals for our summer programs this year. 75% of our team for StART Young in Washington Heights and 50% of our team for StART Dreaming at the Triad Theater were comprised of BIPOC.

## TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

Thanks to our friends Ricardo and Kevin at The Barbarian Group, we were able to address the lack of access to quality technology that plagued many of our participants during the lonely remote years of the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing them with freshly refurbished Macbooks. We took great care to match devices with those who needed them most, prioritizing devices with the largest memory for those we know are planning careers in digital art and video editing. While we still have a long way to go to leveling the playing field, this was a huge stride!







# Equity By The Numbers

WE ARE COMMITTED TO GIVING OUR STUDENTS AN INTERCULTURAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS EXPERIENCE TO WHICH THEY WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE ACCESS.

**75%**

**OF BOARD MEMBERS**  
are women

**50%**

**OF BOARD MEMBERS**  
are BIPOC

**100%**

**OF BOARD MEMBERS**  
are actively involved in  
current programming

AND HAVE BUILT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR STUDENTS

**13%**

**OF EMPLOYEES**  
are part of the LGBTQIA+  
community

**75%**

**OF EMPLOYEES**  
are BIPOC

**88%**

**OF EMPLOYEES**  
are women

**8**

**EMPLOYEES**

**11**

**TEACHING ARTISTS**

**25**

**VOLUNTEERS**

**8**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

OUR WORK COINCIDES WITH SEVERAL OF THE UNITED NATION'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





# Increased streams of support

Our 5 Year Strategic Plan indicates that we take strides to increase and diversify streams of financial support to ensure both continuity and growth. We are proud to share the following developments!

## OUR STRONGEST GOLF OUTING YET!

Our 6th Annual Golf Outing honoring Morgan Stanley's Nelson Gaertner was a tremendous success. Once again held at the idyllic Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Westchester County, the outing was a full day starting with a catered breakfast, rounds of golf in the sunshine, a glorious cocktail hour on the sprawling lawn during the silent auction which crescendoed to a full dinner filled with heartfelt speeches. Our friends at Morgan Stanley went all out in helping us plan this incredibly successful event, and we were able to raise a whopping \$135,000 in donations, our strongest year ever!

## BIG GAINS IN CROWDFUNDING

We launched several crowdfunding campaigns within the past year - each of them exceeded expectations and smashed previous records. Our spring crowdfunding campaign called "Support NYC's Rising Artists" clocked in at \$34,922, and this year's Give a Kid a Seat at the Table of Success Giving Tuesday campaign through the end of the year was a triumph.

## NEW TECH AND TOOLS

### GiveLively

We've been implementing the powerful fundraising tool GiveLively since last October. Created specifically for nonprofits like us, GiveLively has enabled us to:

- Streamline our donor information into one convenient location
- Create beautiful fundraising pages and implement helpful tools for each of our campaigns including text to donate options
- Implement easy to use donation widgets that we've added to our website
- Make event pages for our shows and performances... all for free.

### Double the Donation

Did you know that nearly 78% of match-eligible donors have no idea whether their company offers a matching gift program? Or that only 7% of donors at companies with matching gift programs actually submit a match request? That means 93% of eligible gifts go unmatched, leaving valuable sums of available donation money unclaimed. We decided to do something about this and have invested in a partnership with Double the Donation, a tool that integrates with GiveLively to alert our donors about their gift matching ability. This has been a recent addition, so stay tuned for more details about its impending success!

## NEW GRANTS

We've applied for 5 new grants in this year alone and are excited to identify even more!

This is the first year we've been granted an award from NYSCA, the New York State Council on the Arts, and for \$50,000! Obviously, the financial award was enough, but it came with words of praise and encouragement from the representative we met with. We were hailed as highly unusual among the organizations receiving award money due to our longstanding relationships with our participants. While we've recognized the value of a family-like atmosphere all along, it's nice to hear that others can see it, too.



“GIVE A KID A SEAT AT THE TABLE OF SUCCESS” is the sole statement that was enough to convince me to be a part of this rewarding StART Dreaming College Readiness program. The 1 on 1 mentoring sessions were a two way street that helped me learn about the mentee's culture, background, creativity, and everything in between. I am very thankful for this opportunity that gave me the tiniest role to play in someone's life!

- PALLAVI NAIDU

Volunteer and Mentor during the 2022 Mentorship Program



# Ongoing progress on our 5-Year Strategic Plan.

The feedback we received from our surveys was clear: more time with our programs! We take our feedback seriously and are proud to boast about the completion of three integral parts of our strategic plan over a year ahead of schedule: lengthening StART Young and StART Dreaming, and the development of our DEIA policy. We completed our objective to develop a program management handbook for students, staff, teaching artists, volunteers, and partnered organizations three full years ahead of schedule. We've also made progress on several objectives that weren't expected to receive attention this year like increasing in-kind donations and developing program design requirements/checklists.

We look forward to completing our targets in communications and marketing for 2023 and making even more gains in fundraising!

## OUR GOALS THIS YEAR:

- Expanding durations and offerings of programs
- Monitoring and evaluating impact
- Strengthening the diversity of the organization
- Identifying and implementing resources to support organizational growth
- Cultivating protocols for creating new and expanding current initiatives

## THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES ARE 100% COMPLETE:

### EXPAND THE DURATION OF START YOUNG BY ADDING ADDITIONAL WEEKS

projected to be 100% complete before 2023

### EXPAND THE DURATION OF START DREAMING BY ADDING ADDITIONAL WEEKS

projected to be 100% complete before 2023

### DEVELOP DEIA POLICY

projected to be 100% complete before 2023

## WE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE FOLLOWING GOALS AND ARE ON TRACK TO MEET OUR TARGETS:

### INCREASE IN KIND DONATIONS (LAPTOPS, INTERNET COSTS, FOOD, SPACES, ETC.)

projected to be 100% complete before 2024

### CREATE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING PLAN TO RECRUIT NEW DONORS TARGETING ACROSS GENERATIONS

projected to be 100% complete before 2024

### IDENTIFY AND ASSESS KEY STRATEGIC, FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL RISKS ANNUALLY

projected to be 50% complete before 2024

### CREATE IMPACT COMMUNICATION TOOLKITS

projected to be 100% complete before 2024

### MAINTAIN AND EXPAND DONORS DATABASE

projected to be 50% complete before 2024

## WE ARE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE ON:

### DEVELOP PROGRAM MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, TEACHING ARTISTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARTNERED ORGANIZATIONS

projected to be 75% complete before 2024

### ESTABLISH PROGRAM DESIGN REQUIREMENTS AND CHECKLISTS INCLUDING CURRICULUM DESIGN PROTOCOLS

projected to be 100% complete before 2026



# Golf Outing Overview



Statement Arts held our 6th Annual Golf Fundraiser and Gala on October 11, 2022 at the prestigious Sleepy Hollow Country Club.

Built by the Vanderbilt family, this historic club was a perfect backdrop for our event. One hundred and forty-four golfers joined us as we honored Morgan Stanley's Nelson Gaertner for his years of service and mentorship. Among the several inspiring speeches made during the evening from Morgan Stanley reps, one received a unanimous and immediate standing ovation... the one made from our own alumnus Jerel Negron. After speaking at last year's outing, Jerel was offered a job on the spot by Gaertner. This year's speech after a full year with Morgan Stanley was incredibly moving and reminded us all of why we do what we do!

We were gifted with some incredible items to auction off including hotel stays at the New York Palace and the Lotte Seattle, a photo class and workshop with the famed Joe McNally, a pair of tickets to Hamilton, a gift certificate to Bergdorf Goodman, and many other dazzling items. In all, we raised \$135,000 at the event - our best ever - which will enable us to continue our mission to bring arts and empowerment to the young people of our great city.

We are already working on a date and hoping to confirm the location for 2023 - can't wait to see you there!

Thank you to our  
generous donors!

**145**  
ATTENDEES

**\$135K**  
RAISED

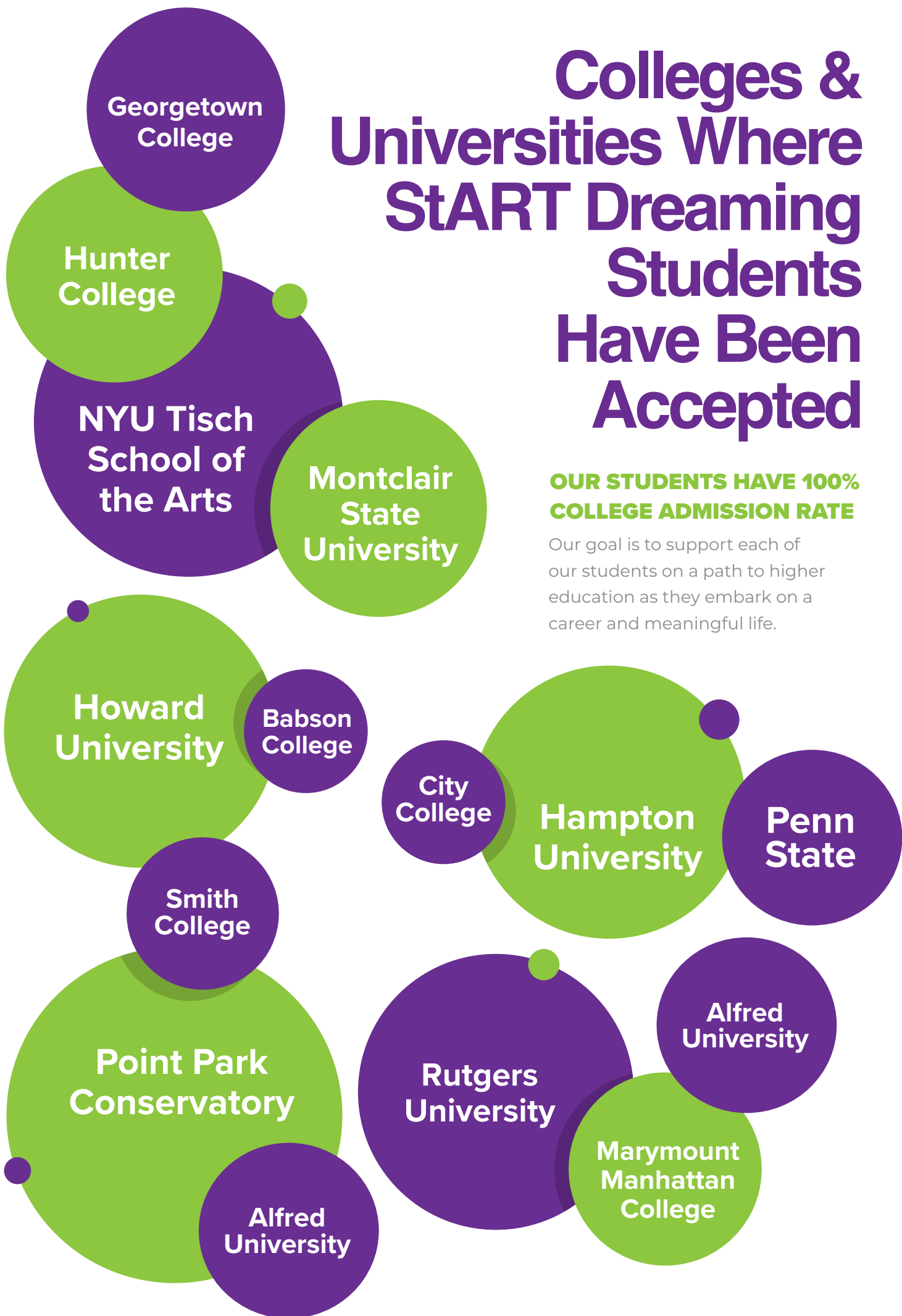




# Colleges & Universities Where StART Dreaming Students Have Been Accepted

**OUR STUDENTS HAVE 100% COLLEGE ADMISSION RATE**

Our goal is to support each of our students on a path to higher education as they embark on a career and meaningful life.



## College Acceptance Info

We have completed the formal portion of our college mentoring program. Now, we play the waiting game as we await the acceptance and award letters!

**Stats as of the last week of January 2023:**

**35**  
ACCEPTANCES

**\$1,461,292**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Degree programs include Liberal Arts, Theater Performance, Forensic Criminology, Film Studies, Forensic Psychology... and we're just getting started!





# Alumni Feature

Our alumni are out in the world doing some incredible things from starting their own businesses, getting hired by top companies on Wall Street, or landing roles in national Broadway tours! Here are a few highlights we wanted to share with you.



## Broadway Star

Reyna is finishing up an exciting few months of traveling and performing with not only her first national tour, but also with the first national Broadway tour of *TINA! The Musical!*

“I was a junior/senior in high school and Statement Arts gave me more than I ever could imagine. It gave skill sets for college to write my college essays, it gave me confidence in my skills as a performer and crafted my gift further in a way that I truly believe led me to where I am today. So I want to say thank you so much for supporting Statement Arts and giving other kids and teenagers a seat at the table!”

- **REYNA GUERRA**  
2016



Alumnus and current Program Manager for Statement Arts Mildred Gil had a brilliant idea to write, direct, and film an alumni video that discusses the impact Statement Arts has had on the lives of its alumni.

## Here's what they had to say

“They just emphasize that they always have us... it's always a family and you can always come back to us. Whatever you need, we got you.”

- **IMANI FUENTES**  
2016, Program Assistant

“What Statement Arts did was give me the opportunity to fail. Actually, the encouragement [to fail] - because if you're not willing to fail, you're not willing to take a risk.”

- **YANCY PEREZ**  
2014

“I think Statement Arts was my beginning to accept that a life in the arts is possible.”

- **BRANDY OCHOA**  
2014



like it's always a family and you can always come back to us.

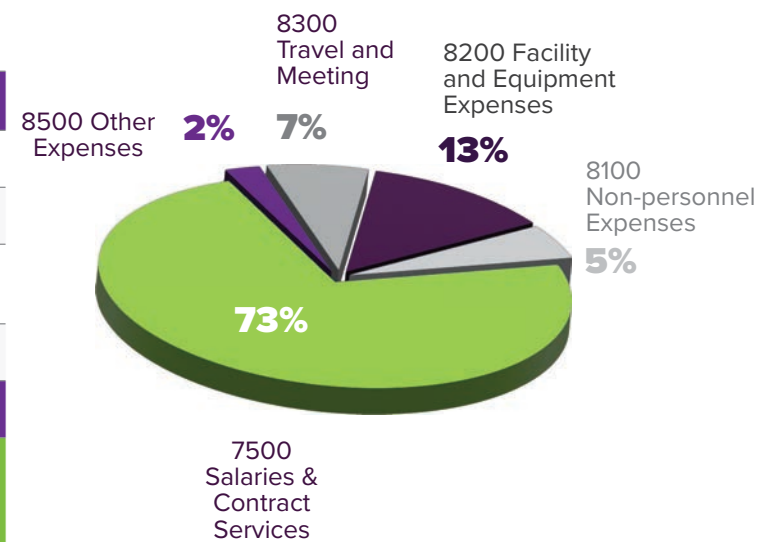
Watch the video featuring our alumni [HERE](#)



# 2022 Income & Expenses

as of December 31, 2022

Operating Activities	\$	Changes in Cash and Net Assets	\$
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>		Total Operating Revenue	470,493.24
Revenue from direct contributions	139,607.13	<b>Total Operating Expenses and Financing Activities</b>	417,493.24
Individual/small business contributions	123,497.99	Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	52,736.90
Corporate Contributions	16,109.14	<b>Cash Beginning of Fiscal Year</b>	235,864.24
<b>Total Revenue from direct contributions</b>	139,607.13	Cash End of Fiscal Year	288,601.14
Special Events Non-Gift Revenues	238,339.32	<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	42,749.00
Revenue from investments	16.79	Net Assets Beginning of Fiscal Year	259,140.00
Foundations & Trusts (Non-Government)	11,750.00	<b>Net Assets End of Fiscal Year</b>	\$301,889.00
Revenue from Government Grants	80,780.00		
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$470,493.24</b>		
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services	334,205.08		
Management & General (Administration)	20,887.82		
Fundraising	62,663.45		
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$417,756.34</b>		
Excess/(Deficit) of Operating Revenue over Operating Expenses	\$52,736.90		



## Thank You to Our Major Supporters



New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)

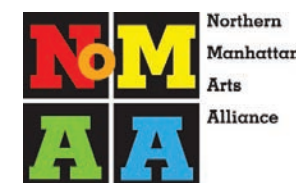
Ashley Garrett & Alan Jones  
Valerie Jackson

Morgan Stanley Foundation

Damien and Jeanmarie Tener  
Curt & Mitzi Hedges



The Loyce and Annette Turner Foundation  
The State Street Foundation



Susan Baggett & Rick Sergel  
Victor Mirontschuk & Lucy Bugea  
Robin Fader

Omidyar  
Keith Petrus & Alexis Tener Petrus

Jim Petrus  
Peter Martin & the Triad Theater

Matt & Stephanie DeCrosta

... and our 2022 online donors!





# Letter From the Associate Director

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the 2022 year with Statement Arts has been a joy. It's a year that's been marked by intentional, significant growth in two ways: deeper, as we continue to strengthen our existing programming roots by elongating durations while meeting the goals of our strategic plan; and also wider, as we create new partnership opportunities and expand our talented staff, whose dedication and creativity ensure our organization's exuberant success.

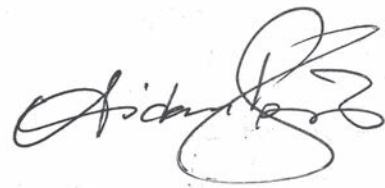
Strengthening and deepening the programming we already offer is an intentional step in setting us up for the long-haul. We've been busy creating handbooks and playbooks replete with active document links along with step by step instructions for running our two primary programs (StART Dreaming, StART Young). We've collected data on each of these programs that we're using to inform our choices as we plan for this coming season, and we've extended the length of each program significantly to ensure their impact. We're also mindful of our metrics by bringing them to the forefront of our regular planning meetings so we can strategize the best ways to collect, store, and analyze our data so that it can become useful to us as we plan ahead.

Widening our reach has included exciting new partnerships with multiple organizations including nearly a dozen new schools from which to recruit, tech companies to help close the equity gap, advertising agencies to provide high quality paid internship opportunities, and marketing specialists to help us refine our pitch as an org and hone our students' presentation abilities.

We've added two new staff members this year: Imani Fuentes, StART Dreaming alum turned Program Assistant who is doing a brilliant job taking on the bulk of communication with students, alum, and their families; and Caro Guzmán, an actress and content creator who serves as our Social Media Coordinator. Caro has taken our social media presence to the next level and has helped elevate our fundraising efforts.

As we look ahead to all that 2023 will offer, I am humbled and grateful to be a part of such a compassionate, dynamic, and exciting organization. Thank you for your involvement, support, and love - we couldn't do what we do without you.

Onward and upward!



**AIDAN DAVIS** Associate Director



## Board of Directors

### **LIZA POLITI**

Founder, Artistic Director, and Board Treasurer  
Statement Arts

### **AIDAN DAVIS**

Associate Director  
Statement Arts

### **ASHLEY GARRETT**

Board President  
Ashley Garrett Photography

### **ALEXIS TENER PETRUS**

Board Vice President  
Tener Petrus Associates, PLLC

### **MINELLY De COO**

Senior Advisor  
NYC Office of the Deputy Mayor for  
Operations

### **KEITH PETRUS**

Morgan Stanley

### **MARCUS RICHARDSON**

Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives  
CUNY Brooklyn College

### **MARCIA GONZALES**

Senior Associate General Counsel  
Indiana University

“

Our team of board members and internal staff spent hundreds of hours researching, presenting, discussing, questioning, refining, and then unanimously agreeing to a vision, a set of common values, and a mission statement. - **ASHLEY GARRETT, QUOTE FROM OUR STRATEGIC PLAN**



# Thank You For Your Ongoing Support



[statementarts.org](http://statementarts.org)



Statement Arts programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED, IN PART, BY PUBLIC FUNDS FROM THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY COUNCIL.